IRAQ WAR PUTS
Bush gang in crisis

By Fred Goldstein

The indictment of I. Lewis Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's chief aide, in the CIA leak case on the narrow grounds of perjury, misstatement and obstruction leaves open the question of whether the Bush administration will be explicitly put on trial for its conspiracy to go to war in Iraq. This conspiracy was known about before, during and after the war. Only after more than 2,000 U.S. troops have been killed, almost 18,000 wounded and $500 billion spent on the war, and after the determined anti-colonial resistance of the Iraqi people has humiliated the White House and the Pentagon, have sections of the "multilateral" wing of the ruling class and sections of the military decided to challenge the narrow, right-wing grouping that brought about this debacle. Even the strength and direction of that challenge is in question.

The Democratic Party leaders have tried to keep themselves from being rendered politically irrelevant in the scandal over leaking the identity of a CIA agent. Democratic senators forced a closed session of the Senate on Nov. 1 in order to extract an agreement from the Republicans to deal with the investigation of the executive's systematic lies in the run-up to the war.

In 2002 and 2003, the ruling class as a whole, its media and both political parties were swept into the Iraq war—some enthusiastically, some reluctantly, but all willingly. They were taken in by the prospect of a quick victory through "shock and awe." They were all ready to seize Iraqi oil. They were looking forward to recolonizing the Middle East—if U.S. military aggression could succeed.

But since the war was declared officially over in April 2003, the rulers have watched the U.S. quagmire in Iraq deepen. They have been promised "turning points" in the occupation by Bush, Cheney and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld over and over again. The formation of a puppet government, the elections, the drawing up of a constitution—each was supposed to be a step forward. And after each of these "turning points," Iraqi resistance to the occupation continued and grew. The promised battle-ready Iraqi puppet army now seems a distant mirage.

Now ruling class elements are remembering that the Iraq war was a so-called "war of choice." They remember how they did not want to go to war without building up a multilateral alliance with fellow imperialists in Europe. They remember how the Bush group turned this alliance down because it did not want to share the spoils, how Washington poured contempt on all its European rivals except for its junior partners in London.

Disillusionment and defeat is this disillusionment and defeat that is the background to the indictment of Libby and the

Continued on page 3
WNBA star comes out, gains wide support

By Rebeca Toledo

WNBA basketball superstar Sheryl Swoopes has announced that she is a lesbian. Swoopes is the most prominent professional women's sport athlete to come out while still an active player in the history of U.S. sports. Add to that is she also the highest profile African American athlete to come out, and one can begin to see how courageous she really is.

Swoopes said she has gotten nothing but love and support since she came out. "Getting through the first day and having all the positive reaction and feedback that I had made me wake up this morning and say, 'OK, today is going to be a breeze.'"

Swoopes is a forward for the Houston Comets and a five-time All-Star in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). She has been named the league's Most Valuable Player three times, more than any other woman in the history of the WNBA.

Swoopes stated, "I'm just at a point in my life where I'm trying to have my feelings about the person I care about. About the person I love. Now Swoopes says she finally feels free and would like to marry one day. Swoopes is divorced and has an 8-year-old son, Jordan. When contemplating whether to come out, Swoopes said thoughts of him were foremost on her mind. "He goes to bed every night and he's peaceful and when I see that I never guess that what I'm doing is right," she said.

Swoopes was one of the original marquee players for the WNBA’s opening season in 1996. She was the first woman to have a Nike shoe named after her, the "Air Swoopes," and continues to hold a contract with Nike. Along with coming out, Swoopes announced that she will be the spokesperson for Oasis Resorts and Cruises, a lesbian-owned company that caters to lesbians.

One of her biggest concerns she admits is that "people are going to look at my homophobia and say to little girls—whether they're white, Black, Hispanic—that I can't be their role model anymore. I don't want that to happen. I'm still the same person. But she said, "If a kid out there who is struggling with their identity can read this article and say, 'If she did it, I can deal with this,' then this is worth it."

Swoopes said she has gotten nothing but support from her teammates and coaches. "The WNBA and all women's sports are riddled with homophobia. For example, at Penn State, Jen Harris was abruptly dismissed from the basketball team after last season. She is claiming that she was kicked off the team by coach Rene Portland because of suspected homosexuality. Before the school adopted a non-discrimination pol icy in the early 1990s, Portland had gone on record about having a no-lepsy policy.

On the Internet where fans have been discussing the issue, one fan summed it up:"Just keep putting the ball in the hoop.""
Iraq war puts Bush gang in crisis

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grand jury investigation. But the Bush administration reacted to the charges against Cheney's chief aide, who is a key executive of the White House. Bush then tried to move quickly past the indictment by changing the subject with the nomination of the right-wing, anti-Iraqi, pro-war Senate majority leader, John Ashcroft, to replace Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court.

The vice president then appointed two war conspi- rators from his staff to replace Libby. David Addington, Cheney's counsel, became his new chief of staff. Addington had played a key role in writing the Justice Department document upholding the right to torture under presidential war powers. He argued to abolish the rights of detainees held by the military and defended Cheney's case against exposing to public view the secret agreements with the oil and gas industry, among other things.

John Hannah, who served as a conduit for Cheney's intelligence from Ahmed Chalabi's Iraqi National Congress —intelligence which wound up in Cheney's office and was used as evidence to convict Cheney of his new national security adviser. Libby was Cheney's powerful chief of staff and his national security adviser. He also had the ear of the vice president who sat on the National Security Council and attended CIA briefings every day.

DISCONTENT IN THE PENTAGON

Together with former undersecretary of defense Paul Wolfowitz, Libby co-authored a 1992 document entitled “Defense Planning Guidance” for the Pentagon. Cheney ran the Pentagon during the first Bush administration. “All the Vice President’s Men” contrast, the last Democratic vice president, Bill Clinton, had a staff of 15 military and political advisers.

The 1992 document, written in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, declared that the U.S. would now dominate the world and that no power or com- bination of powers on earth should even attempt to challenge Washington’s hegemony in any region.

“From the document where the leaked to the New York Times and pub- lished April 8, 1992. The Bush Sr. adminis- tration was forced to disavow it. It was reherniated then and finally turned up in an even more abrasive form in George W. Bush’s National Security Strategy” put forward in the fall of 2002.

The progressive movement here should take advantage of these differences to expose the lies, the illegality and the corruption, but should use these exposures to build a stronger independent struggle against the occupation, the war makers and all capi- talist ruling class factions. 

Students walk out, demand Bush get out
Teachers ‘occupy’ board meeting

Several hundred San Francisco union teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, nutritional aides, secretaries and other school workers demonstrated outside, rallied, and “occupied” the regular meeting of the School Board here on the evening of Oct. 25. Working without a contract for months now, they were protesting plans by the superintendent to immediately hire “replacement” workers under “emergency powers” in the event of a strike. So the union called a gagle of supporters to the regular meeting of the School Board here on the evening of Oct. 25. Working without a contract for months now, they were protesting plans by the superintendent to immediately hire “replacement” workers under “emergency powers” in the event of a strike.

Contract negotiations are stalled and the two unions, United Educators of San Francisco (UESF) and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 790, say they will take a strike vote if no progress is made.

Like so many other contract negotiations across the country, one of the disputed issues is healthcare. The school district wants to limit employee family coverage to at most one single dependent per employee. After three years with no wage increase, the workers at this well-organized demonstration of solidarity made it clear they are ready to fight.

The San Francisco Central Labor Council has voted to support a strike, which means affiliated unions should refuse to cross picket lines. School bus drivers and other teachers’ unions were there tonight in support, and parents as well came out to demand that the School Board give the workers a decent contract.

Speaker after speaker in the packed auditorium took the microphone or used a bullhorn to express sympathy with the workers. The School Board never got to their seats on the stage in front because union representatives already occupied them.

Despite the presence of a couple of dozen San Francisco Police Department officers, there were no arrests. After two and one half hours the School Board sent a representative into the occupied meeting to announce that they had postponed the discussion. It was clearly a workers’ victory. The enthusiastic crowd immediately chanted, “We’ll be back” for the next meeting.

—Story and photo by J. Marquardt

Janitors fast for union power

By Alex Gould

Providence, R.I.

Over 40 union supporters protested Oct. 25 in front of the “Turk’s Head” downtown office building as five strong-willed people went into their fifth day of fasting. The fasters, capped out in front of the fancy bank offices since Oct. 27, are members of SEIU Local 615 and their supporters. They want the owner of the building, millionaire landlord Evan Granoff, to hire a cleaning contractor who uses union labor.

The union janitors, a majority of whom are Black and Latino, make under eight dollars an hour. Their contract allows the wages to be re-negotiated if the union can enlist 66 percent or more of Providence’s janitors. Currently 64 percent are members.

Marita Caroz, one of the five-day fasters and a member of the Comité de Trabajadores Unidos (United Workers Committee), told Workers World she was fasting to support the janitors, who “faced discrimination, threats and humiliation” for even meeting with union organizers.

Jorge Cabrera, a local 615 member and five-day faster, told Workers World “my body is tired, but my spirit is strong.” He was fasting to “build a new Providence, with respect for workers’ rights.” Cabrera said that respect would include better wages and health benefits for all workers.

Granoff pays janitors so little they need to work two jobs to make ends meet. But he makes millions building luxury apartments in a city where homelessness and foreclosures are on the rise. So many doubt this landlord has any conscience to be touched by the fasters’ appeals, their action has won popular support and forced uncharacteristic sympathy reactions from politicians.

Union-busting Providence Mayor Elorza has never paid janitors the minimum wage in Providence. He fired from the contract the many janitors who are not union members.

Janitors and supporters on five-day fast, demand union rights.

The union is asking supporters to call Martins Maintenance, the cleaning contractor at Turks Head, at 401-435-0202, to tell them that the janitors “deserve a just wage and a voice on the job, and should not have to put up with threats and intimidation.”

Union supporters in Providence are asking everyone to back the janitors’ struggle and fight to make Providence a 100-percent union town.

Alasdair Gould is a member of UFCW local 528

Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

• Racism, national oppression & the right to self-determination Larry Holmes
• Black labor from chattel slavery to wage slavery Sam Young
• Reparations & Black Liberation Monica Moorehead
• Harriet Tubman: woman warrior Muma Abu-Jamal (Guest commentary)
• Black labor & the fight for reparations Bill Cecil
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NYC’s New School and teachers agree on pact

Negotiators for UAW Local 7902, the unit representing more than 2,000 part-time faculty at the New School in New York City, spent many long hours at the table fighting for a decent first contract. Members of the local, popularly called Academics Come Together, voted on Oct. 21 to authorize a strike if negotiations didn’t produce results.

The strike vote spurred negotiations, which, after dragging on for months, were finally successful in the early hours of the morning of Oct. 31. The agreement, which still has to be ratified by the membership, includes a boost in wages, affordable health benefits, job security and seniority rights. What motivated the teachers to unionize in the fall of 2003 was that they were paid paltry wages, $1,000 to $3,000 per course, had no job security or seniority, and made so little that the few that were eligible could afford the healthcare plan.

NWA Mechanics hold the line

Northwest Airlines presented union negotiators representing 4,300 AFMA mechanics new contract terms on Oct. 20. The union, which has been picketing at Northwest’s Minneapolis hub for 11 days, has already occupied them.

The San Francisco Transit Authority is demanding that all workers pay 5 percent of the cost of their medical plan. The unions representing 5,000 workers—Transport Workers Local 234 and United Transportation Local 1994—refuse that union benefit cut. Instead, union negotiators have proposed that all SEPTA employees contribute a set percentage of their pay toward health care benefits. That way a starting bus driver making less than $25,000 per year would still have the same amount as a manager with a six-figure salary.

Union officials have said that in past contract negotiations were kept relatively low in exchange for the workers not paying healthcare premiums. SEPTA is offering 3 percent raises over the next three years, which means the workers will barely keep up with inflation. Their current unemployment costs of healthcare would amount to a significant pay cut for lower paid workers.

While the strike will disrupt the commute for the 400,000 working and a few thousand people who use the buses, subways and trolley cars every day, the striking transit workers are standing up for the right of all working people to have affordable healthcare. They deserve our support.

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Struggle continues
to free Leonard Peltier

By Stephanie Hedgecock
New York

Supporters of the Indigenous political prisoner Leonard Peltier gathered here Oct. 23 to hear updates on his case. The meeting featured Bob Robideau, an international spokesperson for Peltier and a fellow American Indian Movement (AIM) warrior. The Jericho Movement sponsored the meeting, which was held in the offices of the International Action Center.

Peltier was convicted in 1977 for the 1971 murder of two FBI agents, but supporters believe he was framed. They gathered around the world as a political prisoner.

Two FBI agents and a Native man died during a shootout at Pine Ridge Reservation in 1973, which the agents started in a tiny village where children, adults and elders slept in their homes.

Gradually a town grew up around the prison, where they learned real history. Some of the descendants of the Old South’s slave owners remain in the area, including the Butler and Mayeux families. It was not a great leap from plantation to prison, with many of the originally all-white prison guards coming from the town of Angola.

The Angola 3, all African-American men, were imprisoned in Angola Prison in the early 1970s and remained in solitary confinement for three decades. They were each originally imprisoned on unrelated robbery charges.

At that time many prisoners had become activists in their communities, like Baton Rouge and New Orleans, before incidents with racist police and authorities put them together in Angola Prison.

Among these prisoners were Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox, who formed a chapter of the Black Panther Party (BPP) right inside Angola Prison. Around this time Robert King Wilkerson was also imprisoned.

Those at the Oct. 23 meeting were told, “That’s when I began to get political consciousness. I was drawn to Baton Rouge and New Orleans, before becoming activists in their communities, and in solitary confinement.

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Dec. 1 day of absence gets broad support

By Monica Moorehead

New York

On Oct. 27, New York City Council member Charles Barron and the Troops Out Now Coalition sponsored a news conference on the steps of City Hall in Manhattan. Scores of community activists joined a dozen members of the City Council to announce the introduction of a resolution to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Rosa Parks’ 1955 arrest with a day of absence against war, poverty and racism on Dec. 1.

The news conference took place three days after Rosa Parks’ death at the age of 92. This Black woman, then a seamstress, refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Ala., on Dec. 1, 1955. This act of defiance gave birth to the Montgomery bus boycott and also the modern-day civil rights movement.

Barron began the press conference by saying, “When Rosa Parks sat down, that is when Black people stood up.” Barron spoke of the significance of the resolution, which urges all businesses and schools to close down on Dec. 1 to allow workers and students to attend events in honor of Rosa Parks.

Barron also spoke about the “immoral and illegal” Iraq war, which has caused the deaths of more than 100,000 Iraqis and 4,000 U.S. soldiers, as well as the $400 billion on this criminal war. “If you can impeach Clinton for Monica Lewinsky, then you can impeach Bush,” Barron said.

Larry Holmes from the Troops Out Now Coalition (TUNC) spoke about a day-long teach-in, which started with a march and rally on Wall Street on Dec. 1. “We need to renew the civil rights movement.... We have to get rid of the racism, injustice and poverty that creates a situation like New Orleans..., We won’t allow social justice, economic justice and the struggle against war to go to the back of the bus,” he said.

Brenda Stokely, a co-convenor of New York City Labor Against the War, said that “honoring Rosa Parks is honoring a legacy of struggle.” Stokely described the struggle of Katrina survivors to return home to New Orleans and other Gulf Coast areas after the hurricane and explained how activists in a number of cities, including New York, are organizing solidarity campaigns to support this right.

Leilani Dowwell and Mira Cruz, organizers for Fight Imperialism-Stand Together (FIST), encouraged student walkouts on Dec. 1 and supported the on-going campaign against military recruiters in the high schools and colleges. Cruz is helping to organize a walkout at Humanities Prep School, with a follow-up rally at Union Square.

Other speakers at the press conference included three Black women on the City Council: Letitia James, Helen Foster and Yvette Clarke; State Sen. Jose Rivera; Nellie Bailey of the Harlem Tenants Council; Jasmine of Campus Anti-War Network; Ron Daniels of Center for Constitutional Rights; Jericho Movement leaders Herman and Iyaluua Ferguson; Black Waxx recording artist Nana Soul; Gloria Jackson, a daycare worker and mother of a GI who was in Iraq; Zul of the Green Party’s National Peace Action Committee, and others.

During the news conference, Brooklyn schoolchildren held signs calling for the Dec. 1 commemoration actions. A public hearing on the City Council resolution is set for Nov. 18 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. inside City Hall chambers to allow debate before a final vote is taken.

AIDS activists demand resources

By Gerry Scoppettuolo

Boston

“We must come together to demand the resources that we need to fight this epidemic in communities of color and everywhere!” With that declaration, Rev. Franklin Hobbs of Healing Our Land opened the Northeast Campaign to End AIDS/HIV/AIDS Caravan freedom ride to Washington, D.C., at the Greater Love Tabernacle in Dorchester, Mass.

Leaders from AIDS service organizations, Black churches and especially two dozen people living with the virus spoke, sang, clapped and stood unified with a single demand. Everyone agreed to push for full and immediate implementation of the City of Boston’s declaration of an AIDS/HIV state of emergency in communities of color in Boston. Healing Our Land worked three years for passage of the proclamation, which was declared last March 30.

Four Boston City Council members were present and/or represented at the event, including Chuck Turner, Charles Yancey, Felix Arroyo and Maura Horanigan, all co-sponsors of the state of emergency.

Only a few other cities in the U.S. and one state, Alabama, have passed such proclamations. Pastor Martin M. McCloud, chair of the HIV Committee of the Black Ministerial Alliance, said: “Emergencies call for action. Now is the time for action. Funded programs result in action. Now is the time for funding.”

Other faith leaders taking part included Pastor William Dickerson, Greater Love Tabernacle, and Evangelist Vernessa Fountain of Healing Our Land.

Robert Tranyahn, a leader in the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, Local 8751 USWA, and the Troops Out Now Coalition called upon all attending to participate in the Dec. 1 Day of Absence Against Poverty, Racism and War. Rev. Hobbs, who has been HIV positive for 18 years, is an endorser of the Dec. 1 actions that are being organized across the country in honor of the late-civil rights fighter Rosa Parks.

The event was organized and endorsed by Healing Our Land, the Campaign to End AIDS, Troops Out Now Coalition, the Cambridge Health Alliance, the Multi-cultural AIDS Coalition and the Fenway Community Health Center.

2,000 march against Iraq war

By Bryan G. Pfeifer

Boston

With gold-star mother and now anti-war spokesperson Cindy Sheehan leading the way, over 2,000 protesters marched through the downtown streets of Boston Oct. 29 demanding: “From New Orleans to Iraq: Bring the troops home now!”

A highlight of the blocks-long march was a call for action. Now is the time for action. “Let’s go back to our schools. Let’s go back to our unions. Every person be an organizer. Let’s come together to demand the resources that we need to fight this epidemic in communities of color and everywhere!” With that declaration, Rev. Franklin Hobbs of Healing Our Land opened the Northeast Campaign to End AIDS/HIV/AIDS Caravan freedom ride to Washington, D.C., at the Greater Love Tabernacle in Dorchester, Mass.

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Only a few other cities in the U.S. and one state, Alabama, have passed such proclamations. Pastor Martin M. McCloud, chair of the HIV Committee of the Black Ministerial Alliance, said: “Emergencies call for action. Now is the time for action. Funded programs result in action. Now is the time for funding.”

Other faith leaders taking part included Pastor William Dickerson, Greater Love Tabernacle, and Evangelist Vernessa Fountain of Healing Our Land.

Robert Tranyahn, a leader in the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, Local 8751 USWA, and the Troops Out Now Coalition called upon all attending to participate in the Dec. 1 Day of Absence Against Poverty, Racism and War. Rev. Hobbs, who has been HIV positive for 18 years, is an endorser of the Dec. 1 actions that are being organized across the country in honor of the late-civil rights fighter Rosa Parks.

The event was organized and endorsed by Healing Our Land, the Campaign to End AIDS, Troops Out Now Coalition, the Cambridge Health Alliance, the Multi-cultural AIDS Coalition and the Fenway Community Health Center.

WW PHOTOS:  "Honor the memory of Rosa Parks.

"We must come together to demand the resources that we need to fight this epidemic in communities of color and everywhere!” With that declaration, Rev. Franklin Hobbs of Healing Our Land opened the Northeast Campaign to End AIDS/HIV/AIDS Caravan freedom ride to Washington, D.C., at the Greater Love Tabernacle in Dorchester, Mass.

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Mass protest against the bus segregation in Montgomery, Alabama, led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Rosa Parks was arrested on Dec. 1, 1955, for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger. This act sparked the boycott, which lasted for 382 days, ending with the integration of the Montgomery bus system in 1956. The boycott was a major victory for the civil rights movement and a turning point in the fight against segregation.

On Oct. 30, Rosa Parks' casket was placed in the Rotunda of the Capitol, with thousands paying their respects. The following excerpts are from an Oct. 2005 statement issued by Minister Louis Farrakhan, National Convenor of the Millions More Movement:

- **Minister Farrakhan lauds Rosa Parks**

  The gall to remain seated on a bus instead of giving her seat to a white man sparked the civil rights struggle for Blacks all over the world. What she did in Montgomery, Alabama, in a moment of passive defiance erupted into a diverse outpouring of unity and purpose that has been carried forth through to this day. We pause to remember and salute a fallen leader who always thought more of others than herself. Her life symbolizes the foundation for the Millions More Movement, which calls us to unity by bringing forth the best usages of our time, talents and resources for the greater good of the poor. We are challenged to embolden our people and maximize our economic, political and social power.

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**Boston City Council: Honor Parks Dec. 1**

On Oct. 26, the Boston City Council passed a 12-0 resolution in tribute to Rosa Parks and also in support of the Dec. 1 National Day of Absence against Racism, Poverty and War. Activists in New York, Baltimore and Detroit are organizing support in those areas to get a similar resolution passed. In Oakland, Calif., Million Worker March Movement leaders such as Clarence Thomas are discussing a possible Dec. 1 resolution with the city council there. The following excerpts are from the Boston resolution:

- **WHEREAS:** Mrs. Parks, on December 1, 1955, refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama, resulting in her arrest; and

- **WHEREAS:** Mrs. Parks' defiance triggered the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott and earned her the title Mother of the Civil Rights Movement; and

- **WHEREAS:** The 1955 mass resistance to Jim Crow segregation moved the modern civil rights movement.

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**Thousands in Alabama pay respects to Rosa Parks**

By Dianne Mathiowetz

Montgomery, Ala.

In a steady stream, thousands of people, Black and white, filed into St. Paul AME Church on Oct. 29 to pay respects to civil rights activist Rosa Parks, who died in Detroit on Oct. 24 at the age of 92. Parks' arrest on Dec. 1, 1955, for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger, sparked the historic Montgomery Bus Boycott. The 1955 mass resistance to Jim Crow segregation moved the modern civil rights struggle out of the courts and into the streets and engaged millions in a political movement that changed U.S. society.

Rosa Parks' body was brought home to Montgomery, the city where she had gone to school, married, worked, and became a member of the local NAACP chapter, serving as its secretary and later as a youth leader.

As people exited the church, many commented on how they had felt compelled to come to honor Parks “for what she did for me” even though most had never met her or were too young to have experienced the indignities of legal segregation.

Writing their names in the condolence books placed outside the church, people emotionally reflected on how such a small woman had made an historic change through her courage and resolve and that her legacy needed to be continued.

*The only thing that bothered me is that we waited so long to make this protest* 

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**Rosa Parks**

*Fingerprinted in Montgomery, Alabama*
Howard University students protest war

Hundreds of students at Howard University, a historically Black school in Washington, D.C., greeted Laura Bush on Oct. 27 with a militant protest against the U.S. policy of domination of Paraguay and of our continent.

Recently there were declarations by representatives of the State Department and the Pentagon, spread by the media, with the goal of intervening in the internal social struggle and blocking the movement for democracy and liberation in Latin America. The declarations make it explicit that what is worried about Bush government is the turn to the left in various Latin American countries.

In Paraguay there is not only the growth of the popular movement in Paraguay that worries U.S. imperialism. More worrying is the victory of the Bolivarian movement with its centralizer, the development of a popular liberating movement on our continent, and which also has participation from democratic and progressive governments, like those in Brazil and Uruguay.

In Paraguay they have already begun the project of carrying out joint military operations by the end of 2006, with the participation of hundreds of Yankee soldiers and officers. There are rumors that they will establish or that local anti-war organizations held in Paraguay.

It is well known that recently U.S. Minister of Defense Donald Rumsfeld visited our country at the culmination of many visits from officials from the “great country to the North,” as well as frequent visits to the U.S. of Paraguayan leaders, including the president and vice president.

On top of the military base it has also been announced that a permanent office of the FBI is opening in Asuncion, our capital city, which goes along with the CIA’s activities under the cover of USAID.

Workers oppose U.S. military base in Paraguay

By John Catalinotto

On Oct. 22 in Brasilia, Brazil, Workers World conducted the following interview with Laína Schwartz, at 79 one of the historic leaders of the much-persecuted Communist Party of Paraguay (PCP). The PCP was outlawed for most of its history, including all of the brutal U.S.-backed dictatorship of Gen. Alfredo Stroessner from 1954-1992.

We have heard rumors that the United States has begun to set up a military base in Paraguay. What do you have to report about this threat?”

“I: That is exactly the biggest news in Paraguay at this moment: the presence of U.S. troops in order to support the U.S. policy of domination of Paraguay and of all of the continent. It is well known that recently U.S. Minister of Defense Donald Rumsfeld visited our country at the culmination of many visits from officials from the “great country to the North,” as well as frequent visits to the U.S. of Paraguayan leaders, including the president and vice president.

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What is the situation with the progressive movement for socialism and for liberation in Paraguay?

Paraguay has the sad honor of being one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking somewhere near Haiti and Cameroon. It is also one of the most corrupt. But the narrow ruling class in Paraguay and imperialism is worried about the growth of popular movement demanding basic and urgent needs. The peasants are occupying land and sometimes making socialist declarations, the teachers often hold large demonstrations for better salaries and better schools, home-less people are occupying urban lands and setting up housing, and students demand increased subsidies for education and democratization of the educational process.

The working class and its principal union confederations, CUT and the CNT, are leading the struggle for better salaries and better conditions of life and of work, as well as for the national sovereignty of Paraguay.

Joining in united fronts, which include the PCP and other leftist parties, the people are engaged in struggle. One of the main slogans at this time is: No to U.S. intervention in Paraguay: Yankee troops out!

Howard University students protest war

By David Hoskins

On Oct. 11 activists will gather at historic Town Hall in midtown Manhattan to demand an end to the U.S. government’s aggressive posture toward Bolivarian Venezuela.

The evening of Solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution is taking place as the latest of many important events held at Town Hall over the past eight decades.

Built by the women’s movement, the venue has been the launching pad for many historic struggles, from a protest over the execution of Luis Casabianca, at 78 one of the historic town hall meetings.

Eugene Puryear, a coordinator of Youth International and Ubiquity.

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Howard University students protest war
By Berta Joubert-Ceci

U.S. threatens grow
against Bolivarian Revolution

By Teresa Gutierrez

Venezuela declared ‘free of illiteracy’

By G. Dunkel

Not surprisingly, these are the only two countries in Latin America to have won the status of ‘illiteracy free.’

On the day of the announcement, celebrated joyously all over Venezuela, President Chávez gave special recognition to the people who had overcome illiteracy through participation in the Robinson Mission, stating that, “Democracy must be practiced with a cultured people.”

Chávez specially highlighted and expressed gratitude to Cuba and its President Fidel Castro, stating that even though Venezuela had been trying since 2000 to erase illiteracy, it was not until they used the Cuban method that they were able to make it clear: illiteracy is on the increase in the United States. The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), an analytical arm of the U.S. Congress, stated in a 1993 report: “Standards and requirements for literacy have increased over time, and a large number of adults need to improve their literacy skills. OTA finds that at least 35 million adults have difficulty with common literacy tasks. Although the statistics make it clear: illiteracy is on the increase in the United States, the planning has been based on general and specific directives issued by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and his civilian policy assistants. However, Venezuela has been redirecting its resources to ending illiteracy, building houses and schools and providing subsidized food for the poor, and implementing land reform. To the Bush gang, that’s a ‘strategic threat.’”

In July hundreds of U.S. soldiers were deployed to Paraguay for military exercises due to last through 2006. There is evidence they “will install yet another permanent U.S. military base, one capable of handling heavy bombers. Washington apparently hopes the troop presence can reverse the winds of change sweeping the continent.”

Julio of 2005, Congress authorized the use of U.S. soldiers to protectTv brainwashing countries.万元

The Bolivarian process gaining strength in Venezuela every day has won the hearts and minds of the masses around the world. From Africa to Asia, from Europe to the U.S. and all across the Americas, the people are cheering on Hugo Chávez and the revolution in Venezuela.

These threats cannot be taken lightly. U.S. imperialism’s use for four decades of right-wing Cubans to sabotage Cuba is a perfect example of how dangerous these elements can be.

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This solidarity will be decisive in the coming period as imperialism stretches its tentacles to do everything to stop the Bolivarian Revolution. Cuba, however, has shown that when united and strong, revolutionary movements can deter imperialism. Venezuela can do the same, but solidarity worldwide, including from leftists here in the imperialist center, will provide important assistance. Venezuela will be victorious.

Haitians protest in Brooklyn

Haitians who support Jean-Bertrand Aristide demonstrated Oct. 29 against Marc Bazin, whose handlers in the State Department call “Mr. Clean.” Bazin is now running for president in Haiti. He made a few campaign appearances in New York the last week in October, lacking for support and money in the U.S. portion of the Haitian Diaspora.

Bazin run against Aristide in 1990, with millions of dollars in aid from the United States. He got less than 15 percent of the vote while Aristide got over 65 percent.

After the first military coup against Aristide, he accepted the military’s offer of the post of prime minister.

He currently is claiming that his party, the Movement for the Inauguration of Democracy in Haiti, is in alliance with the Lavalas Party that Aristide founded. This claim is vehemently rejected by Lavalas supporters in New York.

Bazin’s claim is a ploy to make it appear that part of the popular movement accepts his government. However, the construction of the ‘Haitian Diaspora’ is a real threat.”

The U.S. government and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Respect international law and the sovereign rights of all nations.

G. Dunkel
H how arrogant can they get? Even while submerged in a desperate crisis, they also took the opportunity to justify the dirty colonial war against Iraq, the U.S. and British imperialists are demanding that the world respect their word for good coin when it comes to Iraq’s neighbors, Syria and Iran.

A United Nations Security Council resolution sponsored by the U.S., Britain and France—the three capitalist powers that dominate the world’s oil and gas lifelines, especially in the Middle East—is the latest pressure brought to bear on Syria. The resolution demands that Syria cooperate with a UN investigation into the assassination of Lebanon’s political leader Rafik al-Hariri being conducted by German prosecutor Detlev Mehlis, who has named Syrian officials as suspects.

The Security Council is threatening Syria with sanctions and even military action unless it cooperates with an “investiga- tion” that already has it in the dock. Syria rejects the charges and points out that it had nothing to gain and a lot to lose from assassinating al-Hariri. It suggests the UN look elsewhere, particularly at the intelligence agencies of the U.S. Britain and France, all of which clearly are trying to destabilize those countries in the area that resist the imperialists’ openly stated plans for total domination of the Middle East and Africa region regarding energy resources.

The tight grouping of neocolonialists who led the U.S. and France's War on Iraq youths them and all their plans for “regime change” next in Damascus. In April 2003, when they still thought they were winning in Iraq, they pushed the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act through Congress. The act is full of unsubstantiated charges, saying that Syria must halt its “support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, stop its development of weapons of mass destruction, cease its illegal importation of Iraqi oil and illegal shipments of weapons and other military items to Iraq....”

CBS-TV on April 17, 2003, Syria's deputy foreign minister Kamel Moqtaderi, the UN's earthquake relief coordinator, said, "The U.S. and France's War on Iraq was the number one cause of the crisis, put out a cry for help. Its closest neighbors, Syria and Iran, are those who grow rich at their expense, while arrogantly pretending to stand for national liberation so thoroughly as millions of Black people. In the eyes of imperialist oppression.

In the Middle East, Israel, which possesses many nuclear weapons, has been going to war, it is 60 percent of its ‘fair share of the UN-requested donations.”

China also immediately sent aid to Pakistan. By Oct. 29, when China handed over 150,000 blankets and 1,930 tents, its aid amounted to $20.5 million.

According to the Daily Times, an English-language Pakistani newspaper, over 900 U.S. personnel—five from FEMA, medical teams and engineers—are helping with the relief effort. Twenty-nine U.S. helicopters were involved in the rescue efforts. Washington has pledged $166 million, but only $30 million of that is for humanitarian relief.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in an Oct. 28 press release, said that the U.S. had delivered only $144.5 million, or 6 percent of its “fair share of the UN-requested donations.”

UN agencies—the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the FAO, which is the date that closes the window for these relief funds to the UN before Nov. 15, which is the date that closes the window of opportunity for millions of people.

The U.S. and its NATO allies have been demanding that the wealthy countries “put pressure on their governments not only to increase their pledges but more importantly to deliver these relief funds to the UN before Nov. 15, which is the date that closes the window of opportunity for millions of people.”

The UN helicopters will be grounded soon because the airstrike is running out of money. “It is now or never,” Jan Vandemoortele, the UN’s earthquake relief coordinator, said.

“We will not have a second chance. Tomorrow will be too late for thousands and thousands of victims,” he added, “especially babies and small children vulnerable to pneumonia, diarrhoea and malnutrition.”

As U.S. aid falters

Cuba provides 300 doctors to Pakistan

By G. Dunkel

A massive disaster is building in the foothills of the Himalayas, mainly in northern Pakistan, Kashmir and, to a lesser degree, in neighboring India. On Oct. 8, a severe earthquake, measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale, hit the area. Tens of thousands of people died in the buildings and roads caused by this earth tremor.

The area is so remote and the destruction of roads and bridges due to rock slides so complete that the full number of deaths from the quake is not known, but on Nov. 1 the Pakistani government revised its official figure sharply upward to over 73,000. Those severely injured numbered perhaps twice or three times the number of people killed.

Pakistan officials had not reached at least 30 percent of the area affected by the earthquake as late as Oct. 30. Even roads arduously opened by the army have frequently been closed by aftershocks.

Many of the injuries have become gangrenous because the wounds couldn’t be properly cleaned. Even many survivors whose wounds were properly treated have broken bones not yet properly set. As survivors reach field hospitals, the medical workers perform thousands of amputations to keep gangrene from killing the patients.

In four million people are homeless, with no shelter. The earthquake has destroyed farmers’ grain stores. In an area already grindingly poor, at least 1 million acres of land became unusable, according to the International Labor Organization. The ILO also said that each person with a job in this part of Pakistan supported two people without one.

Winter begins in mid-November, with heavier snows than usual predicted. The snow is already moving down to mountains surrounding the valleys where people live. Roads that are now hard to travel will become impassable. Hundreds of people without shelter, food or fuel for warmth face death by freezing.

Who is responding to the crisis?

The response to this developing crisis has varied.

After the earthquake struck, the National Trade Federation of Pakistan, representing 166 unions, and the Pakistan Trade Union Defense Campaign, two leading labor confederations in Pakistan, met and resolved to get all their members to contribute one day’s salary to ongoing relief efforts. Relief aid was concentrated on the most devastated areas and set up relief camps.

Islamic groups, opposed to the government, also sprang into action and provided their own relief in separate convoys and camps.

The Pakistani government, unprepared and overwhelmed by the magnitude of the crisis, put out a call for help. Its closest neighbor, India—which has fought four wars with Pakistan over some of the area struck by the quake—provided medical supplies, bedding, food and transportation. India also has agreed to open five border crossings.

From outside the stricken countries, some of the best help came from socialist Cuba, which has already sent 300 doctors, including 15 surgical teams, to Pakistan. Cuba’s latest medical team is providing much needed recovery aid after a recent hurricane there. On the Oct. 27 “Round Table,” a regularly televised program in Cuba, President Fidel Castro challenged the United States and the European Union to adopt a similar position based on solidarity with the survivors.

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“We will not have a second chance. Tomorrow will be too late for thousands and thousands of victims,” he added, “especially babies and small children vulnerable to pneumonia, diarrhoea and malnutrition.”

In November, the United States and European Union imposed sanctions on Iran over the recent nuclear tests. Iran’s neighbors, Syria and Iraq, as well as Western imperialists, have not yet started to flow.

The Communist Workers and Peasants Party in Colombia has called for an international solidarity, wrote: “Progressive people in Pakistan are doing the best that they can but the enormity of the problem is overwhelming. Real meaningful assistance can only be provided through internationally coordinated relief efforts.”

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Old lies in new bottles

Al Qaeda makes “first” terror attacks in Britain

The 150-vote for the current anti-Syria resolution by the Security Council just confirms the reactionary character of that body, notwithstanding that it now has the same way that the imperialist oppressors portray the nationally oppressed and their leaders today.

What the oppressed want is justice. It is those who grow rich at their expense, while arrogantly pretending to stand for national liberation so thoroughly as millions of Black people. In the eyes of imperialist oppression.

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in Latin America.

A book from the International Action Center covers the struggle in Colombia from the per-
U.S., Britain plot ‘regime change’ for Iran
By Ardesteh Ommani

Iran’s Foreign Ministry announced on Oct. 12 that the government was “ready to resume unconditional negotiations with all member states of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), including the three European countries, to strengthen cooperation and assure Iran’s right to nuclear development.”

The IAEA’s chief, Mohammed ElBaradei, has been urging the U.S. and Europe not to seek confrontation with Iran. His appeal is most likely based on the recognition that Iran has not in fact violated the words or the spirit of the articles stipulated in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and therefore does not deserve to be referred to the UN Security Council for economic sanctions.

Also, should Iran’s national interest or stability be jeopardized, no doubt the government of the Islamic Republic would follow the path taken by the Democratic government of the Islamic Republic would follow the path taken by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and withdraw from the IAEA altogether. Such an outcome would temporarily suspend its process of nuclear enrichment and that, in return, the triad would come up with a workable plan to enable Iran to self-reliantly operate its own nuclear power reactors.

Iran has stated clearly throughout the negotiations that, according to Article 4 of the NPT, it has the right to produce its own nuclear fuel and no country or international agency should force it to be dependent on foreign sources. Should Iran give up its right to the full cycle of nuclear fuel production, it could be blackmail and forced into a condition of dependency and submission by those powers that have a monopoly on the nuclear enrichment process.

Iran charges Britain is behind bombings
On Oct. 15, two bombs concealed in garbage cans in a residential area of the southern city of Ahwaz exploded, killing four and wounding 75, according to Iranian television. The bombing took place at 5 p.m., when people were busy shopping for food to end their fasting during the holy month of Ramadan. This was the second set of bombings this year. The apparent objective of these insidious acts was to terrorize the people by inflicting a high rate of casualties and set in motion dissatisfaction with the government in Tehran.

On Sept. 27, the Fars News Agency quoted an Iranian security official from northern Iran, Abu Montafa, as saying that British forces have been directly training terrorists against Iran in order to create chaos, using advanced spying equipment. The news report added that intelligence agents from Israel and the U.S., plus operatives of the Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO), had joined the British intelligence teams.

Many believe that these shadowy groups have played an active and direct role in bombings in Basra, Iraq, that resulted in a military confrontation with the Shia militia known as the Mahdi Army led by Moqtada al-Sadr.

For more than two and a half years, occupying U.S. and British troops have been savagely devastating Iraq and ruthlessly slaughtering its people, but it is still not a safe place for them. The British troops are concentrated in Basra, Iraq, just across the border from the Iranian province of Khuzestan, whose capital city is Ahwaz.

The IAEA has already requested that special investigators be dispatched to the region to examine the alleged violations of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and therefore the governments of neighboring countries—mainly Iran and Syria, for allegedly arming and supplying technical assistance to the Iraqi resistance.

Such accusations serve a dual purpose. First, they are a fig leaf on the grim reality that the occupation is encountering an ever-increasing and powerful resistance by Iraqi nationalistic forces. Second, they pave the way for the U.S. and Britain to train and arm groups of mercenaries on the Iran-Iraq border, with the purpose of sending them into Iran to carry out acts of terrorism against the civilian—and partly Arab—population in the city of Ahwaz.

This is not the first time that a U.S.-British coalition of forces has tried to use and exploit certain separatist elements within the Arab minority population in Ahwaz as a spearhead for generating disturbances, instability and chaos in Iran’s Khuzestan province. In June, just after Iran’s presidential election, a series of explosions went off in Ahwaz and Tehran, destroying buildings and killing people. In Ahwaz, eight were killed and more than 70 wounded, mostly women and children.

In reaction to the string of explosions in Ahwaz and Tehran, the Iranian authorities have charged the British forces in Basra, Iraq, with instigating, arming and deploying mercenaries of all stripes to carry out terrorist acts inside Iran.

Next: Britain’s history of divide and conquer.

MUNDO OBREO
El ataque del Imperio contra Ojo de Ríos y la independencia

Continua de pagina 12 fuego de libertad e independencia en el corazón de la nación. Si la reacción al asesinato de Ojo de Ríos es una señal, ellos han fallado miserablemente.

Hay acontecimientos en la vida de un pueblo que les marcan, y que los animan. Que mueven sus mentes y corazones de la sumisión a la resistencia. Este puede resultar en uno de estos acontecimientos.

Dylcia Pagán, expresa política puertorriqueña, escribió a las pocas horas del atentado:

“Lo que ocurrió fue un asesinato político de un guerrillero puertorriqueño orquestado por el Escuadrón Federal del FBI estadounidense. Aún el alcalde del municipio Pedro García en una entrevista por radio dijo que este hecho no era casualidad. Los primeros balazos estratégicos disparados por el FBI tuvieron lugar a las 3 de la tarde; de 6 a 7 media de la tarde provocaron otras ráfagas. Resultó un desastre. Santos, presidente de la UTIER, unión que representa a los trabajadores, expresó el descontento de la comunidad puertorriqueña en Puerto Rico. La reacción fue la principal y principal en Puerto Rico para informar al pueblo puertorriqueño que él había sido informado por el FBI que toda la luz en el municipio de Hormigueros sería cortada. Tomó dos días para que todo no nos nos supiéramos su justificación. La cual fue que ellos necesitaban utilizar sus aparatos infrarrojos para medidas de seguridad. Hormigueros ha estado bajo custodia federal por los últimos cuatro días. A ninguna de la prensa puertorriqueña se le ha permitido traer sus cámaras a la residencia de Filiberto. .”


El impulso que conduce al asesinato de Filiberto Ojo de Ríos es precisamente el mismo que resultó en la ilegal y brutal invasión y ocupación de Irak. Es el capitalismo salvaje. Es el imperialismo al desnudo.

Hay que ver el esfuerzo que se debe hacer para controlar toda expresión de libertad humana, mientras lo hace en nombre de “libertad” y “libertad absoluta.”

En el campo, por otra parte, el guerrillero se siente en libertad, libre y sencillamente, con la idea de libertad y verdad independencia.

Hay también una respuesta verdadera que puede resultar en cambio. Es la movilización amplia y profunda del pueblo contra esta pesadilla neoliberal. Resistencia. Más más resistencia! [Operator]
Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

A pesar de la escalada en hostilidades del gobierno de los EEUU contra Venezuela y en particular contra el presidente Hugo Chávez, incluyendo una cam- paña mediática completamente negativa, el gobierno venezolano avanza medidas y políticas que elevan a su población de la miseria e ignorancia que había prevale- cido por décadas. El 28 de octubre el gob- ierno Bolivariano declaró a Venezuela “Territorio libre de analfabetismo”. De acuerdo a las direcciones para declarar un territorio sin analfabetismo de la Organización sobre la Educación, Ciencia y Cultura de las Naciones Unidas, UNESCO, el índice debe estar por debajo del 4%. En los últimos 2 años, los progra- mas venezolanos han ayudado a reducir la población analfabeta a menos del 1%, enseñando a cerca de 3,5 millones de leer y escribir. Venezuela realizó esta fenomenal tarea educacional con la generosa y experta ayuda de Cuba Revolucionaria y su pro- grama “Yo Sí Puedo”. No es de extrañar que estos dos países sean los únicos en Latinoamérica con el título de “libres de analfabetismo”. Ese 28 de octubre, celebrado con gran alegria en toda Venezuela, el Presidente Chávez reconoció especialmente a las per- sonas que habían superado el analfa- betismo a través de la Misión Robinson, diciendo que “la democracia debe ser prac- ticada a través de un pueblo culto”. Chávez especialmente reconoció y expresó su gratitud hacia Cuba y su pres- idente Fidel Castro diciendo que aunque Venezuela había tratado de terminar con el analfabetismo desde el año 2000, no fue hasta que comenzaron a utilizar el método cubano que tuvieron éxito. “Sin Cuba, la Misión Robinson hubiera sido imposible” dijo el presidente venezolano.

Llegando a las comunidades indígenas

El Ministro de Deportes y Educación Aristóbulo Isturiz, dijo que el programa había puesto mucho énfasis en llegar a las comunidades nómadas indígenas. Y añadió que “la Misión Robinson permitió que personas con problemas visuales aprendieran con el método Braille, y los que no podían oír, les enseñamos con lenguaje por gestos, es decir, que este pro- ceso involucró a todos por igual.”

La educación, y especialmente la enseñ- anza de lectura, es un área donde EEUU está muy atrasado en comparación a Cuba y Venezuela, países que el gobierno esta- dounidense titula de “enemigos”. Las estadísticas son desoladoras en el portal del Departamento de Educación de los EEUU que reporta el resultado del estudio sobre la alfabetización en el país realizado en 1993. Los resultados del estudio hecho en el 2003 aún no se han completado. El estudio de 1993 dice: “las estadísti- cas están claras: el analfabetismo está en aumento en los EEUU. La Oficina de Evaluación Tecnológica, OAT, un depar- tamento analítico del Congreso de los EEUU afirmó en un reporte en 1993: que ‘los estándares y requisitos para alfabeti- zación han aumentado a través del tiempo y un gran número de adultos necesita mejorar sus destrezas alfabeticas. La OAT ha encontrado que por lo menos 35 mil- lones de adultos tienen dificultad con las tareas comunes literarias. Aunque muchos de estos adultos pueden leer a niveles rudimen- tarios, necesitan niveles de alfabeti- zación más altos para funcionar de forma efectiva en la sociedad, para encontrar empleo, o para el entrenamiento para nue- vos trabajos cuando cambian los lugares de empleo... Menos del 10% de la población necesitada se ha alcanzado.”

Quizás Bolivia, el país más pobre de la región, y la República Dominicana se unan a Cuba y Venezuela erradicando el analfa- betismo antes de que lo haga EEUU. El 28 de octubre, Venezuela también anunció que la Misión Robinson y el método “Yo Sí Puedo” se usarán en estas dos países pobres.

Circulo Bolivariano Alberto Lovera, el padre Luis Ramos, Ramsey Clark, Noam Chomsky, Peter Coyote, Mariza Campos, Danny Glover, el Obispo Thomas Gambleton, August Nimitz, James Petras, el Congresista José Sereno, el Reverendo Lucas Walker y Howard Zinn les invitan a:

La UNESCO dice: Venezuela elimina el analfabetismo

Por Mumia Abu-Jamal

desde la galería de muerte en la prisión

El ataque y asalto armado del 23 de sep- tiembre contra el nacionalista puertori- queño Filiberto Ojeda Ríos dejó a su familia y a su isla sin su noble y orgullosa presencia, pero no logró su verdadero y deseado objetivo. Los agentes armados del Imperio atacaron la casa y la familia del revolucionario de 72 años, le dispararon y lo dejaron desangrarse por horas hasta que murió en su casa en Hormigueros en la región mon- tañosa de la isla. El Dr. Héctor Pesquera, presidente del Movimiento Independiente Hostosiano, dio en el clavo cuando comentó sobre el fuerte asalto armado del FBI, “Ellos no vinieron para detener a Filiberto Ojeda, sino para matarlo”.

Tampoco fue pura coincidencia que la fecha que el FBI escogió para asaltar la casa de los Ojeda fue el día con gran sig- nificado histórico nacional en la isla. El 23 de septiembre era el 107º aniversario del “Grito de Lares”, cuando miles de puertorri- queños anualmente honran la gesta de los Estados Unidos. El 23 de septiembre era el 107º aniversario del “Grito de Lares”, cuando miles de puertorri- queños anualmente honran la gesta de Lares, cuando miles de puertorri- queños anualmente honran la gesta de los Estados Unidos.

Al matar a Filiberto Ojeda Rios, la cuestión de la independencia ha brotado como una llama dentro de los corazones de los puertorriqueños. Cuando llegó la noticia de su asesinato, me acordé casi in med i a t a mente del 4 de octubre de 1969 cuando Fred Hampton, Ministro Diputado de Defensa del Partido de las Panteras Negras sucur- sal de Illinois, y el Capitán Mark Clark de las Panteras Negras de Peoria, fueron asesinados en sus casas en Chicago. El FBI estaba detrás de esos asesinatos también. Y así como con ese asesinato, el gobierno reaccionó a sus asesinatos políti- cos con mentiras.

El objetivo del Imperio fue extinguir el...