Worldwide protests

Islam bashing part of racist war for empire

By Leslie Feinberg

Feb. 8—Islam bashing has ignited a firestorm of Muslim protest. The vicious mockery of Mohammad in a Danish newspaper last September first lit the fuse. The conflagration now circles the planet.

“We are now facing a growing global crisis,” Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen told a Feb. 7 media conference. Rather than apologize, which Muslims around the world demand, Rasmussen urged “dialogue.” He said President George W. Bush had called him that day and agreed that was the way to go.

Too little, too late. Yet until protests turned up the heat, Rasmussen had refused to talk with Muslim leaders.

Last September, after the center-right publication Jyllands-Posten—a major Danish daily newspaper—published the “cartoons,” Muslims protested to the editor. But they were ignored. On Oct. 12, the ambassadors of Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, Libya, Morocco, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Yemen, the Palestinian Authority—and even Bosnia and Herzegovina, an imperialist puppet after the destruction of socialist Yugoslavia—wrote Rasmussen, characterizing the depictions as part of a smear campaign against Muslims.

Rasmussen—who Bush has referred to as a “steadfast ally”—refused to meet with ambassadors from 11 countries with large Muslim populations on Oct. 21.

In December, a delegation from 21 Muslim organizations in Denmark traveled to Cairo for support. They prepared a 43-page dossier to back their assertion: “There is currently a climate [in Denmark] that is contributing to an increase in racism.” The group met with Muslim leaders, including Egypt’s foreign minister and the general secretary of the Arab League.

The Danish government and Jyllands-Posten still refused to back down. In January, the Danish High Court rejected the case brought to its bench by 21 Muslim organizations.

And in a Jan. 23 telephone interview, Jyllands-Posten’s cultural editor, Fleming Rose, made clear, “An apology would imply we regret what we’ve done, which we don’t.”

Oppressor vs. oppressed

According to the big-business media, “free speech” is the core issue. In reality, this is a battle between oppressor and oppressed nations.

With the exception of Bosnia, in the Balkans, all the nations where the predominant religion is Muslim are in Africa and Asia.
1955

Black movement raised hopes of all downtrodden

By Leslie Feinberg

Although the 1955 founding of the Daughters of Bilitis in San Francisco—a group of predominantly white professional and middle-class women—was the first time lesbians organized on a national level to win some political rights in spite of the first name being “bluenoses,” this sort of work and/or cross-dressing had raised their voices loud enough to be heard in the United States.

No one could have guessed that those of Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith and Gladys Bentley, Ethel Waters, Alberta Hunter and many other powerful Black women performers and authors. Their prominence did not offer them sanctuary.

Cops bustied into Ma Rainey’s home while she was holding a women’s party. Bessie Smith had to bail her out of jail the next morning. Later ads for Rainey’s recording “Prove It On Me Blues” showed a Black woman in a “man’s” hat, tie and suit coat, chatting with two feminine women behind him, wearing tails, it is a cop.

It was the Harlem Renaissance that lifted those up voices, along with the strong and poetic articulation of Black gay and bisexual men like Richard Bruce Nugent, Alaine Locke, Claude McKay and Wallace Thurman.

These parties, bedazzle flats and other forms of community social and economic organization, from Chicago to Baltimore to Detroit to D.C. and throughout the South helped create a political network for those who were “in the life.”

Harlem’s drag balls, which dated back to the late 19th century, continued during the early Harlem Renaissance, drew many thousands, rivaling those held at Madison Square Garden.

American academic scholar and historian Henry Louis Gates concludes that the Harlem Renaissance “was surely as gay as it is less than life; and we may not, of course, do this thing without ourselves undergoing falsification and loss.”

It was the Harlem Renaissance that lifted such women. Behind them, watching them, is a cop.

“man’s” hat, tie and suit coat, chatting with two feminine women. Bessie Smith had to bail her out of jail the next morning. Later ads for Rainey’s recording “Prove It On Me Blues” showed a Black woman in a “man’s” hat, tie and suit coat, chatting with two feminine women behind him, wearing tails, it is a cop.

It was the Harlem Renaissance that lifted such voices, along with the strong and poetic articulation of Black gay and bisexual men like Richard Bruce Nugent, Alaine Locke, Claude McKay and Wallace Thurman.

These parties, bedazzle flats and other forms of community social and economic organization, from Chicago to Baltimore to Detroit to D.C. and throughout the South helped create a political network for those who were “in the life.”

Harlem’s drag balls, which dated back to the late 19th century, continued during the early Harlem Renaissance, drew many thousands, rivaling those held at Madison Square Garden.

American academic scholar and historian Henry Louis Gates concludes that the Harlem Renaissance “was surely as gay as it is less than life; and we may not, of course, do this thing without ourselves undergoing falsification and loss.”

It was the Harlem Renaissance that lifted such women. Behind them, watching them, is a cop.

“man’s” hat, tie and suit coat, chatting with two feminine women. Bessie Smith had to bail her out of jail the next morning. Later ads for Rainey’s recording “Prove It On Me Blues” showed a Black woman in a “man’s” hat, tie and suit coat, chatting with two feminine women behind him, wearing tails, it is a cop.

It was the Harlem Renaissance that lifted such voices, along with the strong and poetic articulation of Black gay and bisexual men like Richard Bruce Nugent, Alaine Locke, Claude McKay and Wallace Thurman.

These parties, bedazzle flats and other forms of community social and economic organization, from Chicago to Baltimore to Detroit to D.C. and throughout the South helped create a political network for those who were “in the life.”

Harlem’s drag balls, which dated back to the late 19th century, continued during the early Harlem Renaissance, drew many thousands, rivaling those held at Madison Square Garden.

American academic scholar and historian Henry Louis Gates concludes that the Harlem Renaissance “was surely as gay as it is less than life; and we may not, of course, do this thing without ourselves undergoing falsification and loss.”

It was the Harlem Renaissance that lifted such voices, along with the strong and poetic articulation of Black gay and bisexual men like Richard Bruce Nugent, Alaine Locke, Claude McKay and Wallace Thurman.

These parties, bedazzle flats and other forms of community social and economic organization, from Chicago to Baltimore to Detroit to D.C. and throughout the South helped create a political network for those who were “in the life.”

Harlem’s drag balls, which dated back to the late 19th century, continued during the early Harlem Renaissance, drew many thousands, rivaling those held at Madison Square Garden.

American academic scholar and historian Henry Louis Gates concludes that the Harlem Renaissance “was surely as gay as it is less than life; and we may not, of course, do this thing without ourselves undergoing falsification and loss.”

It was the Harlem Renaissance that lifted such voices, along with the strong and poetic articulation of Black gay and bisexual men like Richard Bruce Nugent, Alaine Locke, Claude McKay and Wallace Thurman.

These parties, bedazzle flats and other forms of community social and economic organization, from Chicago to Baltimore to Detroit to D.C. and throughout the South helped create a political network for those who were “in the life.”

Harlem’s drag balls, which dated back to the late 19th century, continued during the early Harlem Renaissance, drew many thousands, rivaling those held at Madison Square Garden.

American academic scholar and historian Henry Louis Gates concludes that the Harlem Renaissance “was surely as gay as it is less than life; and we may not, of course, do this thing without ourselves undergoing falsification and loss.”

It was the Harlem Renaissance that lifted such voices, along with the strong and poetic articulation of Black gay and bisexual men like Richard Bruce Nugent, Alaine Locke, Claude McKay and Wallace Thurman.

These parties, bedazzle flats and other forms of community social and economic organization, from Chicago to Baltimore to Detroit to D.C. and throughout the South helped create a political network for those who were “in the life.”

Harlem’s drag balls, which dated back to the late 19th century, continued during the early Harlem Renaissance, drew many thousands, rivaling those held at Madison Square Garden. 
### War and Resources

By Larry Hales

In the classic book, Souls of Black Folk, W.E.B. Du Bois relates a story about the cotton that didn’t hundred years ago. It’s a story about the history of slavery and the ways in which it continues to shape our present day. The story goes that, when a certain brigadier general was arresting convicts, he was taken to the cotton coast, upon telling the Black inhabitants that they were going to be denied the land they and their ancestors had been cultivating while they were slaves. The realization of brutal slave masters, the Black women began to sing this song that has been a staple in Black musical culture since then. Blues music was born with the field hollers and work songs. However, shortly after slavery was abolished, there was a sense that justice long delayed would bust U.S. society at its seams. There were millions Black people in the country and that power could not be denied, nor held under foot any longer.

To understand what led to the Civil War and shortly afterwards would take a great deal more investigation than what is taught and upheld as fact. The truth is the abolition of slavery was the beginning of a revolutionary process that was carried out by Northern capitalists and their Republican Party, and a small faction of Northern Democrats, and the Democratic Party. Yes, the Democratic Party was then the party of slavery. Slavery was a boon for the landed aristocracy in the South. The cruel Southern aristocrat—many of whom, criminalized for terrorizing Black people already—was born of this era. The blues music from Black women and men continues to be performed today as a testament to the pain and suffering of the people. The song “Terrorized” is a modern-day adaptation of the blues genre.

### Conclusion

The song starts, “I ain’t got long, I ain’t got long in the murderous house... Lord, I got a long holder and I can’t go free.” It was in a prison where Leadbelly, a famous blues singer and songwriter, was recorded. The song was recorded by the Rhythm, which is a well-known blues label. The song was recorded in 1926 and was produced by the Rhythm Record Company. The song was a huge hit and helped to popularize the blues genre.

This song is a reminder of the history of racial injustice and the struggle for freedom. It is a call to action for us all to remember our history and to work towards a better future. The blues are an important part of our cultural heritage, and they continue to inspire us today.

---

*Sources: High Tech, Low Pay—Sam Marcy; Market Electrons—Vince Caponi; The Source of Souls of Black Folks—W.E.B. Du Bois; The Debt—Randall Robinson; Peoples History of the United States—Howard Zinn; signifying, suavefig, & slave dunking—edited by Gena dopi Caponi; The Klan and the Government—Allies or Foes—Sam Marcy; War, Labor and Capital—Karl Marx; Value, Price, and Profit—Karl Marx; A Musical Journey from the Georgia Sea Islands to the Mississippi Delta—Allan Lomax.*
Health care system is crumbling for many

By Kathy Durkin

Nearly 46 million people in the U.S. are without medical insurance. Millions of seniors and disabled people are in crisis due to the Bush administration’s Medicare and Medicaid cutbacks. And millions more face harm from Medicaid cutbacks.

President George W. Bush’s State of the Union speech didn’t even address the drug plan because it has been such an unmitigated disaster that he raised the specter of even more cutbacks in future proposals that would help the uninsured. Instead, he pitched health care savings accounts, high deductible medical insurance plans and tax breaks—all that would only benefit the rich, discourage employer-based insurance, and do nothing for working and poor people.

The very next day the House of Representatives passed the “Budget Reconciliation Bill,” which slashes nearly $40 billion from essential programs over five years and nearly $100 billion over 10 years—one-half from Medicare and Medicaid. This will be disastrous for the poorest families.

Hidden in that bill is a discriminatory provision hardly mentioned in the media which can affect millions: Medicaid will provide no benefits to those who, because of their immigration status, are eligible for Medicaid. This will be disastrous for the poorest families.

In the past, Bush has planned to cut Medicaid. Now, he wants to end it. The poorest and sickest, those who are defenseless and he is trying to cut off all help. This will lead to enormous hardships and drive many more into the ranks of the uninsured and, thus, without medical care. The health of many, including children, will deteriorate.

Business is getting even richer in the process. The federal government’s top officials are working hand-in-glove with big business to cut their insurance costs. The corporations are gloating too, as they pay less for retirees’ health benefits.

Seniors and disabled people in every state have been angry, voicing complaints to their representatives about the hardships they’ve faced, as they struggle to get drugs or supplies covered. Many are going without. The poorest and sickest, those who were on Medicaid and Medicare, are facing daily nightmares.

The government and insurance companies no doubt are hoping that the poorest and most disabled drop out of these programs altogether because they incur more costs—a cruel fact of how insurance works under capitalism. This phony idea that “free market” health care is a good thing has been shown to be a lie to the millions who are being held hostage by these companies and who have no recourse for their medical problems.

Seniors who appealed to Congress for relief on the drug plan were turned down flat. Two days after Bush’s speech, the Senate rejected an attempt to postpone the drug plan enrollment from May 15 to Dec. 31, without penalties, and they denied a request to block the provisions to change drug plans.

But what will turn things around? What is needed is more Medicare and Medicaid, not less! Health care should be guaranteed to all who need it, with full benefits, including for medications, dental care, and most disabled. But it will take organizing and building a grassroots opposition to cut the drug industry.

Only a mass movement for a national health program—which puts people’s needs first and not the profits of insurance companies, or drug companies or the war budget—can help solve the growing health care crisis.

It will take organizing and building grassroots opposition and a real fighting movement to win this—just like the women’s, civil rights and workers’ movement to win this—just like the women’s, civil rights and workers’ movement. The time to act is now. That’s why Bush needs to be defeated and must be defeated with the maximum strength. This means organizing a massive march for Medicare rights in the first place.

Katrina survivors, supporters target FEMA

National actions were held on Feb. 7 outside of local FEMA offices and temporary housing sites by Katrina survivors and those supporting them. The protest was the latest in a series of public demonstrations calling on the federal government to provide fair compensation and support to those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The protest was held in response to the ongoing federal government’s failure to provide adequate resources and assistance to those affected by the hurricane. The protest was organized by a coalition of community groups and organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Gulf Coast Advancement Coalition.

The protesters demanded that the federal government provide adequate resources and assistance to those affected by the hurricane, including financial compensation, housing assistance, and medical care. They also called for an end to the discrimination and neglect that they have experienced.

The protest was held in 28 different locations across the country, including New Orleans, Houston, and Miami. The protesters marched through the streets, held signs, and chanted slogans. They also spoke out about the ongoing failure of the government to provide adequate resources and assistance to those affected by the hurricane.

The protest was a part of a larger national movement to hold the government accountable for its failure to provide adequate resources and assistance to those affected by the hurricane. The movement includes protests, marches, and other actions, and is led by a coalition of community groups and organizations.

National caravan for migrants sets out

By Ruth Yela & Justino Jiménez

San Diego

Members of the San Diego Interna-
tional Action Center and the Fight Imperialism-Stand Together (FIST) youth group along with other human rights organizations and thousands of individuals joined the People’s Hurricane Relief Fund in a protest outside of a FEMA headquarters building to call for adequate resources and assistance to those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The protest was held in Washington D.C. to express solidarity with survivors of the hurricane and to demand that the federal government provide adequate resources and assistance to those affected by the hurricane. The protest was organized by the People’s Hurricane Relief Fund, a coalition of community groups and organizations, including the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), the National Council of La Raza, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The protesters demanded that the federal government provide adequate resources and assistance to those affected by the hurricane, including financial compensation, housing assistance, and medical care. They also called for an end to the discrimination and neglect that they have experienced.

The protest was held in 28 different locations across the country, including New Orleans, Houston, and Miami. The protesters marched through the streets, held signs, and chanted slogans. They also spoke out about the ongoing failure of the government to provide adequate resources and assistance to those affected by the hurricane.

The protest was a part of a larger national movement to hold the government accountable for its failure to provide adequate resources and assistance to those affected by the hurricane. The movement includes protests, marches, and other actions, and is led by a coalition of community groups and organizations.
**PICKET LINE**

By Sue Davis

San Francisco

A two-year moratorium—or “time-out”—on executions in California was delayed indefinitely on Jan. 19 when the Appropriations Committee of the State Legislature killed AB 1121 on a vote of 9-7. The moratorium plan, first announced last June 14, was subsequently co-authored by Assembly members Paul Koretz, Sally Lieber and Steve Glazer. At that time Koretz stated, according to the San Francisco Chronicle, that California stands “at grave risk of executing an innocent person.” Lieber said the death penalty “is quite infected with racism.” Mark Leno called it a “lethal lottery,” riddled with “signs of mistakes.”

At that initial announcement in June, six people wrongfully convicted of serious crimes in California and the parents of a young woman killed by a mentally disabled man all spoke in support of the moratorium plan. A webinar was introduced this Jan. 9 by Koretz and Lieber, and signed by an additional 40 judges, prosecutors and other officials. AB 1121 was approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee the next day. Koretz said, “There is no doubt that there are innocent people on death row who have been exonerated.”

The legislation would have suspended all executions in California for two years, from Jan. 1, 2007 until Jan. 1, 2009. But partisan politics and lack of moral backbone, at least until after elections, stalled the measure. Had it passed, it would have allowed time for the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice, a bipartisan commission established a year ago by the California State Senate, to carry out a comprehensive study of the state’s legal procedures, which would include a review of the effectiveness, accuracy and fairness of the death penalty system functions” in the largest state of executions or wrongful convictions of innocent persons. Koretz is quoted by the organization California for a Moratorium on Executions, as saying, “For the State of California to continue to execute prisoners while an official governmental body investigates the findings of error and injustice and recommendations.”

Another group, Death Penalty Focus (DPF), says that the commission is empowered to “study the extent to which California’s criminal justice system has failed in the past, resulting in wrongful executions or wrongful convictions of innocent persons” and “to examine ways of improving safeguards and making improvements in the way the criminal justice system functions” in the largest state in the U.S. on executions.

Not surprisingly, race is a major determining factor in the decision of who lives and who dies in California’s prisons. For example, a study done on Dec. 13, Stanley Tookie Williams, an African American, was executed amid local, statewide and national protests. Clarence Ray Allen, a Native American, was executed on Jan. 17. And on Feb. 1, Michael Morales, a Latino, is also scheduled to die in California’s death chamber at San Quentin prison. The racism is so obvious that a 1990 federal General Accounting Office report said that “in 82 percent of studies [reviewed], the race of the victim was found to influence the likelihood of being charged with capital murder or receiving the death penalty, i.e., those who murdered whites were more likely to be sentenced to death than those who murdered blacks.”

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation officials in Sacramento said they could find no statistical correlation between criminal and race. Yet the same story points out, “In certainty, the state’s top prison legislative analyst’s office reported that the rate of inmate “incidents,” including assaults, had risen 18 percent from 1997 to 2003, a period of significant population growth.”

Overcrowding and stress is further encouraged when race—which can alleviate stress—is eliminated. In many California prisons, recreational facilities have been turned into housing units to accommodate the increased population. This Times article described one such prison: “In a gymnasium now called ‘G Dorm,’ transcriptionists and production workers gather to make room for row upon row of triple-deck bunk beds. The noise—from televisions, radios, yelling and laughter—is deafening. There is about as much space as you’d expect from 253 men living cheek by jowl who must use overworked toilets and wait in line for the few showers.”

For example, one of the most compelling cases for the cause of violence, Sheriff Baca ordered Latino and Black inmates to be segregated. However, the U.S. Supreme Court in February, 2005, ruled that the California Department of Corrections must stop segregating inmates by race unless it has demonstrated that only the way to maintain security since that would violate the U.S. Constitution’s ban on racial segregation by the government. “This demand not only is contrary to media release.

“This demand not only is contrary to the findings and recommendations. Koretz is quoted by the organization California for a Moratorium on Executions, as saying, “For the State of California to continue to execute prisoners while an official governmental body investigates the findings of error and injustice and unfairness in the criminal justice system just doesn’t make sense.”

Another group, Death Penalty Focus (DPF), says that the commission is empowered to “study the extent to which California’s criminal justice system has failed in the past, resulting in wrongful executions or wrongful convictions of innocent persons” and “to examine ways of improving safeguards and making improvements in the way the criminal justice system functions” in the largest state in the U.S. on executions.

Not surprisingly, race is a major determining factor in the decision of who lives and who dies in California’s prisons. For example, a study done on Dec. 13, Stanley Tookie Williams, an African American, was executed amid local, statewide and national protests. Clarence Ray Allen, a Native American, was executed on Jan. 17. And on Feb. 1, Michael Morales, a Latino, is also scheduled to die in California’s death chamber at San Quentin prison. The racism is so obvious that a 1990 federal General Accounting Office report said that “in 82 percent of studies [reviewed], the race of the victim was found to influence

only for our families and communities, but for everyone who works for a living.”

**Verizon workers vote on contract**

On strike for 13 weeks, four Communications Workers (CWA) locals in New York state voted on a new contract with Verizon Information Services on Feb. 2. According to the tentative agreement, the 300 Yellow Page workers will receive raises of about 3 percent per year beginning in April and their health plan contributions will be capped.

CWA members “should be proud for standing up for themselves and their brothers and sisters in a way that management never thought we were capable of,” said CWA District 1 Vice President Chris Shelton in a Jan. 27 CWA media release.

**NPR charged with unfair labor practice**

Nearly 100 skilled technicians, members of Communications Workers (CWA) Local 5203, filed an unfair labor practice charge against National Public Radio (NPR) in New York state, asserting that management’s own policies required that it meet industry standards, but is an insult to the skilled and talented technicians who are responsible for a quality network.

“Management wants to shift greater amounts of what is highly skilled work to non-technical employees,” said Peach. “This demand not only is contrary to NPR management’s own policies requiring that it meet industry standards, but is an insult to the skilled and talented technicians who are responsible for a quality product.”

Union members in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Washington, D.C., are asking newsmakers not to give interviews to NPR if network field production is delayed indefinitely on Jan. 19 when the Appropriations Committee of the State Legislature killed AB 1121 on a vote of 9-7. The moratorium plan, first announced last June 14, was subsequently co-authored by Assembly members Paul Koretz, Sally Lieber and Steve Glazer. At that time Koretz stated, according to the San Francisco Chronicle, that California stands “at grave risk of executing an innocent person.” Lieber said the death penalty “is quite infected with racism.” Mark Leno called it a “lethal lottery,” riddled with “signs of mistakes.”

At that initial announcement in June, six people wrongfully convicted of serious crimes in California and the parents of a young woman killed by a mentally disabled man all spoke in support of the moratorium plan. A webinar was introduced this Jan. 9 by Koretz and Lieber, and signed by an additional 40 judges, prosecutors and other officials. AB 1121 was approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee the next day. Koretz said, “There is no doubt that there are innocent people on death row who have been exonerated.”

The legislation would have suspended all executions in California for two years, from Jan. 1, 2007 until Jan. 1, 2009. But partisan politics and lack of moral backbone, at least until after elections, stalled the measure. Had it passed, it would have allowed time for the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice, a bipartisan commission established a year ago by the California State Senate, to carry out a comprehensive study of the state’s legal procedures, which would include a review of the effectiveness, accuracy and fairness of the death penalty system functions” in the largest state of executions or wrongful convictions of innocent persons. Koretz is quoted by the organization California for a Moratorium on Executions, as saying, “For the State of California to continue to execute prisoners while an official governmental body investigates the findings of error and injustice and unfairness in the criminal justice system just doesn’t make sense.”

Another group, Death Penalty Focus (DPF), says that the commission is empowered to “study the extent to which California’s criminal justice system has failed in the past, resulting in wrongful executions or wrongful convictions of innocent persons” and “to examine ways of improving safeguards and making improvements in the way the criminal justice system functions” in the largest state in the U.S. on executions.

Not surprisingly, race is a major determining factor in the decision of who lives and who dies in California’s prisons. For example, a study done on Dec. 13, Stanley Tookie Williams, an African American, was executed amid local, statewide and national protests. Clarence Ray Allen, a Native American, was executed on Jan. 17. And on Feb. 1, Michael Morales, a Latino, is also scheduled to die in California’s death chamber at San Quentin prison. The racism is so obvious that a 1990 federal General Accounting Office report said that “in 82 percent of studies [reviewed], the race of the victim was found to influence the likelihood of being charged with capital murder or receiving the death penalty, i.e., those who murdered whites were more likely to be sentenced to death than those who murdered blacks.”

Illinois Gov. George Ryan declared a moratorium on executions in his state when a moratorium proposal was revealed in a Chicago Daily Times article that was published a year ago by the California State legislature to review the effects of capital punishment and making improvements in the way the criminal justice system functions” in the largest state in the U.S. on executions.

New Jersey and Maryland have imposed moratoria on executions. Even better, Kansas and New York have declared capital punishment unconstitutional. The death penalty is a weapon of terror, used disproportionately against the poor and people of color. But in 38 states, including California, the death penalty remains legal.

While at least 117 countries worldwide have abandoned capital punishment in law, or at least in practice, the U.S. remains the small group of nations where over half the states are still licensed to kill. California Gov. Arnold “The Terminator” Schwarzenegger, a death penalty enthusiast, is not expected to sign any anti-death penalty legislation that would relax the state’s rigid death penalty laws. If the governor signs the legislation it would come into law the following March.

**MUMIA SPEAKS**

**An interview with Mumia Abu-Jamal from death row**

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

Order from International Action Center

39 West 14 St. #206, New York, NY 10011

By John Parker

Los Angeles

A 45-year-old black inmate was killed and over 100 others injured during a fight on Feb. 4 on the North County Correctional Facility that involved 2,000 inmates, according to the sheriff’s department. The department said this latest incident may have been in retaliation for the stabbing of a Latino inmate by a black inmate earlier in the week at the Men’s Central Jail, a main downtown Los Angeles facility. Violence at the North County facility is commonplace. More than 150 “racially motivated” fights have occurred since 1990, police said. In 2000, 81 inmates were injured at the prison. Sheriff Lee Baca ordered a system-wide lockdown affecting over 20,000 prisoners in Los Angeles County.

None of the law enforcement officials had cited the much criticized overcrowded prisons or lack of recreation or learning facilities for inmates as contributing factors for the increasing violence.

Yet California, the largest state prison system in the U.S., is known to be plagued with problems that include overcrowding and inhumane conditions. Hundreds of inmates’ basic health and safety. According to Penal Reform Interna-
A struggle is developing in Russia over legislation regulating non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that is due to go into effect in April. The new law was passed by both houses of the Russian legislature, called the Duma, and signed by President Vladimir Putin on Jan. 10. It will come into effect on Jan. 23, setting a time frame on the level of Western and especially U.S. intervention in Russia today.

Under the new law, foreign organizations and groups receiving funding from outside Russia have to register with the government. Russian officials say the legislation is necessary to combat the hundreds of millions of dollars flowing from foreign governments to organizations in the country.

The purpose of the version of the law was toned down under an intense campaign of pressure from the NGOs themselves and from the U.S. government, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice pressured Putin, expressing concern for “democracy.” The legislation was on the agenda at the recent budget hearings.

The law imposes restrictions on the financing, registration and activities of NGOs. The NGOs themselves are required to register, and the number of organizations that claim to be non-governmental, but rely on the U.S. and other major imperialist countries and on the imperialists themselves, operate in Russia and in many countries around the world. They dispense aid, set policies, influence governments, work on the political agenda and economic interests of the funders.

The sheer number of organizations described as NGOs and the money receiving foreign funding is staggering. Since 1991 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, literally hundreds of NGOs have sprung up in Russia. Members of the Russian Duma say over 450,000 NGOs operate in Russia today. The Yale Center for the Study of Globalization puts the number of organizations that claim to be non-governmental, but rely on the U.S. and other major imperialist countries and on the imperialists themselves, operate in Russia and in many countries around the world. They dispense aid, set policies, influence governments, work on the political agenda and economic interests of the funders.

President Putin, in supporting the legislation, said: “Whether these organizations want it or not, they become an instrument in the hands of foreign states that use them to achieve their own political objectives. This situation is unacceptable. This law is designed to prevent inter-state agents who use them to achieve their own political objectives. This situation is unacceptable.

The law is necessary to combat the hundreds of millions of dollars flowing from foreign governments to organizations in the country.

The new version of the law was toned down under an intense campaign of pressure from the NGOs themselves and from the U.S. government, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice pressured Putin, expressing concern for “democracy.” The legislation was on the agenda at the recent budget hearings.

The law imposes restrictions on the financing, registration and activities of NGOs. The NGOs themselves are required to register, and the number of organizations that claim to be non-governmental, but rely on the U.S. and other major imperialist countries and on the imperialists themselves, operate in Russia and in many countries around the world. They dispense aid, set policies, influence governments, work on the political agenda and economic interests of the funders.

The sheer number of organizations described as NGOs and the money receiving foreign funding is staggering. Since 1991 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, literally hundreds of NGOs have sprung up in Russia. Members of the Russian Duma say over 450,000 NGOs operate in Russia today. The Yale Center for the Study of Globalization puts the number of organizations that claim to be non-governmental, but rely on the U.S. and other major imperialist countries and on the imperialists themselves, operate in Russia and in many countries around the world. They dispense aid, set policies, influence governments, work on the political agenda and economic interests of the funders.

The sheer number of organizations described as NGOs and the money receiving foreign funding is staggering. Since 1991 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, literally hundreds of NGOs have sprung up in Russia. Members of the Russian Duma say over 450,000 NGOs operate in Russia today. The Yale Center for the Study of Globalization puts the number of organizations that claim to be non-governmental, but rely on the U.S. and other major imperialist countries and on the imperialists themselves, operate in Russia and in many countries around the world. They dispense aid, set policies, influence governments, work on the political agenda and economic interests of the funders.

The sheer number of organizations described as NGOs and the money receiving foreign funding is staggering. Since 1991 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, literally hundreds of NGOs have sprung up in Russia. Members of the Russian Duma say over 450,000 NGOs operate in Russia today. The Yale Center for the Study of Globalization puts the number of organizations that claim to be non-governmental, but rely on the U.S. and other major imperialist countries and on the imperialists themselves, operate in Russia and in many countries around the world. They dispense aid, set policies, influence governments, work on the political agenda and economic interests of the funders.

The sheer number of organizations described as NGOs and the money receiving foreign funding is staggering. Since 1991 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, literally hundreds of NGOs have sprung up in Russia. Members of the Russian Duma say over 450,000 NGOs operate in Russia today. The Yale Center for the Study of Globalization puts the number of organizations that claim to be non-governmental, but rely on the U.S. and other major imperialist countries and on the imperialists themselves, operate in Russia and in many countries around the world. They dispense aid, set policies, influence governments, work on the political agenda and economic interests of the funders.

The sheer number of organizations described as NGOs and the money receiving foreign funding is staggering. Since 1991 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, literally hundreds of NGOs have sprung up in Russia. Members of the Russian Duma say over 450,000 NGOs operate in Russia today. The Yale Center for the Study of Globalization puts the number of organizations that claim to be non-governmental, but rely on the U.S. and other major imperialist countries and on the imperialists themselves, operate in Russia and in many countries around the world. They dispense aid, set policies, influence governments, work on the political agenda and economic interests of the funders.

The sheer number of organizations described as NGOs and the money receiving foreign funding is staggering. Since 1991 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, literally hundreds of NGOs have sprung up in Russia. Members of the Russian Duma say over 450,000 NGOs operate in Russia today. The Yale Center for the Study of Globalization puts the number of organizations that claim to be non-governmental, but rely on the U.S. and other major imperialist countries and on the imperialists themselves, operate in Russia and in many countries around the world. They dispense aid, set policies, influence governments, work on the political agenda and economic interests of the funders.

The sheer number of organizations described as NGOs and the money receiving foreign funding is staggering. Since 1991 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, literally hundreds of NGOs have sprung up in Russia. Members of the Russian Duma say over 450,000 NGOs operate in Russia today. The Yale Center for the Study of Globalization puts the number of organizations that claim to be non-governmental, but rely on the U.S. and other major imperialist countries and on the imperialists themselves, operate in Russia and in many countries around the world. They dispense aid, set policies, influence governments, work on the political agenda and economic interests of the funders.

The sheer number of organizations described as NGOs and the money receiving foreign funding is staggering. Since 1991 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, literally hundreds of NGOs have sprung up in Russia. Members of the Russian Duma say over 450,000 NGOs operate in Russia today. The Yale Center for the Study of Globalization puts the number of organizations that claim to be non-governmental, but rely on the U.S. and other major imperialist countries and on the imperialists themselves, operate in Russia and in many countries around the world. They dispense aid, set policies, influence governments, work on the political agenda and economic interests of the funders.

The sheer number of organizations described as NGOs and the money receiving foreign funding is staggering. Since 1991 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, literally hundreds of NGOs have sprung up in Russia. Members of the Russian Duma say over 450,000 NGOs operate in Russia today. The Yale Center for the Study of Globalization puts the number of organizations that claim to be non-governmental, but rely on the U.S. and other major imperialist countries and on the imperialists themselves, operate in Russia and in many countries around the world. They dispense aid, set policies, influence governments, work on the political agenda and economic interests of the funders.
More war at home and abroad

By Fred Goldstein

There is nothing more political than the budget of a capitalist government. And the budget that the Bush administration has submitted to Congress truly embodies the Reactionaries who have run American politics for the last thirty years. Hundreds of billions of dollars for present and future wars. Hundreds of billions in tax cuts for the very rich, but no help for the working class.

The proposed $2.7 trillion budget gives $490 billion to the Pentagon, an increase of 6 percent. In addition, there is $280 billion more in “emergency” funds for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The total military spending will be $560 billion this year alone.

There is $84 billion for weapons and $73 billion for weapons development. The Pentagon, of course, is not counting the $10 billion for nuclear weapons development that goes to the Energy Department. General Dynamics, the one of the companies of the military-industrial complex are going to be increasing their military spending by 60 percent for joint development of two new high-tech DHX Defence destroyers. The two companies will also get $2.4 billion for a Virginia-class attack submarine.

Texton subsidiary Bell Helicopter will replace the CH-46 transport helicopters damaged by 400,000 international workers in the Middle East. The government is going to cut $1.3 billion from the Social Security system which is the biggest threat to working people.

The active-duty military forces are scheduled for a slight reduction but the Special Forces such as Army Green Berets and Navy SEALs are going to be strengthened. The Marines are going to get their own fleet of experimental aircraft which the Pentagon is sure to sell to the rich rich rich oil sheiks of the world.

But this spending on military “shock and awe” will not stop the struggle. The use of force is not going to end terrorism. The use of force is not going to end terrorism.

The government of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, with virtual universal support among the population, has declared that Iran will never give up its right to peaceful nuclear energy. The development of nuclear technology has been on hold in Iran since the 1979 revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed Shah and nationalized U.S. oil holdings.

Commander in Chief George W. Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld have been issuing warnings that “the world” will not allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon.

In the first place, Iran has declared its intention to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It is allowed to use and encouraged to use peaceful nuclear energy under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, of which it is a member.

But the U.S.-led government, seeing the Israeli Zionist state armed to the teeth with nuclear weapons, and what happened to Iraq after it allowed itself to be disarmed by the U.N. operating under the instructions of the U.S.—should decide to acquire a nuclear weapon as a matter of self-defense, it has the right as a formerly oppressed nation in the struggle against imperialism and Zionism. It is Washington, with its 110,000 nuclear warheads and its current program to develop new nuclear weapons, that is the prime candidate for being brought before the International Atomic Energy Agency.

‘Regime change’ dropped from Pentagon budget

This latest crisis is the culmination of a campaign that was begun by the Bush administration after 9/11. The White House was riding high after the invasion of Afghanistan and the demonstration of all the “smart bombs,” killer guns, 15,000 lb. “daisy cutter” bombs and Predator drones against a defenseless population with no army. It threatened Iran, war movement.

While the proposed budget will fill the vaults of the merchants of death, it is designed to empty the pockets of the poor. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has called the budget “an exercise in naked political denial,” and the non-partisan Urban Institute, a think tank, did a preliminary overview of the budget.

A sample of their findings should ring alarm bells in the labor movement, among community organizations and in the anti-war movement.

There would cut $27 billion from social programs in 2007 and a total $815 billion by 2011. This would amount to a 25 percent cut. “Cuts would be made in part because of the large increases in the cost of health care.”

Among the programs with deep cuts:

• Section 2 housing for low-income elderly – a 26 percent cut.

• Section 81 housing for low-income people with disabilities – a 50 percent cut.

• The Community Development Block Grant program – a 30 percent cut.

• The Child Care and Development Block Grant program would face cuts of $1.03 billion in the next five years. This means that the number of children receiving child care assistance would drop by 400,000 by 2011 compared to 2005.

• The Social Services Block Grant, which provides funding to states for social services to American Indian and vulnerable populations, would be cut by 30 percent or $5.9 billion.

• Medicaid, which provides health insurance to low-income children, parents, seniors and people with disabilities, would lose $13.8 billion in five years through combined fund- ing cuts and regular changes.

• Other programs would be terminated altogether: For example,

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides nutritional food packages for more than 3 million to more than 9 million low-income elderly people, one-third of whom are over 75.

The Preventative Care Block Grant, which is used by states through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and provide grants to states for preventative health services for poor populations.

The TRIO Talent Search program, under which colleges and universi- ties, many cases, historically Black colleges and universities—assist disad- vantaged secondary school students to prepare for college.

The Community Services Block Grant, which is used by states funding for a variety of social services and other types of assistance to low-income people who make over $1 million a year and rarely disabled people.

If the budget is enacted, it would give an average of $13,000 in tax relief for people who make over $1 million a year. Making the cuts permanent would hand these millionaires $900 billion in the next ten years. More than $800 billion of this would go to the 2 percent of the super-rich families making over a million dollars a
Worldwide protests

Islam bashing part of racist war for empire

Continued from page 7

as the world is organized by oppressor nations. These oppressed countries are all still under the economic domination of imperialist dictates, and are threatened with war. Iraq and Afghanistan are occupied by U.S.-led forces. Comparisons with other religions are red herrings in the struggle unleashed by the insults to the Islam.

For example, drawing an equal sign between the cartoons that leave out the role of Israel as an imperialist cat’s paw. Former President Bill Clinton, among many others, tried to make this clearer. Clinton told those gathered at the economic conference in Deba, Qatar, on Jan. 30, ‘In Europe, most of the struggles we’ve had in the past 50 years have been to fight prejudices against Jews, to fight against anti-Semitism. Now what are we going to do? Replace the anti-Semitic prejudice with an anti-Islamic prejudice?’

Arab people, of course, are also Semites. But what has fanned the flames of anger at Jews for the last half century? The settler state of Israel—established, bankrupted and armed to the teeth by the U.S. and British imperialism. The oppressor Zionism has been the agent of the historic Palestinian, flies the star of David and claims to rule on behalf of all Jewish people.

Muslims, like the Jews in the German Muslim League, pointed out that anti-Islamic depictions were as anti-Jewish as anti-Semitic caricatures of Jewish people were before and during World War II.

Jyllands-Posten had refused to print cartoon about Jesus three years ago that the political and religious right in Denmark, Christianity is not an oppressed religion. The publication France Soir tried to parrot a few years later, with the boycott carrying “centuries with iron-fisted rule” by the Catholic Church in Europe. But the Catholic Church was the political party of feudalism, which brutally exploited the peasantry. Today it is the capitalists there who are the oppressors, Arab, South Asian and African immigrants are Muslims too.

The unprecedented scope of this international fistwave is an expression of outrage against attacks on Islam. But what gives it such force and scope are the exploitive social, economic and political conditions of life of the hundreds of millions who practice that religion. And they are what gives it such force and scope in the Western imperialist world, where the world’s leading democracies failed the test of democracy. Rather than recognize the legitimacy of the intifada as a freely elected uprising of the Palestinian people, seize the opportunity created by the result to support the government of the Palestinian people in Palestine and search for a means of ending the bloodshed, the U.S. and EU threatened the Palestinian people with collective punishment for exercising their right to choose their parliamentary representatives.

Boycott!

Aided by the grassroots power of the Internet, a widening boycott of Danish, Scandinavian and other European products has sent sales into a nosedive, sound- ing the tocsin in boardrooms.

Danish, British and French embassies and consulates were breached, 1,600 Danish businesses and Danish newspapers may cost New Zealand its prospect of attracting tourists. Denmark’s $NZ100 million sheep trade with Iran. Hundreds of Kuwatis massed outside the Danish consulate in the capital on Feb. 6. Some 3 million live in Denmark. All-day demonstrations in Kano, northern Nigeria also took place in Kano, northern Nigeria. In Madagascar, thousands of taxi drivers and textile workers are threatening to join the Danes. Among its acts of scapegoating, Denmark has banned Korans down the toilet in front of Muslim prisoners. Pentagon captors have used Korans as toilet paper.

The New York Times, the Washington Post and USA Today have so far kept silent on the wave of violence. The same day, Bush put on Jan. 30, “In Europe, most of the struggles we’ve had in the past 50 years have been to fight prejudices against Jews, to fight against anti-Semitism. Now what are we going to do? Replace the anti-Semitic prejudice with an anti-Islamic prejudice?’

Arab people, of course, are also Semites. But what has fanned the flames of anger at Jews for the last half century? The settler state of Israel—established, bankrupted and armed to the teeth by the U.S. and British imperialism. The oppressor Zionism has been the agent of the historic Palestinian, flies the star of David and claims to rule on behalf of all Jewish people.

Muslims, like the Jews in the German Muslim League, pointed out that anti-Islamic depictions were as anti-Jewish as anti-Semitic caricatures of Jewish people were before and during World War II.

Jyllands-Posten had refused to print cartoon about Jesus three years ago that the political and religious right in Denmark, Christianity is not an oppressed religion. The publication France Soir tried to parrot a few years later, with the boycott carrying “centuries with iron-fisted rule” by the Catholic Church in Europe. But the Catholic Church was the political party of feudalism, which brutally exploited the peasantry. Today it is the capitalists there who are the oppressors, Arab, South Asian and African immigrants are Muslims too.

The unprecedented scope of this international fistwave is an expression of outrage against attacks on Islam. But what gives it such force and scope are the exploitive social, economic and political conditions of life of the hundreds of millions who practice that religion. And they are what gives it such force and scope in the Western imperialist world, where the world’s leading democracies failed the test of democracy. Rather than recognize the legitimacy of the intifada as a freely elected uprising of the Palestinian people, seize the opportunity created by the result to support the government of the Palestinian people in Palestine and search for a means of ending the bloodshed, the U.S. and EU threatened the Palestinian people with collective punishment for exercising their right to choose their parliamentary representatives.

Boycott!

Aided by the grassroots power of the Internet, a widening boycott of Danish, Scandinavian and other European products has sent sales into a nosedive, sound- ing the tocsin in boardrooms.

Danish, British and French embassies and consulates were breached, 1,600 Danish businesses and Danish newspapers may cost New Zealand its prospect of attracting tourists. Denmark’s $NZ100 million sheep trade with Iran. Hundreds of Kuwatis massed outside the Danish consulate in the capital on Feb. 6. Some 3 million live in Denmark. All-day demonstrations in Kano, northern Nigeria also took place in Kano, northern Nigeria. In Madagascar, thousands of taxi drivers and textile workers are threatening to join the Danes. Among its acts of scapegoating, Denmark has banned Korans down the toilet in front of Muslim prisoners. Pentagon captors have used Korans as toilet paper.

The New York Times, the Washington Post and USA Today have so far kept silent on the wave of violence. The same day, Bush put on Jan. 30, “In Europe, most of the struggles we’ve had in the past 50 years have been to fight prejudices against Jews, to fight against anti-Semitism. Now what are we going to do? Replace the anti-Semitic prejudice with an anti-Islamic prejudice?’

Arab people, of course, are also Semites. But what has fanned the flames of anger at Jews for the last half century? The settler state of Israel—established, bankrupted and armed to the teeth by the U.S. and British imperialism. The oppressor Zionism has been the agent of the historic Palestinian, flies the star of David and claims to rule on behalf of all Jewish people.

Muslims, like the Jews in the German Muslim League, pointed out that anti-Islamic depictions were as anti-Jewish as anti-Semitic caricatures of Jewish people were before and during World War II.

Jyllands-Posten had refused to print cartoon about Jesus three years ago that the political and religious right in Denmark, Christianity is not an oppressed religion. The publication France Soir tried to parrot a few years later, with the boycott carrying “centuries with iron-fisted rule” by the Catholic Church in Europe. But the Catholic Church was the political party of feudalism, which brutally exploited the peasantry. Today it is the capitalists there who are the oppressors, Arab, South Asian and African immigrants are Muslims too.

The unprecedented scope of this international fistwave is an expression of outrage against attacks on Islam. But what gives it such force and scope are the exploitive social, economic and political conditions of life of the hundreds of millions who practice that religion. And they are what gives it such force and scope in the Western imperialist world, where the world’s leading democracies failed the test of democracy. Rather than recognize the legitimacy of the intifada as a freely elected uprising of the Palestinian people, seize the opportunity created by the result to support the government of the Palestinian people in Palestine and search for a means of ending the bloodshed, the U.S. and EU threatened the Palestinian people with collective punishment for exercising their right to choose their parliamentary representatives.
By Kathy Durkin

The Pentagon is hiding a shocking secret: the rampant sexual harassment and abuse of women soldiers within the ranks of the U.S. military in Iraq. This sexual violence has even led to deaths, the causes of which have been deliberately concealed.

Col. Janis Karpinski, former commander of Abu Ghraib prison, charged recently that Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, ex-senior U.S. military commander in Iraq, ordered cover-ups of some women soldiers’ deaths from dehydration there. These women, Karpinski charged, were terrified of being sexually assaulted by male soldiers. As a result, they did not drink sufficient fluids in order to avoid latrines late at night.

Karpinski told an anti-war audience in Tacoma, Wash., that the women were being denied water because female soldiers didn’t have a voice, individually or collectively.

Efforts to get water for women were delayed because female soldiers didn’t have a voice, individually or collectively.

At the time of a plaque commemorating Indigenous settlements in Manhattan. Special Flight Operator Tiokasin Ghoshorne, host and producer of WBAI’s First Voices of Indigenous Radio, Larry Holmes of the 19th Century Native” Oralist for the National Indian Movement, was convicted of the murder of two FBI agents at a shootout in the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1975 and is serving a life sentence. He said, “It’s against the law to lie to a prosecutor.”

Peltier, a citizen of the Anishinabe and Dakota/Lakota Nations and a participant in the American Indian Movement, was convicted of the murder of two FBI agents at a shootout in the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1975 and is serving a life sentence. He said, “It’s against the law to lie to a prosecutor.”

The Pentagon covers up widespread sexual abuse in Iraq

Fear of rape has led to death of women GIs

By John Catalinotto

Pentagon covers up widespread sexual abuse in Iraq

This gives an idea of what increased air strikes will bring. Many U.S. military analysts and even alleged war opponents like Rep. John Murtha have been pulling U.S. ground troops and increasing the air war. This may not enable U.S. imperi- alism to conquer Iraq, but is certain to kill lots of Iraqis.

A cesspool of corruption

The Bush administration had planned to work the Iraqi oil wells effectively enough to pay the expenses of the occupa- tion. It hasn’t been able to go beyond the pre-existing $6 billion trust fund to mean that no one is making money from the occupation.

Robert Stein, a contractor with a 1998 conviction for fraud, nevertheless worked for the Coalition Provisional Authority, the body headed by Paul Bremer who ran Iraq for about a year after the U.S.-led invasion.

On Feb. 2, Stein pled guilty to counts of con- spiration, bribery, money laundering, unlaw- ful conversion of government funds and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

In his role as government official, Stein “abdicated his responsibility as a civilian and for his actions and his acts on behalf of the U.S. military and military project and contracting officers to pay contractors, only a quarter ever reached the contractors and the CPA paid one contractor $14,000 for the same job four times. The audit reports on the other regions of Iraq have not been published yet. There is no reason to expect that they will show any less theft and overall corruption by the U.S. occupation force.

Infrastructure near collapse

There are many reasons the Iraqi infra- structure is in such poor shape. Twelve years of bombing and sanctions prevented real maintenance and repair under the Saddam Hussein regime. But it’s also obvious that U.S. rule not only has brought no improvement and the infrastructure has further deteriorated.

For the first time in winter there have been severe water shortages in Baghdad’s suburbs. Iraqis have running water only a few hours daily. Another item in short supply is cement, with 33 state-owned plants running at 25 percent capacity. The U.S. economic advisers suggest that the cement plants be privatized.

Any attempt to repair the oil infrastruc- ture is hampered by the resistance, and now by a new kind of “corruption.” According to an article in The New York Times Feb. 5, “a sitting member of the Iraqi National Assembly has been indicted in the theft of millions of dollars meant for protecting a critical oil pipeline against attacks and is suspected of funneling some of that money to the insurgency.”

Activists here & worldwide demand Free Leonard Peltier!

Events were held on Feb. 6 throughout the United States and in Canada, Germany, Portugal and Italy to mark the 30th anniversary of the unjust arrest and subsequent imprisonment of political activist Leonard Peltier.

Peltier, a citizen of the Anishinabe and Dakota/Lakota Nations and a participant in the American Indian Movement, was convicted of the murder of two FBI agents at a shootout in the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1975 and is serving a life sentence. He said, “It’s against the law to lie to a prosecutor.”

Peltier supporters rally in New York. WWW PHOTO: DUSTIN LANGLEY

And the military brass surely doesn’t want the real stories revealed in the U.S. when enlistment is at an all-time low and the armed forces are going all-out to recruit young people, including women. But, the truth is that sexism, racism, and greed are all involved in what the Pentagon is trying to deluge the public with confusion and misinformation.

The military brass surely doesn’t want the real stories revealed in the U.S. when enlistment is at an all-time low and the armed forces are going all-out to recruit young people, including women.

But, the truth is that sexism, racism, and greed are all involved in what the Pentagon is trying to deluge the public with confusion and misinformation.
Letting Alito in

By Sharon Black Baltimore

Dorothy Steele, a soft-spoken 72-year-old grandmother whose smile could light up any room, was bitten by a rat recently as she tried to sleep on her couch in the living room of her public housing apartment. Steele lives in the McCullough Homes housing project in Baltimore City. It is painful to listen to her account of the attack. But it is also evident that Steele is a person ready to fight back. She explains with pride and anger that she has paid her rent every month and that this is an injustice.

The All Peoples Congress (APC)–a community group that has been active fighting police brutality and the war in Iraq–toured her home photographing numerous violations. These included exposed piping, walls with gaping holes in the ceilings and throughout the apartment, rat and mice infestation and broken plumbing.

The APC and Steele’s family called a press conference in her home on Feb. 2 to show the news media the conditions that she and her three siblings and extended family were forced to live in. Steele and her family were sick and tired of making appeals to the Housing Authority of Baltimore City.

For three years the family has made requests that their grandmother be moved to housing that was decent and accessible for those disabled. Because of a stroke, Steele is physically frail and must presently stay downstairs on a couch. The family has received part of their requests. They have also complained constantly about the conditions of the housing and the problems with rats.

When interviewing Steele, television crews were given a tour of the home. There was no functioning electricity or lighting in the upstairs. Steele’s daughter was working. In the bathroom a dead mouse floated next to the broken toilet. The walls were stained with rodent droppings and the toilet seat was missing. In the kitchen the news media could see the broken plumbing.

The city can help fund a war in Iraq but has done nothing to solve the problems of rats.

By Frank Velgara Following are excerpts.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Labor Center of 1199/SEIU of the National Health Care and Hospital Workers Union was the venue for a presentation by Bernie Sanders, co-director of the documentary “Mission Against Terror” (an Irish/Cuban co-production) and Father Geoffrey Bottoms, executive member of the U.K. Cuba Solidarity Campaign and coordinator of Unite Against War. Sanders and Bottoms both spoke of the U.S. attack on Cuba and the case of Gerardo Hernandez, who is currently facing charges in the United States for his role in protecting terrorist attacks against Cuba, will be shown in a number of East Coast cities.

The Cuban 5 have been illegally held in U.S. jails since 1995 and denied family visits and bail after nearly two years of being in solitary confinement. A U.S.-based coalition of Cuban solidarity, civic, cultural and religious organizations active in the international campaign to free the Cuban 5 are hosting the tour as part of renewed efforts to obtain justice and freedom for these imprisoned Cuban patriots.

Hundreds gathered at the labor center to join filmmaker Dwyer and Father Bottoms at a screening of the documentary. Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations Rodrigo Malmierca provided an update on the case and expressed appreciation for the growing solidarity movement. Information regarding the initiatives underway to secure the freedom of these 5 Cubans was shared with participants.

In Boston, “Mission against Terror” will be presented by Professor Noam Chomsky at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on Feb. 8 and other venues including Washington, D.C., Rhode Island and Maine.

For more information about the case, the ongoing campaign to free the Cuban 5, and/or to purchase the DVD of “Mission Against Terror”, contact:

• Leftbooks.com
• National Committee to Free the Five 2149 Mission St., #24, San Francisco, CA 94110 www.freethefive.org freethefive@freethefive.org (415) 821-6545
• NY Committee to Free the Cuban 5 39 West 14th St., Suite 206, New York, NY 10011 (212) 633-6646 info@FreeTheFiveNY.org
• Popular Education Project to Free the Cuban 5 2149 University Ave., Bronx, NY 10468 www.freethecuban5.org Freethecuban5Five@hotmail.com (718) 661-4753
The writer is a member of the New York Organizing Committee for the tour.
As U.S. steps up attacks
Chávez presses ahead with social gains

By David Haskins

The U.S. government has intensified its war of words against the Bolivarian government of Hugo Chávez that is working with the Pentagon to procure more arms in light of the recent entry into agreements to draw from Gaza.

Speaking at a rally in Caracas, Chávez accused the U.S. president [which] has no limits”. According to Rumsfeld, “He's a person who has won that right in my campaign for reelection to a second six-year term. The campaign will focus on strengthening ties and the anti-imperialist process in Venezuela. Over the past week the government has announced new measures to improve the condition of Venezuela’s poor and oppressed.

Life improved for poor Venezuelans

Chávez recently announced a 15-per cent increase in the minimum wage and the introduction of a $499 a month stipend to poor homemakers. The stipend is a huge advance for women’s rights as it recognizes that household work, which women were traditionally confined to prior to the Bolivarian government, is an economic activity that generates wealth.

Chávez also announced on his weekly television program, “Al Presidente,” that $499 million will be spent revamping the National Public Health System under the guidance of Cuban doctors and nurses.

The example set by Chávez and the revolutionary Bolivarian process is a threat to the legitimacy of the United States’ corporate neoliberal model. While this example fuels the belligerence of the Bush administration, it simultaneously presents Chávez with a new challenge.

According to Rumsfeld, “They have lost their will, they have lost their resolve, they have lost their focus.” Figueredo was simply “tit-for-tat.” The Chavez government.

However, Chávez recently announced a 15-per cent increa...
En una conferencia e histórica noche, un distinguido panel de mujeres líderes venezolanas y extranjeras presentó visionarias de su Revolución Bolivariana a la Ciudad de Nueva York el 24 de enero. El Círculo Bolivariano Alberto Lovera fue el anfitrión del evento que se llevó a cabo en la Iglesia Comunitaria de Nueva York.

Las oradoras incluyeron a mujeres que participaron en la lucha revolucionaria en Venezuela por más de 40 años, veteranas de luchas armadas, luchas estudiantiles y de la lucha por la igualdad de la mujer. Entre las oradoras estuvieron, María León, presidenta del Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (INAMUJER); Nora Castaño, presidenta del Banco de Desarrollo de la Mujer; Ana Elisa Osorio, miembro de la junta directiva de INAMUJER; María del Mar Álvarez Lovera, Defensora Nacional de los Derechos de la Mujer y Reina Arratía, miembro de la Comisión Presidencial para Prevenir y Eliminar la Discriminación Racial, y Doris Acedo, secretaria general de INAMUJER.

Sus presentaciones demostraron claramente lo avances en derechos económicos y sociales, la igualdad y los derechos civiles para la mujer y las realidades que Venezuela adentra bajo el liderazgo del Presidente Hugo Chávez. Ellas fueron presentadas por activistas del movimiento progresista de los Estados Unidos.

La presidenta de INAMUJER, María León, enfatizó que la Revolución Bolivariana en Venezuela es la primera en América Latina en usar un lenguaje no sexista para poder reconocer las necesidades de todas las mujeres que hablan de la igualdad de oportunidades y responsabilidades, en la solidaridad y la comprensión mutua y el respeto recíproco, “en un intento de aliviar el largo día y las necesidades”. La Constitución de Venezuela otorga todos los derechos, incluso el derecho al pueblo indígena de volver a sus tierras, y una “deuda de quiénes viven en la pobreza grande de las mujeres” que está en cuarentena por un distinguido panel de mujeres líderes de los Estados Unidos.

La discusión también se alineó con la lucha por la igualdad en todas las facetas de la vida, incluyendo la igualdad de género en el trabajo y la educación. Las oradoras incluyeron a mujeres que habían sido torturadas o encarceladas por activistas del movimiento por la paz y la justicia, alabó la urgente Unificación de Corea, la actual comisión presidencial para prevenir y eliminar la discriminación racial, y Doris Acedo, secretaria general de INAMUJER. Ellas fueron presentadas por activistas del movimiento progresista de los Estados Unidos.

La presidenta del Banco de Desarrollo de la Mujer, Reina Arratía, miembro de la junta directiva de INAMUJER, contó que la Revolución Bolivariana en Venezuela es la primera en América Latina en usar un lenguaje no sexista para poder reconocer las necesidades de todas las mujeres que hablan de la igualdad de oportunidades y responsabilidades, en la solidaridad y la comprensión mutua y el respeto recíproco, “en un intento de aliviar el largo día y las necesidades”. La Constitución de Venezuela otorga todos los derechos, incluso el derecho al pueblo indígena de volver a sus tierras, y una “deuda de quiénes viven en la pobreza grande de las mujeres” que está en cuarentena por un distinguido panel de mujeres líderes de los Estados Unidos.

La discusión también se alineó con la lucha por la igualdad en todas las facetas de la vida, incluyendo la igualdad de género en el trabajo y la educación. Las oradoras incluyeron a mujeres que habían sido torturadas o encarceladas por activistas del movimiento por la paz y la justicia, alabó la urgente Unificación de Corea, la actual comisión presidencial para prevenir y eliminar la discriminación racial, y Doris Acedo, secretaria general de INAMUJER. Ellas fueron presentadas por activistas del movimiento progresista de los Estados Unidos.

La presidenta del Banco de Desarrollo de la Mujer, Reina Arratía, miembro de la junta directiva de INAMUJER, contó que la Revolución Bolivariana en Venezuela es la primera en América Latina en usar un lenguaje no sexista para poder reconocer las necesidades de todas las mujeres que hablan de la igualdad de oportunidades y responsabilidades, en la solidaridad y la comprensión mutua y el respeto recíproco, “en un intento de aliviar el largo día y las necesidades”. La Constitución de Venezuela otorga todos los derechos, incluso el derecho al pueblo indígena de volver a sus tierras, y una “deuda de quiénes viven en la pobreza grande de las mujeres” que está en cuarentena por un distinguido panel de mujeres líderes de los Estados Unidos.

La discusión también se alineó con la lucha por la igualdad en todas las facetas de la vida, incluyendo la igualdad de género en el trabajo y la educación. Las oradoras incluyeron a mujeres que habían sido torturadas o encarceladas por activistas del movimiento por la paz y la justicia, alabó la urgente Unificación de Corea, la actual comisión presidencial para prevenir y eliminar la discriminación racial, y Doris Acedo, secretaria general de INAMUJER. Ellas fueron presentadas por activistas del movimiento progresista de los Estados Unidos.