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## IN 9/11 RACIST SPEECHES

# Bush resorts to playing fear card

## Bashes Islam in attempt to justify wider war

By Fred Goldstein

President George W. Bush has cynically used the anniversary of the Sept. 11 disaster to escalate anti-Islamic hysteria. He is trying to stir up fear as a way of justifying the current failing occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan.

In a speech on 9/11, Bush linked the war in Iraq to his so-called "war on terrorism" and dubbed it "a struggle for civilization ... to maintain the way of life of free nations," which he counterpoised to a "radical Islamic empire." Trying to posture as the leader of some great, long-term historic struggle, he declared: "We are now in the early hours of this struggle between tyranny and freedom."

The fact is that the current struggle between Washington and Islamic forces throughout the Middle East and beyond is basically a struggle between U.S. imperialism, which is trying to conquer the region, and a great variety of anti-imperialist forces. Many of these forces, but by no means all of them, fight under religious banners.

And this is not at all the "early hours" of this struggle. One or another colonialist power in the West has been engaged in conquest in the Middle East since feudalist Christian extremists began the Crusades in the 13th century. The March 20, 2003, U.S.-British invasion of Iraq and the recent failed attempt to crush Hezbollah and subdue Lebanon by the U.S.-backed, religion-based Zionist settler state in Israel are but the latest examples.

"Civilization" and "freedom" are complete cover-ups for U.S. imperialist aims in the region. In Iraq, both secular and religious forces are trying to prevent the U.S. government from taking the country's oil, setting up permanent military bases, privatizing the economy and turning it over to U.S. corporations.

When the Iraqis kicked out the British colonialists with their revolution of 1958, they took possession of their own oil, their own land and their own economy. The present struggle against the U.S. occupation is directed at warding off Washington's new colonialism.

Even a brief examination of some of the contending forces exposes Bush's lies.

### What Mideast countries have in common

The Iranian government is standing up to the world's greatest nuclear power in Washington and trying to defend its sovereign right to economic development, including the use of nuclear technology. The Islamic Republic was established when the U.S. puppet shah of Iran was overthrown.

It is public knowledge that the shah was installed by the CIA in a 1953 coup d'etat to prevent a nationalist revolution and, in particular, to prevent the nationalization of Iran's oil. Giant U.S. oil monopolies laid claim to Iran's oil after the coup. But Iran's revolution of 1979 changed all that.

Now Bush is attempting another "regime change" in Iran, which he sells as a crusade against "Islamic extremism." Like 1953, it is aimed at getting back Iran's oil, taking over its economy and returning to the days of the shah.

Hezbollah, a religious organization in Lebanon with a vast social network, is also a national resistance movement which organized the poor and struggled for 18 years to overcome the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. The Lebanese fought against French colonialism, U.S. military intervention and U.S.-backed Israeli aggression and occupation. Washington and Israel have the common aim of wanting to destroy this anti-imperialist resistance.

Hamas won a popular election among the Palestinians because

*Continued on page 4*

## Anti-war delegation visits Lebanon

A delegation of anti-war activists from the U.S. go on a fact-finding mission to Lebanon in the aftermath of the U.S.-backed Israeli attack. For full report, see page 9.

WW PHOTOS: LEILANI DOWELL



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# Post-Stonewall gay liberation: 'Power to the People!'

By Leslie Feinberg

Stonewall is often recalled as a critical turning point in the United States because it marked the qualitative development of a mass movement in this country. That is both evident and important.

The Stonewall Rebellion was certainly not the first time in history that people who today would be referred to as gay, lesbian, bi and trans fought back against police repression. Stonewall, however, was only defensive in its very earliest hours. It quickly turned into an insurrectionary offensive. The street leadership of youth of all sexes—particularly those who were homeless and trying to cobble together a living on the streets, and those who faced oppression based on their nationality and/or gender expression—forced the police and riot troop reinforcements to retreat, again and again, in running battles.

Stonewall was not just a response to oppression. For at least the third time in history, revolutionary leadership sparked a mass struggle for the liberation of same-sex love, oppressed genders and sexes.

But unlike the early 20th century German Homosexual Emancipation Movement and the early 1950s Mattachine movement, the left-wing of gay liberation unleashed by the Stonewall insurrection was more thoroughly multinational and included many more women and trans people. The revolutionary leadership of early gay liberation was both of the oppressed and with the oppressed.

Some 25 militant organizations coalesced across the country in 1969, including the Committee for Homosexual Freedom of San Francisco, which fought job discrimination, and chapters of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) in cities that included New York, Berkeley, Los Angeles and Minneapolis.

Many of these youth of all nationalities and sexes and genders identified as radicals and revolutionaries. They drew inspiration from the Chinese Revolution, the indefatigable resistance of the Vietnamese people and the liberation struggles sweeping the African continent. Many of the youth of color were actively a part of struggles for their own national liberation, and many of the white youth saw the need to unite against racism and its white supremacist ideology.

Within a week after the Stonewall Rebellion, the Gay Liberation Front formed. It named itself to honor the National Liberation Fronts—the national resistance movements—in Algeria and Vietnam and demanded, in solidarity with the Black liberation movement, "Power to the People!"

The Los Angeles GLF statement of purpose, adopted in December 1969, read in part: "We are in total opposition to America's white racism, to poverty, hunger, the systematic destruction of our patrimony; we oppose the rich getting richer, the poor getting poorer, and are in total opposition to wars of aggression and imperialism, whoever pursues them. We support the demands of Blacks, Chicanos, [Asians], Women, Youth, Senior Citizens, and others demanding their full rights as human beings. We join in their struggle, and shall actively seek coalition to pursue these goals."



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**LAVENDER & RED** focuses on the relationship over more than a century between the liberation of oppressed sexualities, genders and sexes, and the communist movement. You can read the entire, ongoing Workers World newspaper series by Leslie Feinberg online at [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org).

Stop and get a subscription while you're there!

GLF women initiated their own caucus in the spring of 1970; some of these women later started the "Lavender Menace." In November 1969 and May 1970, lesbians from the Lavender Menace demanded to be heard at the Congress to Unite Women, opening up the vocal and militant role of lesbian activism on the front lines of the women's liberation movement.

East Coast GLF delegates and other militants at the November 1969 Eastern Regional Conference of Homophile Organizations—a more moderate coalition from the pre-Stonewall era—formed a "radical caucus" that put forward resolutions that included calls to support the Black Panther Party, which was battling police raids, state frame-ups and assassinations; the Chicano grape pickers, who were trying to organize a United Farm Workers union in the field factories; and the Chicago Eight, political activists charged with conspiracy to start a riot at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago; and to take part in demonstrations against the Pentagon's war in Vietnam.

From San Francisco to Ann Arbor, anti-war lesbian and gay activists organized to stop the war against Vietnam. New York's GLF organized its own contingent at the Oct. 15, 1969, anti-war march in Manhattan, and an even larger one at the November moratorium weekend in Washington, D.C., in which half a million people protested the Vietnam War. Gay radicals from Berkeley marched with their banners at the November 1969 anti-war rally in San Francisco. And lesbians and gays organized a large and visible presence at the 1971 May Day anti-war protest in Washington.

People of color LGBT forces provided leadership in many of these struggles, and formed their own caucuses and organizations. The struggle against racism and national oppression was an integral, yet highly under-reported, part of the multinational left-wing gay liberation movement.

*Next: Nationally oppressed leadership and left-wing gay liberation.*



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# Pro-women activists expose anti-choice 'clinic'

By Susan Farquhar and Kris Hamel  
Detroit

The Detroit Action Network For Reproductive Rights (DANFORR) held an informational picket on Sept. 9 at a so-called "crisis pregnancy center" in Detroit in order to expose the nature of such anti-choice facilities. Protestors warned potential clients and disclosed to area residents the true nature of the grossly-misnamed "Pregnancy Aid" center located in their community.

Like thousands of other similar outfits around the country, "Pregnancy Aid," the target of DANFORR's picket, is not a real women's clinic with a licensed medical staff and a full range of reproductive services. Far from it. Instead, it is really a front for anti-choice right-wingers.

Passersby who saw DANFORR's protest learned from pro-choice activists that these medically non-certified and anti-choice operations use lies to scare pregnant women into carrying an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy to term. Demonstrators carried signs and distributed leaflets that disclosed the clinic's false and misleading practices.

Many of these "clinics" receive federal funding. The U.S. government has funded anti-choice centers with \$30 million in taxpayer money since 2001.

A July 2006 investigative report, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, found that a whopping 87 percent of the federally-funded fake clinics gave out information that was "grossly distorted or inaccurate." ([www.democrats.reform.house.gov](http://www.democrats.reform.house.gov))

Some of these outright lies include stating a relationship between abortion and a highly increased risk of breast cancer, subsequent infertility, suicidal thoughts and

mental illness ("post-abortion traumatic stress"). This misinformation has been clinically refuted in research compiled by the National Cancer Institute, and both the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association. (American Psychologist, Oct. 1992; General Psychiatry, Aug. 2000)

Additionally, the right-wing facilities offer no long-term assistance for babies or for families at a time when family assistance programs have been all but eliminated.

Women in the U.S., particularly oppressed women with limited resources who are the most detrimentally impacted by problem or unwanted pregnancies, have the right to be factually informed when making critical reproductive decisions about their lives and the lives of their families.

Yet anti-choice centers are increasingly being located in African-American and Latin@ communities, where medical resources are often scarce or inadequate. ([www.news-medical.net](http://www.news-medical.net))

The oppressed communities of Detroit have been particularly hard hit by unemployment, budget cutbacks and racist attacks, making the presence of the "Pregnancy Aid" center especially insulting.

Many U.S. states, including Michigan, are now closer to banning abortions altogether—a trend supported by both Democrats and Republicans, with few exceptions. The state bans already in place also increase the risk of a challenge to Roe vs. Wade, which, if overturned, could eliminate abortion and several forms of birth control altogether on a national level.

Only a massive struggle for full reproductive health care, including abortion, can stop the current attacks on women's



Women say they need a real health clinic.

WW PHOTO: DAVE SOLE

right to choose and the funding of bogus "crisis" clinics. With poverty rates hitting women with small children the hardest, women need accurate health care information and access to medically-supervised services now more than ever.

## U.S. Senate candidate attacked by anti-choice thug

A handful of anti-choice rightwingers who opposed the picket line challenged pro-choice protesters in front of the phony "Pregnancy Aid" facility on Sept. 9. A representative of St. Joan of Arc Church in suburban St. Clair Shores had rallied them to the DANFORR protest through chain e-mails. The website homepage for "Pregnancy Aid" had also featured a large sidebar about DANFORR's planned protest.

For the most part, the anti-woman posse positioned themselves up the street, but one white male stayed and persistently harassed the pro-choice picketers. When this man threatened to kill an African-American woman leader of DANFORR, other pro-choice forces stepped between the man and the threatened sister.

The man jabbed picket signs with a pen

and then tried to remove the sign held by U.S. Senate candidate David Sole, who is running on the Stop the War Slate of the Green Party ticket. The man punched Sole in the mouth; the candidate fought back in self defense. Police were called by the anti-choice forces, one of whom conveniently videotaped only part of the whole incident.

The white male thug who attacked Sole was handcuffed but only briefly placed into a squad car and then later released. His cohorts received tickets for refusing to move their stationary signs, which graphically depicted supposed bloodied fetuses. A female officer at the scene warned Sole that he was about to be arrested and he should leave the area.

Sole told Workers World: "This confirms that the right-wing anti-choice movement is only too willing to revert to its violent methods of the 1990s. If I am arrested, I will issue a press release stating that my arrest has occurred because this candidate was defending women's right to reproductive freedom. I urge everyone, men and women, to get involved in this crucial struggle." □

# 'Michigan's money's wasted on war'

By WW Detroit bureau

Kristen Hamel is the "Stop the War Slate" candidate on the Green Party ticket for state representative from the 1st District, which encompasses northeast Detroit, Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes. She is an anti-war and social justice activist and was the Workers World Party candidate for the same office in 1996. Hamel brings years of experience in many struggles to her campaign. She is a legal assistant by trade and a former union activist in the United Auto Workers (UAW) and Newspaper Guild of Detroit. She has organized and marched against racism and imperialist wars, for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) rights, workers' rights and in support of revolutionary Cuba, which she visited in 2005. She is a founding member of the Detroit Action Network For Reproductive Rights (DANFORR). Hamel recently answered the following questions for Workers World newspaper.

**Workers World: Why would a candidate for state representative be concerned about stopping the Pentagon's wars?**

**Kristen Hamel:** The Pentagon and the military budget suck the lifeblood out of poor and working people around the country, including here in Michigan and in the first district. Michigan has already paid a whopping \$8.6 billion for the Iraq War alone. Two-thirds of what the average family in our state pays for federal taxes goes to the Pentagon budget and for inter-



WW PHOTO: DAVE SOLE

Kris Hamel, candidate for State Representative in Michigan.

est to the banks on the national debt. That money could be put to good use for a jobs program at living wages, low-income housing, building new schools and lowering utility rates, and that's just a start. The war machine doesn't just kill people on the other side of the globe. It also directly impacts poor and working people in the U.S. That's what the Stop the War Slate hopes to expose during this election campaign.

Working people need to take back and redefine the words 'terror' and 'terrorism.' The biggest terrorist in the world is the U.S. ruling class with its Pentagon and weapons of mass destruction. If Bush truly wanted to find WMDs, he would start looking in his own backyard. The

ruling class labels as "terrorist" anyone who resists their aggression or tries to fight back against imperialism. Working people shouldn't be taken in by this propaganda. Hezbollah, for example, has never done anything to poor and working people in Michigan, but the oil companies wreak terrorism on us everyday when we go to put gas in our vehicles: \$2.50 or \$3.10 a gallon is economic terror on the working class, especially considering the record profits Exxon Mobil and the other oil corporations are raking in. In this capitalist society, profits for the corporations are top priority and the needs of the people come last. Our campaign says that jobs, healthcare, education, food, housing and affordable utilities must be the priority. If we dismantle the Pentagon there will be no need to "fight terrorism" because it is the Pentagon and the policies of the ruling elite that have made our country an enemy to people around the world.

**Why is it important for women to find an alternative to the Democrats and Republicans?**

**Hamel:** Right now across the country women's right to reproductive choice is under vicious attack and not just by Republicans. Democratic Gov. Kathleen Blanco of Louisiana recently signed a law that will go into effect if Roe v. Wade is overturned that will outlaw abortion in that state. Pro-choice activists are waging a struggle in South Dakota to keep the right to choose abortion. Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, Bob Casey in Pennsylvania, is

anti-choice, yet he is supported by Hillary Rodham Clinton, who seeks an alliance with the Catholic Church and other anti-choice forces in finding "common ground" to reduce pregnancies. What Clinton fails to acknowledge is that the church and many other anti-choice advocates are also against contraception and sex education. This past spring in Michigan, Democratic incumbent Gov. Jennifer Granholm shamefully worked with some large pro-choice groups to draft language for a new law requiring physicians to show ultrasound fetal images to women seeking abortions. This is not the kind of "common ground" that women need or want.

Our election campaign will expose the lie that Democrats are somehow to be relied upon to protect women's right to choose, when in fact, it is often the first item put on the back burner or negotiated away. Women especially need to break free from the two-party system that in no way guarantees their rights. The Stop the War Slate says in no uncertain terms: Stop the war on choice and women's right to reproductive freedom. I'm involved in DANFORR, the Detroit Action Network For Reproductive Rights, and we are doing grassroots organizing to help ensure that Michigan stays a pro-choice state. On Saturdays our members assist with clinic escorting to help women get safely past the anti-choice zealots who harass them when they enter a women's clinic on Eight Mile Road. By organizing a struggle we have the best chance of keeping and expanding women's right to free choice. □



# Ground zero protest backs immigrant workers

By Teresa Gutierrez  
New York

Just hours after President George W. Bush tried to exploit a photo-op at Ground Zero on Sept. 11, the May 1st Coalition held a vigil and presented a wreath at the World Trade Center site to commemorate the forgotten victims of 9/11, particularly immigrants. The vigil was attended by leaders and organizations from throughout New York City, including many labor leaders.

Hundreds of people who had come to commemorate that day responded favorably to the plight of immigrants who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, as well as those involved in the cleanup of Ground Zero who have been ignored, along with others.

Earlier, on Aug. 30, the May 1st Coalition for Immigrant Rights had held a news conference at City Hall Park to discuss the case of Elvira Arellano, who is currently taking sanctuary at a church in Chicago

while resisting deportation. Several community and immigrant rights organizations, including Asociación Tepeyac, San Romero Church, Families for Freedom, Long Island Workers' Center and Pachamama, representing many nationalities, participated in this news conference in solidarity with Arellano.

The May 1st Coalition has been actively organizing in New York City in support of immigrant workers. On the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the coalition submitted a resolution in solidarity with Katrina survivors to the National Alliance for Immigrant Rights, which was adopted. Excerpts from the resolution follow:

"The National Alliance for Immigrant Rights wishes to send its unconditional solidarity to the people of New Orleans, the states of Louisiana and Mississippi, and the entire Gulf Coast region on the occasion of the one year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

"As immigrants, supporters of immi-



News conference of activists defends immigrant rights.

PHOTO: PVN

grants, and as both U.S. and foreign-born workers in this country, we recognize the terrible plight the survivors of Hurricane Katrina endured last year and are enduring still today. We know this is not the result of a natural disaster but of the unnatural and cruel way the hurricane was handled by the government.

"We send our message of love, solidar-

ity and companionship and declare that your struggle for justice is our struggle. By standing together, immigrants and their supporters with the people of the Gulf Coast, we CAN build a united movement of all those disenfranchised and exploited by the powers that be. We stand as one in our quest for the recognition of our human rights." □

## Bush grasps for support by crying 'terror'

Continued from page 1

it reflected the steadfast determination of the Palestinian people not to recognize the right of Israel to occupy Palestinian land seized in wars of outright conquest in 1948 and 1967.

Whatever the ideology and social practice of the Taliban and other forces in Afghanistan, the "extremists" there, too, are the Pentagon war criminals who, after Sept. 11, rained thousands of tons of missiles, laser-guided bombs, satellite-guided bombs, 15,000-pound "daisy cutters" and other forms of murderous firepower down upon the Afghan people. Thousands were killed, hundreds of thousands made homeless.

Is it any wonder that Washington and NATO are now facing mass resistance in Afghanistan?

Hezbollah, Hamas, the Iraqi resistance and the government of Iran are on Washington's "terrorist" list not because they are Islamic but because they are anti-imperialist. While they may organize and fight within the ideological form of religion, the social content of their struggle is to resist colonial domination and occupation.

But the Bush administration, along with the Democratic Party leadership and the entire capitalist media, are engaged in a massive slander campaign against Islam in order to dehumanize and vilify the resistance and prepare the masses in the U.S. for continued war in the Middle East and beyond.

### Racist rhetoric to mask crisis

Bush's desperate, right-wing rhetoric was an attempt to arrest the rapid decline of public support for the occupations and to counteract the increasingly dire reports pointing to the Pentagon's inability to subdue the Iraqi resistance and the growing resistance in Afghanistan.

While Bush was on the campaign circuit trying to stir up fear with his racist diatribes against Islam, behind the scenes at the White House, the Pentagon and the State Department the anxiety level was rising and the discontent of the officers in the field growing.

The Sept. 11 edition of the Washington Post broke the story about Anbar province. Describing a secret report submitted by Col. Peter Devlin, the chief intelligence officer of the Marine Corps in Iraq,

the Post wrote that Devlin's report concluded "that the prospects of securing ... Anbar province are dim and that there is almost nothing the U.S. military can do to improve the political and social situation there....

"I don't know if it is a shock wave, but it's made people uncomfortable," said a Defense Department official who had read the report.

"There are no functioning Iraqi government institutions in Anbar," continued the Post. "Another person familiar with the report said it describes Anbar as beyond repair; a third said it concludes that the United States has lost in Anbar."

Some 30,000 U.S. troops occupy Anbar province, which is the size of Louisiana and accounts for 30 percent of Iraq's land mass. Anbar stretches from the capital to the borders of Syria and Jordan. It includes Ramadi, Haditha, Hit and Fallujah, which, together with Baghdad, form the center of the resistance to the occupation.

The New York Times reported the following day (Sept. 12) that Devlin concluded that the situation will continue to deteriorate for the Pentagon unless at least another division, approximately 16,000 U.S. troops, is sent in.

In fact, the Pentagon has been diverting troops from Anbar to Baghdad, but it has failed to improve the situation for Washington and its puppet Iraqi government. William Kristol, a war-mongering right-wing supporter of Bush and the occupation, wrote a panicked op-ed column in the Sept. 12 Washington Post entitled, "Reinforce Baghdad."

Kristol, who is close to the White House, Karl Rove and the neo-cons, has given up on Bush and Rumsfeld's line claiming the Iraqi puppet forces are making progress. Talking about the attempt to secure Baghdad, Kristol wrote: "The administration's strategy has long been based on getting the Iraqis to do the 'holding' in the counterinsurgency strategy of 'clear, hold, and build.' That would obviously be ideal... [But] if American troops hand neighborhoods over to the Iraqis, they are likely to soon deteriorate again...." Kristol quotes Harvard Law School professor William Stuntz, who wrote that if more U.S. troops could help the situation, "not putting those soldiers on the ground is a crime."

A recent report said that in Iraq, "attacks by insurgents jumped to 800 per week in the second quarter of this year—double the number in the first quarter." (Washington Post, Sept. 11) The panic and defeatism in official circles is inevitable given the determined and unending resistance to occupation.

### Afghan fighting 'fiercer than Iraq'

In Afghanistan the recent intervention by NATO, which added 17,000 troops to the 20,000 U.S. troops already there, has also run into massive resistance, great enough that the NATO Commander, Gen. James Jones, who is also head of the U.S. allied command in Europe, has already called for more NATO troops.

Columnist Paul Krugman of the New York Times wrote on Sept. 11 that "the top British commander in Afghanistan has said that the fighting there is fiercer than in Iraq. And the numbers bear him out: since the beginning of 2006, the NATO force in Afghanistan has had a higher rate of fatalities than that suffered by the coalition troops in Iraq." This is the first time in its 57-year history that NATO has been in sustained ground combat and it is suffering significant casualties.

It is little wonder that Gen. Jones complained that he has been asking for more NATO troops for 18 months and not getting results. "Asked which of the 26 NATO nations were dragging their feet, Jones hesitated and then replied: 'All of them.... We have received no offers.'"

The U.S.-NATO crisis is growing to the extent that Condoleezza Rice, while in Canada trying to get more troops, issued a warning that made her sound like Bush talking about Iraq. According to an AP report from Nova Scotia on Sept. 12, "Secretary of State Rice acknowledged 'difficult going' fighting a resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan, but insisted Tuesday [Sept. 12] that the world cannot afford to pull out now. 'We owe it to the people of Afghanistan to finish the job,' Rice said."

To get a clue as to why they are failing so miserably in Afghanistan, the imperialists only need to refer to the criminal war waged by Washington against the Afghan people in the blustery, belligerent days of "regime change" and "preemptive warfare" after Sept. 11, 2001.

They might also ask themselves the same question that the Afghan people are asking: What is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization doing in the far reaches of western Asia? Since when did Afghanistan become part of the jurisdiction of the European imperialist powers and the masters in Washington?

To the Afghans, as well as the rest of the people in the region, it looks and feels like the same old colonial expansionism they all have endured for centuries.

And what of the so-called "civilization" and "freedom" that Bush wants to defend? The workers and the oppressed people of this country do not need to fight abroad to defend capitalist "freedom" at home. This "freedom" has brought about the greatest polarization of wealth since the robber barons ruled in the 19th century.

The last few years have been called "the golden age of profits." Meanwhile, wages are stagnating or falling. Layoffs, downsizing, offshoring and outsourcing are rampant. There is a massive health-care crisis that gets worse each year. The minimum wage buys less than it did in 1953. Young workers are finding fewer jobs at lower wages with diminished or no benefits.

The U.S. government watched passively as Hurricane Katrina drowned over a thousand people, mostly African American, in New Orleans and deliberately allowed a natural disaster to turn into a social and economic disaster and a racist crime against the people of the region. Hundreds of thousands have been displaced while real estate barons hover over the ruins of the city, prepared to turn it into a tourist condo paradise for the wealthy.

At the same time a racist campaign against immigrant workers pervades the airwaves and the print media. Same-sex marriage and lesbian, gay, bi and trans rights have become high-profile targets for the right wing. The prisons are packed with over 2.1 million people, disproportionately Black and Latin@, and most of them poor. Reports of executions punctuate the news periodically, highlighting the racist death penalty.

Capitalist "civilization," which puts profits before people and is based upon exploitation and oppression, does not need defending abroad. It needs to be fought against and overcome at home. □

## Whitman and Giuliani lied

# 9/11 dust 'as caustic as drain cleaner'

By Deirdre Griswold  
New York

To the list of liars who used the World Trade Center disaster to serve their political agendas, add the names of Christine Todd Whitman and Rudolph Giuliani.

Whitman, a multi-millionaire and darling of the New Jersey country club set, was the appointed head of the Environmental Protection Agency at the time. She emphatically told the public that it was safe to work and breathe the air around Ground Zero.

Giuliani, then mayor, backed up her story. Today he is looking for sympathy over possible health problems related to his going there.

After the disaster, some 40,000 people worked in the area of the Trade Center or at the Fresh Kills site on Staten Island where the debris from the buildings was dumped. Some were early responders looking for survivors or clearing rubble. Others were hired within days to clean offices and apartments in the area, which were covered with fine dust from the col-

lapsed buildings.

An estimated one fourth of the workers involved may have been immigrants, and half of these—as many as 5,000 people—probably didn't have papers. (Newsday, Sept. 12)

All the exposed workers are at great risk today. That is the conclusion of a huge study conducted by Mount Sinai Medical Center, which has screened thousands of workers and volunteers.

"Many who worked at Ground Zero in the early days after the attacks have sustained serious and lasting health problems as a direct result of their exposure to the environment there," said Dennis Charney, Dean for Academic and Scientific Affairs, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, commenting on the release of a report by the hospital's World Trade Center Worker and Volunteer Medical Screening Program.

"This study scientifically confirms high rates of respiratory problems in a large number of responders," Charney explained.

The report said that almost 70 percent

of World Trade Center responders reported a new or worsened respiratory symptom that developed during or after their time working at the WTC. Even when examined after several years, the problems persisted among 60 percent of the responders.

The study did not cover cancer or other long-term illnesses that are expected to crop up in the future.

"This was extremely toxic dust," says Dr. Philip J. Landrigan, an author of the study. He said some samples showed the dust to be as caustic as drain cleaner.

It also contained "innumerable tiny shards of glass, which could get lodged in the lungs, and a stew of toxic and carcinogenic substances, like asbestos and dioxin, that could potentially lead to cancer decades from now. ... [D]octors have concluded that the workers will have serious health issues for years to come." (New York Times, Sept. 6)

The doctors said that 40 percent of those who went to Mount Sinai for screening had no health insurance. Some had actually lost employer-provided coverage

after they became too sick to work. There have been deaths and protest demonstrations involving affected workers.

But the billionaire mayor of New York, Michael Bloomberg, was quick to belittle the report, saying it was inconclusive.

While the Mount Sinai report covers early responders, the workers hired to clean buildings are also reporting serious illnesses. Claudia Gil, an undocumented worker from Colombia, got a job one week after the towers collapsed cleaning offices for \$60 a day. She now suffers from chronic headaches, has trouble breathing at night and often experiences severe stomach cramps. (Newsday)

When all the capitalist politicians, from Bush on down, were trying to use the disaster to promote themselves, they were full of praise for these "heroes" and "patriots" and promised them everything society had to offer. But little support has come through from either the federal government or local authorities.

Now they are just workers again, facing the same problems as other workers in this profits-first society. □

## Texas death-row prisoner gets out

By Gloria Rubac  
Houston

"I'm in a good position now: As a 20-year veteran of death row—one who's escaped the executioner's axe—that gives me a platform to speak from, and I AM going to speak. I'm a walking, talking testimonial of hope and inspiration to all the guys that I left behind," said Martin Draughon here on his first night of freedom in 20 years.

Draughon was released from prison on Aug. 25 after a plea deal for a 40-year sentence, which made him eligible for parole. As he was led out of jail, members of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement were out on the sidewalk, along with Rene Feltz, Pacifica's KPFT news director, and a Houston Chronicle reporter.

Abolitionist Njeri Shakur was elated at the release. "I'm gratified. As an activist who has been working on this issue for a decade, I know we're on the right track. The system has exposed itself. People are advancing their careers at the expense of justice and human lives. The crime lab has manufactured evidence, lost evidence, hidden evidence. And poor people pay with their lives. The Abolition Movement is happy for Martin and his family and we are anxious to spend a lot of time talking with Martin. We have a great deal to learn from him."

Draughon paroled to Livingston, Texas, the city that houses the 400 men on Texas death row in the Polunsky Unit. His fiancée, Joy Weathers, works for radio station KDOL in Livingston, which does a prison ministries program devoted to the men on death row. Draughon is now doing the show with her, and says after three shows that it is great to speak over the airwaves to his friends and to all the men on death row.

### Conviction overturned

Draughon was sentenced to death in 1987 for shooting a man following a botched robbery. "As I was running away from a fast food place I wanted to rob, I was being chased. I fired a few shots up in the air to scare them. One bullet apparently hit something and ricocheted and

Friends and supporters welcome Martin Draughon, third from right, upon his release from Texas Death Row.

PHOTO: GILES LYON

struck a man named Armando Guerrero in the heart. I didn't even know anyone had been hurt until I was arrested later and I feel deep remorse for that. But I did not intend to shoot anyone, and did not point the gun and fire into Guerrero like the ballistic expert said I did. That's a lie," Draughon told Workers World.

Draughon's conviction was overturned in 2004 when U.S. District Judge Lee Rosenthal heard evidence from a ballistics expert that the bullet that killed Guerrero had ricocheted. That fact contradicted the testimony provided by Houston Police Department ballistics expert C. E. Anderson at the time of Draughon's original trial.

Draughon stressed, "C. E. Anderson, the HPD firearms' expert, perjured himself at my trial and said under oath that the bullet did NOT ricochet, that it entered between the ribs and entered the chest cavity and pierced the heart of Armando Guerrero. After 15 years, we got evidence into federal court that the bullet had in fact ricocheted. There's no way else to put it—he lied about what happened at my trial."

Two other men were also sent to death row based on false ballistic evidence: Nanon Williams and Johnnie Bernal. Both were 17 years old at the time of their arrest, so their death sentences were commuted last year after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling did away with sentencing juveniles to death. Both are still fighting their unfair convictions.

"We've all heard about the 200-plus boxes of evidence that have been misplaced by the crime lab in Houston," Draughon continued. "Well, my biggest fear was that that evidence that I needed to retest would come up missing. But once we got the evidence, we proved that the police lied at my trial.

"Now that I am out, I want to show peo-



ple that we can be redeemed, that we're not irredeemable monsters just because we were put on death row," Draughon said.

The Texas parole system has placed severe restrictions on Draughon, but he says he is not worried about complying with them. "I have lived on death row. There is nothing the parole people can ask me to do that I can't do," he concluded. "I hope they will relax things eventually, but I am not worried. I have plans for speaking out against the death penalty and nothing is going to stop me!"

### 'Remember Frances Newton!'

Despite the good news of Draughon's release and the upcoming re-trials of Howard Guidry and Thomas Miller-El, the execution machine of Texas is not taking a rest.

Two executions are scheduled in September, two in October and two in November. There are also three set for January 2007.

But the movement against capital punishment is also not taking a rest. It is growing daily. Death row families are

becoming active. Students are mobilizing. The sixth annual October march to the state capital is building momentum and Houston activists are chartering a bus for it.

It was just one year ago that Texas executed Frances Newton. Shakur told Workers World, "We have not forgotten Frances. Coming on the heels of the Katrina tragedy, the African community was outraged at the racism and injustice of Frances' execution on Sept. 14, 2005.

"While the country is having a moment of silence for the victims of the World Trade Center attack this week, I hope we can all remember the 2 million people in U.S. prisons, many of whom have never had a day of justice in their lives in this country. I hope we can remember Frances Newton. I hope we remember the heroes of the Attica prison rebellion, which happened this week in 1971. I hope we can remember all the Martin Draughons who were illegally sent to await the executioner."

Letters can be sent to Draughon at: Martin Draughon, 309 N. Drew Street, Livingston, TX 77351. □

## 150 years since 'Bloody Kansas'

# The legacy of John Brown

By Shelley Ettinger

Many historians agree that the Civil War really started on a flat patch of land known as "Bloody Kansas" 150 years ago, in the spring, summer and on into the autumn of 1856.

This area of land covering some 82,000 square miles now sits at the geographic center of the continental United States. It rarely gets national attention these days, and when it does it's usually for reactionary developments like the effort to ban evolution from the public schools' science curriculum.

Yet this was once the hub of the most important political conflict of its day, indeed of all U.S. history: the struggle over slavery. This was where diametrically opposed forces—abolitionists and pro-slavers—clashed.

When 1856 began, the pro-slavery forces had looked to be ascendant. Congress had passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act on May 30, 1854. The law provided for popular sovereignty—voting by white male landowners, that is—to decide whether Kansas and Nebraska would be free or slave states. Kansas had since been the scene of a violent terror campaign, based across the border in Missouri.

Death squads, known as Border Ruffians, aimed to kill or drive out those who opposed the spread of slavery to Kansas, and to flood the territory with their own numbers. Jesse and Frank James, glorified as "rebellious" outlaws in the movies and folklore, were the most well-known of these ruffians.

The Border Ruffians hunted down and murdered African Americans who had escaped slavery and were heading north to Canada. They brazenly assassinated Underground Railway station operators and anti-slavery newspaper editors.

It had started to seem like a foregone conclusion that Kansas would enter the union as a slave state. Then John Brown arrived.

With a small, brave band of stalwarts,

he took on the slave owners' death squads in direct combat, and bested them. He revived and rallied the anti-slavery forces.

At the Battle of Osawatimie, on Aug. 30, 1856, his brilliant tactical maneuvers led to the defeat of a pro-slavery force of 300 soldiers by his group of under 20—and from then on he was affectionately known as "Old Osawatimie" by admirers around the country.

In Lawrence, in the first two weeks of September, he led the military defense of the state capital from a pro-slavery assault—and ever after was respectfully called "Captain Brown" by those who fought alongside him.

But before Osawatimie, before Lawrence, John Brown had already become a legend. That happened at Pottawatomie Creek.

### A daring raid

At Pottawatomie on the night of May 24-25, 1856, John Brown led an armed band in a lightning raid against an encampment where he knew he'd find several of the worst of the Border Ruffians who were terrorizing the territory.

When Brown and company rode off, they left the dead bodies of five racist thugs. The criminals Brown and his band killed had been responsible for many assaults and murders; they were also known for capturing Native women and forcing them into prostitution and sexually assaulting Free State women.

Until Brown acted, the slaveocracy had been waging an undeclared war with what seemed like impunity. And not just in the fields and towns of Kansas. On May 22, two days before Brown rode to Pottawatomie, Preston Brooks, a member of Congress from South Carolina, had strode onto the floor of the U.S. Senate and beaten anti-slavery Sen. Charles Sumner of Massachusetts nearly to death as retaliation for Sumner's speech "The Crime against Kansas."

After Pottawatomie, all this changed. The slaveocracy did not surrender—it would take the Civil War for that. But from

Pottawatomie word went out.

No longer would the racist death squads have free reign in Kansas. A new force, a force for freedom, was fighting back.

For years afterward, in fact to this very day, bourgeois historians have misrepresented what happened at Pottawatomie. It has been portrayed as an insane, isolated event, a senseless, inexplicable act of violence—and its perpetrator as a wild-eyed, crazed, fanatical maniac. The official bourgeois version removes the Pottawatomie raid from its historic context, the bloody terrorist war the Border Ruffians were waging, and omits the fact that the men Brown's troops killed were racist murderers.

John Brown was no lunatic. He was a hero. By first frost in the fall of 1856, he had accomplished what six months earlier no one thought possible. The territory had been secured. Kansas would enter the union as a free state.

The victory came at a high personal cost for Brown. His son Frederick died at the Battle of Osawatimie. Another son, John Brown Jr., was captured by the pro-slavery forces and tortured horribly while held prisoner, which led to many years of illness and anguish.

Brown himself was now a wanted man. A price on his head, he went underground, leaving Kansas. He headed toward the Northeast.

There he would spend the next three years raising funds, recruiting troops, writing, speaking and planning. His goal was nothing less than to launch a guerrilla war, whose leadership would be taken up by African Americans, to end slavery and establish full freedom and equality for all.

### On to Harpers Ferry

Before, during and after his time in Kansas, John Brown was keen to learn how to wage the kind of guerrilla warfare he believed would be necessary to destroy slavery. To whom did he look as his teachers?

To Nat Turner, Denmark Vesey, and other enslaved African American leaders of U.S. slave revolts; to the Seminole nation that had resisted domination by colonial settlers; to the Maroons of the South and of Jamaica and Surinam, escaped slaves who fought the settler state's forces in daring raids from bases in the hills and mountains; and to Toussaint L'Ouverture, one of the great liberators of Haiti.

Most well-meaning whites, including abolitionists, were under the sway of racism to varying degrees. In contrast, Brown not only admired but sought to learn from and emulate Black and Native leaders. He was that free of the taint of racism.

In Kansas, Brown worked closely with a Native ally, Ottawa Jones, who sheltered, fed and helped arm Brown's group at several points during the months of conflict. Although he himself was a fiercely devout Christian, Brown counted Jews and atheists among his troop.

For three years after leaving Kansas, Brown was based in North Elba, N.Y. There he established a cooperative farming community, the first ever where Black and white families lived and worked as equals.

Along with farming and guiding escaped slaves along an Underground Railroad route across the border to Canada, Brown would spend those three years preparing for the action he was determined would give rise to a generalized mass uprising by enslaved Black people. He would write a new constitution for the United States which first and foremost proclaimed race and sex equality.

He would travel to Canada and recruit several African Americans, including Osborne Anderson, who would fight alongside Brown at Harpers Ferry, Va. (now W. Va.), and live to write about it. He would meet often with the great organizer and orator, Frederick Douglass, and the two would become close friends. Douglass had escaped from slavery as a young man.

He would confer with the "Moses" of the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman, whom he always respectfully referred to as "Gen. Tubman." Some believe that Tubman helped plan the raid on the U.S. Army arsenal at Harpers Ferry and would have taken part in it had she not fallen ill.

African American freedom fighters Dangerfield Newby, Lewis S. Leary, John Brown's sons Watson and Oliver, and six others of their number would die at Harpers Ferry in October 1859. Five would escape and survive. Seven, including John Brown, would be captured and hanged.

Gen. Robert E. Lee, who scant months later would lead the secessionist Confederate army, led the opposing force that captured John Brown at Harpers Ferry. John Wilkes Booth, who would assassinate President Abraham Lincoln in 1865, was among the troops guarding the scaffolding on the day they hanged John Brown.

On that day, Dec. 2, 1859, just before they led him from his cell to the gallows, this great soldier for human liberation would write, "I John Brown am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood." Brown was buried in the majority Black cemetery in North Elba, a fitting tribute indeed.

In April 1861 the Civil War would begin.

□

## Tributes to John Brown

**Frederick Douglass** called him "that grand old man" and said, "John Brown began the war that ended American slavery and made this a free Republic."

**W.E.B. DuBois** wrote a biography of John Brown, published in 1909. He said of him, "John Brown was right."

**Malcolm X** said, "If you are for me and my problems—when I say me I mean us, our people—then you have to be willing to do as old John Brown did."

**Eugene Debs** called him "the greatest hero of them all."

**Mother Jones** said, "Some day not in the far distant future there will come another John Brown and he will tear this nation from end to end if this thing does not stop."

The nation of **Haiti** shut down in official mourning when John Brown was hanged. The main street in Port-au-Prince is named John Brown Boulevard.



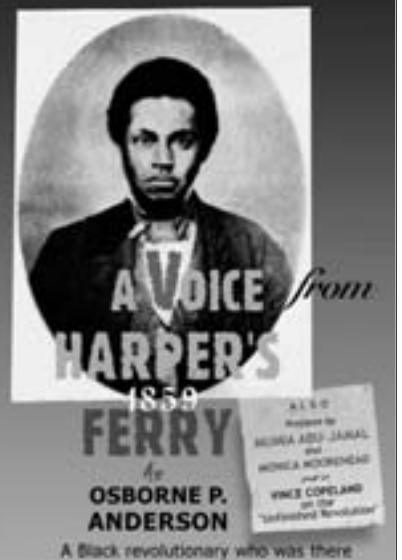
In January 1860, **Karl Marx** wrote to Frederick Engels that "the biggest things that are happening in the world today are on the one hand the movement of the slaves in America started by the death of John Brown and, on the other, the movement of the serfs in Russia."

In 1912, the year before she died, **Harriet Tubman** called John Brown "my dearest friend."

## VOICE from HARPER'S FERRY 1859

By Osborne P. Anderson, a Black revolutionary who was there. With an essay on 'The Unfinished Revolution' by Vince Copeland and prefaces by Mumia Abu-Jamal and Monica Moorehead.

128 pp, photographs. World View Forum, \$18 online at [www.leftbooks.com](http://www.leftbooks.com)





# A street named Mumia

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

The importance of keeping the struggle to free Mumia Abu-Jamal front and center was brought home here Sept. 6 at a meeting welcoming French activists who had been instrumental in the naming of a street in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis in honor of the Pennsylvania journalist and world-renowned death row activist.

The delegation included Julia Wright, daughter of the late African-American author Richard Wright; Patrick Braoezec, representative to the French National Assembly and a former mayor of Saint-Denis; and youth activist Rafael Barontini, coordinator of the Mumia Committee of Saint-Denis.

Saint-Denis is a working-class town of more than 100,000 people, 80 percent of whom are Black and/or Arab. It already has a Che Guevara Avenue, a Bobby Sands Street and streets named after Spanish victims of the Franco dictatorship. Rue Mumia Abu-Jamal runs alongside Human Rights Square near Nelson Mandela Stadium.

Along with the street naming in April, the St.-Denis Mumia Committee conducted a campaign to inform Saint-Denis residents—many themselves victims of



Rafael Barontini, Julia Wright, Pam Africa and Patrick Braoezec, representative to the French National Assembly and a former mayor of Saint-Denis. Above right, one of the many posters from the inauguration of Mumia Street.

police brutality—about Abu-Jamal's case and its significance to the international struggle against the racist death penalty.

Barontini reported that when a group of right wingers tried to stage a "renaming" of Rue Mumia by pasting up a sign reading "Rue Daniel Faulkner"—the Philadelphia police officer Abu-Jamal was accused of shooting—local residents met them with hostility and forced them to leave.

A primary goal of the delegation from France was to counter a vicious campaign by the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and its allies, who are trying to prevent a new trial for Abu-Jamal. They have promoted anti-St. Denis resolutions at all levels of government. The resolutions, including one passed by Philadelphia City Council in May, are full of lies and distortions about the case, including newly concocted versions of the events of Dec. 9, 1981, when Faulkner was killed and Abu-Jamal was shot and brutally assaulted by Philadelphia police.

The Philadelphia City Council resolution also claims that Abu-Jamal has exhausted all appeals, ignoring the fact that the federal Third Circuit Court of Appeals, based in the city, approved Abu-Jamal's request for an appeal on four counts last fall.

The delegation had been scheduled to meet with Philadelphia Mayor John Street, but decided to leave after being kept waiting for several hours. As they walked out, Street ran after them saying now they could meet, but Braoezec said no. He told Street that he wouldn't meet with him after they were left for so long in the hall, but he'd be back with a delegation of French mayors to discuss Mumia Abu-Jamal's case.

In his talk to the welcoming meeting, Braoezec described Saint-Denis as a working-class town with a strong tradition of welcoming immigrants. He raised the common struggles faced by the workers and poor, whether in Philadelphia or Harlem. Discrimination, police brutality, poverty, social injustice, segregation and unemployment all exist in France and were the primary causes of the uprisings there last November.

He concluded his talk with a quote from the late Ossie Davis: "Each generation has its moral obligation, and our obligation is to save Mumia Abu-Jamal." □

# Fred Hampton Streetz Party on the march

By Eric Struch  
Chicago

The Fred Hampton Streetz Party Aug. 30 march started on California Avenue and went east on Madison before ending up at a rally and block party in front of the former Panther house at 2337 W. Monroe. Fred Hampton Jr., chairperson of the Prisoners of Conscience Committee (POCC) and son of the martyred Chicago Black Panther Party (BPP) leader, organized this march of West Side youth to celebrate the birthday of his father and keep the memory of the BPP's revolutionary legacy alive.

Supporters of the liberation struggle from as far away as Ohio made the trip to Chicago to attend this event. Most of the marchers were African-American youth between the ages of 12 and 17. The organizer even rented a limousine for the children younger than 12 so they wouldn't have to walk so far.

Chants of "Black Power!" and against police brutality filled the air at the rally. As was expected, the cops showed up, ostensibly to check permits and warn people about parking violations. It was obvious the cops were looking for a way to shut the Streetz Party down, but they failed.

Fred Hampton Sr. was a 21-year-old leader of the Black Panther Party in 1969. Even at that young age he was responsible for some of the most successful organizing and coalition-building in the young liberation organization. He was targeted by the FBI and the brutal Chicago police and assassinated in a heavily armed police assault on the BPP offices in the middle of the night on Dec. 4, 1969. (For more details of Hampton's life, see the web edition of Workers World at [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org).)

Police later returned to the scene to destroy the ballistic evidence of their cowardly criminal attack, which came to be known as the "Massacre on Monroe." As BPP National Chair Bobby Seale pointed out, "They couldn't wipe the blood off their hands quick enough. They had done similar things in the past. A lot of broth-

ers had been shot and killed. Before, the press would print the police reports and no one would be able to know what really happened.

"But in this case it was different. An estimated 80,000 people went through the house where Hampton was shot dead and actually saw the bullet holes in the wall." Hampton's funeral was attended by more than 5,000 people.

Why did the Daley dictatorship, the States Attorney's office and the CPD decide to use police-state Gestapo methods in an attempt to resolve their contradictions with Hampton and the BPP at that time?

Party leader Kathleen Cleaver explained, "The level on which the national government of the mother country is forced to deal with the political developments in the colony, on the level of assassination and imprisonment, no longer on the level of phony negotiations and pacification, indicates our struggle has developed an even more powerful threat to the established patterns of exploitation and racism."

The Fred Hampton Streetz Party march and rally was a powerful blow against the CPD's efforts to bury the legacy of the BPP and the memory of its martyred chairperson, Fred Hampton. The POCC can be reached at P.O. Box 368255, Chicago, IL 60636. □

# FREE Leonard Peltier



Supporters of political prisoner Leonard Peltier held signs in front of the federal building in Manhattan on Sept. 12 demanding his freedom. It was also Peltier's 62nd birthday. A leader of the American Indian Movement, he is serving a life sentence, having been railroaded into jail allegedly for the deaths of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge reservation in 1975. He has been imprisoned for the past 30 years and is in failing health. Peltier's supporters were also demanding that the FBI release thousands of documents under the Freedom of Information Act that could prove his innocence. He is presently incarcerated in Leavenworth Prison.

—Report and photo, below, by Monica Moorehead



# Moroccan Jews charge Israel with war crimes

By G. Dunkel

Three Jewish intellectuals who are citizens of Morocco with deep ties to the most progressive sections of the Moroccan left filed charges of war crimes in early August against Israel's Defense Minister Amir Peretz for his role in the recent invasion of Lebanon. Peretz is originally from Morocco and has dual citizenship.

Antiwar activist Abraham Sarfati, author Amran al-Malich and human rights group official Sion Assidon charged

that Peretz is "leading a barbaric war and murderous siege using powerful means of destruction against Lebanon and its people since July, as well as against the Palestinian people, leadership, and government, while insisting on not reaching a cease-fire."

Lodged while the invasion continued, this charge was one striking example of the outrage felt all over the world at U.S.-Israeli aggression. It has expressed itself in attempts to prosecute Israeli war crimes in Morocco, Britain, Belgium, Denmark

and France. These attempts led Israel's Foreign Ministry to warn civil servants and military officers to watch what they say while describing the invasion.

According to Reuters (Sept. 5), quoting an anonymous official, the memo singled out an official who called for "getting rid of a village in Lebanon" as a response to Hezbollah rockets striking Haifa.

"The type of language now considered off-limits includes 'crushing' the enemy, and 'cleansing,' 'leveling,' or 'wiping out' suspected enemy emplacements."

The Foreign Ministry has set up a legal team to defend Israelis involved in the war against Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas and crackdowns on the Palestinian uprising against prosecution abroad. They are trying to keep the cases out of court.

## Peretz is 'terrorist'

Sarfati, an agronomist, had earlier spent 18 years in jail for opposing the feudal dictatorship of Hassan II, the king of Morocco. Both France and the United States supported this king because of Morocco's strategic importance and because he was one of the few Arab leaders in the 1970s and 1980s willing to recognize Israel.

They also demanded an investigation of the Israeli defense minister in order to expose "all the crimes he committed against the Palestinians and against Lebanon."

"The terrorist criminal Peretz kept his Moroccan citizenship. This man's name still appears in Morocco's records," the lawsuit charges. The lawyers added that the Interpol should be tasked with bringing Peretz to justice in Morocco.

Moroccan law permits charges to be filed against its citizens for crimes committed outside the country.

Support for the suit in Morocco is strong. Morocco's leading human rights group praised the lawsuit, asserting that Peretz is "in possession of Moroccan citizenship and a Zionist-terrorist identity." The group accused Peretz of committing "the most despicable crimes against humanity, war crimes and extermination against the Lebanese and Palestinian people."

Moroccan authorities are caught in a dilemma. Peretz visited Morocco during the recent Israeli election campaign and met with Morocco's king, but he will have trouble making another visit. The lawsuit also paves the way for further lawsuits against Moroccan Israelis on charges of committing "war crimes" during their military service.

At the end of August, Israel's Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni met with Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen and Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller.

Frank Aaen of the small, left-wing opposition Red-Green Alliance said Livni should be detained upon arrival in Denmark, and he reported Livni to Danish police.

"I believe the minister should be detained while it is being investigated whether she can be charged for war crimes," he said in a statement.

Aaen cited an Amnesty International report that accused Israel of war crimes, saying Israel broke international law by deliberately targeting Lebanon's civilian infrastructure during its 34-day war with Hezbollah guerrillas.

Danish police refused Aaen's request. □

# Women soccer champs: DPRK

By Deirdre Griswold

The women's soccer team from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea got a heroes' welcome when they arrived home in Pyongyang on Sept. 7. Over 100,000 people lined the streets of North Korea's capital to cheer the winners of the FIFA U-20 Women's World Championship.

The last game in the FIFA 2006 finals, played in Moscow, had been between the DPRK and China. The Korean women won handily, 5 to 0. The two Asian teams dominated the sport this year. In third and fourth place, respectively, were Brazil and the U.S.

The Korean women's victory was all the more remarkable considering that they represent a country of only 25 million people that competed against others many times its size.

Nothing about this victory has appeared in the U.S. media so far, which generally devotes much space and time to sports and ordinarily would be interested in a story about such a remarkable upset. But when it comes to news about North Korea, the reporting is almost universally hostile.

Most people in the U.S. would probably be shocked to find out that the DPRK produces strong, healthy athletes—including



Over 100,000 people lined the streets of North Korea's capital to cheer the winners of the FIFA U-20 Women's World Championship.

women. They've been told again and again by the propaganda machine that the people of North Korea are starving, stunted, downtrodden and would give anything for a chance to defect.

No wonder news about this sports feat didn't make it into the corporate press. It contradicts all the lies told about the DPRK. □

## BANGLADESH

# Protests stop an open-pit coal mine

By G. Dunkel

The people of Bangladesh were fed up. Asia Energy PLC, a British mining company, was building a massive open-pit coal mine at a cost of \$3 billion at Phulbari in the northern Dinajpur district in north-west Bangladesh.

The complex was expected to produce high-grade coal and electricity to be exported to India. While Asia Energy boasted about the hundreds of jobs this project would create, opponents claimed that 200,000 people would be forced off their land, which for farmers means losing their livelihood.

At least four people were killed—some reports said six—and more than 100 injured when police opened fire on people trying to storm an office of Asia Energy in Dhaka on Aug. 26. They were intent on stopping the open-pit mine.

Police fired hundreds of shots and 50 tear gas shells to disperse the angry crowds, said witnesses. "It was a hell of a scene with hundreds of gun-shooting police confronting nearly 20,000 protesters in the hours of battle," one witness told Reuters. Marianne, a French newspaper with a reporter in Dhaka, reported that 50,000 people were in the streets.

Police called in paramilitary troops as reinforcements after they failed to scare off the protesters, district officials told

reporters.

But the deaths did not stop the protests. On Aug. 28, the house of a company official was burned. The next day, opponents of the open pit and students called a general strike. On Aug. 30, a cop was mortally wounded.

The strike was solid. Schools were paralyzed, stores and offices closed, the ports were shut down.

Finally, the government gave in. It halted work at the open-pit site in the northern Dinajpur district and suspended mining contracts late on Aug. 30.

"No coal mine or other project will be allowed at Phulbari against the interests of local people," promised Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, minister of local government and rural development and secretary-general of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Asia Energy lost half its value on the London Stock Exchange.

But opponents of the government didn't stop their protests. The Opposition Alliance, a 14-party coalition, called a general strike Sept. 10 to protest the recent police action against its activists demanding electoral reforms. That's a Sunday, which is a work day in Muslim Bangladesh.

According to preliminary reports, the strike was successful but less confrontational than the previous one against the open pit. □

## Poison Dust

### Radioactive DU Weapons in Iraq

Veterans, anti-war organizers, environmentalists and health care providers will find this wake-up call to today's GIs invaluable. Today more than 1/3 of all 1991 Gulf War vets are on VA Disability Benefits. Meanwhile U.S. use of radioactive DU weapons has increased six-fold from 1991 to Gulf War III!

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. Scientists expose the Pentagon cover-up! 84-minute DVD.



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## Fact-finding group in Beirut

# Lebanese people oppose 'U.S. terrorist government'

By Leilani Dowell  
Beirut, Lebanon

*A fact-finding delegation organized by the Campaign for Accountability arrived in war-torn Beirut, Lebanon, on Sept. 11. It consisted of Leilani Dowell, a managing editor of Workers World newspaper; Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center, and Samia Halaby of the Defend Palestine Committee. They will be visiting the devastated country from Sept. 11-17. Below are excerpts from Dowell's first report.*

### Monday, Sept. 11

We arrived in Beirut today after flying into Amman, Jordan, on Sunday. The first signs as we walked into the terminal in Amman were those of greeters waiting to receive people off our flight from DynCorp International and BlackWater USA—the same mercenary corporations that the rich hired in New Orleans to protect their property after Katrina.

[Mercenaries from both BlackWater USA and DynCorp International have been used by the U.S. military all over the globe, including Iraq. Mercenaries from DynCorp International were also alleged to be part of a prostitution ring in Bosnia, yet to this day the company has received over \$2 billion in payments from the Department of Defense. When four mercenaries for BlackWater USA were killed in Fallujah, the U.S. occupiers used their deaths as an excuse to unleash a brutal attack on the city. In that and a later invasion, U.S. troops destroyed most of Fallujah, which remains in ruins today. Only half of the original population has returned.—Editor]

Today, we went to the neighborhood of Haret Hreik in South Beirut, a large Shiite community, where Hezbollah has strong support and where the Hezbollah television station Al Manar was housed.

Israel razed Al Manar in their first days of bombing, as well as most of the neighborhood of seven- or eight-story apartment buildings, to the ground. Huge craters



were all that remain of many buildings—craters created not by the excavation of the debris, but by the magnitude and force of the bombs dropped.

The woman we are staying with told us that Israeli planes dropped flyers telling the people to flee their homes before the bombing began. When we asked her whether she had copies of the flyer, she said no. Like many other people, she was too afraid to leave the house because Israel was randomly targeting people on the street.

Later, when thousands of bombs rained down, people began fleeing the neighborhood. Today we could see men, women and children returning to the area to sort

through the rubble for anything they could find that remained of their homes. The destruction is devastating in a way that I can't even put into words.

However, the work of cleaning out the debris—a monumental task with all the devastation—has already been undertaken by Hezbollah. The resistance movement has crews in the area, loading debris onto trucks and cleaning out shattered apartments.

We watched several workers carefully removing furniture from an apartment on the fifth floor of a ruined building, as a service to the family that resided there. And with all this work going on, workers



Beirut, Lebanon

today had hosed down a large area and were setting up plastic lawn chairs and speakers for a religious event they were having tonight. We were told that Hezbollah organized it so that the neighborhood could feel like it was getting back to its life.

We passed one of the many highway overpasses that had been bombed during the Israeli assault. While traffic was definitely slower because of the damage, what we noticed was that the area beneath the break had already been cleaned. People were sitting around it, even selling their wares to cars that passed by.

The images of a trip I took to New Orleans after Katrina came to my mind over and over—where, in the same amount of time, nothing had been done to restore the area for the people who lived there; and where, one year later, little to nothing has been done in impoverished areas like the Lower Ninth Ward.

We were able to talk to some of the workers and neighborhood residents. What struck me the most about our conversations is that every single person told us, "The Lebanese people are not against the people of the United States. We know the difference between the people of the U.S. and its government, and it is its terrorist government that we are against."

There is a clear understanding that this most recent attack of Israel on Lebanon was sanctioned and funded by the U.S.

Hezbollah has adopted the slogan "The Divine Victory," and beautiful signs can be seen throughout Beirut with this message in English and Arabic. Some of the billboards are emblazoned with pictures of katusha rockets, some with Sheik Hassan Nasrallah.

Other billboards emphasized the overwhelming civilian toll with pictures of wounded children and the Israeli term that they only struck "extremely accurate targets."

On top of the ruins of bombed-out apartments and other buildings, signs read "Made in USA" and "The New Middle Beast."

It appears that the "Divine Victory" slogan serves not only as a reminder of the great triumph that the Lebanese resistance movement has just won, but also as motivation for the ongoing struggle, the struggle against imperialism that the resistance movement here is confident will be won.

Tony Blair was in Beirut today and protests were scheduled. There is a demonstration being called to mark the anniversary of the massacre at the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps, in Beirut, on Friday, Sept. 15.

For updates, see [eyewitnesslebanon.blogspot.com](http://eyewitnesslebanon.blogspot.com).



## Lebanese tell Blair: 'GO TO HELL'

Thousands of Lebanese protested Sept. 11 against British Prime Minister Tony Blair's visit to Beirut. The protesters carried banners that read, "Blair you killer—Go to hell" and "This is what your intelligent bombs do." One young Lebanese man remarked, "Blair is the biggest criminal and a lackey for the U.S. and we don't understand why he's coming here."

An Irish woman, working as a volunteer with traumatized children, was only 10 feet from Blair during his news conference. She stood up and shouted, "Shame on you, shame on you" and "This is an insult to the memory of innocent Lebanese who have died as a result of his policy."

—Larry Hales

Scenes from Lebanon September 2006.

WWW PHOTOS: LEILANI DOWELL

## Support the Cuban Five against U.S. terrorism

On Sept. 12, a federal magistrate in El Paso, Texas, announced he was prepared to release the terrorist airplane bomber, Luis Posada Carriles, from detention. The timing couldn't have been more telling. Just one day earlier, President Bush had shamelessly beaten the drums for his "war on terror," hoping to utilize the 9/11 World Trade Center memorials in order to reverse the growing anti-war feeling in the United States.

Posada Carriles is a virulent enemy of the Cuban Revolution who has been held by immigration since he entered the U.S. over a year ago without documents. He is wanted in Cuba for his role in the killing of Italian tourist Fabio di Celmo and the wounding of many Cubans during a spree of bombings at Havana hotels in 1997.

Venezuela has also demanded his extradition to stand trial for the midair bombing of a Cubana airliner that killed 73 people on Oct. 6, 1976, including the entire Cuban Olympic fencing team. Posada Carriles escaped from a Venezuelan prison a few years later, reportedly with the help of the CIA.

In 2000, he attempted to assassinate Fidel Castro while the Cuban leader was visiting Panama. Arrested and convicted for this crime, he was pardoned and released in May 2005 by the outgoing president of Panama, Mireya Moscoso.

Posada Carriles then entered the U.S. without documents through Mexico. Unlike so many other undocumented immigrants, he was arrested reluctantly, and only when he continually flaunted his anti-Cuba presence in Miami through public press conferences.

The U.S. government is ignoring its 1922 extradition treaty with Venezuela by refusing to honor the Venezuelan Supreme Court's extradition request for Posada, a Venezuelan citizen. The U.S. says Posada might be "tortured" if extradited to either Venezuela or Cuba. But the only cases of torture in these countries have been at the U.S.-run Naval Base in Guantanamo, a territory the U.S. illegally refuses to return to Cuba.

While Posada may be going free, five Cuban men are in U.S. super-max prisons serving four life terms and 75 years. They were charged with espionage conspiracy, but in fact the Cuban Five were peacefully monitoring paramilitary groups based in Miami that, like Posada Carriles and his friends, plot and carry out attacks on Cuba with U.S. government support.

International demonstrations and forums from Sept. 12 through Oct. 6 will demand freedom for the Cuban Five. This time period is replete with anniversaries that show the bloody, terrorist character of U.S. policy toward Cuba and other progressive countries in Latin America.

Thirty years ago, on Oct. 6, Cubana Airlines flight 455 was destroyed.

The magistrate's decision recommending freedom for Posada fell on the eighth anniversary of the arrest and unjust imprisonment of the Cuban Five—Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, René González, Antonio Guerrero, and Gerardo Hernández.

On Sept. 11, 1973, a coup engineered by the CIA overthrew the elected Chilean government of socialist Salvador

Allende, plunging that country into a bloody military dictatorship.

Posada Carriles is said to have been involved in Operation Condor, which on Sept. 21, 1976, killed former Chilean ambassador Orlando Letelier and his aide, Ronni Moffit, using a car bomb right in Washington, D.C.

On Sept. 11, 1980, Cuban diplomat Felix García Rodríguez was assassinated in Queens, N.Y.

As part of the international protests over Washington's double standard on terrorism, the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five will march from the U.S. (In-)Justice Department to the White House in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 23 at 11 a.m. A public meeting is planned later that day at George Washington University. Be there!

Now is the time to emulate the Detroit City Council's March 29 resolution in our communities, unions and city councils. Demand freedom for the Cuban Five and extradition and jail for real terrorists like Posada Carriles! □

## WWP says:

# No utility shutoffs!

Six children in Chicago died in a fire in early September after their family was forced by a utility shutoff to use candles or live in the dark. This horrific tragedy underscores a major problem facing workers across this country: utility greed at a time of falling incomes for millions of workers.

It is seniors, poorer workers, children and those with health problems who are the most vulnerable. Not only do shutoffs create cruel hardships and suffering for individuals and their families, they also represent a community hazard for entire neighborhoods, especially in urban centers where fires can spread rapidly.

Workers World Party, representing the workers and the poor, is calling for a moratorium on all shutoffs.

There are both legal and historical precedents for the government to take this step on behalf of the common good of the people and in the event of disaster. This is true both on the federal and local levels.

If government fails to protect and serve the people in its jurisdiction, it loses whatever legitimacy it may have claimed.

A people's commission should be con-

vened to investigate speculation, price gouging, mergers and greed within the utility industry. This should include the failure of the industry to do necessary repairs and the lack of planning created by the chaotic profit-first nature of the system that has led to both massive low voltage and power failures.

The purpose of such an investigation should be a plan of action to protect workers and the community by providing immediate relief. This would include a rollback in all prices and a plan to eventually provide necessary utilities free for non-commercial use.

Utilities such as gas, electric and water are vital necessities in today's society. They should be run by and for the people, not through the capitalist market for corporate greed. A small fraction of the trillions of dollars spent on U.S. imperialism's wars and terror against the world's people could easily, even within the present framework of existing utility service, provide every person with heat and light. An equal allocation could then provide what is needed to begin a systematic program to develop alternative, non-polluting energy sources. □

## Labor marches in NYC



Thousands of trade unionists marched through the middle of Manhattan on Sept. 9, the day now chosen by New York's labor unions to celebrate Labor Day with a parade, since Labor Day itself has become the time of the Caribbean Day Parade in Brooklyn. Above, a contingent of the Professional Staff Congress, which represents 20,000 faculty and professional staff at the City University system.

—Reporting and photo by G. Dunkel

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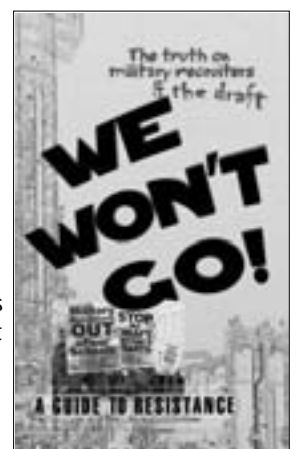
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## JORGE FARINACCI GARCÍA 1949-2006

# Socialist & working class leader is remembered

By Tom Soto  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Jorge Farinacci García, the principal leader of the Socialist Front of Puerto Rico, died on Saturday, Aug. 26, after waging a year-long battle against cancer. In the political movement, we called him Fari.

From Saturday evening to Monday morning, more than 1,000 workers and their families, pro-independence activists from across the country, trade unionists and sympathizers of the Socialist Front filled the Ehret funeral home in the suburb of Río Piedras to pay tribute to Fari's legacy of struggle in favor of an independent and socialist Puerto Rico.

People in the United States probably first heard of Jorge Farinacci when he, Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and 14 others were arrested in 1985. They were accused of being leaders of the Macheteros, a group the federal government accused of taking \$7 million from a Wells Fargo depot in Hartford, Conn., to further the struggle for Puerto Rican independence.

Fari was born to a middle-class family in the city of San Germán. His mother was an educator and his father a business manager. The family moved to the metropolitan area of San Juan, where Fari grew up.

In 1966, he entered the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), a public university, and obtained a Political Science degree. Fari then entered the UPR Law School, graduating in 1973.

In that period, the U.S. was conducting a genocidal war against the people of Vietnam. The UPR was the center of great upheavals—strikes, occupations, confrontations with the police—directed against the ROTC and U.S. military conscription. As a result of involvement in these struggles, Fari was suspended.

He had already joined the Federación Universitaria Pro Independencia (Pro-Independence University Federation) and was a collaborator of the Movimiento Pro Independencia/MPI (Pro-Independence Movement). Fari was part of the revolutionary fervor of the time that led the MPI to form the Puerto Rican Socialist Party in the 1970s. According to Fari's son, Tito, "Fari sympathized with socialism since his earlier youth, in part due to the influence of his grandfather on his maternal side, who had been a member of the Socialist Party of earlier years."

He was greatly influenced by the struggle of the Vietnamese people against the U.S. and by the Cuban Revolution. A vigorous reader of Marxist literature, he had a special respect for Lenin and the other leaders of the October Revolution in Russia.

The 1970s saw an awakening of the labor movement and the pro-independence and socialist movements.

Fari gravitated towards the building of an armed revolutionary movement to oust the U.S. from Puerto Rico, and towards establishing a revolutionary working class party. In 1977 he joined the Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers Party (Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores Puertorriqueños/PRTP), which the following year launched the Macheteros.

Hilton Fernández Diamante, who then worked with Fari, explains: "From the



Jorge Farinacci, left, at anti-war protest in San Juan.

beginning we knew that Fari was a leader. He was very articulate and dynamic. Together with other comrades he founded the theoretical journal *Pensamiento Crítico* (Critical Thinking), where issues faced by the workers of Puerto Rico and throughout the world were analyzed and debated."

The Macheteros had a vision of trying to unite the forces that wanted national independence while promoting the class interests of the workers. They also worked to stabilize the finances of the independence movement.

By 1979 the Macheteros were carrying out joint armed actions with other armed revolutionary groups, such as the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional (Armed Forces of National Liberation), Fuerzas Armadas de Resistencia Popular (Armed Forces of Popular Resistance) and the Organización de Voluntarios Por la Revolución Puertorriqueña (Organization of Volunteers for the Puerto Rican Revolution).

The Macheteros became an important symbol of the armed movement to decolonize Puerto Rico from U.S. control. Some actions of the Macheteros received world attention, such as a guerrilla attack in 1981 at the Muñoz Naval Base that destroyed 11 military aircraft worth \$45 million.

The Muñoz Naval Base action was done while the U.S. was carrying out savage counter-revolutionary proxy wars against the peoples of Nicaragua and El Salvador. Not only was the Muñoz Base action viewed as an act of solidarity with Central America, but it also elevated the Puerto Rican anti-colonial struggle on a world scale.

Building an armed movement, while at the same time trying to build a working class party and unite the social forces in Puerto Rican society who aspired to independence, all done clandestinely, proved to be a monumental task.

Fari had two lives.

Upon graduating in 1973 as an attorney, his first job was with the Puerto Rico Department of Labor. According to his son Tito, it "only lasted a couple of months." He processed complaints against employers for violating workers' rights and arbitrated cases in dispute.

He soon left the Labor Department and began working with pro-labor lawyers in the Bufete Sindical (Union Law Firm), but most of his work was with Teamsters Local 901. He negotiated contracts, defended

fired employees, and participated in organizing campaigns, strikes and labor mobilizations.

When the labor movement in 1998 called a general strike to oppose the privatization sale by the PR government of the Puerto Rico Telephone Co., the Aqueduct Workers Independent Union and Teamsters Local 901 played a pivotal role in closing down Muñoz Marin International Airport in San Juan.

In 1981, Fari was subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury for a bank robbery that had occurred in 1977. He refused to testify. Ultimately, the charges against him were dropped.

Even after his arrest in 1985 for the Wells Fargo incident, Fari was an intransigent fighter. In a plea bargain stipulation on the Wells Fargo case, Fari forced the court to acknowledge his political motivation. The stipulation said of him, "You, however, take the position that the United States government has no authority to criminalize your effort to resist the colonial subjugation of your country, Puerto Rico, and your right under international law to work for the freedom and self-determination of your homeland. You believe that the Court has no jurisdiction over you and that you are not a criminal."

Fari admitted to approving the carrying out of the action in Hartford, but insisted that the stipulation include: "It is acknowledged by the government ... that the robbery was perpetrated to fund the goals of the Macheteros." He spent five years in prison.

He was released in 1992 but had to serve an additional five years probation and was barred from practicing law. Nevertheless, Fari returned to work for the Teamsters and also worked as a labor law instructor at the University of Mayagüez.

On his release he joined the Socialist Front, a coalition of socialist organizations working together for the interests of the working class, where he spearheaded efforts to develop and stabilize a Cuba Solidarity Committee that organized yearly solidarity trips to Cuba.

Two years later, when the pro-independence newspaper *Claridad* (Clarity) was reorganized to reflect the entire patriotic movement in Puerto Rico, Fari joined its editorial board.

In 1997, as his five-year probation was ending, the U.S. government attempted to send him back to jail on alleged probation violations. It claimed Fari was consorting

with known criminals by attending political demonstrations that brought him into contact with other Macheteros. Fari successfully fought this charge in court, defending his right to free speech, assembly and political association.

Milagros Rivera, chair of the Cuba Solidarity Committee, commented: "I knew Fari since our days together at the University of Puerto Rico. He not only worked tirelessly to defend Cuba but was an anti-imperialist in the internationalist sense. He not only opposed U.S. interventions throughout Latin America but also supported the struggle of the Palestinians, the liberation movements in Africa ... of the oppressed everywhere. Fari was of a new breed."

During the struggle to oust the U.S. Navy from the island of Vieques, which involved the independence movement as a whole, Fari coordinated the efforts of the Socialist Front in organizing and providing ongoing material assistance to demonstrators. He thoroughly enjoyed, as did the entire independence movement, when the U.S. Navy was forced to leave in 2003.

Fari insisted that every arena available should be utilized to advance the struggle. Representing the Socialist Front, he testified many times before the UN Decolonization Committee, demanding self-determination for the Puerto Rican nation and that the U.S. get out. He represented the front at various Sao Paulo Forums held in Latin America and was a delegate to the Caribbean and Latin American Gathering in Solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution, held in Venezuela in 2004.

Fari's commitment to help workers extended into his daily life. He founded the Instituto de Derecho Laboral (the Institute for Labor Rights), a private practice bringing together young attorneys oriented to defending workers' rights. Union and non-union workers could consult there and gain assistance, from contract violation issues to discrimination cases, including women's and gay rights. Often the institute's services were provided free of charge.

If a particular union's leadership became corrupt and unresponsive to the workers' interests, Fari would help rank and file members establish caucuses and develop opposition slates to fight for democratic change.

Karen Vega, his secretary, said he was "in many places at the same time. While he was negotiating a labor contract, he was at the same time settling an arbitration case by phone, and while he was making statements to the press on the latest political developments, he was organizing an event on behalf of the oppressed masses.... He lived according to the dictates of his conscience, unceasingly struggling for social justice. He was a small man who had a thousand fierce, giant guerilla fighters within him."

In the year 2000 Fari married Rosa Meneses. He and his wife got to visit their beloved Cuba on various occasions. Fari is survived by Rosa, his daughters Maritza and Natalia, and his son Tito.

A memorial meeting honoring his contributions to the struggle for social justice, independence and socialism was held on Aug. 28. Speakers from a multitude of movements and unions honored him. Messages were received from all over Latin America and from Workers World Party in the United States. □



## Porqué Sudán rechaza las tropas de la ONU

Por Sara Flounders

Los esfuerzos de los Estados Unidos por reestablecer la ocupación y el dominio colonial sufrieron una nueva derrota el 4 de septiembre. El gobierno de Sudán rehusó permitir que las fuerzas de las Naciones Unidas fueran estacionadas en la región occidental de Darfur.

El 1 de septiembre, Estados Unidos y Bretaña forzaron la Resolución 1701 en el Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas. Esta pide el envío de más de 20.000 soldados de la ONU hacia el Sudán para reemplazar a 7.000 soldados de la Unión Africana.

El asesor presidencial Mustafa Osman Ismail respondió que el gobierno sudanés rechazó el cambio de las fuerzas de la Unión Africana, las cuales había aceptado, por una presencia más amplia de la ONU, porque la meta del mandato de la ONU es un "cambio de régimen." (Reuters, 4 de septiembre)

Estados Unidos ha dicho que el reemplazo de las fuerzas de la ONU es esencial ya que las fuerzas africanas no tienen suficientes fondos, personal ni equipos necesarios para el papel de "fuerza internacional de paz" que le habían asignado. Sin embargo, es la OTAN, la cual está supuesta proveer logísticas, transporte aéreo, equipo y provisiones para las fuerzas africanas.

Rusia, China y Qatar se abstuvieron de votar en la reunión del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU y la criticaron, aunque ni Rusia ni China ejercieron su derecho al veto. La resolución sí estipula que el despliegue tomaría lugar "conforme a su aprobación por el gobierno [sudanés]." Los Estados Unidos han estado organizando una campaña internacional para presionar al Sudán a que acepte las fuerzas extranjeras.

El Sudán tiene buenas razones para dudar de cualquier resolución forzada por los Estados Unidos y Bretaña. Bretaña fue el colonizador brutal del Sudán. Siempre se ha opuesto a la soberanía de Sudán.

En cuanto a Washington, el cambio de régimen—el derrocamiento del gobierno—en el Sudán ha estado en la agenda tanto del partido Republicano como del Demócrata. Por más de una década Estados Unidos ha prohibido inversiones, comercio, créditos y préstamos para Sudán. En 1998, durante la administración de Clinton, 17 misiles estadounidenses destruyeron la planta farmacéutica El Shifa, la mayor fuente de medicinas para Sudán.

Sudán sabe muy bien cómo los Estados Unidos usaron la resolución de la ONU en 1990 para justificar los ataques que destruyeron la infraestructura de Irak. Los 13 años de sanciones de la ONU contra Irak, las cuales Washington exigió, resultaron en la muerte de más de 1.5 millones de Iraquíes.

Estados Unidos ha ocupado el sur de Corea por más de 50 años bajo una resolución del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU. Más de 4 millones de coreanos murieron en la Guerra de Corea del 1950-1953, la cual se dio bajo la bandera de la ONU. Las fuerzas de la ONU en Yugoslavia, el Congo

y Haití han sido una cubierta para las intervenciones y ocupaciones estado-unidenses y europeas. Nunca han sido una fuerza de paz o reconciliación.

A pesar de la forma en la cual está escrita la resolución de la ONU, oficiales de alto rango del Departamento de Estado de los EEUU han insistido que el texto de la resolución permite a las tropas de la ONU entrar en Darfur, incluso sin el consentimiento de Sudán. Pero diplomáticos conceden que es poco probable que otros países contribuyan tropas a una misión opuesta por al gobierno de Sudán. Sudán ha prometido atacar cualquier fuerza que entre en el país sin invitación. (Agencia Francesa de Prensa, 1 de septiembre)

Todos los países de la ONU saben que el Pentágono tiene la capacidad de destacar fuerzas en cualquier parte del planeta. Saben que utilizando fuerza armada abrumadora y tácticas de "sorpresa y terror", el Pentágono puede ocupar a un país. Pero todo el mundo también sabe que en Irak, Afganistán y ahora en el Líbano, la resistencia popular comprometida no puede ser derrotada tan fácilmente.

Sudán es el país más grande de África—igual en tamaño a toda Europa Occidental. La región oeste de Darfur es más grande que Irak. Si 150.000 tropas de los EEUU no pueden dominar a Irak, 20.000 tropas de la ONU en Darfur pueden enfrentar una oposición sostenida en una región conocida por sus consistentes sentimientos anticoloniales.

El vicepresidente de Sudan, Ali Osman Taha, prometió que su país mantendrá su oposición a una fuerza armada de la ONU en Darfur y aplaudió a Hizbolá por ser

modelo de resistencia. "Tenemos opciones y planes para confrontar a la intervención internacional", dijo. (AFP 1 de septiembre)

### La campaña 'Rescate de Darfur'

La campaña internacional para presionar a Sudán tiene entre sus auspiciadores las mismas fuerzas políticas que fueron los partisanos más entusiastas de la invasión de los EEUU contra Irak.

Un mitin bien financiado para "Rescatar a Darfur" está siendo organizado para el 17 de septiembre en el Parque Central de Nueva York para demandar que fuerzas de la ONU sean enviadas a Sudán. El mitin destacará a personajes famosos, conjuntos musicales populares y políticos de renombre, tanto Republicanos como Demócratas.

El mitin es un intento deliberado para dividir al movimiento en contra de la guerra de los EEUU en Irak, satanizar aún más los pueblos árabe y musulmán, y vender una nueva guerra como si fuera un esfuerzo humanitario.

Algunos de los grupos que expresan gran preocupación por los refugiados en Darfur se mantuvieron callados o fueron partidarios activos del bombardeo israelita del Líbano que creó más de un millón de refugiados. Estuvieron entre los partidarios más comprometidos de la invasión y ocupación de Irak. El Presidente George W. Bush se reunió con los organizadores de la Campaña Rescate de Darfur en la Casa Blanca y elogió sus esfuerzos.

A pesar de que la Campaña Rescate de Darfur nombra muchos endosantes religiosos y de derechos humanos, la campaña es una iniciativa de las organiza-

ciones cristianas evangélicas más derechistas y las principales organizaciones sionistas.

El Jerusalem Post del 27 de abril, en un artículo titulado "Judíos estadounidenses dirigen planes para una reunión sobre Darfur", describió el papel de organizaciones sionistas prominentes en una reunión semejante para "Rescatar Darfur" en Washington, D.C. el 30 de abril.

La Asociación Nacional de Evangélicos, la Alianza Mundial Evangélica y otros grupos religiosos que apoyan fuertemente a Bush son otra fuerza importante en la coalición de Darfur.

La imputación de genocidio en Darfur fue primeramente promulgada por el general Colin Powell en 2004, cuando él era Secretario de Estado. Sudán apareció en la lista de países que los Estados Unidos consideraba listos para un "cambio de gobierno" durante ambas administraciones de Clinton y Bush.

A pesar de los esfuerzos por los medios de difusión corporativos de simplificar el conflicto como una lucha de invasores árabes de "Janjawid" contra el pueblo africano, es importante saber que todas las partes contendientes son africanas, todas son indígenas u oriundas de la región, y todas las partes contendientes son musulmanes del grupo sunita. El árabe es el idioma común junto a cientos de dialectos locales. El Sudán tiene una de las poblaciones más étnicamente diversas del mundo. Más de 400 grupos étnicos tienen su propio idioma o dialecto.

El hambre está acabando con el área debido a una sequía que ha perdurado una década en el África del Norte. La lucha por los escasos suministros de agua ha puesto en contraposición a campesinos contra pastores nómadas.

Hay una cuestión que todas las fuerzas que dicen preocuparse por el pueblo de Sudán nunca mencionan: el papel del imperialismo en mantener al Sudán pobre y subdesarrollado. Sudán tiene recursos extensos y riqueza mineral. La política de Washington con respecto a Sudán ha girado en torno a avivar hostilidades nacionales y regionales en el sur y el oeste para que las corporaciones estadounidenses puedan controlar el desarrollo de los ricos yacimientos de petróleo, oro, uranio y cobre que podrían hacer próspero a Sudán.

El gobierno estadounidense puede haber asegurado una resolución de la ONU como resultado de su esfuerzo más reciente para intimidar al Sudán. Pero el problema verdadero es que el imperio estadounidense se ha extendido demasiado y no puede lograr éxito en ninguna de las guerras que ha fomentado para dominar al mundo.

Bush, al usar la intolerante frase "Islamofascismo" y su declaración de una Guerra Mundial III sin término contra los países que están luchando por defender su soberanía nacional, ha encontrado resistencia desde Irak hasta Afganistán y el Líbano. Sus nuevas amenazas contra Siria, Irán, Somalia y Sudán harán pensar dos veces a más países antes de firmar para participar en beneficio de las corporaciones estadounidenses. □

