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# Iran and Venezuela speak truth to power

## Leaders assail U.S. aggression in world forums

By Fred Goldstein

From Havana to New York to Beirut, the voices of resistance to U.S. imperialism and the Bush administration took center stage in mid-September. With clarity and militancy, world leaders in the struggle laid out the crimes of Washington and other "great powers," especially aiming their oratory at the institution of the United Nations Security Council.

While leaders from Cuba, Iran, Venezuela, North Korea, Zimbabwe, Lebanon, Syria and other countries persuasively presented the arguments of the oppressed against a world dominated by oppressors, it was not just the logic of these presentations that compelled the media and the politicians in Washington, London, Paris and Berlin to pay attention. It was that these voices represent hundreds of millions of people in struggle who are steadily weakening the grip of world imperialism, headed by the U.S. ruling class.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, president of Iran, which the Bush administration had branded as part of its "axis of evil" in 2002, riveted the attention of the UN General Assembly summit when he laid out the case against the Security Council.

"By causing war and conflict, some are fast expanding their domination, accumulating greater wealth, and usurping all the resources, while others endure the resulting poverty, suffering and misery," said Ahmadinejad.

"Just watch what is happening in the Palestinian land. People are being bombarded in their own homes and their children murdered in their own streets and alleys. But no authority, not even the Security Council, can afford them any support or protection.

"At the same time, a Government is formed democratically and through the free choice of the electorate in a part of the Palestinian territory. But instead of receiving the support of the so-called champions of democracy, its Ministers and Members of Parliament are illegally abducted and incarcerated in full view of the international community."

Referring to the bombardment of Lebanon, the U.S. government's campaign against Iran's legal right to have nuclear energy, and other examples, Ahmadinejad then put the issue before the world body.

"The question needs to be asked: if the Governments of the United States or the United Kingdom, who are permanent members of the Security Council, commit aggression, occupation, and violation of international law, which of the organs of

*"The question needs to be asked: If the Governments of the United States or the United Kingdom, who are permanent members of the Security Council, commit aggression, occupation, and violation of international law, which of the organs of the UN can take them to account? Can a Council in which they are privileged members address their violations? Has this ever happened?"*

**—Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to the General Assembly**

the UN can take them to account? Can a Council in which they are privileged members address their violations? Has this ever happened?"

As a partial corrective, he proposed that the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the African continent each have a representative as a permanent member of the Security Council with veto privilege. This would "hopefully prevent further trampling of the rights of nations," he concluded.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez was widely covered for calling George W. Bush "the devil," a characterization that drew open sympathy, not only in the General Assembly but around the world. But what the capitalist media did not want to focus on was his rejoinder to Bush, who had come before the General Assembly the day before and lectured the countries of the world, rating them, warning them and spreading lies.

Chávez mocked Bush's statement "to the population of the Middle East" in which Bush said, "My country wants peace."

"It wants peace," said Chávez. "But what is happening in Iraq? What happened in Lebanon? In Palestine? ...What's happened over the last 100 years in Latin America and the world? And now threatening Venezuela—new threats against Venezuela, against Iran?"

He characterized the war against Hezbollah and Hamas as "imperialist, fascist, assassin, genocidal, the empire and Israel firing on the people of Palestine and Lebanon." And as far as Bush speaking "to the people of the world," Chávez asked, "What would those peoples of the world tell him if they were given the floor? ... I think I have some inkling of what the peoples of the

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### From NYC to Hormigueros

### Thousands demand:

### 'Que viva Puerto Rico libre!'

On Sept. 23, the anniversary of El Grito de Lares and the FBI assassination of freedom fighter Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, Latin@s marched from Times Square to the UN in New York and on the island of Puerto Rico to the home of Ojeda Ríos in Hormigueros, pictured above. The demands included an end to U.S. colonial rule and for independence of their homeland. See page 8.

WW PHOTO: A. PUIGDOLLERS AL-KETTANI (NY, RIGHT)



# Opposes war, racism & poverty

## A real people's candidate

By Kris Hamel  
Detroit

David Sole is the Green Party of Michigan candidate running for U.S. senator on the Stop the War Slate.

He has been an anti-war, anti-racist activist for four decades. As a youth he protested the Vietnam War and was arrested for fighting the KKK in the streets of Pontiac, Mich. in 1972. He fought General Motors' plant closings as co-chair of UAW Local 15's Stop Plant Closings Committee in the 1980s. In 1998 he defied U.S. sanctions and delivered medicine to children's hospitals in Iraq.

Sole has been in the streets defending the rights of immigrants, women, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) people. He has been outspoken against the U.S.-backed Israeli slaughter of Lebanese and Palestinian people and against the U.S. war on Iraq.

Sole is a founder of the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice (MECAWI), president of UAW Local 2334 at the City of Detroit Water & Sewage Department, and a member of the National Committee of Workers World Party.

Sole is demanding an immediate, unconditional U.S. withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan, an end to all U.S. aid to Israel, as well as U.S. hands off Cuba, Venezuela, North Korea and Iran. Sole told Workers World, "We need to take the \$317+ billion spent for the Iraq war, plus the \$550 billion Pentagon budget, and use this money to fund human needs. If we also tax the corporations and the rich, and rescind interest payments to the banks on the national debt, there will be ample money throughout the U.S. for a massive jobs program at living wages, medical care, housing, schools, and other things that poor and working people here desperately need."

With these credentials, candidate Sole is the only firm opponent to the U.S. wars and occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He speaks for the majority of citizens who, in poll after poll, want an end to the war in Iraq and the troops brought home.

Nevertheless, the Detroit Economic Club, a big-business fraternity located in this economically devastated and impoverished city, invited only incumbent Democratic Senator Debbie Stabenow and her Republican challenger, Michael Bouchard, to participate in the first U.S. Senate campaign debate. The televised debate is scheduled for Oct. 18 at noon at the Marriott Hotel in Detroit's Renaissance Center (owned by General Motors Corp.).

Anti-war activists and Sole for Senate supporters have initiated an email campaign to the Detroit Economic Club (info@econclub.org), Stabenow's office (senator@stabenow.senate.gov and info@stabenowforSenate.com), and calls to Bouchard's campaign headquarters (248-566-1125) to demand Sole's inclusion in the debate. If the anti-war candidate is excluded, activists are planning to file a complaint with the Federal Election Commission for violations of federal campaign laws.

### Campaign kicks into high gear

Sole and his supporters have been campaigning throughout the metro Detroit area, starting with a mass leafleting at Detroit's Labor Day march on Sept. 5. Sole and campaign activists also did outreach at the Dally in the Alley, a large progressive event held yearly near Wayne State University.

Sole recently spoke at a meeting of the Arab-American Political Action Committee in Dearborn, as well as attending a house meeting in Southfield and a Democratic rally featuring his opponent Debbie Stabenow. Sole joined



PHOTO: ABAYOUMI AZIKWE

Green Party candidates are Standing L to R: William J. Opalicky (State Senate, Dist. 14), Kevin Carey (State Board of Education), Margaret Guttshall (WSU Board of Governors), Fred Vitale (State Rep, Dist. 3), Lauren Spencer (MSU Board of Trustees), Kristen Hamel (State Rep, Dist. 1), Derek Grigsby for State Rep. Dist. 7, Michael Merriweather (WSU Board of Governors); Seated L to R: Richard Kuszmar (State Senate, Dist. 9), David Sole (U.S. Senate), Douglas Campbell (Governor)

other protestors at this rally, held at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and was outraged when Stabenow was fraudulently introduced as being against the Iraq war. "That's a lie! You voted to fund the war every single time," Sole shouted to her.

On the evening of Sept. 23, the Sole for U.S. Senate Campaign held a fundraising party at the Detroit meeting hall of the International Action Center. Green Party and Stop the War Slate candidates and friends enjoyed music, conversation, and delicious food and drink in a spirit of camaraderie and fight-back. Over \$800 was raised for the campaign.

David Sole and Michael Merriweather, Stop the War Slate candidate for Wayne State University Board of Governors, will be joining other Green Party candidates on a trip to northern Michigan Oct. 6 through 9. They will take their anti-war message to Boyne City and Traverse City in the northern Lower Peninsula, as well as to Sault Ste. Marie and Marquette in the Upper Peninsula.

The Stop the War Slate received a big boost recently when internationally-known activist, leader for LGBT rights and award-winning author Leslie Feinberg announced that she will be traveling to Detroit, Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo and East Lansing for speaking engagements in October. Feinberg will be featured at a Workers World Party public meeting in Detroit on Oct. 7 and has pledged to "speak out and take the election campaign against the war" to these Michigan cities during her tour.

Sole told Workers World, "Our campaign is a protest against the U.S. military machine. It's an opportunity for anti-war activists to be heard in an electoral process that traditionally excludes workers and the poor. Elections are used to divert attention from the real problems the working class faces. No Democrats or Republicans are raising real solutions. This is the richest country in the world and the money is there to meet people's basic needs, but we have to struggle to take that money away from the Pentagon and from the rich. Our campaign also exposes the inherently undemocratic nature of U.S. politics and the two-party system. We say working people deserve a voice."

For more information on the Sole for U.S. Senate campaign and all Stop the War Slate and Green Party candidates, visit [www.stophthewarslate.org](http://www.stophthewarslate.org), [www.mecawi.org](http://www.mecawi.org), [www.migreens.org](http://www.migreens.org), or email [campaign@stophthewarslate.org](mailto:campaign@stophthewarslate.org). Donations can be made payable to Sole for Senate Campaign and sent to 5922 Second Ave., Detroit, MI 48202. □



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## National demonstration says:

# 'Free the Cuban Five, jail terrorist Posada'

By Cheryl LaBash  
Washington, D.C.

The first national march and forum demanding justice for the Cuban Five was held here on Sept. 23. Organizers had petitioned, rallied and raised funds in their communities before carrying their demands to Washington, D.C.

The National Committee to Free the Cuban Five organized the event as part of three weeks of international activities to run from Sept. 12, the anniversary of the arrest of the Five eight years ago, through Oct. 6, the date exactly 30 years ago that Cubana Airlines Flight 455 was bombed in midair, killing all 73 people aboard.

The Cuban Five—Ramón Labañino, René González, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero and Gerardo Hernández—had come to the U.S. from socialist Cuba to try to stop such horrific terrorist acts from happening again. But after successfully penetrating violent anti-Cuba groups in the Miami area and letting the Cuban government know what was being planned against their people, the Five were forced into a

new chapter in their courageous struggle to stop U.S.-sponsored terror against their beloved homeland.

They were torn from their homes and families, falsely convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage, and imprisoned. The actions of the U.S. government did not turn back the movement here in solidarity with Cuba, however. Instead, they inspired just the opposite: a movement inside the United States itself to free these five heroes and support Cuba's right of self-determination.

People came to the protest from as far away as Maine and Oregon, Miami and Montreal—30 cities in all—by car, bus and plane. Organizers estimate that 600 people gathered at the doors of the U.S.



WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

Justice Department and then marched to the White House gates, where they picketed while chanting, "Free the Cuban Five!"

The largest contingent by far traveled from Florida. This delegation of Cuban Americans daily confronts anti-Cuba terrorists and paramilitaries in the Miami area, where Orlando Bosch, who has admitted involvement in the plane bombing, walks free. Bosch, who has worked with the CIA, has a long history of terrorist acts in several countries. They include attacks in the U.S., for which he was arrested but later pardoned in 1990 by then-president

George H.W. Bush. (wikipedia.org) Bush had been CIA director at the time the Cuban airliner was bombed.

The forum was opened and closed by Andrés Gómez, coordinator of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, a Cuban American organization centered in Miami. It was co-chaired by Peta Lindsay of ANSWER.

Gómez introduced two family members of people killed by terrorists linked to right-wing Cuban Americans. Francisco Letelier talked about his father, Orlando Letelier, who had been a diplomat in the

*Continued on page 11*

## New trial sought for Herman Wallace

By Anne Pruden  
Angola, La.

An attorney for prisoner Herman Wallace argued on Sept. 19 at a hearing in a prison courtroom here that Wallace deserves a new trial because the prosecution withheld important evidence that could have won him an acquittal.

Wallace, along with Albert Woodfox and Robert King Wilkerson, make up the Angola 3, who were all sentenced to life without parole after their conviction for the 1972 killing of a prison guard. Wilkerson proved his innocence and won release in 2001.

Supporters of Wallace, including relatives, organizers for Katrina survivors, students and former political prisoners like Geronimo Pratt, who had come from around the United States to attend the hearing, held signs and banners in the parking lot outside the state prison after guards stopped them from entering.

Though a SWAT team viewed the supporters from guard towers, the supporters held their ground for six hours in the Louisiana heat until the press and attorneys came out from the hearing.

The hearing covered Wallace's charge that the state hid the fact that prison officials paid off the chief witness at his 1974 trial with a pardon of the witness's life sentence and ongoing supplies of cigarettes.

Longtime Angola 3 lawyer Scott Fleming had explained earlier that Wallace's conviction could be overturned if the state court finds that the state offered favors to the prosecution witness and did not disclose this fact to the defense or the jury. A ruling on the case is expected in about 30 days.

According to the Sept. 19 AP report on the hearing, Wallace's lawyer Nick Trentecosta stated that Hezekiah Brown, the witness who testified against Wallace: "received a weekly carton of cigarettes as a payoff for his testimony. The cigarettes amounted to valuable currency that Brown could spend on gambling, alcohol, drugs or sex."

"After the trial, Brown was transferred

to a private house with his own room and television set, a former guard, Bobby Ovileaux, testified."

Organizations all over the world, including Amnesty International, have demanded freedom for the Angola 3. The parliaments of Indonesia, Portugal, Belgium and the Netherlands, and the African National Congress in South Africa have all denounced the decades of solitary imprisonment the men have endured as "cruel and unusual punishment" and have recognized the Angola 3 as political prisoners.

The prison houses over 5,000 people, having grown in population since

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Left to right: Robert King Wilkerson; Linda Carmichael; Herman's sister, Victoria Wallace; Dave Strano & Geronimo ji Jaga Pratt at courthouse in Baton Rouge, La.



Katrina struck New Orleans. Most of the prisoners are African American and most are serving life terms. It is a maximum security prison, the largest in the country, which

sits on 18,000 acres of land where slaves were once bought and sold.

For more information, visit [www.Angola3.org](http://www.Angola3.org).

## 'Education, not occupation'

# FIST leader confronts police, metal detectors

By Mia Cruz  
New York

*Sept. 26--after two days of protests, metal detectors had been removed. The following is an account by the organizer of the protests.*

On the morning of Sept. 22, dozens of police officers armed with guns and scanners monitored the doorway of Humanities Preparatory School, making students of Humanities and two smaller schools inside of the building walk through metal detectors. This was in response to a rumored stabbing at the Bayard Rustin High School for the Humanities.

This police occupation not only violated the students' personal space, but also turned students into petty criminals. Students were suspended for personal possessions the law might call "illegal", but things that were no threat at all. Police officers took away cell phones, iPods, and even artistic markers—claiming they were for graffiti. Threats of confiscation

escalated to arrests.

I happen to go to one of the smaller schools in the building, James Baldwin School. As I arrived that day, it looked like a police state. Since the original fight had nothing to do with either of the smaller schools, I staged a picket across the street to give a statement to the Board of Education that we do not approve of these scanners.

What was planned as an hour-long picket turned into an hour-and-a-half of explaining to officers, teachers and students why we need our cell phones—on a Friday—and why we need our privacy. The police were stopping students as far away as the subway station, searching them for inappropriate reasons and saying inappropriate things. Altogether, about 40 students joined us and 23 of them signed in and spent time on the picket with me. Students and an administrator who wanted to join us were intimidated and some went home. Some others went into the school, but promised to spread the word and tell others to join us on Monday's picket!

After about an hour-and-a-half, officers and the principal of Humanities told us that truancy officers would be picking us up, so more students went into the school and more left. They tried to take us into the school before the truancy officers came, but I refused to go through the scanners. They finally called my mother and told her to pick me up so I would not be marked truant. They then took me inside the school without being scanned, and the principal whispered in my ear, "I'm proud of you."

I was held in the Dean's office of Humanities, until my mother picked me up. While waiting, I heard stories of experiences that these students will never forget. A classmate of mine was bodily searched and arrested. Objects were confiscated which didn't even fall into any illegal category. The police seemed to be scared by what they didn't recognize.

*Cruz is a member of FIST—Fight Imperialism, Stand Together*



# Raleigh sanitation workers' struggle heats up

By Dante Strobino  
Raleigh, N.C.

"What do we want? Justice! What do we want? Collective Bargaining!" chanted more than 100 sanitation workers and supporters in front of Raleigh's City Hall on Sept. 25, in response to City Manager Russell Allen's inadequate response to their demands. The workers had gone back to work in good faith after their wildcat strikes the previous week, and had given the city until Sept. 22 to meet their demands.

The issue underlying the struggle is serious understaffing across the city. On Sept. 19, workers made a strong presence at the City Council meeting, where the council motioned to retain six positions they had deleted in an earlier meeting and add six new positions. However, there was no mention of the 20 positions the bosses have kept unfilled.

Allen mentioned that he has given authority to the bosses to pay overtime pay; yet this leaves discretion in their hands. The workers need written confirmation that they will be given time-and-a-half pay as a permanent policy, and that working over 10 hours of overtime will be voluntary, not forced.

Workers have been getting paid for overtime only with compensation time, which legally can only be accrued up to 70 hours, after which time-and-a-half pay must be given. This practice has clearly been violated. The bosses do not keep track of workers' hours and pay all workers for 40 hours every week. Workers



PHOTO: TAKAAKI IWABU

Leo Brown, sanitation worker, at Sept. 25 protest at Raleigh City Hall.

recently filed for a written record of hours worked, knowing no such records exist.

Workers also demanded the right to collectively bargain. They have been organizing and over three-quarters of the sanitation plant workers are now signed up with UE Local 150, the N.C. Public Sector Workers Union. In response, Mayor Charles Meeker said he wanted to establish "meet and confer" practices—a step between no recognition and collective bargaining—with the workers.

Allen promised to be at the plant on Sept. 22 to meet with workers, but when he showed up he refused to meet with any of the workers in the union. He left the meeting having addressed very few of the demands.

"[Allen] did not guarantee that we would not be forced to work overtime, nor did he make any promises about paying us

for our overtime work. ... He has no respect for us or the union," said John T. McNeill, UE 150 member and sanitation worker. "It was a disaster," says union-meet-and-confer committee member and sanitation worker Jerry Ledbetter. "Normally I do not call out racism, but he was plain racist."

Later at the union meeting, workers gave Allen a vote of no confidence and are currently seeking to meet and confer with the mayor.

## The South and the movement for collective bargaining rights

Sanitation workers in Raleigh say that they wouldn't have struck had they been given the dignity and respect of city management through collective bargaining. The same has been said throughout North Carolina by the International Workers Justice Campaign.

The campaign is organized by UE Local 105 and Black Workers for Justice to bring international attention to the working conditions created in an environment without collective bargaining rights, and to repeal North Carolina General Statute 95-98, which makes collective bargaining illegal for public employees.

Workers, mostly UE members, spoke out in public hearings over the last year in Greensboro, Goldsboro, Rocky Mount, Durham, Chapel Hill, Raleigh and Charlotte. This culminated in a statewide hearing where members of the United Nations' International Labor Rights

Commission from South Africa, Nigeria, Sweden, Mexico, Japan, Quebec, and India listened to workers' demands. The ILRC prepared a 90-page report that was delivered by UE activists to members of the N.C. General Assembly. Thousands of petitions were also delivered to Governor Michael Easley.

This entire struggle must be considered in the context of right-to-work laws, runaway shops, deindustrialization, and all working conditions in the U.S. South. Until last year—when the Farm Labor Organizing Committee signed a contract covering 7,000 migrant workers—North Carolina was the least unionized state in the country, with less than 2 percent of workers having union representation. Now it is second worst, only ahead of South Carolina.

Because of NC 95-98, North Carolina is the only state in the country where it is illegal to collectively bargain. It was written in 1959 in response to Jimmy Hoffa's announcement that he would lead the Teamsters Union in an effort to organize 10 million public workers. Eleven other mostly Southern states do not have laws protecting collective bargaining rights.

Striking is illegal in North Carolina, but the laws cannot be taken out of the context of workers' power. Workers are continuing to organize and fight for their demands.

"Unions have been needed here for a long time. ... Now we are standing up and fighting for justice," said Ledbetter.

*The writer is a member of the FIST youth group and the UE 150 staff.* □

## SAN FRANCISCO

# Hotel workers win new contract

By Joan Marquardt  
San Francisco

UNITE HERE Local 2 members, the majority of them Asian, Latin@ and Black, have just won a tremendous victory over hotel management. On Sept. 22, over 4,200 hotel workers agreed to ratify a new 5-year contract with 13 first class hotels in the downtown area of San Francisco.

The contract between the San Francisco Multi-Employer Group (SFMEG) and the hotel, restaurant and related service staff is retroactive back to the Aug. 14, 2004 expiration of the previous labor agreement. This victory comes after a two-year battle in which the union workers were locked out of all the hotels for almost two months at this same time two years ago.

Since then, a union-led boycott has continued to this day. It was an uphill fight against the hotel management who planned to quickly defeat the workers and their demands, and in so doing, tried to intimidate tens of thousands of other Bay Area workers into submission at the same time.

When struggles of both organized and unorganized working people all across the U.S. are seeing more and more givebacks, the Local 2 win is an event of nationwide significance. The new contract is seen as a precedent-setting model for upcoming negotiations among some 5,000 additional members of UNITE HERE in the area and thousands more in cities across the country.

Although not every single demand was met, there were no concessions or "take-

backs" either!

Tourism is San Francisco's top industry and the prolonged stand-off hurt the hotel owners where it is felt the most: their pockets. The hotels, related businesses and the city lost an estimated \$46.6 million. At least 10 conventions and conferences moved their events elsewhere to avoid the conflict. And the owners' hard-nosed intransigence wore very thin among many local businesses.

Even the mayor got involved, brokering a "cooling-off period" at one point, and walking the union picket line. An elected member of the Board of Supervisors was also arrested with 62 union members at a recent sit-in at the doorway of one of the SFMEG-managed hotels, during evening rush hour. So many hundreds of union members rallied around the area that major streets had to be temporarily closed.

Finally, the hotel owners buckled under the financial pressure of the boycott. A success, the boycott reduced reservations and rented rooms, week by week and month after month. Local 2 President Mike Casey stated, "The corporations knew that it cost more to fight than settle with us. It became in their interest to cut a deal." (San Francisco Chronicle, Sept. 13)

Among the contract gains the workers won are the very issues workers all around the country have been fighting for.

One of these is healthcare. Management held out until the very end to get an unfair "two-tier" system. But instead, the union gained improved prescription medication coverage and some other benefits, at no



WW PHOTO: JOAN MARQUARDT

additional cost to the workers. In essence, this contract defeated the two-tier health care system.

Other gains include increased pension benefits, hourly wages, health and safety on the job and a decrease in work loads.

The growing pattern of additional rooms to be cleaned hourly by the employee and the greater weight of the "new and improved" guest-bed mattresses and bedding linens have really physically hurt

many workers. Injuries of muscle strain and bone fractures have become a significant work-related health problem, which is now beginning to be taken seriously by management.

The union also won the length of the contract they were asking for all along. The new agreement aligns Local 2 with other major hotel contracts, creating broader industry-wide union strength when their contracts come up for renewal. After all, the owners have had the upper hand through their global chains and joint management associations. Now the workers have stronger bargaining "clout" themselves.

Finally, the right to organize at other hotels in the area is now more secure. Instead of federal National Labor Relations Board-supervised union elections, securing a significant management influence and bias, the unionization of a workplace by the more simple signed "card check" system is now contractually protected.

The win by UNITE HERE Local 2 is a welcome development during this period of thousands of lay-offs, business closings, defaults on earned and paid-for pensions, and diminishing healthcare and other benefits. As a cable car driver shouted out to the last union picket line here, "Solidarity is the key; solidarity, sisters and brothers."

Now more than ever the unity shown by the hotel workers, through two long years of struggle, is an inspiration to all working people. As Frederick Douglass said, "Without struggle there can be no progress." □

# Day laborers press forward for their rights

By Heather Cottin  
Freeport, N.Y.

Here on Long Island, Suffolk County has just approved anti-immigrant legislation that would penalize employers for hiring undocumented immigrants. Meanwhile, in nearby Nassau County, Latin@ day laborers and immigrant residents face reactionary opposition to their attempts to end raids by the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) division.

In Freeport, a village of 45,000, over half the population is Latin@. In 2002, Carlos Canales of the Workplace Project, a Latin@ worker support center, organized residents and local day laborers to support a legal shape-up site where workers could gather in the mornings to meet prospective employers. Canales was arrested but the case forced Freeport Mayor Bill Glacken to establish a safe and legal site in a trailer.

However, the trailer was old and hidden. Most contractors and residents couldn't find it. From the beginning, the workers have been asking that the site be made more accessible and visible.

Glacken decreed that the administration of the site be given not to the workers or the

support group but to Catholic Charities, with funding from local foundations.

The local support group, Freeport Community Worklink Center (FCWC), and the United Day Laborers of Freeport (UDLF) received grants and applied to run the trailer. They won this battle in 2005, but within six months the mayor and his friends in the foundations decided that this arrangement threatened their plan to "clean up" Freeport, meaning to get rid of the undocumented.

The village and the foundations devised a plan to ticket and arrest workers who shaped up at places other than the trailer site. The mayor pressured the owners of a parking lot at the local Home Depot store to put up "No Trespassing" signs, giving police a green light to arrest workers there.

The workers and the support committee told the mayor and the funders that they could not accept these terms. The funders included representatives of the Unitarian Church, Catholic Charities and the director of the Hagedorn Foundation. The late Horace Hagedorn—who once lived in Freeport—was the founder of Miracle-Gro, an agribusiness corporation with \$2.5 billion in assets.

The mayor and the funders terminated their arrangement with the workers and

the support committee. In addition, the workers in the trailer were denied the right to select their own coordinator. Catholic Charities hired a coordinator who discriminated against the elected representatives of the UDLF, denying anyone who agreed with them the right to work. The coordinator organized the workers against Canales, who was effectively barred from any meetings with the mayor or the funders.

This past August, ICE informed the mayor and the police chief that it would conduct sweeps against undocumented immigrants. Eight workers were arrested in two separate raids in Freeport.

The workers resisted. They were inspired by Mexican immigrant Elvira Arellano, who had just taken refuge in a Chicago church. Arellano was calling attention to the ICE raids, which have resulted in the deportation of 23,000 immigrants so far this year. (Delaware News Journal, Sept. 21) The FCWC and the leaders of United Day Laborers of Freeport discussed having a picket Sept. 25 at Freeport Village Hall, where they would declare Freeport a sanctuary for immigrants and protest conditions at the trailer.

When the mayor and the funders got wind of this, they threatened to stop all funding for Workplace Project, the major

group on Long Island that defends the rights of unpaid workers, tenants against landlords, and Latin@ day laborers in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Like many other organizations, Workplace Project depends on funding from wealthy and reactionary foundations that masquerade as liberal service agencies.

Workplace Project had originally organized both the Freeport day laborers and the support committee. Not wanting to jeopardize the project or the trailer, both groups reluctantly suspended their protest at Village Hall and instead met at a local church. When they then tried to present their Petitions for Sanctuary to the Village Board meeting on Sept. 25, it was suddenly closed to public discussion.

Pablo Alvarado, director of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) in California, told Workers World that Workplace Project was crucial for the struggles on Long Island, but that if the workers had exhausted all other avenues to improve the situation, they had to do what was necessary.

The workers have agreed to meet one more time with the mayor and the funders, but vowed to protest on El Día de La Raza, Oct. 12, if no meeting takes place by Oct. 6 to satisfy their demands. □

## 1906 Atlanta 'Race Riot' was a massacre

By Dianne Mathiowetz  
Atlanta

Did you know that Atlanta, the "city too busy to hate," was once the site of a racist massacre that lasted four days, when mobs of thousands attacked, beat and slaughtered any Black person they saw on downtown streets, destroying businesses and homes at will?

It's true. Even most Atlantans aren't aware that when they walk down Peachtree Street, enter the 5 Points MARTA station or go to class at Georgia State University, they are in an area where, 100 years ago, as many as 10,000 white men were involved in a violent rampage of killing.

Today, the tens of thousands of people who pass by the statue of Henry Grady, located on Marietta Street just blocks from CNN Center, are probably oblivious to the fact that the bodies of three African-American men were heaped in a bloody pile at the base of the monument, which is dedicated to the famous editor of the Atlanta Constitution newspaper who championed the idea of the "New South," with Atlanta as its capital.

In 1906, Atlanta was a bustling city of commerce and banking, transportation and manufacturing. According to the 1900 census, it had a population of 89,000, of whom about 35,000 were Black. By 1906, the city had grown to 115,000 with approximately 40 percent listed as Black.

Thousands of sharecroppers—Black and white—had come to the city to make a better living, looking for work in the mills and factories, railroads, hotels and offices. White working-class women were also getting jobs—a form of independence from traditional family structures. Most Black people worked in white-owned businesses or homes, but there was a thriving Black middle-class based in educational institutions and in certain services, such as tailors, barbers, restaurateurs and the like.

One of the best-known Black entrepreneurs was Alonzo Herndon, who operated three barbershops that catered to white

cliente. His shop on Peachtree Street, situated among some of the city's most exclusive hotels, featured crystal chandeliers and marble floors. He also founded the Atlanta Life Insurance Co. and was soon to become one of Atlanta's Black millionaires.

While segregation was practiced, the downtown area was a checkerboard of white and Black-owned businesses, operating side by side and competing for business. Atlanta had a well-used trolley system in which whites were seated in the front and African-Americans in the back, but in the middle of the car passengers stood shoulder to shoulder.

Change was occurring despite the strong ideology of white supremacy that operated daily.

### Events leading up to massacre

In the summer of 1906, a strongly contested race for the governorship of Georgia took place. Hoke Smith, former owner of the evening paper, the Atlanta Journal, and whose campaign manager was its editor, was battling in the Democratic primary against Clark Howell, the editor and principal owner of the morning paper, the Atlanta Constitution.

The main issue in the election was the disenfranchisement of the Black vote. Although the number of registered Black male voters was relatively small—about 28 percent of those eligible—the question of Black political power was a highly incendiary matter to the white population, which was anxious about its changed circumstances and was being bombarded with inflammatory and fallacious accounts of a "Black crime wave," with particular emphasis on claims of insults and assaults on white women.

Common racist terminology referred to suspects as "fiends" and "Black devils." There were two additional newspapers, the Atlanta Evening News and the Georgian, that were even more rabid in their "news" coverage, with sensational headlines of rape and equally gory details of lynchings and castrations.

These papers editorialized in support of vigilantes who would "protect white womanhood" and proposed the re-establishment of the Ku Klux Klan. On Friday, Sept. 20, 1906, the Atlanta Evening News printed an editorial declaring, "It is time to act, men." Posters were put up along Marietta Street the next morning announcing the Klan was going to take action.

Throughout the morning and into the afternoon, thousands of white men and boys gathered downtown, waiting, talking, drinking. The newspapers printed special editions throughout the day, with more outrageous stories of "Black debauchery" stirring up ever more racist animosity.

Finally, a man climbed onto a box in front of the luxurious Kimball House Hotel, waving a copy of one of the papers and shouting, "The time to strike back is now." With that signal, as many as 10,000 vigilantes poured through the downtown streets and pursued any African American they saw.

The Herndon barbershop was vandalized and destroyed. The barber who worked in the Kimball House lobby was killed on the spot. Trolley cars were stopped, their Black passengers pulled out of the windows and doors to be beaten, stabbed and killed. Men were thrown off bridges onto the railroad tracks or hung from lamp-posts, their bodies riddled with bullets.

As word of the mob violence spread, some Black communities that organized resistance with butcher knives, pitchforks and Civil War-era muskets were able to fend off the marauders. Although laws had been passed some months earlier prohibiting the sale of guns and ammunition to African Americans, pistols and rifles were to be found in Black homes.

Police got word that Brownsville, a neighborhood south of the city that was home to a mix of middle- and working-class Black families, was heavily armed. When they stormed into Brownsville, a white policeman—Jim Heard—was killed along with an unknown number of community members. It took three companies of Georgia militia to subdue the area.

Hundreds of men were arrested; 60 were charged with the death of the policeman. Brownsville resident Alexander Walker was eventually convicted of killing Heard and sentenced to life in prison.

No member of the white mob, police or militia was ever charged in any of the many deliberate murders and maimings of Black Atlantans.

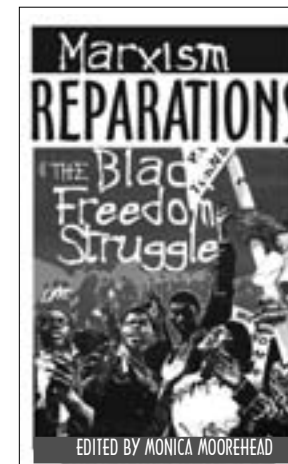
After four days of racist terror, one of the papers declared, "It's time to go back to work." As many Black families quietly buried their dead and tended to the wounded, afraid of further reprisals, hundreds if not thousands left Atlanta, never to return.

The official number of those killed is 11 or maybe 12, since a white woman died from a heart attack while watching the violence from her porch. The actual number is at a minimum 25, and may have really been as high as a few hundred.

Nevertheless, within days, the Atlanta Journal proclaimed, "Atlanta is herself again; business activity restored and the riot is forgotten."

W.E.B. DuBois, the renowned scholar, taught at Atlanta University. Although he was not in the city during the riot, he analyzed it in future writings. His poem, "The Litany of Atlanta," evokes the horror of the massacre with these words, "Red was the midnight; clang, crack and cry of death and fury filled the air."

Go to [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org) to read a longer version of this report.



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## ENGLAND

## Tens of thousands tell Blair 'time to go!'

By Robert Dobrow

Tens of thousands of anti-war protesters greeted Tony Blair and Labor Party delegates on Sept. 23, the eve of the annual Labor conference in Manchester, England.

Organized around the theme "Time to go!" and calling for the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, protesters filled the sprawling Albert Square in the center of this working-class city, the third largest in Britain. They then marched for two hours around the city center, culminating in a mass "die-in" meant to symbolize the thousands of deaths across Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Palestine caused by U.S.-British wars of aggression. Hundreds of infants' shoes were laid in St. Peter's Square in central Manchester to symbolize the deaths of children in these wars.

"More than 80 percent of British people think Tony Blair should stop supporting George Bush's war-mongering policies which have brought nothing but chaos, death and devastation," said Andrew Murray of the sponsoring Stop the War Coalition.

Prime Minister Blair, who is often ridiculed in the local press as "Bush's poodle," has been pummeled at the polls due to mass opposition against the war. Just this week a Guardian poll found that 63 percent agreed with the statement that Blair had made Britain "too close to the USA." In the face of these pressures, Blair has recently announced that he plans to



resign within the next year.

There was strong trade union support for the protest, and the marchers' ranks were bolstered by striking workers from NHS (National Health Service) Logistics and Merseyside Fire Brigades Union. The event was endorsed by 14 national trade unions. The leaders of Britain's two biggest unions addressed the crowd.

## U.S. out of Iraq

Several hundred anti-war protesters marched in downtown Minneapolis Sept. 23 demanding "U.S. out of Iraq!" The event is part of the "Declaration of Peace," a week of activity from Sept. 21 through 28 that includes over 350 local anti-war actions in the U.S. The protest, organized by the Iraq Peace Action Coalition, was loud and spirited. Many participants held up signs showing solidarity with the people of Palestine and demanding "No U.S. war against Iran." —Robert Dobrow

Others speakers included Moazzam Begg, a British citizen who was held for three years at the U.S. prison in Guantánamo; British MP George Galloway; and Rose Gentle of Military Families Against the War. Gentle and other parents who lost sons in Iraq organized a "peace camp" near the hotel where Blair and government officials were staying. The Manchester City Council had originally banned the encampment, but at the last minute caved to mass protest and allowed the peace camp to proceed.

Manchester has always held a rich place in the working-class history of Britain. It was here that Frederick Engels penned his classic "The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844," where he described the horrific oppression of English workers and showed the role that they were destined to play in the abolition of capitalist exploitation. The last time the British Labor Party held its conference in Manchester was 1917, the year of the Russian Revolution.

Driven by the war crisis, new winds of change are blowing at the doors of the ruling party. "We have written a page in Manchester's history," said protest organizer Lindsey German, summarizing the day's events, "I don't think this is a message Labor can ignore." □

## Iran, Venezuela speak truth to power

Continued from page 1

South, the oppressed peoples think. They would say, 'Yankee imperialist go home.'

Chávez also called for the General Assembly, which is now a mere deliberative body with no power, to take charge of reorganizing the United Nations, and for poor countries to be added as permanent members of the Security Council with full rights.

Choe Su Hon of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea also condemned the crimes of imperialism in the Middle East, as evidence of the bankruptcy of the Security Council. "The fact that the Security Council remains indifferent to the infringement of sovereignty and massacre of civilians committed in the Arab territories, such as the U.S. invasion of Iraq and Israel's aggression of Lebanon, represents typical examples of irresponsibility, unfairness and double standards," said Choe.

He also described how the U.S. government has a policy of "preemptive strike" against the DPRK, which Bush also branded as part of his "axis of evil." Washington carries out "adventurous military maneuvers" and economic blockade, he said, which are tolerated while "routine missile test fires of our army for self-defense have been picked up to be condemned as a threat to international peace and security."

Robert Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe, pointed out the most glaringly racist, colonialist aspect of the Security Council. He cited "the core issue of democratization of international governance. Africa remains the only continent which does not have a permanent seat with veto power in the Security Council. The situation is unacceptable. It needs to be corrected and corrected now. The position of the African Union on this issue is very clear. Africa demands two permanent seats, complete with veto power, plus two additional permanent seats. We will not compromise on this matter until our concerns are adequately addressed."

President Mugabe raised the question of the great powers skimping on funds for combating AIDS/HIV and of using those funds selectively to punish governments. He also condemned the "collective punishment of the Palestinian and Lebanese

*On many fronts the ground is shifting under the feet of U.S. imperialism. On the battlefields in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Palestine, Washington is unable to prevail. Iran and the DPRK, which were charted for "regime change," have been steadfast and are gaining support worldwide. The influence of the Cuban Revolution is growing in Latin America, as is the anti-imperialist influence*

people and the intrusion into their territories in violation of international law."

The UN meeting came in the wake of the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Havana. Cuba's delegate to the General Assembly, Esteban Lazo, reported on the NAM conference. He also condemned the Bush administration's publicized plan "aimed at overthrowing the Cuban Revolution" and the "unprecedented build-up in the financial and material support to subversive actions aimed at overthrowing the constitutional order freely chosen by the Cuban people."

He condemned as "the height of hypocrisy" the presence in the U.S. of the CIA assassin Luis Posada Carriles, who openly boasts about blowing up a Cuban airplane killing 73 people and who has been involved in numerous assassination plots against Fidel Castro.

At the NAM conference, Carlos Lage, vice president of the Cuban Council of State, had given a revolutionary, optimistic speech. When "the Soviet Union and European socialist bloc collapsed, we were practically alone, determined to hold on to our flag and to socialism," he said. The U.S. government "stepped up the blockade... undertook new terrorist actions and unleashed an unprecedented international diplomatic and media campaign against the Cuban revolution. ...

"A morally decadent empire attacked our small island with all of its hatred."

But Cuba survived "because of an even greater project of justice and dignity it had brought to fruition."

He said that Cuba had lived through its "harshest and hardest years" and "today we are seeing the most promising time of the revolution."

## Words backed up by mass deeds

Along with the events in Havana and New York, massive mobilizations in Mexico and in Lebanon further underscored the growing resistance to imperialism and its puppets and the isolation of the U.S. government.

Over 800,000 people attended a "victory rally" organized by Hezbollah celebrating the defeat of the U.S.-Israeli invasion. Sheik Hassan Nasrallah defied Israeli assassination threats and spoke in person, declaring that "No power on earth can disarm us." He called for national unity to overcome imperialist machinations to divide the country. (See accompanying article.)

In Mexico City on Sept. 16 a million people declared their refusal to recognize Washington and Wall Street's choice for president, Felipe Calderón, declaring the election a fraud and pledging to create a rival government headed by the popular Andrés Manuel López Obrador on Nov. 20. (See article in Workers World, Sept. 28)

These manifestations of resistance and defiance of Washington come at the very moment that Pentagon generals are issuing dire warnings about needing more troops in Iraq and NATO is demanding more troops in Afghanistan.

On many fronts the ground is shifting under the feet of U.S. imperialism. On the battlefields in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Palestine, Washington is unable to prevail. Iran and the DPRK, which were charted for "regime change," have been steadfast and are gaining support worldwide. For example, the NAM conference unanimously endorsed Iran's right to peaceful nuclear energy. The influence of the Cuban Revolution is growing in Latin America, as is the anti-imperialist influence of the Venezuelan Revolution.

At the UN Bush threatened Sudan and demanded entry of UN "peacekeep-

ers" there. But Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir said that African troops would be the only forces permitted in the country and warned that Washington's attempt to send UN forces was just a cover for "regime change." In a show of resistance, Khartoum has restricted all U.S. officials to within 25 kilometers of the capital, because Washington puts similar restrictions on Sudanese officials in the U.S.

New ties are being forged among anti-imperialist forces. After the NAM summit, presidents Chávez and Ahmadinejad met in Caracas and worked out about 20 new commercial agreements, including plans to set up a joint petrochemical company; to produce bricks, cement, bicycles and cars; and for Iran to help train Venezuelan metallurgical workers. Venezuela and Iran have agreed to create a \$200 million investment fund and Iran has agreed to build 10,000 homes in Venezuela. (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Sept. 17)

President Ahmadinejad met with Kim Yong Nam, chair of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, on the first night of the NAM conference and "urged that mutual relations should expand in all fields." (Islamic Republic News Agency, Sept. 16) Kim said, according to a news release, that "Iran-DPRK strategic ties are based on joint campaign against imperialism." High-level Cuban and North Korean delegations also had an important meeting to strengthen solidarity and cooperation.

In a sign of the erosion of U.S. influence, even the president of Pakistan, a formerly loyal ally of Washington, has gone public with an exposure of U.S. government threats to bomb Pakistan "back into the Stone Age" if the government did not submit to Washington after Sept. 11. Pervez Musharraf, who has been scapegoated by the Pentagon for the resurgence of resistance in Afghanistan, rebelled against the growing attempts by Washington to dictate to him about how to handle the situation in Pakistan's Northwest Provinces, going public on CBS's 60 Minutes. He has subsequently denounced the war in Iraq on CNN.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, normally a subservient institution, issued a letter recently condemning

# Massive rally celebrates victory over U.S.-Israeli siege

By Joyce Chediak

A quarter of all the people of Lebanon rallied on Sept. 22 to celebrate their “divine victory” over Israel and its U.S. backers. It was a mammoth, passionate and jubilant show of Lebanese support for their resistance organization, Hezbollah.

The giant rally in a suburb of Beirut, which just a few weeks ago had been reduced to rubble by Israeli bombing, was attended by “an estimated 800,000 people,” reported the Sept. 23 Israeli newspaper Ha’aretz, which is no friend of the Lebanese people.

Al-Manar, Hezbollah’s television station, called the rally “the biggest referendum on the resistance choice.”

While Lebanon suffered much from 34 days of Israeli bombardment and ground invasion, Hezbollah ground forces held back Israeli soldiers, who made no gains. Every day that Israel bombed Lebanon, Hezbollah fired rockets into Israel in retaliation—4,000 in all. Tel Aviv’s military withdrew without meeting any of its loudly stated goals: to stop Hezbollah rocket attacks, to get two Israeli soldiers released and to push the Lebanese resistance away from Israel’s border.

As rally participant Ali Sahhar explained, “Everyone thought the Israeli army was unbeatable. This was not true and today we are declaring the victory the resistance achieved.”

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah told the huge crowd, “There is no army in the world capable of making us drop our weapons as long as there will be people who believe in this resistance.”

Hezbollah would not disarm, Nasrallah said, because to do so would leave

Lebanon too weak to withstand Israeli attack. He said that Hezbollah’s weapons “are not Shiite weapons, but the weapons of all the religions and the Lebanese and will protect Lebanon’s independence and sovereignty.”

The Lebanese resistance would not release the two Israeli soldiers, Nasrallah stated, until Lebanese prisoners were released. He announced that Hezbollah had rearmed, now had 20,000 missiles and “is now stronger than it was on July 12” when the Israeli bombing began. Hezbollah forces, he said, remain deployed on the border with Israel.

Days before, Nasrallah issued a call to the people of Lebanon “to participate in a victory rally, your victory ... in the southern suburb, the suburb of honor, glory, faith, steadfastness and victory for the whole country. Let us renew our covenant and declare our joy at the divine victory to the whole world.” (aljazeera.net, Sept. 22)

Lebanese responded. Thousands of buses, mini-vans and cars came to Beirut from the South and the eastern Bekaa Valley. Members of Christian parties and pro-Syrian groups in northern Lebanon also traveled to the capital to participate in the rally.

Hundreds of Hezbollah supporters from across southern Lebanon marched to Beirut on foot, jamming the streets of that city with thousands of people chanting Nasrallah’s name and waving Lebanese and Hezbollah flags.

What had been a pile of rubble only a few weeks earlier had been cleared and transformed into Victory Square. The rally area had to be expanded to two other squares in order to accommodate the throngs of people.

The Sept. 23 New York Times called the crowd “mammoth, packing nearly every corner of the 37-acre square ... There was a plastic chair for nearly everyone, and a baseball cap for protection from the sun.” Nasrallah told the crowd, “We don’t

want to keep our weapons forever and they will never be used against anyone inside Lebanon.” He explained that disarming Hezbollah under the present Lebanese government “means leaving Lebanon exposed before Israel to kill and detain and bomb whoever they want, and clearly we will not accept that. When we build a strong and just state that is capable of protecting the nation and the citizens, we will easily find an honorable solution to the resistance and its arms.”

Nasrallah vowed that the enlarged United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) would not affect Hezbollah’s ability to stock weapons. “Blockade the borders and the sea and the skies,” he said. “This will not weaken the will of the resistance or the weapons of the resistance.”

He warned UN forces deploying in the South not to seek a confrontation with Hezbollah. “Your mission is not to spy on Hezbollah or to disarm the resistance,” he said.

Regarding Lebanese Prime Minister Sahara and the pro-imperialist “March 14” forces that want Hezbollah disarmed, Nasrallah called the current Lebanese cabinet weak and incapable of defending Lebanon against Israel. The Hezbollah leader also expressed doubts on the ability of the Beirut government to reconstruct what Israel destroyed.

It should be noted that the “March 14” leaders either left the country or got far out of harm’s way when Israel was bombing Lebanon.

“We don’t want to eliminate the presence of anyone from public life. What we are calling for is a national unity government. This is not a slogan, this is a serious project we will work for very hard,” Nasrallah stressed. Hezbollah has two representatives in the Cabinet.

Nasrallah criticized reactionary Arab leaders who collaborate with imperialism—like those in Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia—for not being willing to

fight Israel. “These Arab leaders prefer to protect their thrones as opposed to protecting Palestine,” he said.

Israel started the 34-day war after Hezbollah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers in an attempt to get Arab prisoners released from Israeli jails. Israel used its U.S.-supplied bombs to demolish Lebanon’s civilian infrastructure, expecting this would make the Lebanese people blame Hezbollah for the war. But this huge rally showed just how badly this strategy has backfired. The people of Lebanon clearly blame Israel and the U.S. for the war, and view Hezbollah as their only defender.

Hossain Zebra said it took him 24 hours to walk from his home in the South to the rally. “We came to show the American administration, the British administration, the French administration that the resistance population is increasing, not decreasing.”

“This is good, good,” said Fatime Saad, whose son, Kassem, had been killed in the war. There was no hint of sadness in her bearing, according to the Times: “I am very proud,” she said as she patted a picture of her son pinned to her chest. “He was 20 when he was blown up.”

Ahmed Hussein, 78 years old, made the trip from the southern village of Kafr Kila. He said his house and most of his neighbors’ homes were destroyed, but that Hezbollah gave them tents and water tanks to help them get by. “All of us whose houses were destroyed, we came here for Nasrallah, to tell him what we lost is nothing.”

The Lebanese people have much to be proud of. Their people’s resistance shows the potential of all working people, and gives hope. The Lebanese struggle and their resistance organization, Hezbollah, are an inspiration to all workers and oppressed people.

*Quotes and paraphrases from Nasrallah’s Sept. 22 speech are based upon the translation in the Beirut Daily Star, Sept. 23.*

*Continued from page 6*

a U.S. congressional report as “erroneous, misleading and unsubstantiated.” (Prensa Latina, Sept. 15) The report, which said that Iran was on the verge of producing nuclear weapons fuel, was issued by the House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and was aimed at stoking war against Iran.

Rallies, conferences and reports do not in themselves change the relationship of forces. Only the struggle can do that. But they can give a measure of the change in the political environment in terms of the advance of the oppressed in the struggle against imperialism and its various manifestations.

What is most important for the workers and the oppressed people in the U.S. is to pay attention to how the rest of the world is waging a just struggle against the government in Washington and to grasp how much this regime is hated for its wars, occupations and the exploitation carried out by giant U.S. corporations.

The government that is hated by the oppressed of the world for its aggression and bullying is the same government that watched with indifference as Katrina victims drowned. This is the government that taxes the poor to give to the rich, allows corporations to slash jobs and benefits, and spends hundreds of billions on militarism while poverty grows.

The struggle of the peoples of the world against oppression by Washington is a struggle against the enemy of the workers and oppressed here, too. This means not just the Bush administration but the entire capitalist political establishment, Republican and Democratic alike, who support U.S. imperialism abroad and capitalist exploitation and oppression at home. □

## Lebanese Communist on Hezbollah:

# ‘We agree on liberation of land and nation’

*Following are excerpts from an interview by Workers World with Dr. Mufid Kuteish, member of the Political Bureau and head of the Department of International Relations for the Lebanese Communist Party, given during a fact-finding delegation to Lebanon on Sept. 12.*

The Bush administration is in a hurry to remove Hezbollah’s armaments. Six months ago Condoleezza Rice came to Lebanon and advertised that the patience of the U.S. has run out, and that America will effectuate this its own way. So it was clear to all of us, including Hezbollah, that Israel would do this war.

They imagined that Israel in a week or two would completely finish Hezbollah. The opposite happened; therefore, the opinion of people in Lebanon and the entire world began to change.

As a communist party, we see Hezbollah as a very important national resistance. It is trying to liberate the occupied land, liberate the Lebanese political prisoners in Israel, and defend Lebanese borders, because the Lebanese government is

completely unable to take care of these matters.

We as a party from the very beginning aided Hezbollah in their resistance. From the beginning of the war we declared a mobilization in the party in support of Hezbollah, and we took the responsibility of political action to explain to the parties and to the people outside the truth of the matter inside Lebanon. Our comrades aided in the defense of areas in the South, and we lost 10 martyrs and four close friends. Internally we conducted aid operations to the refugees and we took the responsibility of operating inside Lebanon politically to preserve Lebanese unity in the face of the enemy.

There is much talk about Hezbollah’s armaments—is it realistic that there remains an armed party in Lebanon? At present the answer is very simple. There ought to be a nation that all participate in, and that takes responsibility for defending the country. That’s what Hezbollah says, and that’s what we say, and that’s what all thinking people say in this country. But the fact is that this nation does not exist. The only solution is that we build this

nation, that we change the politics that we have at present—the sect-oriented regime in Lebanon.

There was a project of Arab national liberation but it failed. These movements met a huge attack from the imperialists. The Marxists have had to confront a great tragedy with the loss of the Soviet Union. As a result, in this area the religious parties have taken power, and took on the same attitudes.

Hezbollah has taken on the liberation of the land and the nation. Even though we as a party had a confrontation with Hezbollah in the 1980s, Hezbollah has developed its methods in a way that has been very clear and speaks our language. Therefore we and Hezbollah are in total agreement about things in this period of time. That doesn’t mean that our disagreements have ended, and therefore we work hard to bring close to us and empower the positive side of Hezbollah.

We had warned that if Hezbollah did not win, there would be a great tragedy in the land, because if Hezbollah were defeated then the attitude and reality of resistance would have been defeated. □

# Chávez wins friends, angers enemies on New York visit

By A. Puigdollers Al-Kettani  
New York

Starting Sept. 20 the corporate media-industrial-military complex here released a tsunami of lies and attacks against President Hugo Chávez Frias for publicly stating the sentiment of the poor and oppressed and the developing countries worldwide about President George W. Bush by calling him "the devil." While he has drawn the anger of Washington, Chávez has won the admiration and support of people and liberation movements, especially throughout the Middle East and Latin America.

President Chávez's speech at the United Nations General Assembly opening this year exposed the role of U.S. imperialism, which is only able to dominate the world through military might. This domination keeps the majority of the world's population poor and underdeveloped. Some 40 percent of the world's population live in abject poverty and another 40 percent

in poverty (U.N. Human Development Report 2005), with the 80-percent total an increase from 66 percent of world population in the 1960s.

Chávez called U.S.-style of democracy, "the false democracy of elites ... a very original democracy that's imposed by weapons and bombs and firing weapons" at poor and working people. "I have the feeling, dear world dictator [Bush], that you are going to live the rest of your days as a nightmare because the rest of us are standing up, all those who are rising up against American imperialism, who are shouting for equality, for respect, for the sovereignty of nations.

"Yes, you can call us extremists, but we are rising up against the empire, against the model of domination."

But the racist profiling, harassment and detention of Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolás Maduro and some members of his staff at the JFK airport on Sept. 25 are a direct attack on the sovereignty and Bolivarian Revolution. At a news confer-

ence, Maduro called this provocation a "direct violation of international human and diplomatic rights. ..." "This is a Nazi government, a racist government that does not care for people that have darker skin, very curly hair like myself and live in the south like the Africans, the Arabs, the Asians and Latin Americans."

This attack on Maduro came two days after President Chávez signed discounted oil agreements with 201 community organizations and Indigenous nations at Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Harlem, N.Y.

As President Chávez was speaking in Harlem, a New York City police officer pulled the power plug from the live satellite feed broadcasting to Venezuela and either the same cop or another one accosted a Venezuelan security officer. At that time, Secret Service officers intervened and dragged the police officer away.

All these recent attacks began with the denial of entry on U.S. soil of Chávez's medical team and chief of security, even

before Chávez's U.N. speech.

## Energy aid for the poor

Chief Ian Erith of the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, which represents 231 nations and "promotes self-determination," thanked the Bolivarian Revolution for the aid it promised this coming winter. Erith said, "Alaska is rich in natural resources and 10 percent of the U.S. oil supply comes from Alaska, but we pay the highest price for gasoline—over \$8 per gallon and heating fuel over \$7 per gallon and we were worried about how to survive this winter, which is forecast to be long and cold."

Though Citgo, a U.S.-based subsidiary of Venezuela's state-owned oil company PDVSA, has no outlets in Alaska, it will still bring heat to over 12,000 homes in 151 villages in Alaska with a gift of 100 gallons of heating oil per family, at an estimated cost of \$5 million.

Hosting the Harlem meeting was the Honorable Dr. Charles Curtis, reverend at the Mount Olivet Baptist Church.

*Continued on page 11*

## As FBI threatens independence activists

# Thousands at 'El Grito de Lares' rallies

By Tom Soto  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

On Sept. 23 thousands of independence supporters traveled to the cities of Lares and Hormigueros, to commemorate the historic uprising of 1868 against Spanish colonial rule, and to honor Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, leader of the Macheteros, who was assassinated by the FBI exactly one year ago.

Today's activities were also dedicated to Jorge Farinacci García, leader of the Socialist Front, who died of cancer last month.

In Lares, two large rallies were held at the town square known as the Plaza de la Revolución (Revolution Square). The first event took place in the morning and was organized by the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) and the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico. The second activity was held in the afternoon and organized by the Hostos National Independence Movement (MINH).

After the rallies in Lares, a march and vigil was held in the town of Hormigueros, where Filiberto Ojeda Ríos lived with his spouse, Elma Beatriz Rosado. The Hormigueros activity was organized by

Rompiendo los Perímetros (Breaking the Perimeters).

## FBI intimidation campaign

The week prior to Saturday's demonstrations, Luis Fraticelli, the FBI head in Puerto Rico, announced that the Macheteros planned a terrorist attack for Sept. 23. Fraticelli is the agent who was also in charge of the operation leading to Ojeda Ríos' death.

Responding to the FBI alert, the governor ordered that security be beefed-up at the National Guard headquarters and the federal court building among others. Throughout the week armed patrols of FBI agents intervened against pro-independence activists.

Carlos Torres, a Legal Aid attorney, was leaving his home in Bayamón for work

*Continued on page 11*

## Tribute paid to martyred Puerto Rican fighter

The September 23 Pro-Independence Network (SPIN) sponsored a spirited political and cultural program to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the FBI assassination of Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, the beloved leader of the Ejército Popular Boricua—Macheteros or the Puerto Rican Popular Army—Cane Cutters. The program took place at the El Maestro Cultural Center in the Bronx, New York City.

The Macheteros have been steadfast fighters for Puerto Rican independence against U.S. imperialism for several decades. The FBI shot the unarmed Ojeda Ríos on Sept. 23, 2005, and denied him access to any medical attention for hours. He eventually bled to death with his spouse, Elma Beatriz Rosado, at his side.

The program also acknowledged the 138th anniversary of El Grito de Lares or the Battle of Lares. On Sept. 23, 1868, the Puerto Rican town of Lares was briefly taken over by independence forces battling their Spanish oppressors. Even though these forces were eventually militarily defeated by Spain, Sept. 23 is officially recognized as the day that the Republic of Puerto Rico was declared a nation.

This year's Sept. 23 program began with a recorded speech by Ojeda Ríos. Alice Hernández, a leader of SPIN, chaired the meeting. One guest speaker, Antonio



Antonio Camacho Negrón

Camacho Negrón—a longtime fighter for Puerto Rican independence who was recently released from a U.S. federal prison—received a warm standing ovation from the overflowing crowd of mainly Latin@s.

Another guest speaker was Ismael Guadalupe, a leader of the successful movement to get the U.S. Navy out of the Puerto Rican island of Vieques. Long time pro-independence activist Frank Velgare paid tribute to Jorge Farinacci García, a leader of the Puerto Rican Socialist Front, who recently died from cancer. Cultural performances included music, dance and spoken word.

—Report and photo by Monica Moorehead

## New York movement hails Cuban leader

Esteban Lazo Hernández—who is a member of the Political Bureau of the Cuban Communist Party, vice-president of the Cuban Council of State and delegate to the Cuban National Assembly of People's Power—spoke at the Church of the Intercession in Harlem on Sept. 20.

Hernández made an earlier presentation before the General Assembly of the United Nations regarding the significance of the Non-Aligned Movement meeting that took place in Havana, Cuba, earlier in September.

At the Harlem meeting, Hernández's remarks included a stirring review of the historic roots of the Cuban Revolution, with a strong emphasis on the leadership role played by Cuban President Fidel Castro, who is still recuperating from surgery.

Hernández reminded everyone, especially a group of youth from the U.S. who presented him with flowers, about the accomplishments of the Cuban Revolution in providing free education and healthcare to people in the developing countries.

Hernández also talked about the growth of the Cuban economy in light of the "special period" following the loss of the Soviet Union as its main trading partner in the early 1990s, after the overturning of the Eastern Bloc countries.

Other members of the high-level delegation from Cuba who attended the Harlem meeting included Felipe Pérez



PHOTO: ROBERTO MERCADO

Esteban Lazo Hernández, left.

Roque, minister of Foreign Relations; and Fernando Remírez de Estenoz, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party. A delegation from the Cuban Mission to the UN was also in attendance.

Other speakers included IFCO/Pastors Executive Director Rev. Lucius Walker, historian Jane Franklin, and National Lawyers Guild Executive Director Heidi Boghosian, who spoke about the case of the Cuban Five political prisoners. The Five were railroaded to life sentences in 1998 by the courts for exposing the terrorism of right-wing Cuban exile organizations in Miami, which have been attempting to overthrow the Cuban Revolution with the support of their allies in the U.S. government.

—By Monica Moorehead



## Worldwide protests hit death squad killings

# U.S.-backed Philippine gov't represses workers

By Lydia Bayoneta

Workers throughout the U.S. and around the world held demonstrations, protests and political gatherings on Sept. 21 to mark the 34th anniversary of the declaration of martial law in the Philippines and to denounce current Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's policy of war against Filipino workers and the poor.

The progressive Filipino movement charges that at least 740 people have died as a result of politically motivated killings by death squads and paramilitary groups since Arroyo came to power in 2001. All the victims are individuals who have worked with or for the poor in the Philippines: human rights activists, lawyers, journalists, trade unionists, church workers and members of Bayan—an alliance of progressive organizations and individuals.

In the past 12 months, political killings have happened at the rate of one every two days.

The period of martial law during the era of Ferdinand Marcos supposedly ended 20 years ago, but its legacy continues and is growing worse. The government has failed to carry out genuine land reform as promised or to nationalize industry—two measures that would have greatly alleviated poverty and raised living standards. Instead, Arroyo and her predecessors chose to carry out the dictates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. These “structural adjustment” programs have seriously eroded employment rights and the conditions of work, weakening trade unions and bringing deep cuts in health, education and

other essential basic services.

Under Arroyo's tenure, the national debt rose from 2.167 trillion pesos in 1995 to 5.9 trillion pesos in 2003—or over 100 billion U.S. dollars. It is estimated that for every one peso of taxes paid by Filipinos, 94 centavos go to servicing the country's debt. (Bayan Muna)

Since the entry of the Philippines into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, the Filipino workers and economy have been further enslaved to a new set of rules that have led to the removal of all restrictions on the entry of foreign goods and the repatriation of foreign capital—meaning that local producers have been driven out of business while big transnational corporations are free to send their profits out of the country.

Joint ventures between local conglomerates and foreign interests from the U.S., Japan and others are concentrated on deregulated utilities, power, water, shipping, banking and telecommunications.

The control and monopoly of these vital services in the interest of profits has been disastrous for Filipinos. Since 1997, water rates have gone up 450 percent. (Bayan)

Hundreds of thousands of people lack safe, clean drinking water. In Payatas, a giant garbage dump in suburban Manila, 140,000 people live in dire poverty with no sewage, water or any other public services expected in an urban environment. The government has steadfastly refused to improve their living conditions, including providing clean water to drink, because they say they don't want to encourage them to stay in the city, as if people would endure these horrendous conditions if they had any other choice.

## U.S. troops out of Korea

About 100 activists, military veterans and community organizers gathered in New York City's Koreatown for a rally and candlelight vigil Sept. 23 against planned expansion of a U.S. military base in Pyeongtaek, South Korea. This rally, organized by the Korean Americans Against War and Neoliberalism (KAWAN), featured documentary footage of South Korean farmers being dragged from their homes by the military, at the behest of the U.S. government.

The Pentagon is planning an expansion of the military base at Pyeongtaek as part of what it calls the “strategic flexibility of the U.S. Forces in Korea (USFK).” This means that troops will be pulled back from the Demilitarized Zone and transformed into a rapid mobilization force that can be used

for offensive purposes anywhere in the region, including against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) or China. The base expansion will destroy the farming communities of Daechuri, Doduri and others, affecting more than 500 households and thousands of residents. The farmers have chosen to resist the occupation of their lands and defy the Korean government and the Pentagon.

The rally and vigil were in solidarity with an international day of action that brought more than 100,000 people to the streets of Seoul, South Korea, on Sept. 24. The people of Pyeongtaek and their supporters have vowed to continue the struggle to save their homes. For more information, see [www.saveptfarmers.org](http://www.saveptfarmers.org).

—Dustin Langley

## Pakistani activists hold NY forum

The Pakistan-U.S.A. Freedom Forum held its first public meeting in Brooklyn on Sept. 16 in the heart of the Pakistani community. Resolutions called for an end to the violation of civil rights of immigrants, particularly those in the Pakistani community and for the release of prisoners held at the U.S. prison in Guantanamo.

The Pakistani community has suffered tremendously since 9/11. Thousands of families have been ripped apart because of massive illegal deportations. General Secretary Shahid Comrade and President Dr. Muhammad Shafique of the Pakistan-U.S.A. Freedom Forum pointed out to



PHOTO: GANESH S. LAKSHMAN  
Shahid Comrade, Pakistan U.S.A. Freedom

the gathering the unfairness of U.S. policies.

The Brooklyn meeting was addressed by Ardeshir Ommani of the American-Iranian Friendship Committee; Brenda Stokely, Million Worker March Movement leader; Chris Silvera, national chair, Teamster National Black

Caucus; Dustin Langley, International Action Center; Charlotte Kates, Al-Awda Right to Return; and Sharon Black, Workers World Party.

The Pakistan-U.S.A. Freedom Forum has played an active role in supporting and building the May 1st boycott and protests.

PHOTO: GANESH S. LAKSHMAN

Unemployment in the Philippines is now at a near record high. About 4.8 million Filipinos are unemployed and another 8.4 million are underemployed, bringing the number of people looking for a job or additional work to 13 million—about 18 percent of the entire population. The official minimum wage is 270 pesos per day—about \$5.40—which is not even sufficient to cover the daily cost of living, calculated to be 618 pesos. Millions are forced to work at less than minimum wage.

### Repression and intimidation

The workers in the Philippines have struggled long and hard to better their conditions and improve wages. But the Philippine government's policy of subservience to imperialism is anchored on maintaining cheap wages and a docile labor force. Of the 740 victims of politically motivated killings, 64 were labor union leaders.

Recently, a fact-finding mission by a number of Filipino human rights organizations—including the National Coalition for the Protection of Workers; Center for Trade Unions and Human Rights; Kilusang Mayo Uno, a trade union federation; and Religious of the Good Shepherd—investigated and confirmed allegations that workers were harassed and their rights infringed at the Console Farm, a huge chicken farm and processing plant in Bulacan province.

They found that soldiers frequently visited the farm during 2005. The military conducted a census of workers and residents and convened weekly meetings presided over by military officers where workers were required to report all their union activities. Workers and union leaders were also visited by soldiers at home. Many union leaders resigned because of the harassment and fear of reprisals.

Workers confirmed that the management of Console Farm allowed the military to freely roam the farm. When the military called

a meeting and workers did not attend, management compelled them to talk with the military. There have been reports of soldiers firing their guns at the houses of workers who did not attend meetings.

According to one resident, the army warned him against giving any aid to New Peoples Army (NPA) guerrillas in the area. “We really cannot do anything because they really kill people,” he said about the army. “They will not hesitate to kill you if you go against their wishes.” (Bulatlat.com)

Workers reported that, at one of the meetings convened by the military, they were warned not to help the NPA or they would be killed. At the same meeting, the union was “encouraged” to refrain from asking for higher wages or benefits from management.

Center for Trade Unions and Human Rights Executive Director Daisy Arago said there is virtually a military takeover of the union at Console Farm. She added that deployment of troops in the region caused complete disrespect for human rights. (Bulatlat.com)

The fact-finding mission reported its findings to the regional office of the Department of Labor and Employment. The department representative stated that cases of “military intrusion” such as at Console Farm are beyond their jurisdiction. They said they can only act on cases of disputes between workers and management.

Like the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, the Arroyo government and military are repressing the Filipino people and putting them at the service of imperialist interests like the World Bank, WTO and IMF.

But just like the U.S.-backed Marcos, the current regime will face the struggle—not just of the Filipino nation, but of the workers and oppressed of the world. It is vitally important that workers and progressive people everywhere unite in solidarity with the people of the Philippines. □



LOS ANGELES

## Protest killings in Philippines

Following are excerpts from a press release by BAYAN-USA in Los Angeles.

A lively crowd of over fifty Filipinos and their supporters amassed in front of the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles on Sept. 21 demanding an end to the killings, torture and abductions in the Philippines. Shouting “Stop the killings in the Philippines” and “Never again to Martial Law,” they likened the Macapagal Arroyo regime to the cruel and inhumane Marcos dictatorship's declaration of Martial Law 34 years ago.

Performers from a cultural group, Habi Arts, acted out the roles of Arroyo as “the dictator,” her puppet master Uncle Sam as “the oppressor” and General Jovito Palparan as “the butcher.”

Reminding the crowd that the rising death toll of 754 political killings is not just a number, emcee Kuusela Hilo, a member of Anakbayan Los Angeles, stated, “When you look at the pictures of these victims, don't forget that they are also someone's daughter or son, these are people that wanted a better future for all our families...”

Spokespeople from the International Action Center, Koreans Against War and Neoliberalism, March 25th Coalition, Confederation of Iranians, South Central Farmers, Sen Gil Cedillo's office and others gave militant statements of solidarity linking the struggle in the Philippines to the struggles of immigrant families in the US and the farmers and communities of South Central Farm and Pyeongtaek, Korea. □



## Bush's troubles grow

You know that the president and his closest advisers are in a lot of trouble when the "intelligence" agencies of his government will no longer provide the backup he needs to sell his foreign policy to the people.

That's what is happening right now between Bush and all the secret police agencies of the U.S. government, from the CIA on down.

The National Intelligence Estimate, a classified document, was recently leaked to the press. The New York Times and the Washington Post broke the news about it on Sept. 24. The document had been kept under wraps since its finalization in April and is "the first formal appraisal of global terrorism by United States intelligence agencies since the Iraq war began, and represents a consensus view of the 16 disparate spy services inside government," according to the Times.

Director of National Intelligence John D. Negroponte had to approve it. His hard-line background, especially his role in the Contra war against Nicaragua and his stint as U.S. ambassador to Iraq, make its conclusions all the more remarkable.

In brief, the document's judgment is that the Iraq war, instead of making the U.S. safer, has made it more likely to experience a terrorist attack. "A stark assessment of terrorism trends by American intelligence agencies has found that the American invasion and occupation of Iraq has helped spawn a new generation of Islamic radicalism and that the overall terrorist threat has grown since the Sept. 11 attacks," was the way the Times summarized it.

Anyone with a clear sense of what is going on already knew that the horrible war crimes committed by the Pentagon in Iraq had made the Bush regime hated all over the world. But no one in the U.S. government would say that openly. Even this document, of course, does not refer to the invasion and occupation as war crimes.

Nevertheless, the damage was done. Bush's main theme, repeated endlessly since before the war began, has been that he was acting to protect this country from terrorism. He, Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice have all tried to justify the war by linking Iraq somehow to al-Qaeda and 9/11—a link that never existed.

Because of this kind of hard sell of the war, many young people joined the Army, Marines or National Guard, thinking they were helping to protect their families and communities. But as the fighting and occupation have ground on, enlistments have gone down and skepticism about the aims of the war has risen in the general population.

At the same time, it has become very clear to many in the capitalist establishment, but outside of Bush's narrow circle, that the war is making things worse for U.S. imperialism in the world. It is not terrorism they fear the most, but popular resistance by oppressed peoples—and it is growing throughout the Middle East and elsewhere.

The release of this document just weeks before the mid-term elections is yet another symptom of the bitter struggle going on within the capitalist state itself. It forced Bush to selectively release part of the document for public scrutiny—but only so he could put his own spin on it and claim that it supports his policies.

No one should think that the government's spy agencies have suddenly become dovish. The CIA is still the CIA. They all just want to promote the Empire more effectively and see Bush and his group as incompetent CEOs who either have to change their ways or step aside so the company can become more profitable. □

### Correction

Caption: In the Sept. 28 printed edition of WW, the picture used for the article entitled Somerville 5 youth tells WW—'Racial profiling is a growing pandemic' is of Isaiah Anderson, not Calvin Belfon. Go to [www.workers.org/2006/us/somerville5-0928/](http://www.workers.org/2006/us/somerville5-0928/) to see the correct photo of Belfon.

## 1970s gay liberation

# People of color activists organize across the U.S.

By Leslie Feinberg

Militant activists of color played a leading role in early multinational gay liberation groups and formed their own caucuses and organizations.

Black, Latin@ and Asian activists established Third World Gay Liberation in the summer of 1970. Their first leaflet, issued in Spanish and English, stated, "We are oppressed as people because our humanity is routinely devoured by the carnivorous system of Capitalism. We are oppressed as Third World people by the economically inherent racism of white Amerikan society." The statement also included a commitment to deepen consciousness within people of color communities.

The group's 13-point demands in its "3rd World Gay Revolution Platform" stated in part:

- "We want the right of self-determination for all third world and gay people."
- "The right to be gay, anytime, anyplace. The right to free physiological change and modification of sex on demand. The right of free dress and adornment."
- "Full protection of the law and social sanction for all modes of human sexual self expression."
- "We want liberation for women. We want free and safe birth control information and devices on demand. We want free 24-hour child care centers controlled by those who use them. We want access for women to fill all educational opportunities. We want truthful teaching of women's history. We want an end to preferential hiring against women and oppressed national minorities."
- "We want the abolition of the bourgeois nuclear family. We believe that it perpetuates the false categories of homosexuality and heterosexuality by creating sex roles and sex definitions. The nuclear family propagates capitalism."
- "We want a free educational system that teaches us our true identity and history, and presents the entire range of human sexuality without advocating any one form or style; that sex roles and sex-determined skills not be fostered by the schools; that language be modified so that no gender takes priority."

The platform also demanded for people of color and gay people: full employment, decent housing, trials by "a people's court with a jury of their peers from their community," an immediate end to policy brutality and killings, exemption from military induction, and "an immediate end to military oppression both at home and abroad."

The platform concluded, "We want a new society—a socialist society. We want liberation, food, shelter, clothing, transportation, health care, employment and utilities for all." ("The Gay Militants," Donn Teal)

### Ortez Alderson: organized behind bars

Ortez Alderson—born in Buffalo, N.Y., and raised on Chicago's South Side—was chair of the Black caucus of Chicago Gay Liberation. Alderson—a young African American man described as "flamboyant"—became a leader of the Third World Gay Revolution.

He organized gay participation in the 1971 Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention convened by the Black Panther Party.

Alderson, a militant opponent of the Pentagon's war against Vietnam and the military draft, was one of four defendants known as the Pontiac Four. They were convicted in 1970 of breaking into an Illinois draft board and destroying files. He was convicted and spent a year behind bars in the same Kentucky prison where Black gay civil rights leader Bayard Rustin, lead organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, had been imprisoned for draft evasion a quarter century earlier.

While jailed, Alderson tried to organize a gay liberation chapter behind the walls. In a 1972 interview, Alderson explained how, the year before, he and a Puerto Rican gay prisoner, Craig, "sat down and talked about the gay's situation in jail—you know, hassles and stuff—and how we could stop it. The confrontation

came on Gay Pride Day, June 28th, because we wanted to have a Gay Day celebration in prison. The prison officials said we could not have this celebration.

"At this point, we got up a petition attacking the institution's discrimination against homosexuals. Craig, Green, Davis and myself were immediately arrested by the goon squad and put in the hole. Craig was Puerto Rican, Green was Black and Davis was a full-blooded Sioux Indian." (Motive magazine, 1972)

### 'Stephanie's story'

Black lesbian activist Vernita Gray helped launch Chicago's gay liberation movement. In 1969 she started the first lesbian and gay hotline—telephone number FBI-LIST—out of her South Side apartment. She organized lesbian and gay support groups and events.



Vernita Gray

Shortly after the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, Gray played a key role in the formation of the first Lesbian Caucus of Chicago Gay Liberation (CGL) and the city's first lesbian newspaper, Lavender Woman. The lesbian and Black caucuses of CGL later became their own organizations—Chicago Lesbian Liberation and Third World Gay Revolution, respectively. (Encyclopedia of Chicago)

As an activist and organizer, Gray offered support to a Black butch lesbian student named Stephanie, who was fighting expulsion from her high school. Stephanie's story is brought to light in a film by the same name, directed by Yvonne Welbon, focusing on 1972 events.

Stephanie, a Black lesbian youth often taken for being male, lived on the South Side of Chicago. "She came of age as a young butch with her 'brothers'—older Black butches who formed "The Sons of Sappho." Stephanie's mother, Nadine, took her to Sears to buy her first suit.

When Stephanie and her friends were expelled from her Catholic high school by nuns who charged they were a "bad influence," Nadine encouraged the youth to fight back by taking their case to the Free Legal Clinic at DePaul University Law School to file a lawsuit against the school. The students won their case, were re-enrolled and the principal was shipped off, reassigned to Peoria, Ill.



Ruth Ellis

### Ruth Ellis: The oldest 'out' lesbian

Ruth Ellis was renowned as the oldest 'out' lesbian before her death at 101 years of age in 2000. She was born July 23, 1899, in Springfield, Ill., and came out around 1915.

Ellis' life is honored in a 1999 documentary made by her friend Yvonne Welbon titled, "Living with Pride: Ruth C. Ellis @ 100."

From 1946 to 1971, Ruth and her partner Babe's home became the "Gay Spot" in Detroit at a time when local bar owners discriminated against African Americans. Ellis said, "There wasn't very many places you could go when I came to Detroit, unless it'd be somebody's home. In those days everything was hush hush. ... So after we bought our home, we opened it up to the gay people. That is where everyone wanted to come on the weekend."

Welbon explained, "Her home was a refuge of sorts to African Americans who came 'out' before the civil rights movement and Stonewall. Ruth and Babe offered lodging to black gay men newly arrived from the South. They also helped many of the young people through college."

Welbon concluded that in making the documentary, "I learned of many stories of black women's involvement in the gay and lesbian liberation movement that are virtually unknown to the general public. The incredible impact that Ruth's story has had on our community has shown me that if we don't record these stories that we are in danger of depriving ourselves of the treasures found within our own history. These stories provide an alternative history, one we are proud to

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embrace.” (sistersinthelife.com)

Today, Detroit's Ruth Ellis Center is a home for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth. Detroit residents celebrate Ruth Ellis Day in February, during Black History Month.



### 1970s: Organizing sweeps the country

Kiyoshi Kuromiya was a pre-Stonewall activist who marched for gay rights on July 4, 1965, at a demonstration in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia. He went on to be one of the founders of the Gay Liberation Front—Philadelphia. Like Ortez Alderson, he was an openly gay delegate to the Black Panther Convention.

Kuromiya was born in 1943 during World War II in a U.S. government-run internment camp for people of Japanese descent in Nevada. As a civil rights activist in the 1960s, he bore a scar on his scalp from a beating by Alabama sheriffs who opposed his voter-registration activism in Montgomery. A staunch opponent of the Pentagon, he was also arrested for demonstrating against the Vietnam War.

“Jody,” an Asian-American woman, founded the Lesbians of Color Caucus in Seattle during the late 1970s.

In a brief summary of the excitement and conflict she experienced during that era, she recalled: “Over time I started meeting more and more women of color. I lived up on Capitol Hill and there was a lot of activity there. I'd meet one woman of color, and then she would introduce me to more, so then I started feeling a bit better. Also, by that time, there were some white women that I finally developed friendships with, which was good.” (HistoryLink.org Essay 4266)

Other groups that formed in the 1970s included the Native American Gay Rap Group (1972), Gay American Indians (1975), Gay Latin@ Alliance/GALA (1975), Third World Lesbian Caucus (1977), Black Gay Caucus (1977), Asian-American Alliance (1979) and Gay Asian Support Group (1978).

On the eve of the first national march on Washington in October 1979, hundreds of lesbians and gays of color convened a Third World conference there.

Black activist Keith Boykin wrote in the *Encarta Africana Encyclopedia*: “Black writers, intellectuals, and activists have left a profound impression on the gay rights movement. Linda Villarosa served as executive editor of *Essence* magazine and introduced hundreds of thousands of black women to black lesbians when she co-authored a ‘coming out’ piece with her mother. Barbara Smith's groundbreaking anthology *Home Girls* presented dozens of perspectives of black feminism that integrated black lesbian viewpoints. Others such as Cheryl Clarke, Angela Davis, Alice Walker, and June Jordan have shared their experiences about bisexuality and lesbianism in their writings and public comments. Black lesbian feminist writer Audre Lorde spoke at the 20th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, and activist Phill Wilson addressed the 30th anniversary march in 1993.”

Read the rest of this installment online at [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org).

Next: *Panthers, Young Lords: Solidarity with gay liberation.*

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# Chávez wins friends

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actor and chairman of TransAfrica Danny Glover, and Félix Rodríguez, who is president of Citgo.

Speaking in Harlem, Chávez said, “We are not enemies of the U.S. That is a lie. We are friends of the people of the U.S., whom all of you here represent with dignity, and we would like you to work; cooperate and look for cooperative, friendship, exchange, interchange, cultural, educational routes with us.

Chávez said that people in 11 states, including more than 220 Native tribes, are taking part in the discounted-oil program this year.

Last year “40 percent [of our oil shipped to the U.S.] went to poor communities. At a discount of 40 percent. And in the case of shelters we do not charge anything. In sum, 180,000 benefited from the 2005-2006 program.”

In his Sept. 20 talk, Chávez discussed the situation at the United Nations itself: “The U.N. system, born after the Second World War, collapsed. It's worthless.

“But we, the [General] Assembly, have been turned into a merely deliberative organ. We have no power, no power to make any impact on the terrible situation in the world. And that is why Venezuela once again proposes, here, today, September 20, that we re-establish the United Nations.”

He proposed that all members of the U.N. meet for a week face-to-face in a round table to discuss matters and come up with solutions.

Chávez raised four other major points: (1) That leaders of developing countries be included in the Security Council on a permanent basis. (2) Transparent decisions on solving world matters. (3) “Immediate suppression—and that is something everyone's calling for—of the

anti-democratic mechanism known as the veto, the veto on decisions of the Security Council.” (4) “Strengthen the role and the powers of the secretary general of the United Nations.”

“Venezuela is fully committed to combating terrorism and violence,” said Chávez. He discussed how U.S. CIA agent Luis Posada Carriles virtually confessed to his crime of blowing up a Cubana Airline over Barbados in 1976, killing all 73 people on board, but the U.S. government has double standards. It protects terrorism when it wants to and is protecting Posada Carriles now.

Along with the public talk in Harlem, Chávez also spoke on Sept. 20 at Cooper Union college to a packed auditorium, where he discussed the Bolivarian Revolution's success in educating ordinary Venezuelans. □

# Thousands at ‘El Grito de Lares’ rallies

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when the FBI surrounded and stopped his car. Torres explained that the agents told him, “If you feel you're being watched and followed it is because it is so ... and should any situation arise, we know your address.”

Torres is a member of the Coordinadora Nueva Escuela (New School Coordination), a group that educates about independence in poor communities. In the city of Mayagüez, FBI agents went to the workplace of Miguel Sánchez, a shoe maker and leader of the MINH.

Sánchez is one of the organizers of the Jornada Filiberto Ojeda Ríos (Campaign Filiberto Ojeda Ríos), which on the 23rd of every month organizes an event regarding Ojeda Ríos in different towns and cities throughout Puerto Rico.

The FBI also intervened at the homes of Norberto Cintrón Fiallo, Liliana Laboy and José Morales, whose homes had earlier been invaded by the FBI in February of 2005. Morales was told by FBI agents that “the next time we return it will not be in the same manner,” while Cintrón and Laboy refused the FBI entry into their homes. The FBI agents had no search warrants or court order justifying their actions.

Addressing the tumultuous crowd that filled Plaza de la Revolución square, Edwin Irizarry Mora of the PIP said, “If the FBI thought that by its intimidations they were going to stop this plaza from being filled to the maximum, they were mistaken because thousands of independentistas are here.”

Commenting on the domestic situation, Irizarry criticized the Popular Democratic Party and the New Progressive Party, saying, “While they take turns administering the government, all they do is work for the benefit of the big business interests and not for the masses. ... Independence and social justice are two parts of the same struggle.”

Irizarry further condemned the imposition of a seven percent sales tax to be implemented in October. The anticipation of the sales tax has already generated a 30 percent increase in the price of all commodities throughout Puerto Rico.

To the laughter of the audience, Rosa Meneses, president of the Nationalist Party and widow of Jorge Farinacci, opened her talk referring to George Bush, as had President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, “He is the devil.”

Referring to the FBI and U.S., she said, “These terrorists, this yankee imperialism wants to scare us, but they should know that this nation, our people, do not surrender. We are made of the same material as Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and Jorge Farinacci.”

During her talk a thunderous rain storm erupted, but the crowd remained, as Meneses poetically told them: “The skies have parted and the rain is falling. These are the tears of joy because we know that freedom and independence are closer.”

Also addressing the crowd was Adriana Farinacci Vazques, who gave a moving talk about how much she had learned about the struggle for social justice from her uncle, Jorge Farinacci.

Additionally, the PIP presented Tito Farinacci with a placard honoring his father.

Rafael Cancel Miranda, who spent 25 years in U.S. prisons for having participated in a 1954 armed attack on the House of Representatives, made reference to the FBI Terror Alert of the previous week by saying, “I was going to greet you all as my fellow terrorists.”

During his presentation, Cancel Miranda gave the José Martí medal he had been awarded in Cuba to Elicer Lugo, who was involved in the 1950 nationalist uprising in Jayuya, and who in turn spent 10 years in jail.

Cancel Miranda ended his talk by saying: “We need the Macheteros. We need to work in every possible way, and if we have to distribute dynamite ... then damn it we will do it.”

After the rallies in Lares, many of the protesters went to join the march to Ojeda Ríos' home in Hormigueros. Many participants wore T-shirts with the picture of Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and chanted slogans directed against the FBI. After singing the revolutionary national anthem, *La Borinqueña*, the youth burned the U.S. flag.

Present at the activity was the widow of Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, Elma Beatriz Rosado. Commenting on the week's events, Héctor Pesquera, co-president of the MINH, told reporters: “The FBI is scared. They are terrified, because they very well know that as a result of their abuse, they deserve the harshest of reprisals.” □

# Free the Cuban Five

Continued from page 3

Chilean government of Socialist Salvador Allende before it was overthrown in 1973 by the fascist dictator Augusto Pinochet in a bloody coup supported by the U.S. government. Letelier was murdered in 1976 in a car bombing right in Washington, D.C., along with co-worker Ronni Moffitt.

Two weeks later, the Cubana plane was bombed.

Livio Di Celmo spoke of his brother, Fabio Di Celmo, an Italian tourist killed in 1997 at the age of 32 by shrapnel from a bomb placed in a Havana hotel by anti-Cuba terrorists.

José Pertierra, an attorney for Venezuela, explained that admitted terrorist Luis Posada Carriles is on the verge of being released from U.S. detention, even though, “According to the CIA's own documents from 1976 posted by the National Security

Archive of George Washington University, Luis Posada Carriles spoke of his plans to ‘hit’ a Cuban airliner only days before CU-455 was blown out of the sky on Oct. 6, 1976.”

Posada Carriles has been held by immigration since entering the U.S. without papers a year ago, but the prosecutor will not press charges against him or extradite him to either Cuba or Venezuela, where he is wanted for mass murder.

Gloria La Riva, coordinator of the National Committee to Free the Five, spoke about the missions and sacrifices of the individual heroes and of family members who have been denied visas to visit them. La Riva reported on media coverage and on the Five Freedom Fund, which has raised \$105,000 of a \$250,000 goal to put ads about the case in newspapers, especially the *New York Times*.

Leonard Weinglass, the appeals attorney for Antonio Guerrero, reviewed their

case and concluded, “It is very important in this critical period of time that we all stand together in large numbers, making our position clear, encouraging others to stand with them and to finally reverse this injustice and to send the Five home to Cuba.”

A suggestion for building the movement for the Five came from International Representative Akbar Muhammad of the Nation of Islam. Muhammad suggested reaching out to the “natural allies” of the Cuban Five by placing ads in the 267 Black and Latin@ newspapers in this country rather than the *New York Times*. Muhammad was representing Minister Louis Farrakhan, who could not attend personally due to illness.

Other speakers included Wayne Smith, former chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana; Saul Landau, fellow, Institute for Policy Studies; and Heidi Boghosian, National Lawyers Guild executive director. □

¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los países, uníos!

## Solidaridad con aquellos en la mira de Bush

# Reunión de los no alineados rechazan amenazas imperialistas

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

La 14va Conferencia Cumbre del Movimiento de los No-Alineados (NOAL), tuvo lugar en la Habana, Cuba entre el 11 y el 16 de septiembre bajo un clima de grandes amenazas por parte del coloso imperialista, Estados Unidos—particularmente en contra de los miembros del movimiento: Cuba, Irán, Sudán y Venezuela.

Sin embargo, las 118 naciones reunidas reafirmaron su solidaridad con el pueblo palestino, apoyaron la postura de Irán de que todos los países tienen el derecho a desarrollar y usar la energía nuclear para fines pacíficos y urgieron la solidaridad de todos los países miembros para responder de la manera más eficaz a las amenazas y desafíos globales.

Mientras el gobierno de los Estados Unidos enviaba a sus oficiales alrededor del mundo tratando de formar una alianza para dar legitimidad a sus amenazas y a sus acciones intervencionistas, cincuenta y siete jefes de estado y noventa ministros estaban en la Habana para la reunión del Movimiento de los No Alineados.

Cuba socialista y revolucionaria fue seleccionada para ser la anfitriona de la reunión. Según las reglas del NOAL, la nación auspiciada es también la dirigente del NOAL por los próximos tres años, poniendo al Presidente Fidel Castro en esa posición de honor por segunda vez.

En su discurso del 15 de septiembre a la cumbre del NOAL, el Presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez, elocuentemente puso en perspectiva el camino que el NOAL ha tomado durante las últimas dos décadas.

Habló sobre el papel que el NOAL tuvo en la creación de una importante Comisión del Sur en 1986 que analizaría los problemas comunes de los países del sur y sacaría conclusiones y lecciones en interés de los miembros de la organización. Pero después de completar el reporte basado en el trabajo de la comisión, nada fue puesto en marcha.

Chávez explicó que: “El Tercer Mundo vivió lo que podríamos llamar la ilusión de un crecimiento económico, la ilusión de que un crecimiento económico traería

el desarrollo.” Pero después llegó, “el desorden del modelo económico, la crisis de la década de los años ochenta, la deuda externa y la recesión.

“A la misma vez que el reporte fuera presentado, la Unión Soviética cayó, contribuyendo a una desestabilización mundial mucho más grande. Los Estados Unidos y sus aliados y el capitalismo mundial se alzaron entonces a cantar victoria.”

Chávez concluyó, “Fue entonces cuando ellos desataron, no sólo contra los pueblos de América Latina sino también de África, Asia y Oceanía, la propuesta neoliberal. El llamado Consenso de Washington, paquetes de ajuste estructural, la privatización, la reducción del estado y la eliminación de planificación.”

### ‘Nuevo NOAL’—el liderazgo moral de Cuba

Esta situación es precisamente la que Cuba tiene la intención de rectificar. Cuba tiene un tesoro de experiencia tratando las situaciones más difíciles—incluyendo un bloqueo criminal impuesto por los EEUU por más de 45 años. El papel jugado por Cuba en la comunidad internacional en proveer cuidado de salud, medicinas, educación y pericia técnica hace de esta nación revolucionaria una fortaleza de dignidad. Generalmente, no pide nada de vuelta y es muy respetada alrededor del mundo.

Cuba, tan pequeña y tan pobre como es, es realmente una potencia global de moral y generosidad.

Durante la apertura de la cumbre, el vicepresidente cubano, Carlos Lage, hizo un resumen de las expectativas de Cuba para esta cumbre: “Es esencial el papel que nuestro Movimiento debe desempeñar en la búsqueda de un nuevo sistema de relaciones internacionales. Somos no alineados a las guerras, no alineados al terrorismo, no alineados a la injusticia, a las desigualdades, a los dobles raseros. Alineados con la paz y la justicia.

Debemos luchar por un mundo en el que sea impensable la agresión y ocupación de país alguno para alcanzar ventajas materiales o geopolíticas, en el que no se permitan las agresiones como la que sufre hoy el pueblo libanés o las atrocidades de Israel contra el pueblo palestino.”

Estas ideas fueron reflejadas en el documento final de 90 páginas adoptado por los jefes de estado del NOAL.

En la ceremonia de clausura, enfatizando el gran éxito que había sido la conferencia durante un período tan difícil y con la diversidad de países que participaron, el presidente interino de Cuba, Presidente Raúl Castro dijo, “El hecho de que haya primado en esta Cumbre un espíritu de entendimiento y que hayamos sido capaces de llegar a consensos claros, incluso en los temas más complejos, es

una demostración de que hemos decidido dar prioridad a lo que nos une, y enfrentar juntos los efectos del orden económico y político impuesto por los poderosos, que no solo resulta profundamente injusto, sino, además, insostenible”.

El Comandante en Jefe Cubano Fidel Castro, por razón de su reciente cirugía abdominal, tuvo que quedarse en su cuarto de recuperación. Pero no estuvo fuera de la cumbre. Fue la figura ausente más presente, siguiendo los debates con mucho interés y reuniéndose con muchas personas, incluyendo el Secretario General de la ONU, Kofi Annan, el presidente de Bolivia, Evo Morales y con Hugo Chávez.

Un escritor argentino y representante de su gobierno, Miguel Bonasso, también se reunió con Fidel, entrevistándolo dos veces, a pedido del líder cubano. Argentina había salido del NOAL en 1991 bajo la presidencia de Carlos Menem, por razón de sus estrechas conexiones con los EEUU. Pero el presidente actual, Néstor Kirchner pidió que Argentina participara en la cumbre cubana. Bonasso era parte de esa delegación.

Destacando el interés que tuvieron los medios de comunicación internacional, personajes extranjeros y el pueblo cubano, Bonasso escribe: “me he pasado los últimos dos días dando entrevistas sobre la entrevista (de Fidel). Y recibiendo el saludo y la curiosidad de cientos de delegados a la Cumbre del Movimiento de No Alineados. Me han preguntado por la salud de Fidel príncipes con turbante, mandatarios de los tres continentes, ministros, embajadores del Tercer Mundo y del Primero. También me han interrogado con los ojos aguados de emoción muchos cubanos humildes y anónimos: esos que te abren una puerta o te sirven un mojito. “¿En serio lo vio bien al Comandante? ¿Se pone de pie sin ayuda? ¿Camina? ¿Recuperó algunos kilos?”

### La historia del NOAL

El NOAL está compuesto por 118 naciones en camino de desarrollo. Haití y San Kitts-Nevis acaban de unirse durante esta reunión cumbre.

Fue fundado en 1961, con la representación de 25 países en pleno apogeo de la

Guerra Fría. En su primera reunión cumbre en Belgrado, Yugoslavia, el principio central iba a ser la independencia y neutralidad con respecto a los bloques militares de la OTAN y el Pacto de Varsovia.

Cuba, mostrando aún en sus días tempranos de la revolución su compromiso con la solidaridad internacional, fue la única nación presente de Latinoamérica y el Caribe en la conferencia de Belgrado.

En una reunión preparatoria que tuvo lugar en el Cairo tres meses antes, fue adoptado el criterio para ser miembro. Los puntos principales fueron por un orden de política independiente y de no-alianzas; apoyo para los movimientos de independencia nacional; y no ser miembro de ninguna alianza militar. (nam.gov.za)

Sin embargo, la historia del NOAL comienza en el período posguerra en el año 1955 cuando la famosa Conferencia Asia-África tuvo lugar en Bandung, Indonesia. “La reunión fue convocada por la invitación de los Primeros Ministros de Burma, Ceilán, India, Indonesia y Pakistán, y unió a los líderes de 29 países, la mayoría anteriormente colonias, de los dos continentes de África y Asia, para tratar sobre los intereses que tenían en común y para desarrollar políticas conjuntas en relaciones internacionales.” (nam.gov.za)

Esa conferencia fue encabezada por el Primer Ministro de la India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, el Presidente Sukarno de Indonesia y el Presidente de Egipto Gamal Abdel Nasser.

A pesar de su neutralidad frente a los dos bloques militares, una cosa está muy clara: Desde su comienzo, esta entidad tenía como propósito más crucial su orientación antiimperialista. Como dice el sitio de red del NOAL: “En la reunión, los líderes del Tercer Mundo compartieron sus problemas similares de resistir la presión de los poderes mayores, manteniendo su independencia y oponiéndose al colonialismo y al neocolonialismo, especialmente la dominación del Occidente.

Ahora el NOAL, según un artículo en el Daily Observer de Gambia del 13 de septiembre titulado “Conferencia de la cumbre en Cuba: crucial para el Movimiento No-Alineado”, está compuesto por 53 países africanos, 38 de Asia, 24 de Latinoamérica y el Caribe, y uno de Europa, el cual es Belarus.

Según información oficial, estos países juntos poseen 51 por ciento de la población del mundo, 53 por ciento de sus costas, 44 por ciento de sus bosques, 45 por ciento de su tierra cultivable, y 86 por ciento de sus reservas de recursos naturales. □

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