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FBI terror attack in Puerto Rico

Snipers gun down independence hero, provoking anti-colonial outcry

By Tom Soto
San Juan, Puerto Rico

On Sept. 23, as hundreds of workers and their families were participating in the annual pro-independence commemoration known as "El Grito de Lares," agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation descended on the town of Hormigueros in western Puerto Rico and fired the shots that killed Puerto Rican liberation hero Filiberto Ojeda Ríos.

El Grito de Lares—The Cry of Lares—marks the historic 1868 uprising carried out by peasants and workers against Spanish colonial rule. This rebellion is considered the birth of the Puerto Rican nation.

FBI agents armed with helicopters, military vehicles and machine guns, and sharpshooters carrying sniper rifles—aided by the Police of Puerto Rico, who closed off regional roads and streets leading to the rural municipality of Hormigueros—all surrounded the home of 72-year-old Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and Elma Beatriz Rosado, his wife.

Ojeda was the leader of the Ejército Popular Boricua—Los Macheteros (Popular Army of the People—The Cane Cutters).

At 4:30 p.m., in a military-type assault, the FBI crashed through the property's entrance fence, firing over 100 rounds, which struck the front of the farmhouse. Ojeda defended



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

New York, Sept. 26.

"After an extended period, they blindfolded my eyes, and it was then, at that moment that I felt in my heart and knew that they were going to execute him. ... When I was finally taken away, Filiberto was alive ... He told the FBI he was willing to turn himself over to reporter Jesus Dávila. ... The FBI lies. They murdered him.

"It was not until the next day, in the afternoon, when I was

Rosado and himself, leaving one FBI agent wounded.

Rosado speaks to media

Elma Beatriz Rosado addressed the media on Sept. 26. As she did, the body of her husband was being viewed by thousands of supporters gathered at the Ateneo Puertorriqueño (Puerto Rican Literary Society) and later at the Colegio de Abogados (College of Attorneys) in San Juan.

"My husband Filiberto, fearing for my life, urged me to leave," Rosado said. "He yelled out to the agents, 'Someone is coming out, someone is coming out.' We kissed and hugged. ... When I finally came out of the house ... they attempted to force me to kneel. When I refused, they threw me to the ground, pinning me with their knees, forcing my hands behind my back and handcuffing me.

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300,000 surround White House, say 'BRING TROOPS HOME NOW!'



WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

The Bush administration's criminal response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster fueled the anger already high over the Iraq war. Washington, DC., Sept. 24. See page 5.

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From Mumia Abu-Jamal on death row Of race and nature's wrath



In the aftermath of the horror of Hurricane Katrina, voices of anger and outrage are heard throughout the land, and just as quickly comes the chastisement of the media censors, who rush to the fore to criticize and condemn those who dare to speak truth to the Naked Emperor.

Indeed, the central government has approved this message, saying with almost one voice, "Now is not the time for the Blame Game."

This government and media incest reminds me of other occasions when it was considered "bad form" to criticize the political (mis)leaders.

When a Black mayor of Philadelphia gave the go-ahead to police to bomb the MOVE house in 1985, he accepted "full responsibility" but none of the blame. Eleven men, women and children were shot, torn apart and burned to death, but no one was to blame (except Ramona Africa, who was sent to prison for seven years, for surviving).

When 9/11 struck and thousands of people died, name one political leader who was fired.

Indeed, when an FBI agent emerged to report that she had, indeed, provided tips to her superiors about people who were possibly involved in domestic terrorism, she was targeted.

Now, when political leaders sat back for almost a week, while people drowned, died from starvation, fell dead from chronic illnesses, or were tossed into the dark warrens of the New Orleans Superdome to live or die, it isn't time for blame!

Since when have you seen any member of the national leadership "not" blame people, for not living up to their 'standards' of so-called morality? The state

and federal prisons are swelling with millions blamed and punished under scores of new laws that they've passed. They started a war based on blaming a nation's president for storing "weapons of mass destruction!" And what is war, after all, but blame writ large? Blaming another country — an entire country — for certain wrongdoings?

Yet they bellow, "Now is not the time for the Blame Game."

Rapper Kanye West, in a crystal-clear moment of emotion evoked by the harrowing pictures flashed of Black and poor misery in New Orleans, said, "George Bush doesn't care about Black people." Networks cut his live feed, and promised to tape upcoming appearances to insure that they could edit out any other unapproved utterances that might embarrass the Emperor.

And yet ... who among us can imagine a flood in say, Boston, where thousands were imperiled, and the government waiting four days to give succor to anguished white faces?

The faces of New Orleans, their suffering, their squalor, their loss, could just as easily have been seen in Haiti, in Rwanda, in Cambodia, and yet we are to act as if they were cared for by the national and state governments.

They didn't give a damn.

The hurried photo ops of Bush holding Black babies showed a man about as comfortable as a klanman at the Million Man March!

Ask the average Nigerian what he saw on TV. Ask the average Brit what she saw on the telly.

They saw the dark and anguished faces, sprinkled with other poor Hispanics, Vietnamese, and whites, staring out from eyes of emptiness.

They saw the dark side of "the ownership society": the society of people who owned nothing.

They saw America, without its makeup, and mask.

They saw a mirror of themselves, and wondered, if only for a minute, is this where we want to go?

This government didn't start, a week ago, not caring about the poor; for what else is the obsessive raid against Social Security, but an attack on the poor? □



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WW CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Fri., Sept. 30

Workers World Party meeting. WWP speakers John Ramirez & Arturo Pérez Saad will address the significance of the FBI assassination of Puerto Rican nationalist leader Filiberto Ojeda Ríos. 7 p.m. (Dinner at 6:30) At 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl., Manhattan. For info (212) 627-2994.

Sat., Oct. 22

Workers World Newspaper Public Forum: Forging a United Front between the Black liberation, workers' and anti-imperialist struggles; Assessing the Millions More Movement. See ad on this page for more information, including list of panelists. 3 p.m. At New School, 66 W. 12 St., Manhattan.

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In Cooperation with the New School Student Human Rights Group

KATRINA: A Challenge to the Movement Forging A United Front between the BLACK LIBERATION, WORKERS' AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLES



ASSESSING THE MILLIONS MORE MOVEMENT

Hurricane Katrina, which the Million Worker March Movement has labeled the Black Nation's 9/11, has exposed the true nature of capitalism. The people of the world have more to fear from a decaying imperialist system and the war, poverty, national oppression and racism that it produces, than they do from nature. Katrina has also opened a new opportunity to forge unity between the Black liberation struggle, the workers' struggle, and the anti-imperialist struggle, unity that will prove decisive in the world struggle against imperialism that is like a storm gathering more force each day. We invite you to join Workers World Newspaper and its friends in a public discussion of the issues.

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- ▶ **CHRIS SILVERA** Million Worker March Movement Eastern Region Co-coordinator; Pres. Teamsters National Black Caucus
- ▶ **NELLIE BAILEY** Harlem Tenants Council, Troops Out Now Coalition
- ▶ **SALADIN MUHAMMAD** Chairperson, Black Workers for Justice & Southern Region Coordinator of the Million Worker March Movement
- ▶ **LARRY HOLMES** Workers World Party, Troops Out Now Coalition

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Phone: (212) 627-2994
Fax: (212) 675-7869
E-mail: editor@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 47, No. 39 • Oct. 6, 2005
Closing date: Sept. 28, 2005

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

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

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



Hurricane Rita exposes capitalists' lack of planning

By Larry Hales

The Bush administration and local and state authorities of the areas in the path of Hurricane Rita are trumpeting the government's response this time around. But the same inherent problems under capitalism have been ever more clearly unveiled with this latest storm—even though it was only a category 3 hurricane when it made landfall near the Texas-Louisiana border around 3 a.m. on Sept. 24.

The Bush administration was already reeling from a majority disapproval rating due to the imperialist debacle in Iraq. It teetered further after the rising din resulting from the criminal negligence that led to massive suffering and loss of life in New Orleans. Officially there are 1,100 deaths from Hurricane Katrina, but the count is not over yet.

Federal, state and local authorities are dancing to a faint tune. Hurricane Rita weakened considerably before making landfall. However, the problems remained.

It is not simply ineptitude that led to the massive loss of life along the Gulf Coast from Hurricane Katrina. It is indeed criminal negligence, but can be understood best by an analysis of capitalist society, especially during powerful natural occurrences that become disasters for workers and poor people.

Many poor in the path of Rita, too, were forced to wait the storm out. Though the numbers were not as large as in Katrina, the demographics were the same. Poor and mostly people of color had no means of escape. Of course, Texas is a much different area, with a greater proportion of

white people, but there are still many people of color, especially in the Houston area.

Traffic leading from Houston was stalled for 15 hours, stretching nearly 100 miles. There were gas shortages and people were forced to camp out on the highways, not knowing how their situation would be remedied. No plan was put in place to provide gas after deliveries were stopped, and lines at gas stations grew to be blocks long as frustrated evacuees grew impatient and angry.

"This is the worst planning I've ever seen," said Julie Anderson, who covered just 45 miles in 12 hours after setting out from her home in the Houston suburb of La Porte. "They say we've learned a lot from Hurricane Katrina. Well, you couldn't prove it by me." (Houston Chronicle, Sept. 22)

The refineries in Houston shut down just at the peak time of demand for gas. Fort Bend County Judge Bob Herbert had told the Chronicle, "The state refuses to help us get any fuel, so we can't help get folks off the road.... So I'm afraid we are going to have more people die in their cars."

The traffic jam out of Houston had to stretch 100 miles before the authorities decided to make inbound lanes into outbound—despite a previous study showing the importance of such a measure.

Poor people in low-lying areas were told to call 311 for help. Over 10,000 people called. While buses were sent, people were still told they needed to count on family, friends and neighbors. Mayor Bill White "reiterated that there is no safe place to go in low-lying areas and there

won't be shelters in the city," according to the Chronicle.

Poor people, unable to leave, were calling the city for shelters. "I done call for a shelter, I done called for help. There ain't none. No one answers," said Wilma Skinner.

Thomas Visor, "holding his sweaty paycheck" as he stood on a line of more than 100 people outside a check-cashing store that had just run out of cash, said, "All the banks are closed and I just got off work.... How are you supposed to evacuate a hurricane if you don't have any money?"

The Greyhound bus company ran out of buses. The airport was totally jammed because there was no evacuation plan. And there was no plan to house people. "New Orleans native Janice Armstrong, an evacuee of Hurricane Katrina ... was turned out of her downtown motel," so the 45-year-old teaching assistant had to struggle to find a cab to go pick up her daughter and two of her grandchildren and try to get out of town.

USA Today wrote on Sept. 25, "If a successful emergency evacuation involves 100-mile highway backups, motorists running out of gas and water, widespread road rage and the death of 23 seniors in a freak bus accident, what would a failure look like?"

People in the path of Rita were more affluent on the average than those in the path of Katrina, to be sure, and that is what led to the evacuations being as large as they were. However, even though 3 million people were able to escape, many could not, and there were no government preparations for orderly traffic.

Though more government attention was focused on Rita, the anger was still seething as people began to feel left alone in the snarled traffic that stretched for miles. Many waited in their cars until the storm blew over.

Hurricane Rita showed that the authorities have no plans in times of disasters, and that this government is more worried about the costs of evacuation than developing a strategy.

The government is more focused on imperialist plunder than providing for the needs of people, and this will become clearer as the capitalist crisis deepens. Category four and five hurricanes have increased from 10 years ago, due to the warming of the oceans, and this has been well documented.

Workers and the poor here cannot expect that a capitalist U.S. government will ever develop the drills and preparedness on the level of a socialist country like Cuba. It is not profitable to prepare the populace for occurrences of nature, to minimize the needless loss of life. Even at its best, the evacuation from Rita was fraught with negligence and failures, from the traffic jams, to there not being nearly enough space in shelters and housing, to there not being gas, food or water—not even for those who could afford it.

It is time to demand more money be spent to rebuild New Orleans, to reestablish the coastal marsh and to rebuild levees that can withstand even the strongest hurricane. Also, workers and the poor all over the U.S. must demand that money be poured into a disaster preparedness strategy that works. □

In the aftermath of Katrina

Black colleges struggle to reopen

By Monica Moorehead

The grossly negligent manner in which the Bush administration along with local and state agencies handled the Hurricane Katrina disaster has helped to lay bare just how deeply racism and poverty are rooted in the U.S. capitalist system.

As the entire U.S. population and much of the world witnessed, those who were left to fend for themselves without food, water, adequate shelter and health care for days and even weeks after Katrina hit New Orleans and other areas of the Gulf Coast were mostly poor and working-class African Americans.

There are other areas of society where this disaster exposed the racist inequality that exists in society. Take, for instance, the area of higher education. In New Orleans, the area hardest hit by the hurricane, the two most notable universities are Tulane and Loyola, both Division One members of the NCAA.

These two colleges are predominantly white with large endowments. Tulane, the most prestigious of the two, has an endowment of \$745 million. It is also the largest private employer in Orleans Parish.

When the hurricane hit, while tens of thousands of students at both colleges were forced to evacuate, there was minimum damage to the structures of these schools. The school administrations for both of these colleges expect to receive insurance reimbursements for any revenue lost when the schools were forced to close down, as well as for any storm damage.

It is a different story altogether for Dillard and Xavier, two historically African-American universities also located in New Orleans. Like most predominantly Black private colleges elsewhere, Dillard and Xavier have much smaller enrollments, with a combined student body of 6,000, and have much smaller endowments—\$50 million each—and a more moderate, vulnerable infrastructure.

So when a natural disaster like Katrina hits, these colleges feel the pain much more intensely. Severe damage was done to the buildings and grounds at Xavier and Dillard. At Xavier, there was six feet of water in the library and a waterlogged chapel. At Dillard, a post-hurricane fire destroyed dormitories and ruined the stu-

dent book store. The entire campus was covered with poisonous waters for two whole weeks before the water was pumped out. While both colleges had insurance for wind damage, there was no insurance for flood damage.

Xavier's president, Dr. Norman C. Francis, remarked, "I don't have an endowment I can take money from. If I can't recover the money we expected for the first semester to pay faculty and staff and pay our bills, we're standing here naked. We have nothing. And what we're looking for now is the help we need so we won't be severely crippled in our ability to come back." (New York Times, Sept. 25)

The U.S. Department of Education announced that it was going to provide

\$90 million in student aid to 31 institutions impacted by the hurricane. This is a pittance compared to what is really required to get these colleges up and running as soon as possible. Xavier alone is requesting upwards of \$90 million for reconstruction of its campus. As it stands now, Xavier and Dillard plan to reopen their doors by early January, but this depends on whether they get help from public and private monies. A large portion of students at both colleges depend on financial aid.

Xavier is known for graduating more Black doctors, scientists and pharmacists than any other undergraduate institution. This is a remarkable achievement considering that in the U.S. more young Black men are incarcerated than are in college. □

an interview with Mumia Abu-Jamal

Mumia speaks

• prisons
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To hear Monica Moorehead's recent interview with Mumia Abu-Jamal go to www.millions4mumia.org

An interview with Mumia Abu-Jamal from death row

Columns by the Black journalist on prisons, capitalism, politics, revolution and solidarity. Additional essays on the prison-industrial complex by Monica Moorehead, Larry Holmes and Teresa Gutierrez.

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WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Many anti-war marchers aimed to build support for Gulf Coast evacuees. Washington, Sept. 24.

Why New York City teachers are angry

By G. Dunkel
New York

The report from a state fact-finding board sounds great: an 11 percent raise over three years for teachers. By contrast, the largest city union, District Council 37 of AFSCME, got barely a 5 percent increase over the same time frame.

The Delegate Assembly of the United Federation of Teachers, Local 2 of the AFT, which represents 87,000 teachers and 17,000 school staff, voted Sept. 20 to use this board's recommendations as the basis for negotiations with the city.

The billionaire mayor of New York, Michael Bloomberg, responded that he would indeed restart negotiations but wouldn't let a threatened strike or the upcoming mayoral election influence him. In other words, he will take the give-backs the report suggests but doesn't want to grant the raises it proposes in return.

Many teachers are fuming about this report. Some have called for a strike, which is illegal under New York State's Taylor Law. A union-run blog called it "disgusting, disgusting, disgusting." Others said it was "atrocious" and "we were screwed."

Looking at the details of the report, one can see why.

One UFT member pointed out the flaws to Workers World. "Zero percent

for the first year, 2 percent for the second. This means that for the two-and-a-half years we worked without a contract, we'll get about a thousand dollars. Not much for New York City."

To get this, UFT members will have to work three extra days, 10 minutes extra every day, give up 10 free periods without compensation, forgo the right to grieve adverse letters placed in their files, take on lunchroom and hall monitoring at the will of the principal, and take on other administrative tasks, like managing all the tests that the federal and state governments are now requiring.

The fact-finding board estimated that only 4.17 percent of the raise was an increase; the givebacks and extra

work funded the rest of the increase.

The UFT held chapter meetings on the report, some of which got quite heated. The heat made it to the floor of the delegates' meeting, which vowed to consider a strike and also endorsing Bloomberg's opponent if the UFT doesn't have a contract by October.

Since Bloomberg is confident going into the November election that he will win, the UFT is in a hard position. □

Teachers take struggle to New York City Labor Day parade, Sept. 10.

WWW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



ON THE PICKETLINE

by Sue Davis

Boeing machinists win—in record time!

It took 18,300 machinists only 24 days to force Boeing to fork over a three-year contract without givebacks. That's the quickest settlement that the largest U.S. commercial jet manufacturer has made in four decades with its largest union. The contract, negotiated by the Machinists and Aerospace Workers, faces a vote on Sept. 29.

When the machinists shut down production Sept. 2 in Washington, Oregon and Kansas, Boeing CEO Alan Mulally bellyached that the two sides were "miles apart." He even called the union's demands "extreme." Labor analysts fretted that if the strike failed it could be a setback for labor comparable to the air-traffic controllers' strike in 1981.

Why didn't that happen? Because Boeing, whose income last year was \$1.9 billion, couldn't bear to lose its stake in the strongest commercial aircraft market in five years. It desperately needed the machinists to keep planes rolling down the runway.

United under the union's slogan of "No takeaways, no sellouts," the workers demanded \$1 billion more than Boeing's initial offer. "We took a pretty rough contract [in 2002] because times were tough, with the expectation that when things got better, we'd get a lot more," said parts marker James Darrah.

"But now times are good for Boeing. Its stock price is double what it was three years ago." (New York Times, Sept. 13) In fact, last year Boeing's profits were more than triple its profits in 2002.

In the three-year contract Boeing agreed not to increase premiums or deductibles in the workers' health plan, to increase the pension multiplier to \$70 a month for every year worked (up from \$66) and to drop its earlier demands that new hires not receive retiree health benefits and that machinists in Kansas receive lower pay than other workers. It also agreed to give workers a 1 percent annual cost-of-living increase and to make cash payments to each worker of \$4,800 the first year and \$3,000 in each of the next two years.

Industry analysts admit that Boeing had to yield to the workers or risk losing a lot more if the strike dragged on. Even so, 30 plane deliveries will be delayed because of the strike. Some predict this contract could be a blueprint for Boeing's 12,650 engineers and 5,700 technical workers, whose contracts are due to expire in early December.

Others say the workers' victory is empowering for all labor. That would be a welcome trend!

Bus drivers stage one-day strike

Fed up because Capital Metro wants to pay new hires 16 percent less than current drivers, bus drivers in Austin, Texas, staged a surprise one-day unfair labor practices strike on Sept. 22. Metro management had to scramble to keep 17 of 80 bus lines operating, but was able to provide only reduced service.

Several hundred Transit Union Local 1091 drivers picketed Metro headquarters with fight-back signs and chants demanding a fair contract. Their last one expired in June. Local 1091 President Jay Wyatt explained that the union called the strike for one day to minimize the public's pain, but the union was prepared to do it again and again with no notice if Metro refused to bargain in good faith. □



Anti-war rally at AFL-CIO

About 200 union members held a rally in the national AFL-CIO building in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 24 and then marched as a contingent to the main anti-war rally. Nancy Wolforth, a lesbian labor activist on the AFL-CIO's Executive Council, welcomed them to the building.

Wolforth, co-president of Pride at Work, an official lesbian, gay, bi and trans constituent group within the labor organization, is secretary treasurer of the Office and Professional Employees International Union.

Fred Mason, president of the Maryland and District of Columbia AFL-CIO, explained the role that labor should play in building the anti-war movement.

Chris Silvera, chairperson of the Teamsters National Black

Caucus and an East Coast convener of the Million Worker March, raised the need to strike against the war and discussed a call for actions on Dec. 1-3.

Significant contingents participated from AFSCME DC 41 in Philadelphia, the Midwest district of UNITE HERE, and the Professional Staff Congress, an AFT local that represents university teachers in New York.

Many participants felt the rally, organized by US Labor Against the War, would have been larger except for transportation problems that were plaguing the day, and that the most significant fact about it was that it took place in the AFL-CIO headquarters.

— Photo and story by G. Dunkel

300,000 march on White House

U.S. anti-war movement roars its outrage

By Deirdre Griswold
Washington, D.C.

Public opinion in the United States has shifted definitively against the war in Iraq, and that change in the underpinnings of the political scene was reflected here on Sept. 24, when the anti-war movement came roaring back with the largest demonstration since the war began in March 2003.

A crowd estimated by organizers at 300,000 was packed so densely in the streets around the White House that it took hours for marchers to move at all. Meanwhile, a rally in the Ellipse, south of the White House, gave voice to a broad spectrum of groups and individuals who emphatically agreed on the main slogan of "End the war—bring the troops home now!"

Anger at the Bush administration was intense. Young and old carried signs, some in salty language, ridiculing and condemning the architects of the war as liars, profiteers and war criminals. People sporting dollar signs on their clothing wore grinning Bush and Cheney masks and waved hands red with fake blood.

Katrina brought the war home

Placards and speakers blamed the suffering of the poor, mostly Black, people of New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina on the diversion of funds to the Pentagon that should have been spent on infrastructure repair. Some excoriated the U.S. rulers as racist, saying they treat both Iraqis and people of color here as expendable.

"Make levees, not war" was a popular sign, a takeoff on the 1960s slogan of "Make love, not war." One hand-made sign, carried by an African-American woman, read, "No Iraqis ever left me on a roof to die."

The magnitude of the disaster along the Gulf Coast, and the total lack of preparations to evacuate the people and help the survivors, has brought home to millions the full costs of Washington's right-wing agenda. Now they see that the enormous funds spent on military aggression have been stolen from badly needed services, even as the same group of super-rich capitalists who plot wars of world domination are enjoying lucrative tax cuts.

Curtis Muhammad of Community Labor United in New Orleans called the disaster a "war committed against Black descendants of slaves." Pointing out that those who survived are now scattered all over the country, he urged the crowd to search for them in their areas and contact www.communitylaborunited.net with information on where they are. "We want the unions to assist in training people to build homes and put our lives back together," he urged.

A multinational Katrina Contingent, organized by the Troops Out Now Coalition, was cheered as it marched through the streets chanting loudly behind a banner reading "From New Orleans to Iraq, Stop the war on the poor." It was backed up by rousing percussion provided by Filipino activists.

Vets, military families, soldiers

A young man in full Marine dress uniform walked through the rally crowd carrying a peace sign. People came up to shake his hand. Many speakers made the point that Bush, not the movement, is the



WW PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE: G. DUNKEL, LIZ GREEN AND JULIA LA RIVA



Million Workers March Movement East Coast Co-Coordinator Brenda Stokely speaks at the rally.

WW PHOTO: JULIA LA RIVA

real enemy of the troops, many of whom are in the military because of racism, poverty and a lack of job opportunities.

Anne Roesler, whose son is in Iraq, said the troops "want us to speak out, because they can't. It's up to us to bring them home. The government won't do it."

Anita Dennis's son, Darrell Anderson, refused an order to shoot an Iraqi woman and her children as their car approached a checkpoint. Today he is in exile in Canada. "George Bush should go to prison, not my son," said his mother. "I call on Congress to impeach George Bush."

The call to impeach Bush was also the thrust of a talk by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, whose tireless efforts against U.S. aggression in the Gulf began with the first U.S. war on Iraq in 1991. Clark called the Iraqi city of Falluja "the Guernica of our time" and said "shock and awe" was a war of aggression, "the supreme international crime" according to the Nuremberg trials. Guernica is the Basque town German bombers destroyed when Hitler intervened on the side of the fascists during the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s; the town's suffering was made famous by the Pablo Picasso painting of the same name.

Veterans of the current Iraq war and occupation, as well as of earlier wars, were prominent in the march



Monica Moorehead warms up the marchers on the 'Katrina Contingent.'

WW PHOTO: TOP LIZ GREEN



Workers World Party table attracts many to read Marxist analysis of Katrina catastrophe.

WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Continued on page 6

300,000 march on White House Solidarity with Gulf Coast people



PHOTO: PATRICIA LAY-DORSEY

Many marchers expressed solidarity with Gulf Coast people. A 'Katrina Contingent' drew cheers as it marched, calling for a Dec. 1 work and school stoppage.

Continued from page 5

and spoke at the rally. Some spoke of tragic suicides of returned soldiers who couldn't live with the memory of atrocities they had been forced to commit against civilians.

Drawing much applause was Cindy Sheehan, whose determination to confront Bush at his Texas ranch this summer started the Camp Casey movement—anti-war encampments around the country named after her son, who was killed in Iraq.

Sheehan, like many other speakers, urged the crowd to go back home and build "a people's movement." While urging people to stay for a day of lobbying and civil disobedience on Monday, she castigated the politicians, including the Democrats: "We are going to Congress to say, 'Shame on you for giving Bush the authority to invade Iraq.'"

(Sheehan was arrested on Sept. 26, along with about 370 others who sat down in front of the White House chanting "Stop the war now!" They were charged with demonstrating without a permit.)

Despite the prevailing anti-war sentiment in the country, only one elected official addressed the crowd in the Ellipse—Cynthia McKinney. This African-American member of Congress from Georgia has been one of the very few to consistently oppose the war. She assailed the political establishment for the horrendous situation in New Orleans, calling them "sybaritic men wrapped in self-righteousness [who] worked to save their jobs instead of the people."

Stronger labor presence

The organized labor movement had a stronger presence at this event than in earlier anti-war marches. Besides large contingents from individual unions, espe-

cially 1199 Health and Hospital workers in the Service Employees union, a top official from the AFL-CIO spoke for the first time.

Nancy Wolforth, executive vice president of the labor federation, said, "If we weren't illegally occupying Iraq, there would have been enough troops to rescue the people of New Orleans. ... We of the labor movement will do our damndest to see that the money and jobs go to the people of New Orleans, not Halliburton," referring to the construction company formerly headed by Vice President Dick Cheney that has profited handsomely from the Iraq War.

Fred Mason of U.S. Labor Against the War ended his talk with the slogan "End the occupation, bring the troops home now!," also reflecting a shift in the union leadership, which was slow to embrace the demand for withdrawal.

A year ago Black trade unionists organized the Million Worker March, which combined economic demands with unambiguous opposition to the war. Brenda Stokely, a leader of that movement and also a member of the Troops Out Now Coalition, which organized a major New York anti-war rally that marched from Harlem to Central Park, called on Sept. 24 for a principled struggle to build a fighting movement not wracked by "opportunism, competition or sectarianism."

Over the last year, local labor councils all over the country have adopted resolutions demanding the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. Now the leaders of some of the biggest unions and of the labor federation have yielded to the pressure from the rank and file and come on board.

A united demonstration

A few months ago it appeared there



WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

At right, Jesse Jackson next to Cindy Sheehan, who since August has mobilized millions against the war in Iraq.



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

others. There were many Arab and Muslim speakers, despite the many arrests, deportations and detentions meant to intimidate their communities.

Palestinian speakers included Elias Rashmawi of the National Council of Arab Americans, Michel Shehadeh of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and Mohammed Abed of Al Awda, who called for a democratic, secular state in Palestine instead of the Israeli apartheid state.

Mounzer Sleiman spoke for the National Council of Arab Americans and described the climate of terror in the U.S. created by "Homeland Security" and FBI sweeps.

While there was no speaker representing the people of Afghanistan, who have been cruelly abused by the U.S. ever since the progressive government that took power there in 1978 was opposed and eventually overthrown by Washington, a stage banner did bring up the continued occupation of that country by U.S. troops.

The struggle in the Philippines against the U.S. puppet regime of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was represented by several organizations, including Gabriela Network, Bayan, the Campaign for Justice Not War in the Philippines, and the Alliance for a Just and Lasting Peace in the Philippines.

Haiti was also highlighted as a country whose popularly elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was overthrown in a coup designed and executed by Washington. Ben Dupuy, a former Haitian ambassador at large and now head of the National People's Party, explained that an International Tribunal to investigate these crimes had held its first session the night before at George Washington University.

Ricardo Santos of the Socialist Front of

might be two separate demonstrations in Washington on Sept. 24. After the ANSWER coalition called for a demonstration for that date, it was supported by Troops Out Now Coalition, National Council of Arab-Americans, Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation, Haiti Support Network, Alliance for a Just and Lasting Peace in the Philippines, National Lawyers Guild, Al Awda and others.

However, United for Peace and Justice, the coalition that had last organized a large protest at the Republican National Convention, announced a separate rally on the same date.

In mid-August the coalitions agreed on a joint rally and march. This was widely applauded at the grassroots level.

The two main coalition organizers—Brian Becker for ANSWER and Leslie Cagan for UPJ—expressed great satisfaction at the large turnout as the crowd swelled throughout the day.

Anti-imperialist solidarity

At this rally, unlike some in the past, support for the Palestinian struggle was expressed by many signs and speakers from UPJ as well as from ANSWER and



WW PHOTO: JULIA LA RIVA

From left, Nellie Bailey, Amiri Baraka and Larry Holmes, all speakers at Ellipse rally.



Thousands march in West Coast protests

By LeiLani Dowell

Across the country, anti-war rallies were held on Sept. 24 in conjunction with the massive protest held in Washington, D.C. Protesters made the connection between the war and occupation of Iraq and the war and occupation of the U.S. Gulf region.

In San Francisco, over 50,000 turned out to protest the wars and occupations. Some held signs that read: "From Iraq to New Orleans, fund people's needs, not the war machine." Speakers included Clarence Thomas of the Million Worker March Movement and the mother of a Black disabled youth who had been shot and killed by the SFPD. At the end of the march, about 50 union workers and supporters caravaned to a picket line of hospital workers on strike at one of the facilities in the area owned by Sutter Health.

It was high drama in San Diego as a loud, spirited feeder march of 1,000—their lead banner reading "Justice for Palestine! Justice for Immigrants! Justice for the Katrina Survivors!" and with Palestinian and Mexican flags flying high—poured out of the street and into the rally site where another 1,000 protesters were waiting.

Over 2,000 people attended the rally in Balboa Park. The feeder march, which was initiated by the San Diego Al Awda—Palestine Right of Return Committee, began with a rally at San Diego City College where speakers called for an end to the occupations of Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Haiti and everywhere. Gloria Verdieu, a leader in the San Diego movement for the Millions More March, reminded the crowd of the recent execution of Frances Newton in Texas, tying it to racist U.S. aggression abroad and calling on everyone to fight against "the inhuman death machine."

A powerful march followed through the downtown area and then to the park. At the main rally, the International Action Center's Carl Muhammad told the crowd, "There are many facets of racism. We see racism in New Orleans today. We see \$14 billion that were allocated towards the war were supposed to prevent the atrocity in New Orleans. And



San Diego, Sept. 24.

WW PHOTOS: GLORIA VERDIEU

we believe that was based on the race and class of those people!"

Justino Jiménez of San Diego FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together) addressed the struggle to defend immigrant workers: "The war and militarization of the border are tools of the same U.S. imperialist aggression and corporate greed." Over 500 flyers announcing the December 1 Nationwide Strike against Poverty, Racism and War were distributed.

In Seattle, 6,000 demonstrators marched through downtown opposing imperialist war. Speakers included Esther "Little Dove" John, an African American activist

and the first person to walk solo from Seattle to the United Nations for world peace in 1983, as well as African American County Councilperson Larry Gossett, Celso Tolman of the Longshore Workers, and Congressperson Jim McDermott.

While over 700 people filled 14 buses from Wisconsin and over 300 more traveled in car and van caravans to the rally in Washington, D.C., those staying behind held protests and other actions across the state in LaCrosse, Milwaukee, Madison and elsewhere. Many organizations in the area are gathering signatures for a statewide referendum to officially call for

the return of U.S. troops in Iraq. Thus far 5,000 of the 16,000 signatures needed by Nov. 4 have been collected.

In Los Angeles an estimated 50,000 people filled the streets in a march to the downtown Federal Building. Among the speakers were actor Martin Sheen; Derrick Williams, a survivor of Hurricane Katrina; Ron Kovic (Born on the Fourth of July); and Vicky Castro, Gold Star Mothers for Peace.

Contributing to this article were Bob McCubbin, Maggie Vascasseno, Bryan Pfeiffer, Jim McMahan and Joan Marquardt.

Bring the troops home now!

Puerto Rico brought the tragic news that the FBI had just assassinated a legendary figure in that country's independence movement, Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, and called for solidarity from all progressives.

Gloria La Riva spoke for the National Committee to Free the Cuban 5, whose convictions in a Miami court were recently overturned because of the extreme bias against socialist Cuba in that area. The five had been monitoring violent anti-Cuba groups when they were arrested and charged with conspiracy. La Riva urged everyone to pressure the government not to retry the men, who are still in prison after seven years.

Yoomi Jeong, acting secretary general of the Korea Truth Commission, had been scheduled to speak. In an interview with Workers World, she explained that the third-largest occupation force in Iraq—3,000 troops—comes from South Korea, and that the Seoul government has spent \$400 million so far on the war, even though the South Korean people have

demonstrated repeatedly to bring these troops home.

Washington is spending billions of dollars on new Patriot missile bases in South Korea that threaten the entire area. Jeong said the Korean movement is demanding that the U.S. honor the joint statement it just signed in Beijing and deliver a light water reactor to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as agreed in the newly proposed peace mechanism for the Korean peninsula. Jeong was accompanied by members of the Korean American National Coordinating Council, New York chapter.

Among the many notables also on the program were British MP George Galloway of the Stop the War Coalition, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Ralph Nader, Jessica Lange, poet Amiri Baraka, Andy Thayer of the Gay Liberation Network and attorney Lynne Stewart, a civil rights attorney who faces a 30-year sentence for vigorously defending a Muslim client convicted of terrorism.



Washington, D.C., Sept. 24.

WW PHOTOS: LIZ GREEN

Strike Against Poverty, Racism and War

The Ellipse rally was closed by Larry Holmes of the Troops Out Now Coalition, who urged everyone to think in terms of "shutting the war down." He announced a Strike Against Poverty, Racism and War on Dec. 1, the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white man and was arrested.

"Many activists around the country have been discussing this date," said Holmes, and urged the crowd to make it their next priority. Joining TONC in calling for the action are the Million Worker March Movement, Teamsters National Black Caucus and Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice. Information on the Dec. 1 events will be posted on the www.troopsoutnow.org website. □

Women demand freedom for Cuban 5

By LeiLani Dowell
Washington, D.C.

Women are stepping up the struggle to free the Cuban Five. On Sept. 23, a delegation of women traveled from New York, Detroit and San Francisco to demand from Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez freedom for the Five and visitation rights for their families.

The Cuban Five—Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and René González—have been incarcerated in maximum security prisons for the past seven years for having defended their country against the well-documented terrorism of right-wing Cuban American groups in Miami. In addition, visas have been denied family members of the Five, preventing them from getting visits.

On Aug. 9, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta declared null and void the decision that had condemned the Five



PHOTO: CADE JAMISON

Women's delegation holds press conference at Dept. of Justice Sept. 23.

to prison. Their sentences had earlier been declared illegal by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions of the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations.

Despite these rulings, the Five are still being held in prisons throughout the United States.

Teresa Gutierrez of the New York Committee to Free the Cuban Five, organizers of the delegation, said the group had gathered an impressive list of

national and international signers to a letter requesting the meeting with Attorney General Gonzalez.

Despite this letter and repeated calls to the attorney general's office, a meeting was denied. The women were instead met in front of the Department of Justice by a representative from the Public Affairs office, who said he would bring the information the women brought on the Five to the attention of the attorney general.

Besides Gutierrez, the delegation included Nellie Hester Bailey of the Harlem Tenants Council, Ellen Bernstein of IFCO/Pastors for Peace, Julie Fry of FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together), Deirdre Griswold of Workers World newspaper, Gloria La Riva of the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five, Cheryl LaBash of the U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange, and Brenda Stokely of the Million Worker March Movement.

These women held a media conference afterwards denouncing the imprisonment of the Five, as well as the decision of the attorney general to ignore their delegation. They vowed to continue to apply pressure on his office until the Five were free.

On Sept. 25, the International Democratic Women's Federation (FDIM), made up of women from five continents, called for the release of the Cuban Five and condemned the U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba. □

Int'l Tribunal on Haiti

First session shows horrors of occupation

By G. Dunkel
Washington, D.C.

Even Haitians who knew the situation in their country were shocked and horrified to see the video presented by Kevin Pina at the First Session of the Tribunal on Haiti, held in Washington on Sept. 23.

Viewers saw blood pooling out of the head of a protester, shot by United Nations troops, jerking in his death throes.

They saw Fredi Roméus, as he sat beside three bodies lying in a pool of blood in his modest home in Bel Air, describing how his 22-year-old wife, Sonia Roméus, and their sons, Stanley and Nelson, had been killed by the UN forces. "They surrounded our house this morning and I ran, thinking my wife and the children were behind me. They couldn't get out and the *blan* [UN] fired into the house."

Bel Air is one of the sections of Port-au-Prince where support for restoring democracy and deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is the strongest.

The same shot killed Sonia and Nelson, the son she was holding. Stanley, 4 years old, was killed with another shot to the head. The UN forces claimed that Sonia, Stanley, Nelson and an unidentified protester were bandits who fired on UN troops first. No weapons were found in the street and UN forces suffered no casualties.

This was part of the testimony entered



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Tribunal on Haiti, held in Washington on Sept. 23.

at the tribunal's Washington session. Other sessions are being planned in Miami, New York, Montreal and Boston, where there are significant Haitian communities.

The tribunal's stated purpose is "to gather testimony and proof of the crimes perpetrated by the UN forces in Haiti." The dossier that it creates will be presented to the International Criminal Court, which sits in The Hague. The United States does not recognize the jurisdiction of the ICC, but other countries whose forces comprise the UN troops in Haiti do.

Ira Kurzban, an attorney from Miami who represented the Haitian government under Aristide, testified to the collapse of the justice system there. He pointed out that the United States itself had recognized this by refusing to deport Emmanuel "Toto" Constant, wanted for mass murder, to Haiti, saying that the Haitian justice system could not guarantee him a fair trial. This was just a pretext to cover up Constant's role as a CIA agent, Kurzban said.

Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine, coordinator of the Foundation for Victims of the Sept. 30, 1991, Coup d'Etat, testified to the complicity of the U.S. government in the systematic undermining of the democratic process in Haiti, recounting his own personal story of how he escaped after Aristide was kidnapped.

Thomas Griffin, who had been a federal

parole and probation officer for 10 years before he became a civil rights and immigration lawyer in Philadelphia, testified about his civil-rights investigation in Haiti during November 2004. He interviewed people suffering from gunshot wounds to the head who were afraid to go to the hospital because they said people who go to the hospital with such wounds usually wind up in the morgue.

Griffin said that he investigated a site where 60 bodies had been burned. He said large amounts of misprinted Haitian currency were used as fuel, which pointed to the involvement of the current de facto government.

Kevin Pina, a U.S. journalist who has lived in Haiti for over a decade, testified to how he obtained his video interview with Fredi Roméus. He also told how, while trying to exercise his profession as a journalist, he was arrested by police as they were attempting to plant a weapon in the house of Fr. Gérard Jean-Juste, a supporter of Aristide's Lavalas Party.

Jeb Sprague, Yves Engler and Seth Donnelly also testified.

Ramsey Clark, an anti-war activist, founder of the International Action Center and former U.S. attorney general, has agreed to lead a Commission of Inquiry in Haiti, which is tentatively scheduled for the beginning of October. Capt. Lawrence Rockwood, Tom Griffin, Dave Welsh and Katharine Kean have agreed to serve on it and some notable U.S. political figures have expressed interest.

The presiding judges at this session of the Tribunal were Ben Dupuy, Lionel Jean-Baptiste and Lucie Tondreau. The investigating judge was Brian Concannon. □

Aristide's message to New Orleans

On Sept. 3, just after Katrina's floods and hurricane winds had devastated the Gulf region, Haiti President Jean-Bertrand Aristide sent a message of condolence to the people of New Orleans. From Pretoria, South Africa, where he has been exiled following a U.S.-engineered coup and kidnapping, President Aristide addressed the people of the United States:

"The grieving faces that we see so resemble the grieving faces of Haitians who have faced similar waters that swept away lives and engulfed tiny boats overloaded with people fleeing the political repression following the coup d'état/kidnapping of Feb. 29, 2004." He ended his

message with "We reiterate our expression of sympathy in this time of pain."

On Sept. 30 demonstrations will be held in solidarity with the Haitian people in over 30 cities and 14 countries demanding an end to the war against the people of Haiti and the restoration of the democratically elected government of President Aristide. Other issues to be raised include an independent inquiry into the 2004 coup and the kidnapping of President Aristide; the complicity of the U.S., France and Canada; ending the brutal U.S./UN occupation and freeing Father Jean-Juste and the more than 1,000 political prisoners in Haiti jails.

—Milt Neidenberg

Cuba slams U.S. decision to harbor terrorist Posada

From a Prensa Latina report, Havana, Sept. 28.

The decision of an immigration judge in Texas to grant shelter in the U.S. to Cuban-born terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, mastermind of a mid-air bombing of a commercial plane that killed 73 people, is an infamous judicial call, Cuba says.

Under the headline "Infamous Judicial Decision: Posada under the Empire's Protection," Granma daily recalls Sept. 28

that immigration judge William Abbott chose Sept. 27 not to deport Posada Carriles, either to Venezuela or Cuba.

Abbott ruled that the notorious criminal remained in custody of the Immigration Customs Enforcement, and granted 90 days for the U.S. to find a country willing to shelter Posada Carriles. He also gave the attorney one month to appeal.

"This is a chronicle of an agreement

Continued on page 9

Report from Philippines:

Bansa Moro people resist oppression

This eyewitness account by health worker Sharon Eolis is an excellent expose of the current Philippine situation. The deepening political and economic crisis there has gone unreported in the mainstream U.S. media.

The impact of this crisis on the majority of the 72 million Filipinos is devastating. To understand the crisis, one must know the history of U.S.-Philippine relations.

After the U.S.-Philippine War in 1898, with the defeat of the revolutionary forces and the Filipinos' struggle for freedom and self-determination, the Philippines became a U.S. colony. In 1946, the U.S. granted formal political independence to the Philippines, but the country continued to be tied down by unequal treaties and agreements. Under these circumstances, the Philippines changed from a colony to a neocolony of the U.S. and an appendage of the world capitalist system. From the first Filipino president to the current one, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Philippine governments have been completely subservient to U.S. imperialism.

The U.S. objective, then and now, has been to crush the struggles for national liberation and the Filipinos' aspirations for sovereignty and true democracy.

The Bansa Moro people have a brilliant history of fighting U.S. imperialism and the puppet Philippine governments. Their heroic resistance against U.S. domination has been met with extreme atrocities. They have been victims of land grabbing, government-encouraged Christian chauvinism, and exploitation of their people and resources by U.S. transnational corporations and other imperialists.

Currently, U.S. Special Forces along with the Philippine armed forces are conducting a war of genocide against the Bansa Moro people in Mindanao.

— Lydia Bayoneta

U.S. to harbor Posada

Continued from page 8

reached since the very first day Posada decided to travel to the U.S.," said Jose Pertierra, an expert on immigration issues.

Pertierra said Abbott's ruling did not invalidate the Venezuelan extradition request because the extradition procedure prevailed over the immigration one.

"There are two dangers now. The U.S. government can send him to a third country in the coming three months to avoid his extradition to Venezuela, or may refuse to deport him and release him on bail as it did in the case of Posada's crony, Orlando Bosch," maintained Pertierra.

On Sept. 26, the Venezuelan government issued a statement ripping the Bush administration for harboring "this self-confessed terrorist."

"Prosecution is neither persecution nor torture," underlines the statement, issued by the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington. "There is no evidence that the government of Venezuela would torture Posada. To grant CAT [Convention Against Torture] relief to Posada Carriles is to twist an international treaty meant to protect innocent victims of torture into an instrument with which to shelter a terrorist." □

By Sharon Eolis
Manila, Philippines

The International Solidarity Mission had the delegation break into groups to take testimony on human-rights violations in five different provinces. I was on a team that visited a village in which most of the people were Bansa Moro.

The people we were meeting with had been displaced by the war in Mindanao. From Sulu to Basilan, people were forced to leave because of the Philippine Army's military assault on their farms, homes and families.

Most people from this region are Islamic and their roots are in indigenous tribes. For hundreds of years the Spanish colonists couldn't overthrow the established rule of law, trade and Islamic beliefs. But when U.S. imperialism came back in during World War II, it was able to smash the historic order of the people. The people have been unable to regain control of their land since the U.S. invasion. There is an ongoing armed struggle to take back the land and demand autonomy from the Philippines.

Like the Palestinian people who were driven from their land, the Moro people have been driven out and replaced by other Filipino people from other regions who have received government assistance.

There are great natural resources of oil and minerals in the region that U.S. imperialism is hoping to take over.

Visiting Baseco

Our first visit with Bansa Moro people was in a village called Baseco. The village has concrete dwellings for about 6,000 people, but most live in shacks with incomplete siding and leaky roofs. Few have electricity. There is no running water and no bathrooms.

The whole village is located on top of a garbage dump, which is a landfill right off the bay. Big storms are a constant threat.

We visited a family in which the husband works 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The family has six children, one an infant. They don't have enough money for the clothing that would allow the children to go to school. This family is

Solidarity protests around the world

By John Catalinotto

With a protest march in London on Sept. 24, the anti-war movement in Britain showed it, too, was challenging Bush's junior partner in aggression and occupation in Iraq. Calling it "a great day," the Stop the War Coalition website said "up to 100,000 people marched on Saturday in London for peace and liberty. The march took two hours to move into Hyde Park. ... There was a wonderful mix of people on the march: trade unionists, large numbers of Muslims, a lot of young people, pensioners, Woodcraft Folk, campaigners against climate change, for civil liberties—united in their demands above all for troops out of Iraq. The march was led by Military Families Against the War."

While the movement around the world did not attempt to hold the kind of coordinated actions that happened on Feb. 15, 2003, in a number of countries the anti-war and anti-imperialist forces did hold protests at U.S. embassies and similar sites to protest the continued occupation of Iraq. This was done first of all in soli-



International delegation marches in Manila.

PHOTO: ISM

much better off than most of this town of 80,000 people, who are forced to sift through the piles of garbage in order to find things to sell.

While many of the women and their children were dressed in their best clothing, there were still a lot of very young toddlers who had no clothing or wore just shirts but no pants or shoes. Although we did not see children as badly malnourished as the Iraqi children during the period of U.S.-led sanctions, signs of malnutrition were visible.

There is no health care for women and their children. We saw very few older folks.

The people are on guard to keep the government from demolishing their houses. They are supposed to get several days' notice, but sometimes they get just 30 minutes to clear out their belongings.

The government has a plan to demolish the shacks and build expensive high-rise dwellings on this prime waterfront property.

Conditions in Sabah

The second village, Sabah, was in a wooded area. The buildings were older, but in better shape. This site was partially destroyed by a recent typhoon and flash flood. The water had reached the second floor of some buildings. The damage was still visible.

Part of the village had been evacuated to a location called Harangan Juvil, where a new village with cement houses was

erected. We spent the night in that village. These were solid dwellings. It seemed that more people were working in this village.

We were invited to speak to a young woman who was eight months pregnant. Her husband was working in construction in Manila; he stays in the city all week and comes back on the weekends.

Through a translator, we learned she was seeing a professional midwife and a lay midwife. She was expecting her third child and had had a sonogram. She was going to have her tubes tied so this would be her last child.

She had one light bulb in her home, which is a luxury. She also had a wooden bed. But most of the buildings only had mats on a cement floor.

We also spoke with two other women, both of whom had lost their husbands because of lack of medical care. The first had a ruptured appendix and the second had meningitis. He was treated in the hospital for about a month until the family ran out of money. Then he was kicked out, to die at home. This made it necessary for the widowed woman to send her children abroad to work in order to pay off the debt and to care for their mother, who had no income.

The woman whose husband died of appendicitis had to send her daughter abroad as a domestic worker.

Many Filipino families depend on these earnings to survive.

Next: Conclusion of ISM—an International Peoples Tribunal.



London, Sept. 24.

PHOTO: STWC

arity with the Iraqis, but also as a sign of solidarity with the opposition to the war in the U.S. and Britain.

In Istanbul, Turkey, some 300 people attended a media conference and demonstration at Taksim Square. Anti-war and anti-capitalist activists were there for a European Social Forum preparation meeting, so representatives from Greece, England, Germany, Cyprus, Macedonia, Belgium, Spain and Poland were among those speaking. People shouted slogans such as "End the occupation," "Incirlik [the U.S. base in Turkey] should be closed" and "The Iraqi people will win."

In Brussels, the headquarters of NATO,

on Sept. 23, some 250 activists formed a human chain right in front of the U.S. Embassy. They circled it in solidarity with those encircling the White House on Sept. 24, in protest against the war on Iraq and against the Bush administration's attitude in the Katrina disaster. A giant puppet depicting Bush in full battle gear was the favorite target of the protesters.

U.S. citizens abroad demonstrated in Paris, Rome and Florence and joined local actions in Madrid, Dublin, Shannon airport and Berlin. Similar protests took place in Manila, Tokyo, Mexico City and many cities in Australia and Canada, as well as other parts of the world. □



A cowardly assassination

Workers World condemns the cowardly assassination of 72-year-old Puerto Rican liberation fighter Filiberto Ojeda Ríos by the U.S. government and the FBI. He was well-known and respected among Puerto Rican people as the leader of the Popular Boricua Army, known popularly as the Macheteros, an organization fighting for Puerto Rico's liberation from U.S. colonial rule. This FBI execution proved once again to the world that the biggest terrorists are in Washington.

To hunt down this one Puerto Rican, it is reported that the FBI used 300 agents armed to the teeth. They surrounded Ojeda Ríos' farmhouse in Hormigueros, Puerto Rico, on Sept. 23 while he and his wife, Elma Beatriz Rosado Barbosa, were inside. As two helicopters hovered above his home and 30 vehicles surrounded it, two dozen sharpshooters carried out the execution.

Back in 1992, Ojeda Ríos had been sentenced in absentia in the United States to 55 years in prison for allegedly participating in the fabled 1983 robbery of \$7 million from a Wells Fargo depot in Hartford, Conn. According to many sources, the money was used to buy toys for children as well as to support the liberation struggle.

Since then, he had been considered a fugitive and was on the FBI's "most wanted" list. Nevertheless, he was a well-known political figure in Puerto Rico and sometimes granted interviews to the press.

Friends and neighbors who rushed to the scene after the shooting were turned back by the FBI. It was later

learned that Ojeda Ríos, who had been hit in the chest by an FBI sniper bullet, lay inside his house for almost 24 hours, bleeding to death, while the FBI refused to allow even medical personnel to enter.

Until late the following day Ojeda Ríos' wife, Rosada Barbosa, was held in federal prison, preventing her from being able to tell the public what had really happened. The FBI exposed the true colonial nature of Washington's relation to Puerto Rico when it neglected to even inform the colonial administration in San Juan or its police of the armed assault until hours after the execution.

Puerto Rico has been a U.S. colony ever since it was seized from Spain during the Spanish-American War. Its finest sons and daughters for over a century have fought for the liberation of their nation.

We send our heartfelt sympathy to Rosada Barbosa and Ojeda Ríos' family.

We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Puerto Rican liberation movement who have lost a hero.

We send our solidarity, too, to the Puerto Rican people in general, who are already reacting with courage and anger to this atrocity, both on the island and in the diaspora.

We call on all progressive individuals and organizations in the United States to join the protests against this latest U.S. crime against the Puerto Rican people and to dedicate ourselves to solidarity with the just struggle of the Puerto Rican people for self-determination. □

May convention:

Right wing ousts left-wing leaders



By Leslie Feinberg

The left-wing founders of the Mattachine movement—the Fifth Order—thought the anti-communist opposition had been pushed back at their

convention in April. But when the May segment of the delegated conference resumed, the right wing came back with a vengeance and, wielding McCarthyite red-baiting as its primary weapon, successfully unseated the leadership. ...

Read the rest of Part 49 and the entire Lavender & Red series to date at workers.org.

Next: Two-line struggle: Which class will lead?



WE MUST TURN OUR OUTRAGE OVER KATRINA INTO A MOVEMENT

On the 50TH anniversary of Dec. 1, 1955—the day in Montgomery Alabama that Rosa Parks sparked the modern Civil Rights Movement

A CALL FOR A ROSA PARKS ANNIVERSARY



NATIONWIDE STRIKE

**AGAINST
POVERTY,
RACISM
AND WAR**

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

Let us work together and organize a Rosa Parks anniversary nationwide strike against Poverty, Racism & War on Dec. 1, 2005, the 50th anniversary of the day that Rosa Parks helped launch the modern civil rights movement—not a traditional strike in the sense that it's called by organized labor (although it will have a lot of support and participation from labor unions, working people, and people looking for work), but like the protest that people like Rosa Parks and Cindy Sheehan started, a non-traditional and grassroots strike that involves massive numbers of people in every part of the country not going about business as usual and instead participating in protest, including a MASS MARCH ON WALL ST., NYC and continued protest through Dec. 2 and 3 to maximize the widest participation.

Fifty years ago, Black people in Montgomery, Alabama were forced by law to sit in the back of public buses, and give their seats to any white person who demanded it. When Rosa Parks, a garment worker and civil rights activist, refused to give up her seat to a white man, she sparked the Montgomery bus boycott against segregation on public buses, one of the most successful and truly mass boycotts in history. The Montgomery bus boycott also introduced to the world a young reverend named Martin Luther King Jr., who became the boycott's principal public leader.

➡ **NO SCHOOL** ➡ **NO SHOPPING**
➡ **NO WORK** local protests and
teach-ins through December 2–3
MASS MARCH ON WALL ST. NYC

**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 1**

■ The survivors of Katrina and their communities must control the relief & reconstruction fund—the contracts and the jobs—pay the prevailing wage.

■ No coverup—we demand an independent investigation

Rosa Parks Anniversary Nationwide Strike initiators. Over 500 groups and leaders including: Million Worker March Movement; Troops Out Now Coalition; Saladin Muhammed, Black Workers for Justice; Chris Silvera, Pres. Teamsters National Black Caucus; Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice; Brenda Stokely, former Pres. AFSCME 1707, co-convenor NYCLAW; Baltimore NAACP; Ramsey Clark; Rev. Herbert Daughtery, House of the Lord Church; Rev. Dr. Kwame O. Abayomi; Trent Willis, Pres. ILWU Lo. 10; Charles Barron, NYC Council; Guyanese-American Workers United; Chuck Turner, Boston City Council; Minister Don Muhammad, NOI Mosque No 11; Harlem Tenants Council; East Bay Homeless Union, Oakland; Artists & Activist United for Peace; Louisiana Peace Action Community; So. Jersey Coalition for Peace & Justice; NE Ohio Antiwar Coalition; NY Committee to Free the Cuban 5; United American Indians of New England; Queers for Peace & Justice; FIST; Steven Funk, GI resister; Elena Everett, Chair NC Green Party; Steve Gillis, Pres., USWA Lo. 8751 Boston School Bus Drivers; Father Luis Barrios; MLK Jr. Bolivarian Circle; Mumia Abu-Jamal; Abayomi Azikiwe, Editor Pan-African News Wire; Al-Awda; Olean Area Coalition for Peace & Justice; So. Mississippi United for Peace; BAYAN; Virginia Anti-War Network; Episcopal Peace Fellowship; Puerto Rican Alliance of Los Angeles; Fanmi Lavalas; Asia Pacific Action; Haiti Support Network; High County Peace & Justice; Minneapolis Anti-war Committee; Arab American Civic Organization; New College Alliance for Peace; Eugene Craig, Steward SEIU Lo. 715 San Jose; and many others. For additional initiators see www.TroopsOutNow.org

SHUT THE WAR DOWN

Please list me or my organization as an endorser the following way:

NAME _____
ORGANIZATION _____
PHONE NUMBER _____
EMAIL _____
 Check here if position or affiliation is for ID use only.
Call **212-633-6646**, or
email to actioncenter@action-mail.org
Online: www.troopsoutnow.org

FBI kills Puerto Rican leader

Continued from page 1

released from jail, that I became aware that Filiberto had been despicably assassinated. ... Nevertheless, Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, in my heart and in the hearts of the Puerto Rican people, is now more alive than ever.”

Doctors denied access to Ojeda

On the evening of Sept. 23, as news of the FBI assassination began to spread, lawyers, family members, doctors, pro-independence activists and representatives of the news media tried to reach the home of Ojeda and Rosado, but were repulsed by the police and the FBI. Several doctors at the scene near the home, hearing that Ojeda had been shot, offered their assistance. The FBI refused them access.

At one of the roads leading to the house, crowds formed, pointing to the FBI agents while chanting, “These are the assassins.”

For the next two days almost every sector of Puerto Rican society—from San Juan’s Catholic Archbishop, Roberto González Nieves, to Ricardo Santos, head of the Electrical Workers Union, from ex-Gov. Rafael Hernández Colón to Rubén Berríos, president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party—to one degree or another publicly criticized or condemned the FBI for killing Filiberto Ojeda Ríos. All the people mentioned here personally viewed the body and expressed their condolences to Rosado.

Even Tomás Rivera Shatz, titular head of the pro-statehood New Progressive Party, publicly questioned the FBI’s judgment and actions, apparently for politically opportunistic reasons.

On Sept. 24, some 29 hours after they had invaded the home of Ojeda and Rosado, the FBI finally announced that they had killed him. His body was transferred to the Forensic Unit of the Puerto Rico Police Department.

There, hundreds of people gathered in the streets.

Protests at Federal Court House

That evening in San Juan, a crowd gathered at the Hiram Bithorn Stadium, soon growing to 1,000 strong.

They marched to the Federal Court house, chanting: “FBI—facistas, verdaderos terroristas” (FBI—fascists, the real terrorists) and, “Filiberto camarada, tu muerte será vengada” (Comrade Filiberto, your death will be avenged).

Under mounting public pressure, Gov. Aníbal Acevedo Vilá ordered that Dr. Héctor Pesquera of the Movimiento Inde-

pendentista Nacional Hostosiano (Hostos National Independence Movement) be allowed to witness the official autopsy.

Dr. Pesquera announced his findings to the media: “Filiberto Ojeda Ríos was shot once near the right collarbone. The bullet traversed in a downward direction, exiting through his back. He did not die because of any organ failure due to the shooting. He died because he was allowed to bleed to death.

“The reason why the FBI did not permit doctors onto the scene at his home is because they wanted Filiberto dead. In my opinion Filiberto was shot by an FBI sharpshooter and allowed to bleed to death—this was an assassination by the FBI.”

Dr. Pesquera was one of the doctors who had tried unsuccessfully on the evening of Sept. 23 to assist Ojeda upon hearing that he had been shot by the FBI.

On Sept. 26, nearly 1,000 students at the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan, led by the Federación Universitaria Pro Independencia (the Pro Independence University Federation), took over the Main Tower of the campus and removed the U.S. flag, replacing it with a huge banner bearing the face of Ojeda. The banner read, “Filiberto, sigues en el corazón del pueblo” (Filiberto, you continue living in the hearts of the people).

The students then proceeded to trash a local Burger King as a symbol of U.S. corporate domination on the island. They marched to the Federal Courthouse where they burned the U.S. flag as federal police armed with automatic weapons looked on.

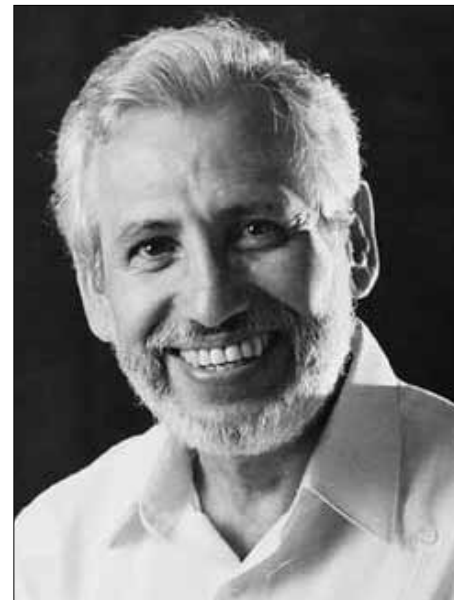
Broad media coverage

For several days every newspaper, television and radio station, especially the talk programs, have been covering the killing. Even the Puerto Rican Legislature, which is dominated by the pro-statehood New Progressive Party, passed a resolution sponsored by the Puerto Rican Independence Party calling for an investigation of the FBI operation.

On Sept. 26 and 27, delegations from every political persuasion that support independence—including the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rican Independence Party, the Hostos National Independence Movement and the Socialist Front—served as honor guards at the wake and funeral. Among them were the legendary Lolita Lebrón and all the other political prisoners released from U.S. jails who had been members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation and Los Macheteros.



Elma Beatriz Rosado, wife of Filiberto Ojeda Ríos.



Filiberto Ojeda Ríos



On Sept. 26 the Macheteros flag flew over the San Juan capitol.

From every part of Puerto Rico, workers and their families have traveled to San Juan to view the body and honor the slain hero. Crowds and waiting lines at the College of Attorneys were so large that viewing hours had to be extended. Many famous cultural figures such as singers Danny Rivera, Roy Brown and many others were present.

Ojeda’s historical contribution

The annual conference of the Socialist Front, which was held on Sept. 25, was dedicated to Ojeda.

Jorge Farinacci, spokesperson for the Front, characterized Filiberto Ojeda Ríos’ historical contribution in this manner: “I worked with Filiberto. In the 1960s Filiberto represented the Pro Independence Movement’s (MPI’s) mission to Cuba. Filiberto lived in Cuba and was profoundly influenced by this socialist revolution.

“Filiberto was not just a nationalist leader, he was class-conscious and sympathized with the struggle of the workers for social justice and with socialism. He was also greatly influenced by anti-imperialist struggles of the period, especially the struggle of the Vietnamese people for their liberation.

“In the late 1960s Filiberto founded the Movimiento Independentista Revolucionario Armado (Armed Revolutionary Independence Movement). In 1976, Filiberto was a founding member of the Puerto Rican Workers Party (PRTP), which in turn organized Los Macheteros in 1978.

“Though he was humble and serene, he was very strong-willed and valiant, and very well-prepared regarding all aspects of the armed struggle. He was our teacher.

The FBI accuses Filiberto of planning the guerrilla sapper attack which took place in 1981 at the Muñiz Naval Base, which destroyed 11 military aircraft worth \$45 million.

“Filiberto was an intransigent fighter for the oppressed who, like Don Pedro Albizu Campos before him, never recognized the authority of the U.S. in Puerto Rico. In 1990, facing charges related to the Wells Fargo robbery in Connecticut, he cut off his electronic brace and went underground.

“I can categorically state that the national outcry caused by his assassination is a reflection of the broad support of the masses of Puerto Rican people for the heroic actions of the Macheteros.”

On the morning of Sept. 26, the news media reported that the U.S. flag that usually flies over the Capitol in San Juan had been replaced by the green flag of Los Macheteros. □



Puerto Rican activists and supporters protest the assassination of Ojeda Sept. 26 in New York. The woman in the white shirt is Esperanza Martell, leader of ProLibertad. Father Luis Barrios holds the photo of Ojeda Ríos.



From every part of Puerto Rico, workers and their families have come to view the body and honor the slain hero.

WWW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Otro líder sindical asesinado en Colombia

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Mientras el aliado de EEUU, el presidente colombiano Álvaro Uribe, se preparaba para visitar los Estados Unidos para promover su Ley de “Justicia y Paz”, otro líder sindical colombiano, el más reciente en la larga lista de sindicalistas asesinados fue salvaje y cobardemente matado. Su muerte expuso al mundo la cruel realidad detrás de esta ley.

El 11 de septiembre, se encontró el cuerpo de Luciano Enrique Romero Molina. Lo encontraron amarrado, con señales de 40 puñaladas e indicios de que había sido torturado. Romero Molina, de 47 años de edad, era un muy respetado y querido miembro del sindicato SINALTRAINAL, el sindicato que representa a los trabajadores de la Coca Cola y la Nestlé en Colombia.

Romero Molina era el secretario del Departamento de Derechos Humanos del sindicato y un miembro activo del Comité en Solidaridad con los Prisioneros Políticos. Su preocupación y la de su sindicato por los derechos humanos se reflejaba en su infalible visita dominical a los prisioneros en las cárceles de Valledupar, donde él vigilaba la situación a la vez que les llevaba apoyo y solidaridad.

Para evitar la comunicación con los prisioneros, el gobierno dificultó grandemente el proceso de visitas. [Joubert-Ceci visitó recientemente a mujeres prisioneras políticas en la cárcel del Buen Pastor en Bogotá—ed.]

Romero Molina trabajó 20 años en la compañía Nestlé en Valledupar, un departamento al norte de Colombia fronterizo con Venezuela, hasta que fue despedido el

22 de octubre del 2002, por su participación en una huelga contra la compañía. Como muestra de la falta de interés del gobierno colombiano por los derechos laborales, el Ministerio de Protección Social había declarado la huelga ilegal.

Romero Molina puso una demanda en el Juzgado Primero Laboral del Circuito de Valledupar, en contra de las compañías involucradas: la Nestlé de Colombia S.A., la Cicolac Ltd. y la Dairy Partners Americas Manufacturing Colombia Ltd, donde exigía su restitución.

Como resultado de sus actividades laborales y en pro de los derechos humanos, fue declarado objetivo militar por los paramilitares que apoyan los intereses de las corporaciones como Nestlé y Coca Cola.

Las amenazas de muerte que había recibido de los paramilitares hicieron que él se alejara de Valledupar en varias ocasiones. Desde finales del 2004 estaba en Girón, España, bajo un programa especial de protección y había regresado a Colombia a comienzos del 2005.

Cuando fue asesinado, él estaba bajo la “protección” de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Le sobreviven su compañera, Ledys Mendoza y sus cuatro niños.

Su cuerpo fue encontrado en Las Palmas, un sector de La Nevada, vecindario conocido por estar bajo el control de los paramilitares. Una declaración publicada el 11 de septiembre por la Fundación Comité de Solidaridad con los Presos Políticos de Valledupar (CFSP) dice, “A consecuencia de las amenazas contra su vida la Fundación Comité de Solidaridad con los Presos

Políticos, había pedido al gobierno de Colombia que se le incluyera en el programa de protección a Líderes sindicales y a defensores de derechos humanos, la única protección que se le brindó fue la entrega de dos medios de telefonía móvil.”

Esto contrasta agudamente con el proceso de “desmovilización” de los paramilitares que ofrece Uribe el cual da protección y programas especiales a aquellos que “prometen” dejar a los grupos de escuadrones de muerte.

La Ley de Justicia y Paz fomenta la legalización y la protección de estos grupos que son responsables por los incontables asesinatos, masacres, amenazas, y otros viles y numerosos crímenes contra el pueblo colombiano, especialmente contra l@s afro-descendientes, indígenas, defensor@s de derechos humanos, líderes de sindicatos, y cualquier otr@ oponente de la política Uribe/estadounidense.

Muchos grupos colombianos e internacionales, incluso en los Estados Unidos, han denunciado y criticado esta ley. En una carta a Uribe, Leo W. Girard, el presidente internacional del sindicato de trabajadores del acero (USW) escribe: “Yo le escribo para expresar mi preocupación por la reciente mal llamada “Ley de Justicia y Paz”, la cuál usted inició y recientemente firmó como ley.

“Esta ley ha sido plenamente condenada por la Federación Internacional de Trabajadores Metalúrgicos, de la cuál somos miembros, y por todos los grupos de defensores de derechos humanos que informan sobre Colombia, incluyendo Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch y la Inter-American Commission of

Human Rights. Como reportan estos grupos, esta nueva ley da casi total impunidad a los paramilitares en Colombia — grupos que han cometido grandes abusos contra los derechos humanos, incluyendo el asesinato de cientos de líderes sindicales — mientras que muy poco pide a cambio.

El sindicato de Romero Molina, SINALTRAINAL, denunció su asesinato y pide a la comunidad internacional enviar mensajes de protesta. Edgar Páez, de la Directiva Nacional del sindicato, escribió “Nosotros repudiamos este crimen horrendo que es parte de una lista sin fin de sindicalistas asesinados en Colombia, bajo la estrategia de terrorismo estatal y la persecución promulgada por las compañías para exterminar al movimiento sindicalista.

Condenamos una vez más al gobierno de Álvaro Uribe Vélez y su mentiroso “proceso de paz” con los grupos paramilitares, que como vemos siguen masacrando población inermes y sus crímenes quedarán en la total impunidad gracias a la Ley de Justicia y Paz.”

Nuestros lector@s pueden escribir cartas de protesta a: Presidente Álvaro Uribe Vélez (auribe@presidencia.gov.co; dh@presidencia.gov.co); Vice Presidente Francisco Santos (fsantos@presidencia.gov.co); Director del Departamento de Derechos Humanos Dr. Carlos Franco (cefranco@presidencia.gov.co); Fiscal General Dr. Mario Iguarán Arana (contacto@fiscalia.gov.co; denuncie@fiscalia.gov.co); Comisión Interamericana para los Derechos Humanos (cidhoea@oas.org); enviando una copia a: SINALTRAINAL sinaltrainal@sinaltrainal.org.

Poderes imperialistas demandan monopolio sobre tecnología

Por Fred Goldstein

Los poderes imperialistas que poseen armas nucleares han denunciado las propuestas avanzadas en la Organización de las Naciones Unidas por el presidente de Irán sobre el uso pacífico de la energía nuclear. En oposición, ellos están actuando para intensificar las tensiones internacionales al redactar una propuesta para acusar a Irán ante el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU y presionarla a que liquide su procesamiento de combustible nuclear.

El Presidente de Irán Mahmoud Ahmedinejad, hablando en la cumbre del 60 aniversario de la ONU el 17 de septiembre, una vez más reiteró que su país estaba buscando utilizar en forma pacífica la energía nuclear y sugirió que ‘como una forma más de forjar la confianza y a la vez ofrecer el mayor grado de transparencia, la República Islámica de Irán está lista para participar en colaboración con sectores públicos y privados de otros países en la implementación de un programa de enriquecimiento de uranio en Irán. Esto representa el paso más avanzado, mucho más allá que los requisitos del Tratado de No Proliferación de Armas Nucleares” (NPT por las siglas en inglés).

Se puede encontrar el texto integral de su intervención en www.iribnews.ir.

Él prometió una vez más “continuar la interacción y la cooperación con la Agencia Internacional de Energía Atómica

(AIEA) que será el foco principal de toda nuestra política nuclear”.

Sin embargo, el Reino Unido, Francia y Alemania, la llamada UE3, apoyada e impulsada por Washington, ha redactado una resolución punitiva que será presentada en la reunión de la AIEA en Viena. La resolución demanda que Irán sea denunciada ante el Consejo de Seguridad por supuestas “violaciones a las protecciones atómicas”.

La AIEA nunca ha producido ni una sola evidencia verosímil de que Irán está trabajando para obtener armas nucleares. Pero los poderes imperialistas, buscando la forma para que todas las naciones independientes permanezcan desarmadas y vulnerables, han ejercido presiones incessantes, incluso amenazas de ataques militares a Washington e Israel, para intimidar y aterrorizar al gobierno de Irán y que abandone su programa de energía nuclear.

El Presidente Ahmedinejad se refirió a la hipocresía de Washington, el Reino Unido, Francia y Alemania al calificar a Irán como una amenaza nuclear mientras que “Miles de cohetes nucleares están almacenados en varios lugares en combinación con programas para desarrollar aún más de estas armas infrahumanas que han creado un ambiente nuevo de represión y la (imposición) de un orden de maquinaria de guerra, amenazando a la comunidad internacional y hasta a los ciu-

dadanos de los países que las poseen.”

De hecho, son estos mismos poderes imperialistas y nucleares que están más en contravención del NPT, redactado y firmado hace más de 30 años, que ordenó el proceso del desarme nuclear.

Él denunció el “apartheid nuclear” y el hecho de que “los culpables están atribuyéndose el papel de procurador” y “se presentan como los defensores de la libertad y los derechos humanos”.

“¿Cómo puede hablar uno de los derechos humanos”, declaró Ahmedinejad, “y a la vez negar abiertamente el derecho inalienable de tener acceso al progreso científico y a la tecnología con aplicaciones en medicina, industria, y energía y por medio de la fuerza e intimidación frenar el progreso y el desarrollo? ¿Puede negarse a las naciones el progreso científico y tecnológico por medio de la amenaza de fuerza y basado nada más en alegaciones de posibilidad de una desviación hacia usos militares?”

“No debemos”, declaró, “al comienzo del siglo XXI, regresar a la lógica de los tiempos medievales”.

El Presidente Ahmedinejad propuso a la Asamblea General que “como el órgano más inclusivo de la ONU”, cree un comité para investigar los mecanismos para reforzar al NPT e “investigue cómo —en contravención al NPT— materiales, tecnología y equipo para armas nucleares fueron transferidos al régimen sionista, y

proponga medidas prácticas para establecer una zona libre de armas nucleares en el Medio Oriente”.

Washington y los UE3 están intentando ocultar sus propias metas agresivas de dominación nuclear mundial detrás de una pila de calumnias y acusaciones falsas en contra de Irán, la cual ha aceptado cientos de inspecciones. Teherán ha invitado a la AIEA a que monitoree sus procedimientos de enriquecimiento del uranio. Este es un caso claro de una pandilla de ladrones gritando “ladrón”.

Irán, como todas las naciones oprimidas o anteriormente oprimidas por el imperialismo tiene el derecho a la autodeterminación. Las clases dominantes del Reino Unido y los EEUU, los antiguos colonizadores de Irán, están intentando destruir su independencia como nación y prevenir que obtenga energía nuclear, ya sea para la producción de energía o para la autodefensa. En esto tienen la ayuda de los imperialistas franceses y alemanes.

Debajo de toda la diplomacia en Viena, Nueva York y Washington, está la amenaza de agresión por parte del Pentágono o de su estación en el Medio Oriente, Tel Aviv. Es una cuestión de urgencia para el movimiento antiguerra mostrar solidaridad con el pueblo de Irán y demandar que los EEUU y los UE3 dejen a Irán en paz y cesen la obstrucción al programa de energía nuclear para programas de energía nuclear y desarrollo nacional.