

## MUNDO OBRERO

**Fracasa la nueva ofensiva en Irak**

**Marina moviliza reservas hacia Irak 12**



WW PHOTO: LOU PAULSEN

**'IMMIGRANT RIGHTS ARE WORKERS' RIGHTS!'**

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## Capitalist theft creates crisis

# Productivity soars, incomes drop

## Only the workers & oppressed can turn things around

By Milt Neidenberg

On Sept. 5, 1882, the American Federation of Labor celebrated the first Labor Day. Twenty thousand strong, they converged on Union Square in New York City to demand the eight-hour day. Two hundred fifty thousand cheered marchers carrying banners reading "Labor Creates All Wealth."

For over a century, the ruling class has tried to obliterate that fundamental truth. They have tried to subvert May Day, the internationally celebrated communist-oriented holiday, by renaming it "Law Day" and "Loyalty Day." Labor Day remains to celebrate the U. S. working class's resistance to the bosses' attack on its standard of living, which has declined calamitously.

Under the headline "Real Wages Fail to Match a Rise in Productivity," the Aug. 28 New York Times described this trend: "The median hourly wage for American workers has declined 2 percent since 2003, after factoring in inflation. The drop has been especially notable, economists say, because productivity—the amount that an average worker produces in an hour and the basic wellspring of a nation's living standards—has risen steadily over the same period. ... UBS, the investment bank, recently described the current period as 'the golden era of profitability.'"

According to the Scripps Howard News Service, "Wages make up the lowest percent of the national domestic product since such statistics first were collected in 1947." (Sept. 3)

The reasons are crystal clear. The relentless anti-labor offensive of "corporate America" rises from deep within U.S. imperialism and its endless wars and cycles of boom and bust. The scientific-technological revolution has fundamentally restructured the labor process.

Under the control of banks, merged with industrial monopolies and other financial networks, the social changes—changes in the constellation of class forces—have dramatically favored the class that wields imperialist state power. Here are the reincarnations of the Rockefellers, Morgans and du Ponts of yesteryear who have intensified the exploitation of workers and oppressed nationalities.

The quantum leap in the high-tech revolution—output per worker skyrocketed by 15 percent over four years through 2004—has resulted in overproduction, speedups, mass layoffs, plant closings, downsizing of wages, pensions and health care, and the

reduction of workers' skills whereby workers become ever more an appendage of the machine. The computerization of the means of production has displaced millions of workers into the lower paid, service-oriented industries.

### Rich get richer, poor get poorer

The increasing accumulation of capital by the barons of banking and industry relates to the steady rise in the rate of exploitation. This is the law of capitalist accumulation: wealth is stolen from the laboring masses who create it.

Merrill Lynch, one of the most powerful Wall Street investment banks, and global consulting company Capgemini publish an annual report directed to the richest players in the wealth management market that confirms this law. The two companies released their 10th anniversary World Wealth Report on June 26. According to this report, individuals owning at least \$1 million in cash and investments had a total of \$33.3 trillion in wealth, nearly double the \$16 trillion 1996 amount. This wealth is consolidated among the top rung of the rich—those worth a minimum of \$30 million.

The super-rich represent one-hundredth of 1 percent of the world's adult population and have 24 percent of the world's wealth.

In the United States resides the single greatest portion of the global rich. Of the world's 8.7 million millionaires, 2.67 million are right here. The World Wealth Report statistics are based on 69 countries that collect over 98 percent of "global gross national income" and 99 percent of the value of the world stock market. The world's rich are increasingly bursting national and regional boundaries, becoming an interconnected global class. (World Wealth Report, June 26)

In stark contrast are the lives and fortunes of immigrants who face armed militias and life-threatening conditions to cross borders in hope of a better life—dreams soon to be dashed. They and the entire working class are victims of ever-increasing exploitation by the bosses. While the workers and the oppressed are poorer and deeper in debt, the minimum hourly wage has remained at \$5.15 for the last nine years, the longest stretch without a raise since 1938. Over 46.6 million workers have no health insurance. The poverty rate has risen to nearly 13 percent. The statistics would be much higher if they were focused on Black and Latin@ workers and other

*Continued on page 4*



WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Delores Thomas, Clarence Thomas and Dianne Mathiowetz at Katrina memorial in Ninth Ward, New Orleans Aug. 29.

## ONE YEAR AFTER KATRINA

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# Plan B victory in reproductive rights struggle

By Kathy Durkin

Women won round one in the battle for Plan B, an emergency method of contraception, on Aug. 24 when the Federal Drug Administration decided to allow nonprescription sales to adults.

This is a step forward for women's rights and health care. It will allow millions of women easier access to the "morning-after pill," helping to prevent unintended pregnancies and making many abortions unnecessary.

This took years of struggle to win. Activists mobilized demonstrations; petition, phone and email campaigns; lawsuits—all types of public pressure. Pro-choice organizations and women's-rights activists, health-care, legal and community advocates fought hard against the right wing inside and out of the Bush administration to gain the right to the non-prescription emergency contraceptive.

But it is far from a complete victory. There's an enormous gap in the FDA's decision. Non-prescription Plan B will be denied to millions of women under the age of 18 who are among those who need it the most. Women of color, impoverished and rural youth will be disproportionately affected.

Young women critically need access without obstacles to all methods that prevent unplanned pregnancies, including Plan B, a vital form of birth control. Because the emergency contraceptive is most effective when taken within a 72-hour period, immediate availability is crucial. Young women's access will be greatly hindered if they have to wait for a doctor's appointment, or if they lack health insurance or funds to see a doctor, or if doctors refuse to write the prescription.

Health organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose the age restriction.

The FDA is denying youth emergency access for many bogus reasons, with no scientific or medical basis. Bush appointee and acting FDA Commissioner Andrew C. von Eschenbach decided the age limit although the scientific advisers did not suggest it.

In fact, FDA advisory committees recommended in 2003—eight months after the manufacturer applied for non-prescription status—that Plan B be made available to all age groups. Prescription sales had already begun in 1999.

Bush-appointed FDA officials denied that recommendation and kept delaying wider access to emergency contraception for three years, putting reactionary forces and ideology ahead of science and the medical needs and basic rights of millions of women.

The National Women's Health Network says, "Top FDA officials privately acknowledged that the age restriction is a political concession to conservative activists who have been fighting to keep barriers to contraceptive access in place." (www.nwhn.org, posted Aug. 29)

Susan Wood, former FDA assistant commissioner for women's health who quit over the agency's anti-Plan B stance, said, "For nearly three years politics took precedence over good science and good health policy decisions, and women's health suffered." (USA Today, Aug. 25)

The reactionary "American Life League" and "Stop Planned Parenthood International," among others, have attacked and lied about emergency contraception for years to prevent its use. They falsely label it an "abortifacient" (abortion-causing) drug, when in reality it is a contraceptive. It is composed of birth-control pill ingredients and works similarly—preventing, not ending, pregnancies. Even now, the right-wing Family Research Council is scheming to end its use.

There are other complications in the Plan B scenario. The FDA requires that it be placed behind pharmacy counters "because it cannot be dispensed without a prescription or proof of age." Keeping it off open shelves and requiring identification to purchase it will create hurdles for many women, subjecting some to harassment by hostile pharmacy staff or refusals to fill the prescriptions.

This is already happening. Planned Parenthood warns of five drugstore chains that do not pledge to fill these prescriptions. CVS drugstores allow staff to refuse to fill Plan B prescriptions. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Aug. 25)

Some state legislatures are going along with this discriminatory practice and are considering measures to restrict EC availability.

Of great concern is the potential for intimidation of sexual-assault survivors of all ages who should be guaranteed emergency contraception in every hospital emergency room, clinic, doctor's office and drugstore.

Price is also an issue. Barr Pharmaceuticals, Plan B's manufacturer, may increase the non-prescription price, which even at its current cost of \$25-\$40 per dose is a hardship for many impoverished women. Medicaid doesn't cover over-the-counter medications.

All forms of contraception should be readily available to women of all ages who need it—when it's needed, at low cost, without discrimination or obstructionist rules, laws or objections, free from right-wing coercion or intrusion inside or outside of government.

That is a basic right.

This gain was won through struggle. But protecting and expanding it against the insidious right wing, which seeks to set back women's reproductive rights by decades—even undermining birth control and truthful sex education—will take vigilance and mass mobilizing.

Already, New York City picketers protested the FDA's age restriction. Lawsuits have been filed. Determined reproductive-rights organizations and activists are boldly planning to meet this challenge and continue this struggle until all women have access to all essential health care. □

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Every week the talks from the Workers World Forums in New York are podcast on the Internet. These talks cover some of the most important political issues and struggles of the day. Speakers are leaders of the anti-war and anti-racist movements. Following are some of the most recent talks, given at Workers World Forums on Aug. 18 and 25.

1. Israeli setback, Hezbollah victory & the meaning of the cease-fire: A watershed for U.S. domination in the Middle East Sara Flounders, *co-director of the International Action Center*

2. A tale of two rescues—New Orleans and Lebanon Joyce Chediak, *Lebanese-American activist and writer for Workers World newspaper.*
3. The U.S./UN sanction threats against Iran Ardeshir Ommani, *a founder of the American-Iranian Friendship Committee.*
4. Update on the Latin American struggle against U.S. imperialism LeiLani Dowell, *a leader of FIST and a managing editor of Workers World newspaper.*

These podcasts can be found at [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)

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## CHICAGO

# Sept. 15 march will hit police torture

By Lou Paulsen  
Chicago

Black community activists are organizing a silent march through downtown Chicago for Sept. 15. The goal is to demand accountability from the police, prosecutors and judges who conspired to torture confessions out of hundreds of Black defendants in the 1970s and 1980s.

The "silent march" tactic won the overwhelming support of activists meeting in August at the Center for Inner City Studies. "We are at war" was the common sentiment, in view of an ongoing wave of police violence. Organizers intend to convey a message of Black unity, determination, and discipline.

On Labor Day weekend, thousands of fliers for the march were distributed at the African Festival of the Arts in Washington Park. A series of teach-ins has been organized at locations on the south and west sides.

A group called Black People Against Police Torture calls for people to assemble at Federal Plaza at 11 a.m. From there, participants will march in silence to the civil courts at Daley Plaza, City Hall and the County Building—where, they believe, some of the accomplices to the torture still have their offices.

It is now conceded that Chicago Police Lt. Jon Burge, as Area 2 Commander, led a team of police torturers who used U.S. military techniques such as electric shock boxes, beatings and death threats to attempt to force confessions from at least 200 Black men and women from 1972 to 1989. These confessions were used to send innocent people to prison and even to death row.

No one has ever been prosecuted for these crimes. Burge lives in retirement on his city pension in Florida, while the city pays to defend him from civil lawsuits. And no one can ever be prosecuted, according to a recently

released report from a team of special prosecutors, because the statute of limitations has run out.

"That's the kind of argument you would expect from lawyers for the police, not from prosecutors," responds attorney Standish Willis of the National Council of Black Lawyers. "This shows that their role was to exonerate the police, not to hold them accountable."

In fact, as Willis points out, the statute of limitations can be "tolled"—suspended—if it is found that the police torturers engaged in a conspiracy to cover up their crimes, which caused the delay in bringing criminal charges against them.

Activists are going after not only the police, but also prosecutors who aided the conspiracy by using torture-based confessions against defendants, or who knew about the torture but did not prosecute the criminal police. These prosecutors include Richard M. Daley, who was state's attorney from 1981 to 1988 and has been mayor of Chicago since 1989, and State's Attorney Dick Devine, who has spent years trying to keep torture victims in prison and on death row.

They also plan to campaign for a "no" vote on retention of judges who refused to hear testimony about police torture and accepted tortured confessions into evidence, or who were involved as prosecutors.

For more information on the event, or to endorse, contact BPAPT through the office of Standish Willis at 312-554-0005. □



Chicago Police Lt. Jon Burge, Illinois State Attorney Dick Devine and Richard M. Daley

## WE WANT FREEDOM

Mumia Abu-Jamal provides the world with an important history of the founding of the Philadelphia Black Panther Party in his new book *We Want Freedom: A Life in the Black Panther Party*.

Mumia, known to the world as a wrongly convicted political prisoner held for 22 years in Pennsylvania's death row, is exacting and luminous in his history and his analysis of the Black liberation struggle.

An important book for anyone learning about one of the most important groups in the on-going struggle for the liberation of African-Americans.

Paperback, 320 pages, 2004

\$18.



## Live from Death Row

"They want me to die alone-silently." -Mumia Abu-Jamal

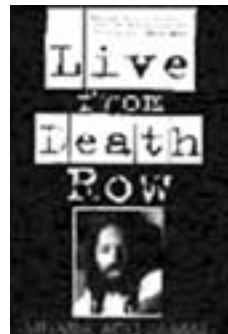
Once a prominent radio reporter, Mumia Abu-Jamal is now on death row in Pennsylvania. In 1982 he was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of a Philadelphia police officer after a trial Amnesty International calls "deeply flawed" and biased. *LIVE FROM DEATH ROW* is a collection of his prison writings. It is also a scathing indictment of racism and political bias in the judicial system.

"A tough, true, timely book. You cannot read it and remain unmoved." - E.L. Doctorow

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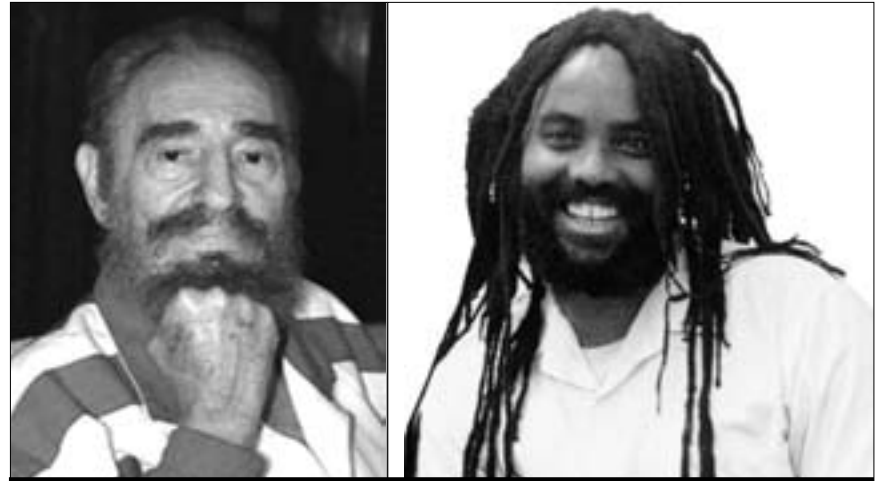
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## Video: The Prison-Industrial Complex:

An interview with Mumia Abu-Jamal by Monica Moorehead and Larry Holmes. Journalist, political activist and death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal, framed for his ideas, discusses prison labor in the United States, youth, elections, economics and the state of the world.

28 minutes VHS, People's Video Network. Interview \$17. These and other works by Mumia online at [leftbooks.com](http://leftbooks.com)



From Mumia Abu-Jamal on death row

# ¡VIVA FIDEL! LONG LIVE FIDEL!

From an August 10 audio commentary. Hear Mumia on [www.prisonradio.org](http://www.prisonradio.org).

The recent news of the illness of Cuban President Fidel Castro has unleashed a ghoulish glee in Miami, and also in the White House. The spectacle of people dancing in the streets of Miami at news of Fidel's sickness was disgraceful.

Few of us who have grown up under the propaganda that passes for the corporate media have any real idea of either Castro's or Cuba's immense social accomplishments, while under the threat of U.S. invasion and destruction.

As a student of history, I'm often amazed at what we don't know about other people, even those as close as Cuba. If Americans truly supported democracy, instead of dictatorships, the name Fidel Castro may never have become known to us.

That's because Castro, as a young man, newly graduated from law school, endeavored to run for the Cuban Senate as a 'clean government' candidate. His platform opposed political repression and corruption and how major Cuban institutions had been bought off by the U.S.-Mafia elites.

He spoke out against vende-patrias (sell-outs) among the politicians, and also denounced the press because journalists were being bought with botellas (or bribes). He opposed the corruption of the dictatorship's courts.

Guess who the U.S. supported? The U.S. supported the dictator, Fulgencio Batista, a man who was legendary for his brutality and his corruption.

Given the legal challenge posed by the young Castro, his election was scuttled by the Batista regime, and Castro learned that there was no 'legal' way to oppose the regime. The U.S. has always preferred its own brutal puppets to democrats, and has done so on every continent in the world.

What we also don't hear about is the actions of the U.S. against Cuba which can only be called terrorism. Under either "Operation Pluto," "Operation Mongoose," or "Operation JM Wave," the U.S. has bombed factories, plotted overthrows, planned and tried to carry out assassinations, worked with organized crime, destroyed crops and other crimes.

The famous Church Committee reports unveiled several assassination attempts against Fidel, which were "coordinated with the Mafia dons Meyer Lansky, John Roselli, Sam Giancana, and Santo Trafficante," all of whom owned businesses on the island.

Before the Cuban Revolution, the island was called a "Mafia paradise," for the Mafia leaders owned casinos, nightclubs, whorehouses, and also legitimate businesses, like banks, airlines, TV stations and newspapers. For example, in one eight-month period alone (in 1961), the CIA committed 5,780 acts of sabotage and terrorism against Cuba, including several attempts to assassinate the Cuban president.

The U.S.-supported repression, brutality and corruption forced Fidel, and millions of other Cubans, to become revolutionaries, instead of democrats. And once a revolutionary, it forced him to become an internationalist, supporting freedom struggles all around the world.

In late 1975, when armies of the racist regime of South Africa invaded Angola, it was Cuba that sent 18,000 troops to assist the beleaguered African state. By year's end, Cuba's 36,000 soldiers, with their Angolan allies, bested South Africa in the field, forcing them to retreat for the first time in the history of apartheid.

It was, Fidel would later say, an "African Girón," a reference to Cuba's battlefield victory over the U.S. in the Bay of Pigs. (The U.S., of course, supported the South Africans, and several brutal terrorist armies, the FNLA and UNITA).

While it may be true that Fidel is ailing, it's also true that he, and the revolution that he helped lead, has been a force for good in the world, on the side of the oppressed, not the oppressors. It has been on the side of freedom, not slavery.

Consider if you will, how many people, in Vietnam, in Chile, in Argentina, in South Africa, in Iraq, in Palestine, have suffered needlessly because of the actions, exploitation, support of dictators and secret wars of repression by U.S. presidents over these last 50 years.

How many assassinations, bombings, stolen elections, proxy wars, etc., etc., have been plotted in the dens of the White House against the peoples of the world?

So we join our Cuban friends in saying:  
¡Viva Fidel! ¡Viva la Revolución Cubana! ¡Venceremos!

Source: Nieto, Clara. *Masters of War: Latin America and U.S. Aggression* (N.Y.: Seven Stories Press, 2003), pp. 33, 78-9, 217



# Fighting mood opens labor march



WWW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

By Cheryl LaBash  
Detroit

A fighting mood opened the annual Detroit Labor Day march Sept. 4.

Hundreds of Detroit teachers on strike against pay and benefit cuts made up the front of the march, stretching across the wide Woodward Avenue thoroughfare.

Next, the Northwest flight attendants—some in lime green t-shirts, others in tailored uniforms—pledged to create CHAOS (Create Havoc Around Our System) in order to chal-

lenge the bankrupt air carrier's attempt to impose pay and benefit cuts.

Utility workers, their truck air horns blaring, demanded Detroit Energy keep neighborhood payment and service centers open.

Home-daycare workers organizing for a living wage marched with their children.

And, for the first time, the Centro Obrero de Detroit/Workers Center of Detroit marched.

Contingent after contingent of United Auto Workers members, with banners identifying their locals, streamed into downtown during the two-hour long march.

Many thousands of these workers, mostly African American and many women, chanted support for their unions.

Yet aside from the contingents mentioned, most were methodically organized to focus on the mid-term elections. Printed signs and t-shirts had slogans like "I am union and I vote." A few small, printed fans urged people to vote "no" on racist Proposal 2, which threatens to eliminate affirmative action. However, no union contingents raised banners or printed signs against the dangerous and deceptively worded ballot proposal that is a key issue in the election.

The strong anti-war sentiment among the workers did come to the fore. Many joined in chanting "Money for our cities, not for war!" and "Bring the troops home, now!" and picked up anti-war signs to carry through the march.

The Stop the War Slate and Green Party candidates distributed anti-war campaign literature exposing the little-known pro-war and anti-immigrant voting record of Democratic Party incumbent Debbie Stabenow. To volunteer for the Stop the War campaign, go to [stopthewarslate.org](http://stopthewarslate.org), [mecawi.org](http://mecawi.org) or [migreens.org](http://migreens.org). □

## Continental Tire workers protest layoffs



PHOTO: CAROL MARLEY

A couple hundred former Continental Tire workers and their allies rallied in uptown Charlotte, N.C., after the annual Labor Day Parade on Sept. 4. They were protesting layoffs and free-trade agreements that harm workers. And they demanded a living wage of at least \$10 an hour in Charlotte.

After the Steel Workers union, which represents the Continental Tire workers, refused wage concessions, more than 700 workers lost their jobs at the Charlotte plant. ([wcnc.com](http://wcnc.com)) The bosses at Continental Tire decided to shift production to another country where they could pay lower wages and minimize or eliminate benefits altogether.

The workers vowed to continue their fight for good jobs at living wages. Even the National Labor Relations Board filed a complaint against Continental Tire based on the bosses' tactics during contract negotiations with Steel Workers 850L, organizer of the rally.

— David Dixon

## Productivity soars, incomes drop

*Continued from page 1*  
oppressed nationalities.

Median paychecks have gone down by nearly 6 percent and the bottom fifth has seen its income fall by a whopping 20 percent during the Bush administration.

The Aug. 31 New York Times confirms the crisis for the working class. In an article headlined "Spending What We Don't Have," Floyd Norris, chief financial correspondent writes: "July personal income numbers ... indicate that once again Americans had personal consumption expenditures that were greater than their disposable income. ... The negative savings rates [increased] for the 16th consecutive month."

### Capitalist elections versus class struggle

Organized and unorganized workers and the oppressed nationalities face a deluge of capitalist propaganda, deception and demagoguery from Republicans and Democrats, who will spend hundreds of millions of dollars to win the mid-term elections. The AFL-CIO and the Change to Win Federation are caught in this trap of deceit and duplicity.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and Change to Win Chairperson Anna Burger released a joint state-

ment saying, "The entire labor movement is united by the desire to make working people's issues the country's priorities this election year." They are working on state and local levels.

The agreement comes as unions are mobilizing for November elections to support "worker-friendly" candidates. The AFL-CIO will spend \$40 million on voter outreach, up from \$35 million in 2002 and the most it has ever spent on a midterm election. They plan to reach 12.4 million union-affiliated voters in key races in 21 states.

"Worker-friendly" candidates could be influenced by spending \$40 million—not on lobbying politicians but on elevating the class struggle through street demonstrations, picket lines, rallies and speak-outs focused on critical issues facing the labor movement. The masses in action, the people showing their power, have many times shown the capacity to influence events.

There are many forms of class struggle—economic and political—that can challenge the master class. One is the battle for a shorter work week, incorporating into that demand the highest wages paid during the boom capitalist cycle—30 hours' work for 40 hours' pay. The money is there—in outrageous bonuses and

golden parachutes, in stock dividends for the preferred, in profits, and hidden in the books. It would be timely to review this historic struggle.

The scientific-technological revolution and the astronomic increase in productivity have objectively entitled the multinational work force, both industrial and service-oriented, to reap the fruits of their labor. According to a 2004 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report, an average worker needs to put in a mere 11 hours per week to produce as much as someone working 40 hours in 1950. In August, the average work week dropped 0.1 hours to 33.8. Embedded in this drop is speedup in productivity and a declining standard of living for the laboring masses.

### It's time to turn things around

A campaign to win "30 for 40"—30 hours' work for 40 hours' pay—could be one of the threads to be woven into a long-overdue offensive. Committees advocating 30 for 40 could be organized in unions, workers' centers, community and progressive groups, and single-issue organizations. A brilliantly planned campaign is required to forge a class-wide, independent strategy. It's something to think about. □

## ON THE PICKET LINE

By Sue Davis

### Detroit teachers' strike continues

The 9,500 teachers in Detroit have been on strike since Aug. 28. The primary issue is pay—the teachers, who last year agreed to million-dollar concessions to avoid a strike, are demanding a 5 percent raise for each year of a three-year contract.

The Detroit Public School District is demanding a 5.55 percent pay cut and increased payments for health insurance, which amounts to \$89 million in concessions.

The district asked the county court for an injunction barring the strike on Aug. 29. Instead, the judge ordered round-the-clock negotiations. The Detroit News reports that, as of Aug. 30, about 97 percent of Detroit's teachers have not reported to work.

School officials announced that Detroit's 225 schools would be open on the first day of school, Sept. 5, only for half a day. The school board plans to get the court to order an injunction on the strike on Sept 5. But the teachers are in no mood to obey an injunction. Fed up with concessions, the teachers' slogan is "No contract, no work."

### Gary teachers' strike wins overdue contract

The Gary Teachers Union hadn't been able to get the Gary, Ind., school board to renew their contract since 2004. But going on strike for 10 days beginning Aug. 21 finally got the board's attention. On Aug. 31 the teachers were offered a three-year contract with 2 percent raises each year, which they voted unanimously to accept.

This is the first time since 1984 that the teachers were forced to strike for a decent contract. Since the agreement is retroactive, the contract will expire next year. Healthcare benefits top the list of items to be negotiated in the next contract.

### NWA flight attendants implement CHAOS

Even though a U.S. District Court issued a preliminary injunction against a strike by Northwest Airlines flight attendants on Aug. 25 and has not yet issued a final ruling, the flight attendants have begun making CHAOS at major airports around the country.

Twice union members voted to reject a contract that would cut their earnings by up to 40 percent. But NWA imposed it on them anyway on July 31. Under the Railway Labor Act, workers are allowed to strike if there is a unilateral change in a contract.

CHAOS—Create Havoc Around Our System—is the flight attendants' rolling-strike strategy, which has been used effectively for many years. For instance, all members of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA who work at New York's LaGuardia Airport held informational picketing Aug. 28, 29 and 31 between noon and 6 p.m. outside the NWA terminal.

### Kroger workers fight for fair contract in N.C.

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 204, which represents 1,917 Raleigh-Durham-area grocery-store workers, has been negotiating with Kroger for a fair contract for over a month. On Aug. 31 Kroger suddenly broke off talks. No further bargaining has been scheduled.

The big issue, as in most negotiations these days, is healthcare benefits. In late July, Kroger proposed a plan to raid employee-healthcare reserve funds and force workers to pay \$1.4 million from their own paychecks to cover the difference.

UFCW Local 204 members voted at the beginning of August to authorize a strike. On Aug. 29 they held a press conference and a "Walk the Block" demonstration in Raleigh-Durham neighborhoods to inform customers of the attacks on their health benefits.

"I think the customers have a right to know how Kroger really treats their employees," said Monique Wilkerson, a Kroger employee, in an Aug. 31 union press release. Wilkerson pointed out that workers would have to choose between healthcare and things like rent, food and other basic necessities. □

# IMMIGRANT RIGHTS ARE WORKERS' RIGHTS

## LOS ANGELES

Thousands came out Sept. 2 in Los Angeles for "The Great Labor March for Immigrant Workers and General Amnesty." The March 25th Coalition sponsored and initiated the event, which honored Elvira Arellano, a Latina single mother living in Chicago and fighting deportation. Speakers and organizers all called for an immediate moratorium on deportation raids. As a demonstration of solidarity with Arellano and the special oppression facing all immigrant women in the United States, all speakers and chairs of the event were women.

—WW Los Angeles bureau

WW PHOTO: BOB MCCUBBIN



PHOTO: CAROL MARLEY

## CHARLOTTE, N.C.

Some 1,000 people, mostly Latin@s, rallied for immigrant rights in uptown Charlotte's Marshall Park on Aug. 3. They chose Labor Day weekend to hold the action to point out that immigrants are laborers who built and continue to build the United States.

Participants want Congress to pass legislation that allows immigrants to stay in the United States and become citizens regardless of their "legal status." They are opposed to enforcement-only legislation and deportations.

Charlotte is in Mecklenburg County. With U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick's help, the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department was recently given power to enforce immigration laws. Myrick also recently held an anti-immigrant forum at her nearby Gastonia, N.C., office.

The Labor Day immigrant-rights rally lasted several hours. Speakers from local organizations and several politicians addressed the crowd. The rally was organized by Communities For Comprehensive Immigration Reform, the same group that led the 10,000-strong May 1 action in Charlotte.

—David Dixon

## Deportations are the real crime

# Thousands of Elvira Arellanos fight to keep their families

By Lou Paulsen  
Chicago

Immigrant rights activist Elvira Arellano was unable to attend the Chicago Immigrant Workers Walk for Justice. She spent the Labor Day weekend where she has been since Aug. 15—in sanctuary at Adalberto United Methodist Church in Chicago, knowing that she faces arrest and immediate deportation at any time.

Arellano was working at O'Hare airport, cleaning airplanes, when she was arrested in 2002 for using a false social security number. She has exhausted her appeals and Illinois senators Dick Durbin and Barack Obama have refused to sponsor a "private bill" to spare her from deportation.

But her story was told again and again during the march—by other mothers and other children. The U.S. government has left thousands of families facing separation, anguish and exile—and this has brought thousands of their friends, co-workers and supporters into the movement to stop deportations.

On Sept. 2, marchers in Melrose Park heard members of the congregation of St. Charles Borromeo speak up for their friend Teresa Figueroa, a 51-year-old mother whose situation is similar to Arellano's. While working at Micron Industries in Elmhurst, she was arrested for using a false social security number. She now faces imminent deportation.

At the Labor Day rally in Batavia, relatives of Maria Benitez of Chicago spoke. She faces separation from her husband and children, all of whom are U.S. citizens. She had begun to apply for residency in 1999, but it was voided after she crossed the border into Mexico to visit her sick mother and then attempted to return. A humanitarian parole she obtained due to the birth of her youngest child expires this month.

The list is endless. In 2005, as president of the Latino Families United Committee, Arellano compiled a list of 35 families in northern Illinois who faced immediate separation under the inflex-

Continued on page 10

## CHICAGO

In the Chicago area, labor and immigrant communities marked Labor Day with a rally of 3,000 at the Batavia office of U.S. Rep. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The demonstrators called for legalization for undocumented immigrant workers.

The rally culminated a four-day, 47-mile march organized by the March 10 Movement ([www.movimiento10demarzo.org](http://www.movimiento10demarzo.org)) that began in Chicago's Chinese community on Sept. 1. The march received extensive daily coverage from the Chicago area news media.

As many as 250 marchers walked the entire way, staying overnight at churches and, on the night of Sept. 2, at the Islamic Foundation in Villa Park. Hundreds more walked sections of the route and participated in daytime and evening rallies. A team of volunteers from unions such as the Service Employees and UNITE-HERE, churches and social-justice organizations arranged for water, meals and portable toilets to be available along the route, and followed the march with a fleet of support vehicles.

The march went through many heavily Latin@ communities of Chicago and its suburbs, such as Pilsen, Little Village, Cicero, and Melrose Park. They walked past homes, factories, golf courses and cornfields—all places where immigrants live and work. While some individuals along the route held up anti-immigrant signs, they were outnumbered by supporters who gathered spontaneously at intersections and in front of stores, like those who held up "Welcome to Batavia" signs on the last day.

The Sept. 4 rally was augmented by busloads of people from the Latin@ communities of Chicago, Aurora, and Elgin. The crowd filled the block in front of Hastert's office. Further up the street, police set aside another city block for 150 anti-immigrant demonstrators from the Minuteman Project, who tried to drown

out the rally by shouting vulgarities but completely failed.

While over 90 percent of the marchers were Latin@s, the Palestinian, Chinese, and other immigrant communities were also represented. Keeping morale high, the Il Kwa Nori (Work in Play) Poong Mul (traditional Korean percussion) troupe from the Korean American Resource and Cultural Center played throughout the four-day march.

As many as 200,000 Latin@s and immigrants live in the valley of the Fox River, 50 miles west of Chicago. Most live and work in industrial cities like Aurora and Elgin. Hastert, however, has located his Fox Valley office in the 93-percent-white upper-middle-class town of Batavia. Hastert's 14th District spreads westward across the state to the Mississippi, including many white rural counties, with the effect of submerging the Latin@ workers' vote.

Top march organizers emphasized an electoral orientation, repeating the slogan, "Today we march, tomorrow we vote!" It is not clear what this means in practice. Hastert, for example, with a carefully mapped district, the grateful support of the capitalist class and 40 times the campaign funds of his Democratic opponent, John Laesch, is almost certain to win. But Laesch does not support legalization anyway. The farthest he would go, he says, would be to allow undocumented workers who have been working in the United States for six years to apply for citizenship, if they pay a \$2,000 fee and pass "a background check, English tests, civics tests and register for the selective service." ([www.john06.com](http://www.john06.com)) Most other Democratic candidates are no better, and many are worse.

But the marchers this weekend were clear about what they wanted: "¡Legalización! ¡Ahora, ahora, ahora!" This movement is growing and learning, and will find a way to get what it wants.

—Lou Paulsen



Chicago Immigrant rally.

WW PHOTO: LOU PAULSEN



Aug. 29 rally.

WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

## BOSTON

# Community honors Katrina anniversary

By Bryan G. Pfeifer  
Boston

A community rally in solidarity with Katrina/Rita victims and survivors took place in Roxbury, Mass., on Aug. 29. It was the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and the 51st anniversary of the racist murder of Emmett Till.

Initiated by the Boston Rosa Parks Human Rights Day Committee, participants in this action in the heart of the Black community demanded justice and reparations for those displaced as a result of the U.S. government's criminal, racist neglect and abandonment of the mostly poor Black people in the Gulf Coast. Demands included: "Money for people's

needs, not war," "Stop the attacks on the LGBT community," "Full rights for the immigrant communities," "Stop Homeland Security attacks," "Money for levees—Not racist border walls," and "End colonial occupations." BRPHRDC organizers stressed they are still working to establish Dec. 1 as a citywide "Rosa Parks Day" holiday.

A wide range of working-class and oppressed speakers spoke to a diverse crowd from the flatbed of a pickup truck donated by Steel Workers Local 8751.

"We are making the connection today to what happened a year ago and what continues to happen today in Boston and also for the people in New Orleans," declared rally co-chair Yvette Modestin of BRPHRDC. Lorena Escoto of the youth group Rosa 7053 co-chaired the rally.

### 'Mask ripped off'

African American Katrina survivors and family members of the displaced or dead set the day's tone, introduced by Tony Van Der Meer, co-chair of BRPHRDC.

"The fact that we are here is a testament to all of us: to stand with those who suffered through Hurricane Katrina a year ago and are still suffering. It's also important for us to look to internalize what Katrina means for us right here in Boston, as we all are 'Katrina-ized,' especially when we talk about the oppressed communities. ... We refuse to sit idle and watch people die, whether it's in New Orleans, Baghdad, Lebanon—wherever," said Van Der Meer.

Holding her toddler son, Constance Essex, a Katrina survivor now living in Boston, described how as a deputy sheriff she witnessed prisoners' plights and said the entire experience "was devastating. ... We had no food. We had no water. We were torn apart." Essex, whose entire family originates from New Orleans, called on those present to pressure the government for the necessary money and resources to rebuild the Gulf Coast immediately. And she demanded her right to return. "I want to go home," said Essex.

Introduced by BRPHRDC member and Cultural Café co-founder Clemencia Lee, health-care and disabled people's advocate Keith Jones said of the aftermath of Katrina, "The reason why America was catatonic is not because Katrina happened, it's because no one believed that the fallacy of the American policies would be exposed to the world, no one was prepared for the mask to be ripped off the façade of the American dream." Jones

*Continued on page 10*

## Spike Lee's powerful 'When the Levees Broke'

By Larry Hales

Spike Lee has made three important documentaries. Each one has been released by HBO. The first one, "4 Little Girls," was nominated for an Academy Award. The movie is about four young African American girls murdered in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963, when racist klansmen bombed the 16th Street Baptist Church.

The second documentary, "Jim Brown: All-American," is about the great Cleveland Browns running back and political activist.

When the third documentary, "When the Levees Broke," was shown on Aug. 21 and 22 in two-hour segments each day, it had been nearly one year since Hurricane Katrina swept through the Gulf Coast. The storm exposed for all the world to see—in case there had been any doubt—the great chasm caused by racism in capitalist society—especially in the U.S.

Spike Lee said, "This film will showcase the struggle for New Orleans by focusing on the profound loss, as well as the indomitable spirit, of New Orleanians." His film is indeed part requiem, but more.

The sorrowful music that plays throughout the film invokes the spirit of those enslaved by nationality and class. The music is part of the rich culture of New Orleans which is very significant to Black people. Lee takes great care in highlighting this reality throughout the four-hour documentary.

The musical score is beautifully and compassionately composed by Terence Blanchard, himself a native of New Orleans. The score includes sorrow songs and the Blues tradition that is rooted in Black people surviving slavery.

This is fitting, since the breaking up of evacuees' families when they were

forcibly dispersed all over the country is tragically reminiscent of the disintegration of Black families on the auction block through slavery.

### Broken levees drowned New Orleans

The film reveals a fact not commonly known, that the hurricane breaking through the levees was the equivalent of a category 1 storm. This is pertinent because part of the criminal neglect that exposed so many poor, mostly people of color, to flooding, especially in the Ninth Ward, was the shoddy work done on the levees by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The levees, if built properly, were supposed to have withstood up to category 3 hurricanes.

According to Dr. Mark Powell of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's Hurricane Research Division, Katrina was a category 3 when it first hit landfall with 115 mph winds but was downgraded to category 1 when it veered east of New Orleans. The buoys on Lake Pontchartrain measured from 90 mph to 114 mph. The full story on this was covered in the Florida Sun-Sentinel.

Powerful images, some of which have not been seen before, were shown throughout the documentary. If taken out of context, it would be difficult for many people to associate these images with the richest and most technologically advanced country in the world.

Lee had access to many families who recounted the days before and after the hurricane struck. What is revealed would be understandably crushing if it weren't for the inspiring spirit of the people interviewed. Many are defiant and want to return home, but have been cast over 49 states with little-to-no means to get back home.

### FILM REVIEW

## Black Workers League statement on

# The one-year anniversary of Katrina

*The Black Workers League is a political collective engaged in work in the trade union movement, Black political power movement, and other social justice movements in North Carolina, parts of the U.S. South and a few areas throughout the country. For more information, write to BWL, P.O. Box 934, Rocky Mount, NC 27802. This statement was written on Aug. 23.*

The one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina is a time of decision for African Americans and poor people in the Gulf Coast and throughout the U.S. as it is a moral and political

statement about the meaning of so-called American "democracy."

The act of leaving hundreds of thousands of Black and poor people to die in the richest country in the world and the treatment of those who survived as criminals and refuse to be discarded as a burden on society, is a crime against humanity.

The overwhelming destruction of the communities, including the unprecedented massive internal dispersal of Black people to all corners of the U.S., has almost totally occupied survivors and their supporters in the Gulf Coast and throughout the country, with efforts

to try and protect the immediate needs and interests of the survivors—insurance claims; stopping forced evictions; stopping the demolition of homes; protecting renters; gutting of homes; establishing health clinics; defending existing healthcare institutions, prisoner rights and worker rights while trying to help survivors re-enter their communities.

Now is the time for the Reconstruction Movement to take on a stronger political character, as a movement for self-determination and human rights. It must become an international struggle where nations and peoples throughout the world are called upon to become wit-

nesses and judges of the actions of the U.S. government, demanding that they address this human tragedy which the policies of racism and greed were largely responsible for creating.

Without a movement to exercise power and to win public opinion and support at the national and international levels, the U.S. government won't feel the pressure to adequately address in a timely manner the needs of the peoples in and dispersed from the Gulf Coast.

The upsurge by the Latin@ communities on May 1st, where millions stayed

*Continued on page 10*



# NEW ORLEANS: A year after Katrina

By Dianne Mathiowetz and Monica Moorehead  
New Orleans

**W**e, like millions of others worldwide, had watched in horror the television coverage last year of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast being battered by Hurricane Katrina's wind and waves.

There were thousands of images of people wading through water, caused by broken levees, that submerged their neighborhoods; stranded them on rooftops, at the Convention Center, at the Superdome and on highway bridges guarded by racist police and vigilantes. All desperate for help. Those images remain burned in our memories.

Many of these same memories and images resurfaced instantly one year later as we drove through the lower Ninth Ward, the once vibrant neighborhood where thousands of working and poor people, the vast majority African American, lived and where many died during and after Katrina hit on Aug. 29, 2005.

We saw block after block of destruction. We witnessed, alongside Million Worker March Movement national co-chair, Clarence Thomas, and his spouse, Delores Thomas, just a few houses showing signs of life, the debris removed off the streets, the gutted houses with new sheetrock or a new roof evident and a FEMA trailer filling the yard. Those who came back to rebuild their homes have received little to no money from any level of government.

These signs of life were rare among the more common sights of nothing fundamentally changed from a year ago except that the flood waters are gone. Across the street from the levee that is now "rebuilt," all the houses have been torn down. The towering grass now covers the scars, remnants of cement foundations emerge and a broken water pipe still bubbles.

It is here in the lower Ninth Ward that the anniversary march begins, with buses from Houston and Atlanta and vans and cars from dozens of states and cities bringing back the displaced to claim their right to return—for good—to a city with affordable and available housing, functioning utilities, decent schools and hospitals.

It is here, too, that George W. Bush came—with more empty promises—for his photo-op with revered music legend Fats Domino, but only after the area had been secured with military vehicles, Secret Service agents and New Orleans police blocking the traffic and questioning the residents' right to be there.

One year later and the aftermath of Katrina continues to strip bare the class façade of U.S. capitalism—a for-profit system that cannot provide even the basic needs for its people, especially if they are Black and poor. One year later and the people still struggle on!

*The writers were in New Orleans Aug. 28-29.*



PHOTO, ABOVE: DELORES THOMAS

Dianne Mathiowetz, Aloyd Edinburgh, Jr., Monica Moorehead, Aloyd Edinburgh, Sr. & Clarence Thomas in front of FEMA trailer in lower Ninth Ward. Left: New Orleans resident Myrna Merricks at Katrina memorial.



Above, Military vehicle invades Ninth Ward Aug. 29. Below, Still walker in Katrina Commemoration March.



PHOTO, LEFT: DELORES THOMAS

Left, Mathiowetz and Moorehead in front of levee in Ninth Ward.

WW PHOTOS: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Above, one of the many condemned New Orleans Ninth Ward homes.

# Bush slanders 1.5 billion Muslims

By John Catalinotto

President George W. Bush, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Vice President Dick Cheney and others in the present administration have injected a new idea into U.S. political life. Or perhaps it is better to describe it as a new slogan for the 2006 election. They claim the United States is at war with "Islamofascism."

On any level, this expression is vicious, misleading and the same type of Big Lie that the Bush administration has relied on in the past to justify its imperialist aggression and military occupations.

It is unlikely that the Bush administration's decision makers and spokespeople intend the term "Islamofascism" to have serious ideological content. They are more oriented toward using U.S. military power to conquer territory and bring in big profits, and toward winning national elections.

The administration is on the defensive after its disastrous failure to stabilize its occupation of Iraq or Afghanistan. Some Pentagon generals and even former supporters like Republican Sen. John Warner of Virginia have begun threatening to withdraw support from the Iraq adventure.

And Israel, supported and armed to the teeth by U.S. imperialism, has just faced defeat in its aggression against Lebanon, even after carrying out collective punishment against the population—a tactic of the Nazis.

It is small wonder then that the Bush administration, on the defensive about its policies in the Middle East from Iraq to Lebanon to Iran, is invoking the specter of the Nazi Holocaust against European Jewry in an attempt to justify its own war of imperialist expansion in the region.

## Remember 'weapons of mass destruction'?

The Democrats are also committed to supporting U.S. imperialism and its military aggression. The thrust of the Democratic national leadership's "opposition" to the five years of U.S.-led war, occupation and brutality in the Gulf region has been to attack Bush for his tactics, with-

out disowning the imperialist goals.

Despite this limited, half-hearted opposition from the Democrats, polls show a popular approval rating of only about 35 percent for Bush's Iraq policy and little more for Bush himself. This drop in support has made it conceivable the Republicans will lose control of the House of Representatives in the 2006 election.

Thus for Bush, Rumsfeld and Cheney, "Islamofascism" is this year's substitute for the "war on terror" slogan of 2001, the "weapons of mass destruction" lie of 2002, the attempt to connect the 9/11 attack to the Baghdad government of Saddam Hussein and the short-lived cry of "mission accomplished" in 2003.

How do Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld justify the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, their threats against Iran and Syria, and the U.S.-backed Israeli war against Lebanon?

By equating anti-U.S. resistance movements in the Gulf region with a highly industrialized, aggressive and heavily armed world power like Nazi Germany.

This, they hope, will intimidate opposition from Republicans and Democrats alike into silence and submission, and convince the population to vote for pro-war Republican candidates.

Bush first used the phrase almost a year ago, in October 2005. Then in early August he used it against Hezbollah, and a day or two later about the alleged bomb plot in Britain. Bush repeated it at an Aug. 29 American Legion meeting in Salt Lake City.

Speaking to the same American Legion audience, Rumsfeld compared opponents of the U.S. occupation of Iraq to Neville Chamberlain, the British prime minister who conceded Czech territory to Nazi Germany in 1938 in Munich.

Cheney has been making similar attacks on anyone who suggests the United States should be looking for a way out of the disaster in Iraq, calling them "appeasers."

## The 'Big Lie'

The Bush administration is slandering 1.5 billion people with its own version of the "Big Lie"—shorthand for the theory by

Nazi propagandists that a lie repeated often enough would eventually be taken for good coin.

Bush is lumping together as "fascist" all the Islamic-based mass popular anti-imperialist movements, like Hamas in Palestine, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the government of Iran. He throws into the same pot the Taliban movement in Afghanistan—a movement first supported by Washington and its ally Pakistan—and al-Qaeda. Bush even includes under the umbrella of "Islamofascist" the secular Baathist government of Saddam Hussein and today's government in Syria.

The main thing these varied forces agree on is the desire to get U.S. imperialism and Israeli Zionism off the backs of the people of the region.

The imperialist fascist movements that came to power in Italy in 1922 and Germany in 1933 bear no relation to any of these anti-imperialist movements in the Middle East.

In Italy and Germany, severe and prolonged economic crises lasted for years, throwing workers out of their jobs and ruining many small businesspeople and farmers. The unemployed middle class became the mass base for a super-nationalist movement in an imperialist country. The anti-Jewish propaganda and dogma of Aryan nationalist superiority was a cover for a pro-militarist and violently anti-communist campaign.

When the crisis became sufficiently acute to threaten a workers' revolution, the big industrialists and bankers in Italy and Germany put their money behind the fascist and Nazi parties to save capitalism.

The regimes set up by these fascist parties were characterized by their determination to seize colonies by military force as a way out of the economic crisis, even if it meant waging war against other imperialist powers.

Regimes that shared some of these characteristics—such as the decades-long Salazar dictatorship in Portugal, the similarly long-lived dictatorship under Gen. Francisco Franco in Spain after the civil war there, the regime of Gen. Suharto in

Indonesia and the Gen. Augusto Pinochet regime in Chile—have also been called fascist, mainly based on severe internal repression of workers' organizations through a military-police dictatorship.

In Spain and Portugal the dictatorships had the support of the Catholic Church hierarchy, although no one characterizes them as "Christofascist."

None of the movements in Southwest Asia and North Africa share the characteristics of the Italian or German fascist movements. Nor is any government in the region a powerful imperialist country with expansionist military ambitions.

In reality, U.S. imperialism's attempt to dominate the region and impose its economic and cultural values on the people of the Middle East and Central Asia has aroused a massive struggle for national liberation. In many cases this struggle expresses itself through organizations that have a religious basis to their ideology.

However, there are indications that this offensive Islam-bashing propaganda directed against 1.5 billion Muslims around the globe might backfire on the Bush administration.

Even the Saudi royal family, which is allied to the United States, took issue with the attack on Islam.

In the United States, even mainstream late-night comedian Jay Leno poked fun at Bush's fearmongering, saying, "Today President Bush said that the United States is still under the threat of an attack and will continue to be right up until Election Day."

If the Bush administration is going to cavalierly use "fascism" as a pejorative to slander 1.5 billion people, this might boomerang. It's not much of a jump for the people of the world to also apply the term to characterize the regime in Washington for its widespread imperialist expansion using Pentagon power, its indiscriminate use of bombs against civilian populations, its assault on civil liberties and increase of repression on the domestic front, and the almost complete big-business and government monopoly of the mass media in the United States. □

# Bioweapons protested at environmental hearing

By Kermit Leibensperger  
Frederick, Md.

On the evening of Aug. 30 the spin doctors of bioweaponry brought their slideshow of charts, maps and false promises of safety to a public Environmental Impact Statement hearing about the proposed expansion of biomilitary research facilities at Fort Detrick. As they entered Gov. Thomas Johnson High School, they were met by picketers from frederickpac.org, All Peoples Congress and the Barry Kissin campaign.

U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases spokeswoman Carey Vander Linden introduced Cols. Gina Deutsch, George Korch and Donald Archibald. The three colonels rattled off their obligatory "minor impact" and "negligible impact" assessments of the environmental effects of BSL-3 containments for such pathogens as Coxiella burnetii (CQ fever) and BSL-4 containments for Ebola virus and other diseases for which no vaccine or treatment exist.

The public wasn't buying any of it. After the Army's dog and pony show was over and the floor microphone was opened to those in attendance, not one single speaker

rose to speak in favor of the expansion of facilities at Fort Detrick. A wide spectrum of objections based on past accidents and probable future accidents came from the audience of about 80 people.

Several speakers pointed out that the only two uses of bioterrorism in the United States have been smallpox-infected blankets used by the U.S. Army against Native nations, and the anthrax letters containing Ames-strain anthrax that killed postal workers in October 2001. The Ames strain was invented at the U.S. Army's USAMRIID facility at Fort Detrick.

Anti-bioweapons activist and researcher Richard Oakes noted that these letters, addressed to the two U.S. Senate leaders who at the time were leading the opposition to the Patriot Act, had the effect of shutting down both houses of Congress, and that a false anthrax threat also closed the Supreme Court.

The effect was similar to the 1933 Reichstag fire in Germany, paving the way for passage of repressive laws. The Democratic Party leaders who initially opposed the Patriot Act then capitulated.

Any new forms of pathogens Fort Detrick invents can immediately be produced in mass quantities in the four large ferment-

ers that have been installed at Dugway Proving Grounds, according to a report in the Feb. 24 issue of Salt Lake Weekly.

Oakes concluded, "The weaponry research planned is in violation of the Biological Weapons Convention, and these hearings are a charade." Oakes has made many important documents relating to Fort Detrick available at [www.freefromterror.net](http://www.freefromterror.net)

Green Party senatorial candidate Kevin Zeese and Democratic Party congressional candidate Barry Kissin both voiced opposition to the expansion and to the existing bioweapons programs. Kissin, a longtime peace activist, is running as a peace candidate supporting immediate withdrawal from Iraq and an end to funding the Israeli military. His opponent, Maj. Andrew Duck—a retired Army intelligence officer—plans to "win the war" with "hundreds of thousands of more troops."

According to Kissin, Ebola virus is not spread by exhaled droplets. If its genetic make-up were only very slightly different, so that it had what biologists call a "respiratory component," it would be a potential bioweapon. Transforming Ebola into a weapon is being explored in U.S. laboratories in direct violation of the Biological

Weapons Convention.

There was also some very personal testimony. Elizabeth Landru, a parent raising a two-year-old next to the fort, was in tears over the threat to her child's health, saying, "I don't want my child to be a 'soft target' or 'collateral damage.'" She concluded, "Employees I've spoken to won't even drink the water there."

Engineer Jason Kray said that "as an engineer I would expect to be fired" for the EIS document the Army produced. "The more blatant your crimes, the more citizens wake up." □

## Poison Dust

The Pentagon uses DU in weapons and vehicles because it is extremely hard—and cheap, the unwanted byproduct of nuclear energy and weapons programs. U.S. soldiers returning from Iraq, where they were exposed to DU dust suffer mysterious ailments and have children with birth defects. Iraqi people now live in an environment that will be poisoned by DU for hundreds of thousands of years. 84-minute DVD.



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## Effective and focused

# New York meeting scores U.S.-Israeli war crimes

By Deirdre Griswold  
New York

It isn't easy to construct a protest meeting about the recent U.S.-Israeli assault on Lebanon that provides details on the enormity of the aggression against that small Arab country and at the same time fills in the historical context so anyone can understand what happened and why.

Such a meeting could easily take an entire weekend and be called a "teach-in."

Yet on the single evening of Aug. 30, the International Action Center hosted a variety of speakers at a meeting hall across from the United Nations. Their crisp and focused remarks went right to the heart of why both the Zionist regime and the U.S. government—the world imperialist power that has bankrolled and armed Israel since 1948—should be in the dock for war crimes.

The meeting didn't go unnoticed by the powers that be. As the overflow crowd listened intently and applauded strong statements of support for the anti-colonial resistance in the Middle East, a Zionist group demonstrated outside. Nevertheless, every seat was filled. Scores more stood in the back and along the sides.

The audience was thoroughly multinational, with Black, white and Latin@ North Americans, including people of Jewish background, as well as Palestinians, Lebanese, Iranians, Iraqis, Pakistanis and others from the Middle East and South Asia. Syria's ambassador to the United Nations was also in attendance.

A picture is worth a thousand words. The terrible destruction meted out by Israeli bombs and missiles to towns and cities in Lebanon was presented in still shots, as Leila Hamidi of Arab Women Active in Arts & Media and Ahmed Eid of Al-Awda: Palestine Right to Return Coalition gave eyewitness testimony.

### Background of war

Much history was covered in the first section of the program: the role of British imperialism in promoting a Zionist state in the Middle East that would collaborate with the European colonialists against the Arab masses; the myths propagated by both Zionists and imperialists that denied Palestinian history in order to seize the land for a racist settler state; the imperialist powers' carving up of the Middle East's oil during World War I; and the many wars carried out by Israel against the Palestinians and their neighbors.

The youthfulness of the presenters was quite remarkable. None had been born when Israel invaded Egypt in 1956. Only one was an eyewitness to the 1967 war when Israel attacked Egypt, Jordan and Syria. Some may have been young children when Israel again fought Egypt and Syria in 1973, or when it occupied Lebanon in 1982 and allowed the massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. Nevertheless, these presentations were strong and factual.

LeiLani Dowell of the youth group FIST—Fight Imperialism, Stand Together—and Fatin Jarara of Al-Awda co-chaired with feeling and efficiency.

Dustin Langley of We Won't Go addressed the continuity of U.S. imperialist policy in the Middle East, from Truman's active role in setting up Israel to the Eisenhower Doctrine of 1957 to Bush's



LeiLani Dowell, Fatin Jarara, Ramsey Clark, Trishala Deb, Abdeen Jabara, Michael Letwin, and Sara Flounders.

PHOTOS: ROBERTO MERCADO

doctrine of intervention today.

Charlotte Kates of New Jersey Solidarity/Activists for the Liberation of Palestine challenged the legitimacy of a racist settler state in historic Palestine and pointed to the unbreakable struggle of the Palestinians to be free.

Alex Majumder of LeftShift.org discussed two important documents: the Sykes-Picot Treaty of 1916 and the Balfour Declaration of 1917. These codified the British imperialists' aims to exploit the Middle East after World War I and control both its rich oil resources and a passage to Britain's South Asian colonies.

Wael Mousfar of the Arab Muslim American Federation was the only speaker old enough to have witnessed the 1967 war. He criticized Arab regimes—Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt—that had collaborated with the Zionists and the United States. He pointed out how at that time the Jordanian army had withdrawn its troops from the West Bank, allowing Israel to walk in and take over. The only fighting was on the Syrian front, he said. The resistance in Lebanon this time, however, shows that "the future is with the people."

### Media distortions

The next section focused on the U.S. media. Anita Rosenthwite of the IAC summarized the enormous human rights abuses committed by Israel and asked: "Why don't the corporate media ever call Israel war criminals? ... Like the Iraqi resistance, we must not be shocked and awed."

Arturo J. Pérez Saad of Workers World newspaper traced the connections among huge U.S. media conglomerates and the biggest military corporations in the world. General Electric, for example, owns NBC, CNBC, Telemundo, Bravo and msnbc.com. It also builds jet engines for the military and nuclear reactors.

In a videotaped interview, British Member of Parliament George Galloway, a boldly outspoken opponent of the Iraq war,

talked about the political role of Rupert Murdoch's right-wing media empire.

Trishala Deb of the Audre Lorde Project, a center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, transgender and gender non-conforming people of color, topped off this section of the program. She debunked as "hypocrisy and deception" the argument that somehow U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan would "liberate" women and lesbian and gay people there. "The most dangerous fundamentalist forces are those driving the 'war on terror,'" she said.

### Undeniable war crimes

The subject of U.S. and Israeli violations of international law was briskly but thoroughly covered by the next group of speakers.

Armed conflict, according to the UN Charter, is only justified in self-defense. If not, "then everything that follows is a war crime," pointed out attorney Abdeen Jabara of the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee. Israel has been allowed to get away with countless war crimes by its patron, the United States.

Attorney Julie Fry reminded the audience that collective punishment is a war crime. But Israel tried to punish the entire Lebanese people by attacking water supplies, power plants, roads and bridges, and forced over one-quarter of the population to flee their homes.

Mia Cruz of FIST then introduced a graphic slide show from Lebanon showing the scope of the death and destruction there.

Walter Williams of PeopleJudgeBush.org reminded people that cluster bombs and white phosphorus—used by the Israeli army in Lebanon—are aimed at civilians and hence illegal.

A former Israeli soldier, Michael Kramer, talked about the Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in 1967. When Kramer was stationed there in 1973, the Arab population had shrunk from

147,000 to 6,000. Now the area has 18,000 Zionist settlers, in violation of many UN resolutions demanding its return to Syria.

Karina Mellos-Schechter of FIST described the illegal Israeli wall that runs for 408 miles, snaking through Palestinian villages and farms and separating the people from their jobs, land and schools.

Noel Winkler of Al-Awda explained how U.S. "anti-terrorism" laws have devastating economic effects on the people of Palestine.

There were oohs of disbelief as Emelyn Tapaoan and Carol Holland of the IAC ran back and forth unrolling a voluminous scroll of paper until it crisscrossed the meeting hall many times. It was made of hundreds of UN resolutions, taped end to end, that had censured and condemned Israel but never been enforced.

Maria LaHood of the Center for Constitutional Rights addressed the 1996 Israeli attack on the UN refugee compound in Qana, Lebanon. After over 100 were killed by shells designed to explode in the air, maximizing civilian casualties, Israel said it had been a "mistake."

### U.S. accountability

The final section of the program dealt with U.S. accountability for Israel's criminal acts. Reviewing the many UN resolutions on Israel that were disregarded, and the one that the United States used to launch its first war on Iraq in 1990, Samia Halaby of the Defend Palestine Committee concluded that "the UN provides a cover for U.S. imperialism."

Michael Letwin of New York City Labor Against the War detailed U.S. aid to Israel—which has amounted to \$90 billion since 1948. This includes helicopters, jet planes, missiles, armored personnel carriers, and collaboration on Israel's secret nuclear weapons program. Letwin decried the investment of union funds in Israeli

*Continued on page 11*

## Hezbollah denies interview

Workers World newspaper's editors learned on Sept. 1 that Hussain Rahhal, Hezbollah's press liaison, while answering a question from a correspondent of the Anatolian Press Agency regarding an interview purported to be with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and published Aug. 12 in the Turkish socialist newspaper Evrensel, said: "Our secretary general Nasrallah has not given any interviews to any Turkish or other non-Lebanese journalist during the month of August."

Soon after it had been published in Turkish, an English translation of the original purported interview was made available on the Internet. On Aug. 23, Workers World published excerpts from this text. It was also published in English by

Counterpunch as well as other publications, and translated and published in other languages.

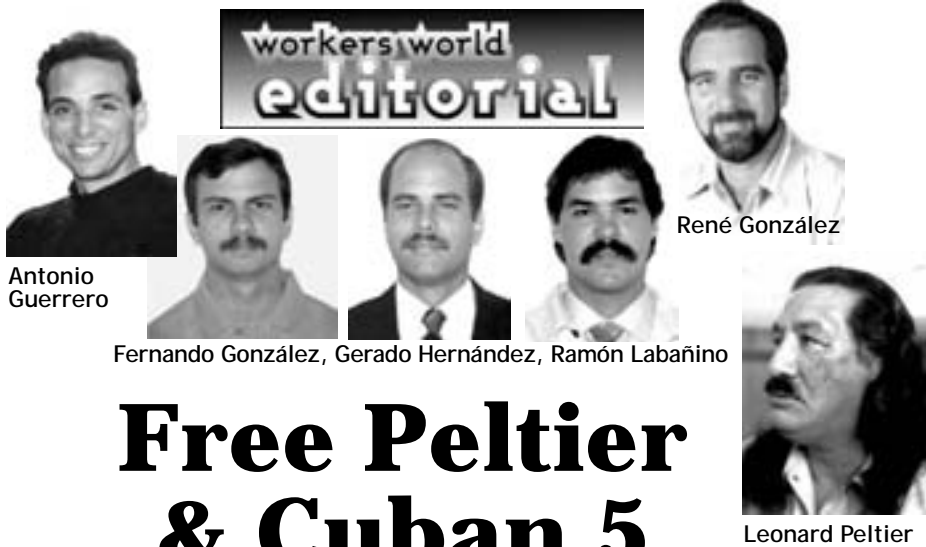
At the time of publication, some had questioned the authenticity of the interview. Counterpunch's Alexander Cockburn wrote a reply defending the publication of the purported interview, citing, in part, the lack of any denial of the interview from Nasrallah or Hezbollah. When excerpts were published in Workers World on Aug. 23, some 11 days after the original Turkish publication, there still had been no public denial of the interview.

What Workers World knows of the story behind the interview comes mostly from the newspaper Evrensel, which has been publishing for 12 years and is a respected

newspaper of the Turkish left. Two Turkish filmmakers associated with the "Sheikh Bedreddin Film Collective," Roza Cigdem Erdogan and Mutlu Sahin, were in Beirut making documentary films. The two had written other newspaper reports for Evrensel before they turned in the purported interview with Nasrallah.

Evrensel apologized to its readers and to those who republished the text for publishing the alleged interview and demanded an explanation from the film collective. The film collective has replied with a statement saying they are investigating the events. There was no immediate response from the two filmmakers who had claimed to have done the interview.

—WW editorial board, Sept. 2



Antonio Guerrero

Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino

René González

Leonard Peltier

## Free Peltier & Cuban 5

**Leonard Peltier & the Cuban 5** are being kept behind prison walls by the United States government to silence those who would expose the terrorist crimes carried out by the FBI and CIA on behalf of finance capital. In the month of September, supporters of Peltier and the Cuban 5 will ratchet up the visibility and pump up the volume on the struggle to free these political prisoners.

Leonard Peltier, an Anishnabe and Dakota/Lakota member of the American Indian Movement (AIM), has been serving life in prison since 1977 because two FBI agents were killed during a June 26, 1975, shootout at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, even though no evidence links him directly to the killing.

That day, FBI agents and SWAT teams had surrounded the AIM camp. They unleashed the crossfire that most likely killed the agents. One Native man, Joe Stuntz Killwright, was also killed, but his death has never been investigated by the state.

At the same time, corrupt Pine Ridge authorities were in Washington, signing away one-eighth of Lakota land for mining exploitation to transnational energy giants, including the Shell, Kerr-McGee and Exxon corporations.

Despite the lack of evidence, the admission by a key prosecution "witness" that she was threatened into lying on the stand, and the signatures of over 35 million people around the world, Peltier remains behind bars.

For more information about plans to build activities to demand his freedom on Sept. 12—Peltier's birthday—email [info@leonardpeltier.net](mailto:info@leonardpeltier.net), call 915-533-6655, or visit [www.leonardpeltier.net](http://www.leonardpeltier.net).

The Cuban 5—Gerardo Hernández,

Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González—did nothing more than infiltrate right-wing Cuban-American terror cells in Miami, which are widely reported to enjoy the protection, financial support and training of the CIA. The five were monitoring the groups to try to prevent terror attacks against their island homeland.

Yet despite a ruling a year ago by a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, which threw out the conviction of the Five on the basis that they could not have received a fair trial in Miami, an anti-Cuba stronghold, they remain in prisons across this country, serving four life sentences and 75 years, collectively. The full Appeals Court this August restored their conviction for allegedly engaging in "espionage" and threatening "national security."

The U.S. government, of course, is waging aggression in the Middle East under the cover of a "war on terror." It is using the same red herring in this case to cover up the fact that U.S. finance capital has employed every weapon at its disposal—including terror and military invasion—to try to overturn the 1959 Cuban Revolution. Because of that great victory for the masses, what was once a U.S. neocolony now controls its own resources and has a free medical system that is also helping the poor of many other countries. The Cubans have worked tirelessly to build socialism—a planned economy to meet the needs of all—despite over four decades of hostility and economic blockade from their powerful imperialist neighbor.

For more information on International days to Free the Cuban 5, Sept. 12 to Oct. 6, and the National March on Sept. 23 visit [freethefive.org](http://freethefive.org). □

## Boston honors Katrina anniversary

*Continued from page 6*

originates from New Orleans. His immediate and extended family were among those displaced after Katrina.

Richard Hewitt, displaced from New Orleans and now living in Boston, had just returned from the Gulf Coast after a brief visit. "Things are not right down there," he said. "Houses are not being rebuilt. ... Nothing's getting done. ... Like a week after Katrina happened the French Quarter was back running. A lot of money's made there I guess. I come up here to Boston, it's some of the same things going on that I seen in New Orleans. ... It's going to keep happening until we stand up and say something about it."

### 'Unity, Fighting Back & Power'

After the survivors a wide range of participants, mostly from the oppressed communities, spoke out. The talks were interspersed with cultural performances of people's music and poems by The Foundation Movement, Dana and others.

Diane Dujon of Survivors Inc. and a veteran of the welfare-rights movement said, "I'm so happy to see so many new people becoming activists because we really need activists out here in the streets demanding that our human rights be met."

Louise Powell of the Boston Workers Alliance said: "Depending on the government, state officials, politicians and others who don't practice what they preach will keep us 'Katrina-ized'—meaning left for dead. Don't let another 'natural' incident leave us vulnerable to criminal neglect by the government. ...

"We still live in critical times where we are still experiencing neglect and oppression as people of color. Yes, we want to stop spending money on war and use it for social programs at home. We want jobs with a livable wage. And we want all other necessities that will create a life for people of color to have adequate money for decent housing, education and health. But it will take our united efforts to create the change we desire."

Dorotea Manuela, longtime Puerto Rican independentista and co-chair of BRPHRDC, said: "Katrina is not just a name of a hurricane, it's an expression, a demonstration of the evil that we live with,

of the murder upon people and genocide. ...When we talk about terrorism let's remember that racism is terrorism; denial of health to children, working and poor people is terrorism; denial of people's human rights is terrorism. The lack of immigration rights is terrorism. Immigrants are workers. The working class has been divided by our enemy. Both parties represent the same interests.

"We the people have to unite, show our power and kick ass because that's what it's going to take: kicking some ass working together. It's not a privilege to have basic human needs met; it's a right of life. We know who our enemy is; let's go get 'em. Basta ya. All power to the people."

Other speakers were Evan Hempel, Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition; Kerric Johnson, Roxbury Builders Guild; Bishop Filipe Teixeira; Grace Ross, Massachusetts Green-Rainbow Party; Felix Arroyo Jr., SEIU Local 615; Klare Allen, Safety Net; Chuck Turner, District 7 Boston City Councilor; Mia Campbell, Women's Fightback Network; Cassandra Clark Masariego, Urban Roots; and Stevan Kirschbaum, USW Local 8751.

The multinational BRPHRDC youth committee, "Rosa 7053," played a major role at the rally, its young members speaking, selling T-shirts and more. The committee did massive outreach for the rally, distributing literature at public transportation stops, knocking on doors, and speaking at forums.

The action was endorsed by many labor and community organizations, including the Boston International Action Center/Troops Out Now Coalition.

*BRPHRDC meetings are held every Wednesday at 6 p.m. in Jamaica Plain, Mass. For more information call 617-524-3507, email: [rosaparksday@brphrd.com](mailto:rosaparksday@brphrd.com), or visit [www.brphrd.com](http://www.brphrd.com) or [www.iacboston.org](http://www.iacboston.org).*

### Arellanos

## Deportations are real crime

*Continued from page 5*

ble immigration laws. ([www.somosunpueblo.com](http://www.somosunpueblo.com)) Each story demonstrates that the immigration laws are instruments of terror against workers and their families, and that deportations are the real crimes.

In the last two weeks Arellano has been subjected to the vilification of the major media in Chicago and the right wing nationally; the anti-immigrant Minute-men have besieged her place of sanctuary; and another anti-immigrant group, "Mothers Against Illegal Aliens," stooped so low as to file papers against her for "child abuse" for allowing her son, seven-year-old Saulito, to participate in events in his mother's defense. "Liberal" columnists like the Chicago Tribune's Eric Zorn say she is "retarding the cause" and call for her immediate arrest and deportation.

But for undocumented immigrants around the U.S., Arellano's story is their own. That's why the National Alliance for Immigrant Rights has stated, "Elvira Arellano is being referred to as the 'Rosa Parks' of the immigrant rights movement and has put a human face on the heartless deportations of our nation's undocumented immigrants." □

## Black Workers League statement

*Continued from page 6*

out of work in protest of the Sensenbrenner anti-immigrant rights bill, was an example of exercising power that should be followed by African Americans in the Gulf Coast and throughout the U.S. demanding a just and immediate Reconstruction, starting with the right of return with affordable housing, a living wage and safe jobs, quality public education and public and affordable healthcare.

The people must build organizations in the communities, neighborhoods and workplaces throughout the Gulf Coast that become part of a constituent's assembly that fights for major input in all decisions related to rebuilding the communities, businesses and institutions in the Gulf Coast.

Black and poor people must organize and struggle for control of the levee boards, school boards, hospital boards, housing boards, police control boards, prisoner rights boards, historical and cul-

tural boards and public authorities of Reconstruction financing, etc.

### An independent Reconstruction Party is needed

Neither party, Democratic nor Republican, has aggressively addressed the needs of the survivors of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and U.S. government neglect and corporate greed. Both have been more concerned about big contracts to corporate friends, protecting the oil companies and the affluent large white and wealthy neighborhoods.

Black, working class and poor survivors need a collective voice that speaks for and represents the interests of those most impacted by this human disaster; a political organization and voice that organizes and expresses the power and will of the people, a Reconstruction Party.

Without political power, the most impacted survivors and communities throughout the Gulf Coast will receive little to no resources to rebuild. The commu-

nities in the various states throughout the Gulf Coast will be divided and manipulated politically to cut their own deals and New Orleans will no longer be a majority Black city.

The Black majority can begin the initiative of building a Reconstruction Party, anchoring it while reaching out to all working class and poor communities regardless of race or immigration status.

The rebuilding of the Gulf Coast must not only be an architectural model, it must become a political model of building a zone of democracy that contributes to the spread of real democracy and social transformation throughout the country.

Not since the Reconstruction following the Civil War has there been such an opportunity to build democracy from the ground up in the U.S. This is an historical moment for African Americans and the poor to demand that the U.S. government use its resources to rebuild for democracy and human rights and not for war to destroy and divide. □

# Why Sudan rejects UN troops

By Sara Flounders

U.S. efforts at re-establishing occupation and colonial domination suffered a new setback on Sept. 4. The government of Sudan refused to allow United Nations forces to be stationed in its western region of Darfur.

On Sept. 1, the U.S. and Britain had rammed Resolution 1701 through the UN Security Council. It called for sending more than 20,000 UN troops to Sudan to take over from 7,000 African Union forces.

Presidential adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail responded that the Sudanese government rejected the transition from African Union forces, which it had accepted, to a larger UN presence, because the goal of the UN mandate is "regime change." (Reuters, Sept. 4)

The U.S. has maintained that it is essential that UN forces replace the African Union troops because the latter are underfunded, understaffed and under-equipped for the "peacekeeping" role they were assigned to play. However, it is NATO, dominated by the U.S., which was supposed to provide logistics, airlifts, equipment and supplies for the African Union force.

Russia, China and Qatar abstained from the UN Security Council vote and criticized it, although neither China nor Russia exercised their veto. The resolution does stipulate that the deployment would take place "on the basis of the acceptance of the [Sudanese] government." A campaign of international pressure to force Sudan to accept outside forces is being organized by the U.S.

Sudan has good reason to be suspicious of any resolution pushed by the U.S. and Britain. Britain is the brutal former colonial ruler of Sudan. It has always opposed sovereignty for Sudan.

As for Washington, regime change—the overthrow of the government—in Sudan has been on the agendas of both the Republican and Democratic parties. U.S. sanctions and bars to investment, trade, credits and loans have been in place for more than a decade. In 1998, during the Clinton administration, 17 U.S. cruise missiles destroyed the El Shifa paramedical plant, Sudan's major source of desperately needed basic medicines.

ately needed basic medicines.

Sudan is well aware of how the U.S. used a 1990 UN resolution to justify bombing attacks that destroyed Iraq's infrastructure. The 13 years of UN sanctions on Iraq, which Washington had demanded, resulted in the deaths of more than 1.5 million Iraqis.

The U.S. has occupied South Korea for more than 50 years under a UN Security Council resolution. More than 4 million Koreans died in the 1950-53 Korean War, which was fought under a UN flag. UN forces in Yugoslavia, Congo and Haiti have been a cover for U.S. and European intervention and occupation. They have never been a force for peace or reconciliation.

Despite the wording of the UN resolution, senior U.S. State Department officials have insisted that the text of the resolution allows UN troops to move into Darfur, even without Sudan's agreement. But diplomats concede it is unlikely that other countries would contribute troops to a mission the Sudanese government opposes. Sudan has vowed to attack any forces that enter the country uninvited. (French Press Agency [AFP], Sept. 1)

Every country in the UN knows the Pentagon has the ability to land forces anywhere on the planet. They know that using overwhelming firepower and "shock and awe" tactics it can occupy a country. But the whole world also knows that in Iraq, Afghanistan and now Lebanon, determined grassroots resistance cannot be so easily overcome.

Sudan is the largest country in Africa—as big as all of Western Europe. The western region of Darfur is larger than Iraq. If 150,000 U.S. troops cannot subdue Iraq, 20,000 UN troops in Darfur could face sustained opposition in a region known for its long anti-colonial sentiment.

Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha vowed his country would maintain its opposition to a UN force for Darfur and hailed Hezbollah as a model of resistance. "We have options and plans for confronting the international intervention," he said. (AFP, Sept. 1)

## The 'Save Darfur' campaign

The international campaign to pressure

Sudan has among its sponsors the very political forces who were the strongest supporters of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

A well-funded rally to "Save Darfur" is being organized for Sept. 17 in New York's Central Park to demand that UN forces be sent to Sudan. The rally will feature celebrities, headline music groups and major U.S. politicians—both Republicans and Democrats.

The rally is a conscious attempt to divide the movement against the U.S. war in Iraq, further demonize Arab and Muslim people, and to try to sell a new war as a humanitarian effort.

Some of the groups expressing great concern for refugees in Darfur were silent or were active supporters of the Israeli bombing of Lebanon that created over 1 million refugees. They were among the strongest supporters of the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq. President George W. Bush met with Save Darfur Campaign organizers at the White House and praised their efforts.

Although the Save Darfur Campaign lists many religious and civil rights endorsers, the campaign is an initiative of the most right-wing evangelical Christians and major Zionist organizations.

The Jerusalem Post of April 27, in an article entitled "U.S. Jews Leading Darfur Rally Planning," described the role of prominent Zionist organizations in a similar "Save Darfur" rally in Washington, D.C., on April 30.

The National Association of Evangelicals, the World Evangelical Alliance and other religious groups that strongly support Bush are the other major force in the coalition for Darfur.

The claim of genocide in Darfur was first raised by Gen. Colin Powell in 2004, when he was secretary of state. Sudan was on the U.S. hit list for "regime change" during both the Clinton and Bush administrations.

Despite crass efforts by the corporate media to simplify the conflict as a struggle of Arab "Janjaweed" invaders against African peoples, it is important to know that all the contending groups are African,

Regime change—the overthrow of the government—in Sudan has been on the agendas of both the Republican and Democratic parties.

all are indigenous or local to region, and all the contending groups are Sunni Muslim. Arabic is the common language, along with hundreds of local dialects. Sudan has one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the world. Over 400 ethnic groups have their own language or dialect.

A famine is raging in the area due to a decade-long drought across Northern Africa. The struggle for scarce water supplies has pitted subsistence peasant farmers against subsistence nomadic herders.

There's one topic that all the forces claiming concern for the people of Sudan never mention: the role of imperialism in keeping Sudan poor and underdeveloped. Sudan has vast resources and mineral wealth. Washington's policy toward Sudan has revolved around inflaming national and regional antagonisms in both the south and the west so U.S. corporations could take control of developing the rich oil, gold, uranium and copper deposits that could make Sudan prosperous.

The U.S. government may have secured a UN resolution in its latest attempt to bully Sudan. But the real problem is that the U.S. empire is overextended and unable to succeed in any of the wars it has unleashed to dominate the globe.

Bush's use of the bigoted term "Islamofascism" and his declaration of an endless World War III against countries struggling to defend their national sovereignty has met resistance from Iraq to Afghanistan to Lebanon. His new threats against Syria, Iran, Somalia and Sudan will make more countries think twice before signing on to be boots on the ground for U.S. corporate domination. □

## Sept. 21 Day of Action

# Stop the political killings in the Philippines

The following call was issued toward the end of August.

The International League of Peoples Struggle (ILPS) U.S. International Coordinating Committee members and the U.S. Chapter of BAYAN Philippines (BAYAN USA) urges and welcomes all freedom, peace, and justice-loving peoples in the USA to join us [on Sept. 21] for an Emergency Day of Action in Solidarity with the Filipino People, whose lives are being claimed with near-daily political killings under the administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Over 730 lives have been targeted by politically motivated killings in the Philippines, and the death toll rises nearly every day.

Gatherings and mobilizations will take place in cities across the U.S. to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Declaration of Martial Law, and call for an end to the continuation and intensification of politically motivated killings.

BAYAN member organizations across the U.S. invite all friends of the Filipino people to take part in this most urgent

action. For information on actions, to endorse this action or to propose organizing an action where there is no BAYAN organization, contact ILPS-USA or the BAYAN coordinator nearest you:

ILPS-USA: [ilps2001usa@yahoo.com](mailto:ilps2001usa@yahoo.com)

Pacific Northwest email:

[freedomallah@gmail.com](mailto:freedomallah@gmail.com)

Northern California email:

[secgen@bayanusa.org](mailto:secgen@bayanusa.org)

Southern California email:

[sulong212@yahoo.com](mailto:sulong212@yahoo.com)

Northeast email: [ny@bayanusa.org](mailto:ny@bayanusa.org)

Washington DC email:

[da\\_keese@hotmail.com](mailto:da_keese@hotmail.com)

Hawaii email: [daya@anakbayan.org](mailto:daya@anakbayan.org)

Issued by: *International League of Peoples Struggles-USA, BAYAN USA Chapter, Babae-San Francisco, Anakbayan Seattle, Anakbayan NY/NJ, Anakbayan Honolulu, Anakbayan Los Angeles, Critical Filipino/Filipina Studies Collective, Habi Arts-Los Angeles, League of Filipino Students-San Francisco State University, Migrante International-USA, New York Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines.* □

## U.S.-Israeli war crimes

Continued from page 9

bonds and pointed out that U.S. union leaders critical of the war and of Israel have been targeted and removed.

As always, Ramsey Clark received a standing ovation when he spoke. The former U.S. attorney general struck a somber tone, warning, "What makes the current situation so dangerous is that they [the Bush administration] see the current of history running against them."

He characterized the attack on Lebanon as "a naked war of aggression with no possible justification—the supreme international crime." Remarking on the effectiveness of the Lebanese resistance movement, he said wryly that "if Bush were serious about rebuilding New Orleans, he'd invite Hezbollah to do it."

Clark urged the U.S. movement to act to prevent the very real possibility that Bush may use military force next "against Iran, Syria, North Korea, Venezuela or Cuba."

Sara Flounders of the IAC unveiled an ambitious plan to get more material—books, pamphlets, packets and online sites—into the hands of students, workers and the general public as part of a broad campaign against war crimes. She invited the audience to participate and support the project.

The hour was late but the hall remained full.

Ardeshir Ommami of Stop War on Iran Campaign detailed U.S. crimes against the Iranian people. He rejected Bush's lying slogans of "Islamofascists" and an "axis of evil." Dean Bardouka of Al-Awda described the hardships confronting Palestinians. Bill Doares of NYCLAW labeled Israel a "tool of corporate power" intended to prevent the emergence of an independent Arab nation.

The people's resistance was the final topic.

Joyce Chediak of Workers World newspaper described how Hezbollah was built in the 1990s "by the Lebanese people's struggle to evict Israel," and contrasted its vigorous reconstruction of Lebanon to the crisis still facing Black people from New Orleans. Imani Henry noted the diversity of groups standing together and defending the right of the peoples of the Middle East to resist attack. Ahmed Eid of Al-Awda conveyed what it was like to grow up in a Palestinian refugee camp in Syria.

Remi Kanazi's recitation of a poem on Palestine brought many to tears.

The meeting was a strong affirmation that international solidarity can leap many barriers in the people's struggle against imperialism and war. □



## A pesar de la extensa propaganda en EEUU Fracasa la nueva ofensiva de EEUU en Irak

Por Deirdre Griswold

Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney y Condoleeza Rice buscaron una audiencia propicia y pro militarista a fines de agosto como plataforma favorable para la cobertura mediática de la intransigencia de la administración Bush acerca de la guerra en Irak.

Rumsfeld dijo el 29 de agosto en Salt Lake City en Utah a la convención anual de la Legión Americana—la más derechista de las mayores organizaciones de veteranos—que los críticos de la guerra eran “unos apaciguadores”. Llamó a los grupos en el Medio Oriente que resisten la agresión de los Estados Unidos e israelita, un “nuevo tipo de fascismo.”

Rice, dirigiéndose al mismo grupo, dijo que Estados Unidos no debe retirarse del Medio Oriente, el cual está progresando hacia la “democracia,” o las consecuencias serán “severas.”

### ‘Las naciones civilizadas’

Tanto Rumsfeld como Cheney el día anterior habían llevado mensajes similares a la organización de Veteranos de Guerras Extranjeras en Reno, Nevada. Y Cheney continuó esto con un viaje a la base aérea Offutt en Nebraska, donde dijo que no debe haber retirada de las “naciones civilizadas.”

Se cree que él se refirió a los Estados Unidos y no a Irak, donde cada expresión física de su civilización milenaria ha sido el blanco para su destrucción desde la

invasión por los Estados Unidos—comenzando con el robo del famoso museo arqueológico de Bagdad después de que las tropas del Pentágono ocuparan por primera vez la ciudad.

Mientras tanto, en Irak la resistencia a la ocupación se expande y el ejército títere del que Rumsfeld dice que tomará el puesto de las tropas del Pentágono, ya se está comenzando a rebelar.

En Diwaniyah, una ciudad a 100 millas al sur de Bagdad, batallas significativas brotaron el 28 de agosto entre las tropas títeres respaldadas por ataques aéreos de los Estados Unidos y la milicia del ejército Mahdi, cuyo líder político es el clérigo chiíta Moqtada al-Sadr. Tres días antes, el supuesto ejército iraquí había arrestado a tres importantes seguidores de Al-Sadr. Esto fue seguido por redadas a las vecindades defendidas por el ejército Mahdi.

Después de doce horas de intensa lucha, “si vio muy claro quién había ganado,” según reportó el periódico Washington Post el 29 de agosto. La ciudad todavía se encontraba bajo “el control absoluto” del ejército miliciano Mahdi.

Anteriormente en el mismo mes de agosto, las tropas estadounidenses e iraquíes habían atacado al fuerte de al-Sadr en Bagdad, incluso con ataques aéreos sobre las áreas pobladas. Esto fue un acto tan enteramente criminal de las fuerzas de la ocupación que hasta Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, el primer ministro del gobierno títere denunció a los Estados Unidos diciendo que él no

había dado el permiso para los ataques.

### General de EEUU admite rebelión

La ofensiva desató una rebelión entre las tropas iraquíes en el sur a las que les habían dicho que serían enviadas a Bagdad para “restaurar el orden”, admitió el General Brigadier de Estados Unidos, Dana Pittard en una videoconferencia desde Irak el 28 de agosto. Pittard supervisa el entrenamiento de las fuerzas iraquíes por los Estados Unidos.

Pittard dijo que el motín involucró alrededor de 100 soldados basados en la provincia Maysan, fronteriza con Irán.

“Esta no es la primera vez que soldados iraquíes han rehusado desplegarse a una zona distante”, escribió el New York Times el 29 de agosto. “Una gran cantidad de soldados de una unidad mayormente kurda en el norte de Irak, el Segundo Batallón, Tercera Brigada de la Segunda División Iraquí, rehusó trasladarse a Ramadi donde tropas americanas han estado involucradas en una dura batalla para retomar la ciudad de los insurgentes, notó el General Pittard”.

El artículo del Times agrega que muchos soldados iraquíes renunciaron, quedando la fuerza de algunas divisiones tan baja como en un 35 por ciento.

A pesar de que la terrible pobreza y la alta tasa de desempleo fuerzan a los jóvenes a inscribirse en el ejército, la fortaleza de la resistencia y la ira popular contra los colaboradores de la ocupación fuerzan a muchos a salirse de él.

El ataque contra la Ciudad Sadr de Bagdad fue parte de la operación militar más reciente de los EEUU, llamada Juntos Adelante, que está supuesta a romper la resistencia. El plan suena como algo prestado de los manuales Nazis de las fuerzas de ocupación durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

“En el plan, las fuerzas americanas e iraquíes proceden paso a paso por la ciudad, vecindario por vecindario, en un esfuerzo para sacar a los insurgentes y a las milicias. Una vez que las zonas están aseguradas, el plan es de entregarlas a la policía iraquí, que funcionará con consejeros americanos. Se van a gastar millones de dólares de fondos americanos e iraquíes para restaurar servicios vitales, crear empleos y, esencialmente, intentar establecer apoyo al nuevo gobierno de Irak.”

“Doce mil tropas adicionales han sido enviadas a Bagdad para llevar a cabo la operación, 7.000 de las cuales son americanas. Algunas de las tropas americanas han sido desviadas de otras partes de Irak. Los soldados iraquíes que han rehusado desplegarse de las áreas de Maysan iban a ser parte de los refuerzos militares iraquíes”. (New York Times, 29 de agosto)

Esta ofensiva ya ha conducido a grandes bajas entre civiles iraquíes y las tropas de todos los lados.

La intensa campaña propagandística de parte de la administración de Bush no puede cambiar la realidad: su esfuerzo para conquistar Irak ha fracasado. □

## Infantería de Marina forzada a movilizar reservas hacia Irak

Por Larry Hales

La Infantería de Marina (IM) anunció el 22 de agosto que iba a comenzar a movilizar tropas de la Reserva Individual Preparada (Individual Ready Reserve, IRR) en base involuntaria. La IM dice que la IRR tiene un equipo de 34.000 soldados, pero la orden del Presidente George W. Bush limita la movilización a 2500 tropas por vez.

Este anuncio llega a un poco más de un mes luego de que Nouri al-Maliki, primer ministro del gobierno títere en Irak, se dirigiera al Congreso de los EEUU pidiendo más dinero y más tropas. En ese entonces, la cifra de tropas de los EEUU ocupando a Irak era de 127.000. Actualmente, son 138.000 efectivos.

Muchas de las personas que están llamado a servicio activo ya han estado en Irak dos o tres veces. El Ejército dice que ha llamado a 5.000 personas de la lista del IRR y ha mandado órdenes de “paro de pérdida” (stop loss) a unos miles más. Desde la segunda mitad del año pasado, un promedio de 13.178 soldados han

estado en Irak por tiempo extendido a causa del “paro de pérdida”.

Desde la aparición de al-Maliki, al tiempo en que más y más gente se está cansando de esta aventura capitalista, el Ejército ha mandado una orden de paro de pérdida a una Brigada Stryker en Alaska y ha llamado tropas delanteras del cercano Kuwait. El Ejército tiene ahora 2.200 soldados del IRR en Irak; más de 1.800 de ellos están allí involuntariamente.

Según el Los Angeles Times del 23 de agosto, “Cuando empezaron las llamadas involuntarias en 2004, el Ejército se encontró con problemas cuando algunos miembros de la reserva ya movilizados, no aparecieron y otros fueron descalificados

del servicio por razones médicas.

Esta reciente maniobra de la Marina, un equipo muy orgulloso de ser una fuerza voluntaria y bien entrenada la cuál es “la primera en combatir”, es una señal de que la más reciente “pacificación” de Irak está fracasando.

El llamado de más soldados no podrá detener la resistencia. Las numerosas operaciones en Bagdad están fracasando, tanto como las que están por todo el país, y ahora tanto el ejército del régimen títere de Irak como el ejército estadounidense están nuevamente embrollados en combate con el Ejército Mahdí de Moqtada al-Sadr.

El Ejército Mahdí combatió con fuerzas estadounidenses hasta un alto dos veces

en el 2004. El partido de al-Sadr ahora es parte del gobierno títere iraquí, pero la ocupación estadounidenses todavía le considera un oponente.

La resistencia en Irak ha sido fuerte. Cada vez que alguien de uno u otro partido capitalista estadounidense hace algún comentario sobre los éxitos de la guerra imperialista en Irak, la resistencia se hace más fuerte y se los demuestra. Esto ha pasado a pesar de que la propia resistencia iraquí no está unida a través de todo el país.

Al contrario de lo que se dice, la situación en Irak se está haciendo más difícil para la ocupación, y esto aumentará. El mundo ha visto cómo los combatientes de la resistencia en el Líbano repelieron a los invasores sionistas. El mundo árabe se ha alentado y esto se hará ver en Irak.

La única forma de evitar que más jóvenes, hombres y mujeres, ya sean iraquíes o los soldados mandados para luchar contra ellos, sean destruid@s por causa de la codicia de unos pocos, es que el pueblo en los Estados Unidos intensifique sus demandas de un fin inmediato a la guerra. □

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