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# Pentagon faked Iran boat 'attack'

## Anti-war group demands investigation of U.S. war provocations

By Sara Flounders

The Bush administration has been caught red-handed in manufacturing evidence of a "provocation" off the Iranian coast on Jan. 6, in which five small Iranian open-air speedboats were alleged to have threatened three massive U.S. guided missile warships. The U.S. Navy now admits that audio and videotape given to the media and widely publicized had been spliced together.

What is most ominous in all this is that no major U.S. politician or institution, or any international body, has denounced this dangerous and deceptive move, nor have they called for an inquiry or investigation. Neither the U.S. Congress—now in session—nor any of its committees, all of them now controlled by the Democratic majority elected on an anti-war vote, took action.

With almost half the U.S. Navy hovering off the coast of Iran, this war provocation must be challenged and confronted.

The media is giving wall-to-wall coverage to both Democratic and Republican politicians campaigning in primary elections. Each of these politicians could and should be confronted on where they stand on this Pentagon fraud and what steps they personally plan to take to pursue the matter.

The corporate media in the U.S., which gave the story days of coverage, should also be challenged.

The Stop War on Iran Campaign has taken the first steps. It has begun an emergency alert and petition to demand a full investigation of this war provocation and the illegal war games that the U.S. Navy has been staging in the Persian Gulf. The goal is to prevent President George W. Bush and the Pentagon from using this scenario or another staged operation to launch an attack on Iran.

The Stop War On Iran Campaign has also urged rank-and-file Navy personnel on U.S. ships in the Gulf and officers to reveal what they know of U.S. war preparations and past war games in the region.

### Manufacturing a war crisis

For three days before Bush departed on an eight-day trip to the Middle East, the media were full of denunciations of Iran by Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and top generals and Navy commanders, all denouncing Iran for a "dangerous provocation" and "a threat to world peace" based on this phony incident.

On arriving in Israel, even as the story was unraveling, Bush again threatened Iran and ominously warned that "all options are on the table to protect our assets."

The U.S. Navy has now admitted that the video of the "incident" between the U.S. warships and the Iranian patrol boats was heavily edited and that the threatening voice on it warning "You may explode" may not have belonged to any Iranian sailors. Yet this video was the basis for the latest threats against Iran.

Who manufactured this video? Who spliced together completely different sound and video footage? Who signed off on it? Who distributed it to all the major media? It was viewed and commented on at the highest levels of the Bush administration.

This is hardly the first time that a manufactured U.S. crisis has launched a war.

On Feb. 5, 2003, Secretary of State and former Gen. Colin Powell presented satellite photos to the United Nations to prove that Iraq was developing weapons of mass destruction. This false charge, endlessly repeated, became the justification for the U.S. bombing, invasion and continuing occupation of Iraq.

Before the first Gulf War in 1991, photo images of Iraqi units supposedly massed on the Saudi Arabia border for an invasion also turned out to be totally fraudulent.

Manufactured evidence was also used in the famous Gulf of Tonkin incident, when North Vietnamese Coast Guard boats supposedly attacked two U.S. destroyers off the coast of Vietnam

Continued on page 9

## UNITE ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Rally & March from Imus/WABC to Lou Dobbs/CNN **Mon. JAN. 21**

**1 p.m.** From W. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. & 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. to W. 58<sup>th</sup> St. & Columbus Circle in NYC



**DETROIT: MLK Day March & Rally Against War, Racism, & Poverty. Jan. 21, 12 p.m.,** Central United Methodist Church, Woodward & Adams, Detroit Keynote speaker: Rev. Dr. Lucius Walker, Director of IFCO/Pastors for Peace. [www.mecawi.org](http://www.mecawi.org)

**LOS ANGELES: Int'l Action Center Forum Against Racism, Sat. Jan. 26, 4343 Leimert Blvd, LA.** Educational forum on the state of racism in the U.S., commemorating and honoring Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy. Special emphasis on the increased repression against Black people and immigrant communities. Call: 323-936-7266.

**PHILADELPHIA: Int'l Action Center sponsoring a program with panel of speakers against Racism, Tues., Jan. 22, 7 p.m.** at Calvary Church, 48th & Baltimore.

**PROVIDENCE: RI Poor Peoples Campaign, RI Rosa Parks Human Rights Day Committee & RI Peoples Assembly news conference/rally** on the steps of the State House at 11 a.m. launching the Poor Peoples Campaign for a March on the State House on April 4, the 40th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination.

**SAN DIEGO: Monday, Jan. 21, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.,** Community gathering at Martin Luther King Jr. Park, 6401 Skyline Avenue, San Diego, CA. Event sponsored by San Diego King/Chavez Coalition for Justice and Unity. Contact: Gloria Verdieu at 619-255-4585.

For more details go to [www.TroopsOutNow.org](http://www.TroopsOutNow.org)

**BOSTON: Rally & Speakout Against Racism—Fund Dr. King's Dream, Jan. 21.** Join Boston city councilors, community, labor, immigrant rights & youth leaders & organizations at 5:30 pm. On Boston Common at Park St. Contact Boston IAC at 617-522-6626 or Councilor Turner's District Office at 617-427-8100.

**CLEVELAND: To honor Dr. King: Challenge the Ohio prison system. Sat., Jan. 19,** the Cleveland Lucasville Five Defense Committee will stand with death row inmates in their just demand for contact visits. Protest at Ohio State Penitentiary, Youngstown. Call 216-481-6671 for information.

**DENVER: March Against Racism & War, Jan. 21, 9 a.m.,** City Park. Gather at water fountain on 18th Ave. & Detroit. "Take Back Martin Luther King Day!" March for the Jena Six; Paul Childs; Frank Lobato; Ishmael Mena; Jamaal Bonner & all victims of police brutality. Call: 303-863-8029 [hrazycat@yahoo.com](mailto:hrazycat@yahoo.com)

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# Iraq vets call for Winter Soldier investigation

By Dee Knight

Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) has announced plans for “Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan,” from March 13 to 16. The event “will assemble the largest gathering of U.S. veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan in history, as well as Iraqi and Afghan survivors,” IVAW says, “to offer first-hand, eyewitness accounts to tell the truth about these occupations—their impact on the troops, their families,” the United States “and the people of Iraq and Afghanistan.”

IVAW is asking the larger anti-war movement to call no national mobilizations and no local protests or civil disobedience actions in Washington, D.C., on that long weekend. “IVAW would support any events that do not interfere with the Winter Soldier hearings, our strategy, or goals,” they said. “We would encourage our members to continue participating in events of the larger movement to end the occupation of Iraq, as we acknowledge both the significance and the necessity of such actions.”

Thomas Paine, a writer and political activist who promoted the revolution for U.S. independence from Britain in the 18th century, said winter soldiers are those who stand up even in the most difficult hours of struggle. “With this spirit in mind,” IVAW says, “our members are standing up to make their experiences available to all who are concerned about the direction of our country.”

This is the second Winter Soldier investigation: in 1971, members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) gathered in Detroit to share their stories. Atrocities like the My Lai massacre had ignited popular opposition to the war, but political and military leaders insisted that such crimes were isolated exceptions. The members of VVAW testified at that time on the systematic brutality they had seen visited upon the people of Vietnam.

“Over 30 years later,” IVAW says, “we find ourselves faced with a new war, but the lies are the same. Once again, [U.S.] troops are sinking into an increasingly bloody occupation. Once again, war crimes in places like Haditha, Fallujah and Abu Ghraib have turned the public against the war. Once again, politicians and generals are blaming ‘a few bad apples’ instead of examining the military policies that have destroyed Iraq and Afghanistan.”

## Support needed

IVAW wants as many people as possible to attend the event. It is planning to provide live broadcasting of the sessions for those who cannot hear the testimony first-hand. “We have been inspired by the tremendous support the movement has shown us,” IVAW says. “We believe the

success of Winter Soldier will ultimately depend on the support of our allies and the hard work of our members.”

Workers World spoke with IVAW National Board members Camilo Mejia and Margaret Stevens about the event and other aspects of the organization’s work.

Mejia spent nine months in military prison from May 2004 to February 2005 for refusing to return to Iraq after his first tour of duty there. He has been speaking and organizing since his release. He was chosen to chair the IVAW National Board at its conference last August. He told WW the organization is growing fast—from about 500 in August to more than 700 now, with members in 48 states, Washington, D.C., Canada, and on numerous bases both here and overseas, including Iraq.

Commenting on the recent mutiny by a platoon of soldiers in Iraq, Mejia said this type of resistance is increasingly common there. “I refused a mission once,” he said. “We had watched several of our comrades be killed and wounded. I said no—as squad leader—that I would not allow my guys to be used as bait for some colonel to make general.”

Margaret Stevens, who is IVAW’s National Board treasurer, said, “My stint in the anti-war movement began before the official invasion was declared in 2003. As a member of the New Jersey Army National Guard from 1997 to 2004, I counted myself among the soldiers who questioned the goals, values and actions of the U.S. military even during times of so-called peace.”

A resident of Newark, N.J., and a professor at Essex Community College, Stevens says, “We need to develop a strong voice in the northern New Jersey region. Until we can link the fight against imperialist war overseas to the fight against racism and sexism in the U.S., we are missing the point.”

Stevens told WW last August that Mejia’s political statement at the IVAW convention “was that we need to look at the root of the problem—not just the war but the capitalist system. People responded positively to this.” She said the northern New Jersey chapter of IVAW, which had its first meetings in December, has gotten off to a strong start. More than 40 people attended the chapter’s first holiday party, most of them veterans, but also from Military Families Speak Out, the People’s Organization for Progress of Jersey City, and others.

The IVAW, Stevens said, “will have a three-pronged approach: truth in recruiting; mobilization of active duty soldiers; defending war resisters.” There is rich detail on each of these initiatives, as well as ways to help build the Winter Soldier activity, on the group’s Web site: [www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org). □

## The Truth on Military Recruiters & the Draft A Guide to Resistance

From the Introduction: “Army recruiting is in a death spiral,” says retired Army Lt. Col. Charles Krohn, a lifelong Republican and former Pentagon public affairs official.

As the bloody colonial occupation of Iraq drags on into its fifth year, the Army continues to miss its recruiting quotas—falling short by a staggering 42% in April of 2005.

This book is aimed at increasing recruiting problems by helping young people and their parents counter the lies of the recruiters.

In this book, you will find practical tools for challenging recruiters, exposing their falsehoods, and getting them out of our schools.

Order online from [www.Leftbooks.com](http://www.Leftbooks.com)



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## 35 years after Roe v. Wade

# Women fight to keep abortion legal, accessible

By Kathy Durkin

Jan. 22 marks the 35th anniversary of the legalization of the right to abortion in the United States. The Supreme Court's landmark 1973 ruling in the case of Roe v. Wade finally guaranteed women the right to obtain safe, legal abortions in every state in hospitals, clinics and doctors' offices.

It was meant to be the end of unsafe procedures, self-abortions, secrecy, abortion mills, back alleys and fear, an end to injuries, infections and lifelong health problems. No longer would 5,000 women a year die from botched procedures.

This writer had many women friends who went through the anxiety, fear and difficulty of obtaining abortions prior to 1973. Two situations come to mind: a co-worker who had been raped and then received a botched abortion, only to have to struggle for medical care at a hospital, and a California university student who had to wear a blindfold and ride in a car with strangers across state lines to get to an abortion mill.

With legalization, there was no longer a need for the underground networks that had courageously defied the state and helped women obtain abortions. It meant that doctors—like the heroic Dr. Kenneth Edelin—nurses, midwives and other health care providers could aid women needing abortions without having to fear criminal harassment and prosecutions, either of their patients or themselves.

For the 1.3 million women a year who had abortions, and for their sisters, daughters and friends who would seek the procedure in the future, Roe v. Wade was a huge step forward for women's rights and health.

Though the Supreme Court was the vehicle, this right came as a result of years of hard-fought struggle by a mass movement of women and their supporters who marched and rallied around the country. The nine justices, many of whom were

conservatives, were forced to grant this important right.

### Hyde Amendment was racist and anti-poor

But the ultraright, anti-choice forces immediately went on the offensive and began a campaign of violence against clinics. They got help from the capitalist political establishment. With utter contempt for low-income women, Congress passed the racist, anti-poor Hyde Amendment in 1977. It was a liberal, President Jimmy Carter, who signed it. The Hyde Amendment banned the use of Medicaid funds for abortions. Medicaid had covered 300,000 abortions annually. This was a stunning blow to poor women, especially the young, single mothers and many from African-American and Latin@ communities.

Rosie Jimenez, a single mother, was the first to die as a result of the Hyde Amendment that same year when she desperately sought an unsafe abortion.

The National Black Women's Health Project, in a coalition with labor and civil rights groups, campaigned to gain some exceptions to the Hyde Amendment, but the law's overall impact has hit millions of poor women hard; most states do not fund abortions.

Since then, the right to choose has been under siege by reactionaries on all sides who have been scheming to overturn Roe v. Wade—from the halls of state legislatures up to the Supreme Court, which in 2007 ruled for a federal abortion ban on certain procedures and threatens to undermine them all.

Pro-choice organizations anticipate that if the right wing succeeds in overturning Roe v. Wade, the majority of states will impose abortion bans, especially in the South, and that women will have to resort once again to desperate measures, risking their health and well-being.

Today, hundreds of local laws curtail and put obstacles in the way of access to safe abortions, while sex education and

contraceptive information are also limited. A shocking 88 percent of all counties and 97 percent of rural counties have no abortion providers. Few medical schools are training doctors to perform abortions.

Many women who cannot get safe abortions where they live must raise funds to travel to other states. Often they must have later-term, costlier procedures. Because of these obstacles, some women, once again, are resorting to secret, unsafe abortions or self-abortions.

There have been dangerous government prosecutions of young Latina@ immigrants for exercising their right to choose. In 2004, Gabriela Flores, a 22-year-old farmworker and mother of three who could not afford another child, was jailed in South Carolina for four months for taking an abortifacient [abortion inducing] drug. And she is not the only one.

But the history of this movement is also filled with courage and determination by committed pro-choice activists, women's and health care organizations. Heroic clinic workers, doctors, nurses and midwives have faced down reactionary attacks, keeping their clinics open and operating despite harassment, defacement and even arson. Bombed clinics, as in Birmingham, Ala., have been rebuilt with community support. There are doctors who, despite threats, harassment and stalking, travel to provide needed reproductive health services.

The pressure of pro-choice and women's healthcare advocates gained the legalization of medical abortion drug RU 486 as well as Plan B, the emergency contraceptive.

There have been victories, large and small, and many outpourings and protests in support of reproductive rights. The March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C., in April 2004 was historic: more than 1 million women and their supporters participated. Two years later, grassroots organizing set back an abortion ban in South Dakota. Dedicated women's rights activists kept clinics open in Jackson, Miss.,

and Birmingham, Ala., when reactionary forces tried to shut them down. And pro-choice activists fight daily state-by-state to maintain reproductive rights.

In this election year, it is important to remember what it took to win the victory encompassed in the Roe v. Wade decision. It was not due to politicians or candidates or judges, but a mass movement. Now that the majority of people support the right to choose, due to the hard work of the reproductive justice movement, it is reflected in the pro-choice positions of most liberal candidates and progressive legislation.

The reactionary right wing in the capitalist U.S. continually tries to roll back, if not wipe out, rights and gains made by people's struggles. Right-wing candidates make misogynist assaults on reproductive rights to divert attention from the Iraq war and the deteriorating economy.

In most other industrialized countries, reproductive rights are seen as medical issues and guaranteed within the health care system.

The mass struggle is now needed to push back the right wing and to maintain and expand reproductive rights for all, especially youth, low-income women and women of color, those who face the brunt of the right-wing attacks and budget cuts.

Women need a comprehensive, government-funded health care system that covers pre- and post-natal care, contraceptives and abortions. Maternal mortality has been increasing in many poor and oppressed communities due to lack of medical care and coverage.

Today, many organizations are pushing for all aspects of reproductive rights—for sex education, family planning programs, access to contraceptives and abortions, health care, medical insurance and social programs so that women who choose to can have and raise healthy children. Some 60 groups are now pushing to overturn the Hyde Amendment, under the slogan of "Hyde—30 years is enough!" □

## FBI launches new attack on Puerto Rican movement

By Arturo J. Pérez Saad  
New York

On Jan. 11 the plaza in front of Federal Court in Brooklyn was filled with Puerto Ricans and their allies denouncing a new witch hunt against the pro-independence movement in their homeland.

The demonstrators, who numbered around 1,000, chanted, "Filiberto lives, the struggle continues!" and "FBI: terrorists, assassins, imperialists!"

On Jan. 10 and 11, similar demonstrations took place in Hartford, Conn.; Los Angeles and Oakland, Calif.; Chicago; Philadelphia; Cleveland; Fitchburg, Mass.; and Orlando, Fla.

In San Juan, P.R., more than 1,500 demonstrators marched in front of the Federal Court House with placards that read "FBI assassins."

"Filiberto" refers to Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, a leader of the Ejército Popular Boricua-Macheteros, who was gunned down by the FBI right inside his home in Hormigueros, P.R., on Sept. 23, 2005. Now the U.S. political police agency is going after Puerto Ricans in New York City.

Three were subpoenaed to appear before a New York grand jury on Jan. 11 and a fourth is reportedly being hunted. The three are Tania Frontera, a graphic

designer; Christopher Torres, a social worker; and Julio Pabón, a filmmaker. The FBI may also be looking for Héctor Rivera, another cultural worker.

Just two days after the subpoenas, a committee was set up in New York called the Hostos Jan. 11 Grand Jury Resistance Campaign. The movement is calling for no collaboration with the oppressive authorities. It states that this heightened repression is a violation of human rights and of Article 1514 of the United Nations Charter, which states in part that "the subjection of a people by foreign subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denigration of fundamental human rights" and concludes that "any such people have a right to resist that foreign domination."

A media conference at New York's City Hall the day of the demonstration was well attended. Both events had an impact and the authorities agreed to a postponement of the grand jury. It was a tentative victory, but this struggle is not over and the movement remains vigilant.

The choice of Jan. 11 as the original date of the grand jury was an affront to the memory of one of Puerto Rico's most revered pro-independence leaders, Eugenio María de Hostos. Born on Jan. 11, 1839, Hostos had been an abolitionist and an advocate of workers' and women's rights. He also supported a federation of



Protest outside Brooklyn Federal Court.

WW PHOTO

the Caribbean islands.

After the murder of Filiberto Ojeda Ríos in 2005, popular outrage crossed party lines in Puerto Rico and pushed the conciliatory and pro-colonial government of Anibal Acevedo Vilá to launch an investigation into the FBI's actions.

This past summer several articles in the press there exposed the role of the U.S. "security" company DynCorp in Filiberto's murder. Like the Blackwater contract employees who murder innocent civilians in Iraq and New Orleans, these U.S. mercenaries have only one goal in mind and that is to kill and repress. Washington's response to this inquiry has been to charge Acevedo Vilá with corruption.

In other words, the colonizer is saying to the occupied: "How dare you question

us?" Washington's plan may now be to put its colony in Puerto Rico under direct U.S. receivership.

Puerto Ricans have resisted U.S. culture and the imposition of English-only in schools, and over the years have formed liberation organizations such as the Nationalist Party, the FALN and the Macheteros. Now the movement and its allies are calling for the FBI and the U.S. Navy to get out of Puerto Rico. International solidarity is needed.

The pro-independence movement has come together to defend the sisters and brothers in the struggle. It is also demanding the freedom of political prisoners Oscar López Rivera, Carlos Alberto Torres, Haydée Beltrán Torres and José Pérez González. □

# Mortgage devastation grabs world attention

By Kris Hamel  
Detroit

Organizers with the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice (MECAWI) in Detroit report that their campaign for a moratorium on foreclosures has been garnering publicity and growing support.

Every day people are calling the campaign to sign up to go to Lansing on Jan. 29, when a demonstration will take place outside the Capitol Building prior to Gov. Jennifer Granholm's "State of the State" address. Activists are pressuring the governor to use her emergency powers under the law to declare a state of economic emergency and impose a moratorium to halt foreclosures for a five-year period.

MECAWI organizers report that the Jan. 29 demonstration has received the endorsement of the Greater Lansing Area Network Against War and Injustice. Activists with the North Star Center, a radical community group in Lansing, contacted MECAWI to also lend their support. The editor of a community newspaper in Benton Harbor called about the demonstration and offered to set up a town hall meeting to publicize the campaign for a moratorium. She stated that 60 percent of the homes in that predominantly Black city are in tax foreclosure.

On Jan. 9 MECAWI organizer and people's attorney Jerry Goldberg was interviewed by the public radio station in Boston. MECAWI received an e-mail from a woman in Massachusetts who heard the interview on her local NPR station and was moved by the foreclosure crisis in Michigan that Goldberg described. She sent a donation along with a message of solidarity.

From Jan. 9 to 13, a crew from the government-run Korean Broadcasting System in South Korea met with MECAWI activists. The KBS television station is putting together a one-hour documentary on the subprime mortgage crisis in the U.S.

According to MECAWI organizer Mike Shane, "The KBS crew came to Detroit from Florida. They said they thought much of the crisis in that state is from investors losing money from the practice of 'flipping' houses. In Detroit the producers could see that a much deeper crisis is at work, a crisis of unemployment, racism and urban degeneration."

Shane told Workers World that the KBS crew was "stunned" by what they saw in Detroit and expressed disbelief that nothing was being done by the government to help people. "Like in so many other places around the world, the Korean TV team had held a view of life in the U.S. based on Hollywood lies, and at first they couldn't comprehend that the richest country in the world has such dire poverty, with so many people losing their homes."

The KBS crew followed MECAWI activists to a neighborhood in northwest Detroit on Jan. 12 where Thelma Raziya Curtis faces eviction from the home her daughter owns, a home that has been part of her family for decades but is now in foreclosure. Curtis was interviewed extensively and filmed as she went about her daily activities.

Organizers went door to door in the neighborhood, distributing literature, petitioning and talking to residents about Curtis's plight and the struggle for a moratorium on all foreclosures and evictions. Everyone expressed concern for Curtis's situation and

many asked to be contacted if necessary for more support.

The KBS crew filmed a block on Strathmoor Street where 10 out of 12 houses stood empty, most of them vandalized by poor people looking to make a little money from bricks, pipes, abandoned furnaces and the like. They filmed other areas in Detroit with block after block of fields and vacant homes.

On Jan. 11 MECAWI organizers and community activists packed a hearing of the Housing Task Force of the Detroit City Council hosted by progressive Council member JoAnn Watson. The participants overwhelmingly supported the foreclosure moratorium campaign.

Watson reported that a resolution was passed unanimously by the City Council in late December calling on Gov. Granholm to declare a state of emergency in the city and a moratorium on foreclosures. She said that legislation was being drafted to beef up the city's blight ordinances so that banks and financial institutions would face stiff fines for abandoning foreclosed homes and allowing them to be stripped.

Buses will be leaving Detroit for the Lansing demonstration on Tuesday, Jan. 29, at 4:00 p.m. from the parking lot of the Michigan Center for High Technology, off Temple between Second and Third Avenues. The cost is \$20 per person, although no one will be turned away for lack of funds. To reserve a seat, please call 313-319-0870. For more information on the struggle for a moratorium on foreclosures in Michigan, call or visit [www.mecawi.org](http://www.mecawi.org). □

## ON THE

### WGA strike developments

In early January two movie companies and one television company—United Artists, Weinstein Co. and David Letterman's Worldwide Pants—signed agreements with the Writers Guild of America. That created the first crack in the wall erected by the Hollywood producers (AMPTP), who have refused to negotiate with the WGA since early December. The WGA has filed a complaint against the AMPTP for failure to bargain in good faith. ([blog.afclcio.org](http://blog.afclcio.org))

Ever since Nov. 5, more than 12,500 WGA members in Hollywood and New York City have picketed to publicize their demands for a fair share of revenue from Internet and electronic media sales of their work. The biggest club they hold is that the award season has begun, and award shows need writers. Case in point: the Golden Globe awards were totally sidelined on Jan. 13. A ho-hum press conference was held, instead of the usual glitzy celebration, after the Screen Actors Guild announced its members would not cross a picket line.

The big question: Will the producers come to the table in time for the Oscars to proceed on Feb. 24? The WGA is asking supporters to sign a petition, which already has 65,000 signatures, addressed to the AMPTP. Go to [www.petitiononline.com/WGA](http://www.petitiononline.com/WGA) to show solidarity with the striking writers.

Ever since Jay Leno, Jon Stewart and Steven Colbert returned to their late-night posts without agreements in early January, their shows have been picketed. The entire faculty of Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations sent a letter of solidarity to WGA when one of its professors appeared on Stewart's "Daily Show."

In a related development, 500 CBS News employees represented by WGA finally negotiated a decent contract Jan. 9 after voting to strike. All workers will receive a 3.5 percent raise both this year and next. CBS had tried to impose a two-tier system with workers at the national network receiving a 3 percent raise in contrast to a 2 percent raise for writers at several local stations.

In another development, the Directors Guild

*Continued to page 5*

# Cleveland sues 21 banks over foreclosures

By Martha Grevatt  
Cleveland

Wells Fargo used to be associated with a song in a mindless musical. For today's workers, however, the name is becoming symbolic of the economic hurricane of home foreclosures. Now, Wells Fargo and 20 other predatory mega-lenders are the subject of an important lawsuit filed under Ohio's "public nuisance" law by Cleveland's African-American mayor, Frank Jackson.

The lenders "were living large off the misery and suffering of people," Jackson stated at a news conference Jan. 11. "They are going to have to pay for it." The suit seeks hundreds of millions of dollars in damages.

"They" include some of the biggest world players on the chessboard of finance capital. Wells Fargo is second in the number of foreclosure filings in Cuyahoga County—4,000 in the last four years. But the suit also names the number one villain—Deutsche Bank Trust with 4,750 foreclosure filings—as well as Ameriquest Mortgage, Countrywide Financial, HSBC Holdings, JPMorgan Chase, Washington Mutual, Citigroup, Bank of America, Bear Stearns, Goldman-Sachs and others. Altogether, Cleveland suffered 7,500 foreclosures in 2007, compared to 120 in 2002.

How did these huge firms, none of them based in Northeast Ohio, become

the major culprits in a scandal threatening some 20,000 homeowners in the Cleveland area alone? The process is known in financial lingo as securitization. The first loans to be securitized were prime loans. By 2006, however, 80 percent of all subprime loans, valued at well over half a trillion dollars, had become securitized.

What does that mean for working class families trying to keep their homes?

Cleveland State University Law Professor Kathleen Engel, an expert on the legal aspects of predatory lending who believes the mayor's lawsuit has merit, explained securitization as it impacts borrowers who fall victim to subprime lending schemes:

"Securitization is the financial technology that integrates the market for residential mortgages with the capital markets. In securitization, investment banks take pools of home loans, carve up the cash flows from those receivables, and convert the cash flows into bonds that are secured by the mortgages. The bonds are variously known as residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) or asset-backed securities (ABS).

"Securitization goes by the moniker 'structured finance,' in part because a securitizer structures the transaction to isolate the loan pool from the original lender. This is accomplished by selling the loan pool to a special purpose vehicle, or SPV, that is owned by, but legally distinct

from, the lender. The SPV then resells the loan pool to a second SPV, which is also independent of the lender and takes title to the bundle. The second SPV is typically in the form of a trust.

"The vast majority of subprime loans are now securitized, leading to claims that securitization facilitates predatory [lending]. ... Nonetheless, the entities involved in securitization have resisted addressing such concerns and continue to serve as major conduits for predatory loans.

"The resulting cost to borrowers is substantial."

Substantial also are the costs to cities, as distressed homeowners default on loans. This erodes a city's tax base, causing neighborhoods to deteriorate, and explains why city governments are getting involved in this struggle.

One of the groups blasting the banks is the East Side Organizing Project. ESOP President Inez Killingsworth, speaking last March before a congressional hearing, charged that "the banking industry would like you to believe they pulled out of the Cleveland communities because of the economy. Ladies and gentlemen, they pulled out because they could make MORE money vis à vis their subprime affiliates.

"For example, in 2002, Argent Mortgage Company—the wholesale lending arm of ACC Holdings which also owns Ameriquest Mortgage company—had no presence in the city of Cleveland. Since 2003, however, despite only offering a

subprime loan product, they have been the largest lender in Cleveland. I would suggest to you that Argent's surge in Cleveland is the result of years of local banks turning their back on low- to moderate-income, often minority residents."

Ameriquest and Argent now have 1,600 foreclosure filings against Cuyahoga County residents. Killingsworth explained the cost in human terms. "I can't walk down any street in my neighborhood without seeing a vacant, often unboarded, home. Many of these homes used to belong to my friends. I remember visiting them not that many years ago to celebrate the holidays or have a cookout during the summer. Today, those fond memories have been replaced by the stark reality that the lending industry ripped off my friends and me."

Since this testimony was given, months before the subprime meltdown made front-page headlines, things have gotten incredibly worse. Now there is speculation that many cities and states will have to follow Mayor Jackson's lead and take legal action to prevent financial ruin. In fact, the mayor's lawsuit followed a series of court rulings in Ohio against some of the same predators. Baltimore had sued Wells Fargo days earlier over the same issue.

While all these efforts are helpful and needed, the crisis calls for more drastic measures. The time is now for an immediate moratorium on all home foreclosures.

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# PICKET LINE

by Sue Davis

began negotiations with the AMPTP on Jan. 12, involving some of the same issues as those of the WGA. The directors' contract expires on June 30, as does that of the Screen Actors Guild.

## Starbucks' anti-union efforts exposed

On Jan. 8 the Wall Street Journal received a series of e-mails written by Starbucks managers detailing the company's anti-union campaign. Since 2004 managers had covertly monitored Internet chat rooms and eavesdropped on party conversations to identify employees spearheading an organizing drive.

Starbucks' workers (called baristas), who number 150,000, have been trying to win union representation by the Wobblies, the Industrial Workers of the World. A lawsuit is currently pending in a New York City court. The WSJ notes that "the e-mails could prove embarrassing because they show managers using various methods to identify pro-union employees." Organize the unorganized!

## S.F. letter carriers: Rebuild New Orleans

By unanimous vote on Jan. 9, Branch 214 of the Letter Carriers union, which represents 2,500 workers in the San Francisco Bay Area, adopted a resolution calling for a federally funded public works program like the Works Progress Administration of the 1930s to rebuild New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. The resolution, which stipulates that workers should be paid prevailing wages and have the right to organize, also calls for the right of return for evacuees and an end to state repression, racial profiling and police brutality. The resolution was modeled after one adopted by the Central Labor Council of Alameda County in November.

## IRS rules against FedEx

On Dec. 21, FedEx was ordered to pay the government \$319 million for falsely classifying 15,000 FedEx Ground workers in 2002 as independent contractors instead of as employees. This is good news for the Teamsters, which has been carrying on an organizing drive among these workers. The union estimates that FedEx might eventually have to cough up more than \$1 billion once penalties for subsequent years are assessed. (New York Times, Dec. 23)

## Worker's art at NYC Transit Museum

A show of inspiring watercolors painted by track worker Marvin Franklin, who was killed on the job in April 2007, was unveiled Dec. 18 at the New York City Transit Museum. In a fitting tribute to Franklin, Roger Toussaint, president of Transit Workers Local 100, said, "Marvin's work shows the other side of transit workers. Not only do we lead full and productive lives on the job, but we do so off the job as well." (The Chief-Leader, Dec. 28)

Since Franklin's death and that of Daniel Boggs, who was killed on the job five days before Franklin, Local 100 has worked with NYC Transit to improve track safety. In December a joint task force issued more than 60 recommendations for new work protocols. □

## Capitalism in crisis

# As banks scramble for cash, more layoffs hit workers

By Jaimeson Champion

The economic news pointing toward a serious capitalist crisis keeps piling up.

On Jan. 15, Citigroup, the largest U.S. bank, disclosed that it had lost nearly \$10 billion over the last three months on mortgage-backed securities, and that it planned to cut more than 4,000 jobs.

The announcement, coupled with retail data that showed falling sales across the country, sparked a stock market freefall. The Dow fell more than 277 points that day. Stock markets in Europe and Asia also fell.

The next day, JPMorgan Chase announced its fourth-quarter profits had fallen by 34 percent, mainly because of its involvement with subprime loans. Banks around the world are reporting problems collecting debt—not just mortgage loans, but credit cards and auto loans, too. (New York Times, Jan. 16)

Bank of America had earlier announced it would buy up Countrywide Financial, the mortgage company that was going belly up, for \$4 billion. And it is cutting a further 650 jobs in its investment banking division.

The answer of the big banks and corporations to the crisis is to lay off more workers—adding to the growing unemployment and ensuring that even more debts will go bad.

The stock market drop was the latest plunge in what has been a series of steep sell-offs in recent weeks as the growing economic crisis continues to destabilize the global capitalist system.

The large commercial banks and financial institutions on Wall Street are currently scrambling to find sources of cash to shore up their balance sheets. Massive liquidity infusions by the Federal Reserve and other central banks around the globe over the past few months have proven unsuccessful. The banks are now increasingly turning to sovereign wealth funds in search of emergency cash.

These sovereign wealth funds are the investment arms of governments ranging from Kuwait to Singapore—governments that are an integral part of the world imperialist system. The banks and financial institutions on Wall Street are attempting every quick fix plan they can think of in frantic attempts to avert further catastrophe.

As the Wall Street robber barons attempt to save their profits and stave off a global financial collapse, the ruling-class politicians in the U.S. have been announcing various economic plans and initiatives. Many of the candidates in the 2008 presidential race have unveiled so-called "economic stimulus" plans.

The Congressional Budget Office has also announced its intention to create its own version of an economic stimulus plan. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi released a statement after a Jan. 14 meeting with Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke saying, "We know that people are hurting, so I hope that we can work together, recognizing the independence of the Fed, and coordinate monetary and fiscal policy that will soften the blow for hard-working families." (New York Times, Jan. 15)

Despite the empty "I feel your pain" rhetoric, the hollow relief plans offer little respite for the millions of workers and their families whose lives continue to be devastated by the growing economic meltdown.

According to a Jan. 16 post on Bloom-

berg.com, House Financial Services Committee Chair Barney Frank "said Democratic leaders will meet with Bush at the White House on Jan. 22 and are prepared to reach a compromise on legislation that includes a tax rebate, new spending and other tax cuts.

"Frank and other Democrats said they are willing to at least postpone for several years plans to offset any new expenditures or tax cuts with spending reductions or tax increases to prevent increasing the deficit." In such a compromise, the tax cuts will surely be written to benefit the corporations, all in the name of "economic stimulus." In other words, there's no plan to directly help unemployed workers or those who face being homeless because of the mortgage crisis.

Millionaire politicians like Pelosi, a Democrat, and Mitt Romney, a Republican, can never truly comprehend the pain felt by a worker when he or she is laid off from a job where they had worked for decades. They cannot comprehend the pain felt by working parents forced to tell their children that the bank is kicking them out of their home. Much like the attempts by the central banks to stabilize the markets with liquidity infusions, the "economic stimulus" plans of the ruling class politicians are too little, too late.

There is no quick fix reform or stimulus plan that will eliminate the economic forces at the roots of this deepening crisis. The causes of this crisis are inherent to the capitalist mode of production. For any solutions to really help the working class, which has produced everything yet has so

little to show for it, they must challenge the existing property relations that have placed so much wealth and power in such few hands.

It is the capitalist class's insatiable quest for profit that leads to overproduction and the accumulation of enormous debt. It was the insatiable quest for profits that led to the creation of the predatory mortgage lending companies. They ensnared millions of workers, a disproportionate number of them Black and Latin@, in the subprime loans that ended up sparking this current meltdown.

It was the insatiable quest for profits that led the Wall Street institutions and banks to underwrite and package these predatory loans into the now infamous CDOs and SIVs that are wreaking havoc on the global financial system. The elimination of the root causes of this economic crisis requires the elimination of capitalist property relations.

Above all is the intense contradiction between the growth of a global, socialized economy—in which the labor of hundreds of millions of workers is organized into a giant web where all the parts are inter-related, from the extraction or growth of the raw materials to the production and distribution of the final products—and the private ownership of this vast productive machine to further enrich a small class of super-wealthy individuals.

As the crisis deepens, it is imperative for the more militant and class-conscious elements of the working class to intensify their own planning and organizing in preparation for future upheaval. □

## Protest puts ICE plan on ice

By Paul Teitelbaum  
Tucson, Ariz.

Dozens of community activists attended the Jan. 8 Pima County Board of Supervisors meeting to oppose an inter-governmental agreement between the County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Border Patrol. The agreement would have deputized Border Patrol agents, making them part of the Sheriff's Department.

The agents would have been permitted to wear sheriff's uniforms and enforce local

and state law, as well as federal immigration law. This is yet another attempt to extend the reach of Immigration and Customs Enforcement into the already oppressed Latin@/Mexican@ communities.

Disguised as local law enforcement, ICE agents would be free to roam and terrorize. Southern Arizona is already teeming with ICE agents and the racist Minutemen. The border wall that forces thousands of people into the death trap of the Arizona desert is only 90 miles

*Continued on page 10*

## Special Reception & Forum

### THE HUMAN FACE OF U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY

*The May 1st Coalition for Immigrant Rights invites you to a very special event.*

On Tuesday, Jan. 22, please come meet and hear from immigrant workers that have been directly affected by the cruel attacks against immigrants today.

**Special Guests:** Flor Crisostomo. Flor is a Mexican immigrant who is currently facing a deportation order. She has been organizing for her rights in Chicago as well as for all immigrants.

**Emma Lozano.** Emma is the Director of Pueblo Sin Fronteras in Chicago. She has been a long time activist for Chicano/Mexicano/Latino rights and was the organizer of support for Elvira Arellano when the Adalberto United Methodist Church, in Chicago, provided her with sanctuary. Lozano is a member of the First Mexican Parliament of Migrant Leaders, which has issued a call for May Day 2008.

**Representatives of the Sentosa 27.** The Sentosa 27 are Filipino immigrant nurses victimized by human trafficking, illegal recruitment, and both U.S. and Philippine government corruption. Ten of the nurses have been criminally indicted as a retaliatory measure for resigning. Their trial begins Jan. 28th.

**Victor Toro.** Victor is currently fighting deportation to Chile and is demanding political asylum. Victor is a long time activist, a founder of MIR in Chile, and a co-founder of La Peña del Bronx. His court date is Jan. 18 and an update of his case will be presented. He has made his case a struggle for all immigrants.

Join us on Jan. 22 for this forum and hear plans about May Day, 2008.

And on Jan. 21 the progressive movement is organizing a March against Racism to commemorate Martin Luther King Day including a protest against Lou Dobbs. Be there!

**Reception at 6:30 Forum at 7pm**

The Gallery 28 E. 35<sup>th</sup> St., 1<sup>st</sup> fl., Manhattan (between Madison Ave. & Park Ave.)

For more information call 212.633.6646 and visit [www.may1.info](http://www.may1.info)

President Vicente Guerrero of Mexico.



by Mumia Abu-Jamal on death row

## The idea of a Black president

From a Dec. 18, 2007, audio message.

For much of the U.S. populace, the very idea of a Black

president is one so new, so novel, that it forces many people to think of it as if it is barely possible; as if it is the stuff of fiction, not fact.

Fiction has indeed been the realm of this idea, as in movies and television series, actors have played the part, but that, of course, is on TV.

Of course, time will tell if that is more than imagination, but for millions of people who share this vast land space we call North America, the idea is neither new nor groundbreaking.

That's because there are some 100 million people living in Mexico, and that country had a Black president (albeit briefly)—some 173 years ago.

It was during their war for independence from Spain, when a warrior emerged, a Black Indian named Vicente Guerrero.

In his first battle, he was commissioned a captain. As the independence war raged on, many of the leading revolutionaries were either killed, or captured. Guerrero fought on, leading some 2,000 men into the Sierra Madre mountains to continue the fight.

By 1821, the Mexicans were prevailing over the Spanish and Guerrero was hailed as an incorruptible independence fighter. In 1829 he became president of Mexico, and as scholar William Loren Katz writes in his 1986 book, "Black Indians":

"He began a program of far-reaching reforms, abolishing the death penalty and starting construction of schools and libraries for the poor. He ended slavery in Mexico. Yet, because of his skin color, lack of education and country manner, he was held in contempt by the upper classes in Mexico City. This president, who had, according to U.S. historian M.H. Bancroft, "a gentleness and magnetism that inspired love among his adherents," was still "a triple-blooded outsider."

Black historian J. A. Rogers summarized Guerrero's striking accomplishments by calling him "the George Washington and Abraham Lincoln of Mexico." Guerrero, who in his youth was an illiterate mule driver, once bitten by the bug of Mexican independence rose to the highest office in the land.

He learned to read when he was about 40, and helped craft the Mexican Constitution, of which he wrote the following provision: "All inhabitants whether white, African, or Indian, are qualified to hold office." He wrote this in 1824, over 30 years before the U.S. Supreme Court's infamous Dred Scott decision, which announced, emphatically, that "a black man has no rights that a white man is bound to respect" and that "black people weren't, and could never be citizens of the United States."

In that era of revolution and social transformation, a Black man became president of the second-largest country in North America. Today, 178 years later, we still wonder if such a thing is possible. What does that say about the United States? □

More Mumia's columns at: [www.prisonradio.org](http://www.prisonradio.org)



## Appeal to Black Reparations Movement

# Join fight for Reconstruction in New Orleans & Gulf Coast

Excerpted from a statement issued on Jan. 11 by the Rocky Mount, N.C.-based Black Workers League Reconstruction Commission. Go to [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org) to read the entire statement.

The demand for reparations is core to the struggle for African American self-determination, national liberation and for building socialism in the 21st century. This means that the reparations movement inside of the U.S. must be anti-imperialist, mass-based, and active in mobilizing Black people and allies for radical structural changes that address historical problems on national oppression, and that seek to alter the balance of power in favor of the struggles against U.S. and world imperialism.

The continuing impact of the Gulf Coast disaster, resulting in the deaths of hundreds and uprooting thousands of majority Black working class and poor people, represents the most contemporary example of the U.S. government and corporate violations of human rights against Black people inside of the U.S.

It has become a lens to view the national oppression of Black people throughout the country. It highlights the main features of this oppression—the underfunding of the infrastructure, gentrification, state repression, political disenfranchisement, privatization of public services, busting of trade unions, massive unemployment, oppression of women, massive incarceration and forced dispersion. Taken together and in their intensity and



scope, these atrocities represent crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and acts of genocide against Black people in the U.S.

The reparations movement as an alignment of forces has no visible identity in building national or international support for the struggle for Reconstruction in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

Appeals to the U.S. government to pass legislation recognizing reparations for African Americans cannot be taken seriously by the masses or the government when there is no active struggle by the forces of the reparations movement for democratic and human rights reforms connected to the struggle for Reconstruction in the Gulf Coast.

### Key battleground of the Black Liberation struggle

The struggle for Reconstruction in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast represents both a response to the system of Black national oppression that continuously subjects Black people to the harshest conditions of capitalist exploitation and social oppression, and is also part of the growing resistance of the U.S. working class to the domestic changes corresponding to the U.S. imperialist global strategy.

The struggle for Reconstruction in the Gulf Coast must be viewed as an emerging and leading zone of the struggle against African American national oppression and for self-determination. The struggle in New Orleans to defend and insure affordable housing is the leading flank.

It is one of the keys for the right of return of the Black majority to New Orleans. It can contribute to the development of a greater level of independent Black and working class-led political and social organization in the Gulf Coast and nationally forged through this struggle.

A national Black liberation movement framework is needed to organize nationally and internationally to weaken the capacity of the U.S. government and corporate forces to contain, divide, isolate and set back this struggle. National support is needed to help broaden the space for political activity in New Orleans and throughout the country through a combination of mass mobilizations, independent political action and international pressure.

The struggle in New Orleans must be seen as a key and strategic battleground of the struggle for national Black democratic and human rights and self-determination and against the increasing implementation and consolidation of anti-working class and fascist government and corporate policies carried out by agencies of the Department of Homeland Security like the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The demand for affordable housing in New Orleans shows that the U.S. government will not grant basic human rights reforms or reparations to the Black masses without a mass and revolutionary struggle. New Orleans also helps to bring the struggle against African American national oppression into the international arena as a human rights struggle against violations that helps to further raise the demand for reparations and that gives international forces and bodies a point of focus to call for U.S. accountability to international standards. □

## NEW JERSEY

# People's Peace Conference to focus on solutions

By LeiLani Dowell

A People's Peace Conference, entitled "The Grassroots Speak" and focused on the war against poor and oppressed people at home and abroad, will be held on Jan. 19 at Rutgers Law School in Newark, N.J.

The conference is being sponsored by the Peace and Justice Coalition, a year-old formation of more than 120 organizations working to end the war and promote social, racial, economic, health and environmental justice.

The event's Web site says the conference this year will build on issues raised during the People's March in August 2007 and "will focus on solutions, with workshops intended to help us move beyond marching (although we will still march) to grassroots efforts."

"Panelists will address not just what is happening but also lead discussions of what we can do together to stop this runaway train that is destroying democracy, wreaking planetary environmental chaos, stealing and killing our children, stealing from our communities, and stealing our future."

Amongst a distinguished list of speakers, Dhoruba Bin Wahad will talk from personal experience about being a political prisoner. Monica Moorehead, coordinator of Millions for Mumia, will talk about the criminalization of youth and Mumia as a political prisoner. And poet icon and revolutionary activist Amiri Baraka will speak

in the general session.

Workshops will include such topics as privatization, cutbacks and the economics of war; violence against women; the prison-industrial complex and police brutality; building the peace and justice movement among young people; global warming and environmental racism; and more. Healthcare Now and the N.J. State Industrial Union Council are sponsoring a breakout room on health care. A video speakout will be recorded that will be broadcast on popular Web sites, including YouTube.

The event will also feature a "People's Primary." Vickie White, coordinator of the Peace and Justice Coalition, explained: "Last year, the People's Peace Conference was attended by over 500 people. Since this year is a presidential election year we figured we'd add the People's Primary to give participants an opportunity to voice and vote their issues and concerns."

In addition, the conference will feature performances from hip-hop artist and activist M-1 of Dead Prez, hip-hop artist and activist Tha Truth (see [workers.org](http://workers.org) for an interview with this artist), Columbia High School's Martin Luther King Memorial Choir and the New Jersey Industrial Union Council Solidarity Singers.

The event is free but participants are encouraged to register early. Visit [peaceandjusticecoalition.org](http://peaceandjusticecoalition.org) or e-mail [peaceandjusticecoalition@gmail.com](mailto:peaceandjusticecoalition@gmail.com). □

# Marion Jones & sports under capitalism

By Monica Moorehead

What's wrong with these two pictures?

First, Bill Belichick, the head coach of the National Football League's undefeated New England Patriots, is caught cheating this past September by authorizing the videotaping of defensive signals by the New York Jets' assistant coaches during a game. He gets a slap on the wrist and is recently named Coach of the Year. Other NFL coaches have complained in the past that this isn't the first time the Patriots have used such tactics to get the upper hand.

Second, Marion Jones, a 2000 U.S. Olympic champion, is found guilty for lying to federal investigators regarding steroid use, is forced to return her gold and bronze medals, and then gets sentenced to six months in jail followed by two years' probation and 800 hours of community service. The judge handed out this harsh sentence on Jan. 11 even after a tearful Jones asked for leniency. Jones asked for leniency because she didn't want to be separated from her two young children, one of whom is still nursing. Jones's prison sentence is scheduled to begin on March 11.

So again what's wrong with these pictures? Plenty. The fact that Belichick is a white male coach and Jones is an African-American woman athlete certainly cannot and should not be swept under the rug when it comes to understanding what goes on in a racist, sexist and homophobic society like the U.S. If a Black NFL head coach had been caught cheating as Belichick was, would he have gotten off that easily? Many would answer absolutely not.

This double standard of meting out punishment based on nationality and gender should be enough grist for the mill to cause a massive outcry among those who can see right through the hypocrisy.

But the circumstances surround-



Two kinds of justice for Marion Jones, leading on left, and Bill Belichick, above.

WWP  
COMMENTARY

ing the case of Marion Jones and also what could eventually happen to Barry Bonds—the Major Baseball League's home run leader, recently indicted by a federal grand jury over his supposed steroid use—go much, much deeper than the obvious. There are important class issues that either are downplayed or ignored altogether by the mainstream media, including sportscasters and writers.

## Athletes, like workers, are commodities

These class issues are tied to capitalism, an economic system of haves and have-nots, that is driven to make profits no matter what the industry—including sports. And just as workers of all nationalities are viewed as expendable commodities to the bosses, athletes, amateur or professional, are also expendable—especially when it comes to owners or college athletic programs.

If an athlete does not perform on a very high or even superhuman level, s/he is susceptible to being cut and then traded

to another team, unless permanently injured. Only athletes are capable of generating the billions of dollars in television revenue, season ticket sales, food and liquor concessions and endorsements raked in by their bosses.

Just as workers are forced to compete against each other for a higher wage or even for job security, athletes are also forced to compete against each other. It is not only for the highest salary but also to sign multimillion-dollar contracts with corporations to sell their products to impressionable young people—especially if the athlete wins an Olympic gold medal or is named the most valuable player on a championship team.

And since the “achievements” of an athlete in the U.S. are based on how many medals or titles they can win in a short amount of time, many athletes feel extraordinary pressure to get a “competitive edge” over others, including taking performance-enhancement drugs.

No one is more aware of this dog-eat-dog phenomenon than the holier-than-thou sports media, which pray for and prey on a Marion Jones, a Michael Vick or a Barry Bonds to superexploit. Demonizing

talented athletes sells more papers and magazines for the media moguls.

In fact, the sports media love to hold the power of the pen over athletes by telling them in essence, “We can build you up one day and tear you down the next,” especially if they come from poor, oppressed communities or, like Barry Bonds, if they don't bow down to the media.

In his Oct. 15, 2007, column, “The Fall of Marion Jones, Inc.,” progressive sportswriter Dave Zirin wrote, “For Jones, the regret, the public humiliation and the possible time in prison are hers to bear alone. This should not be the case. Fault also lies with a system that both elevates and debases sporting superstars, turning them into something not quite human. Star athletes have become corporations with legs: branded with logos and slogans, and supporting an entire apparatus of advisers and hangers-on. Jones became a one-woman multinational corporation after her 2000 Olympic triumph: the feet of Nike, the face of Oakley sunglasses, the wrist of TAG Heuer watches.”

He goes on to say, “Marion Jones should be granted amnesty on the grounds that the entire system sets athletes up for failure. As fans and followers of sport, it's time to drop the Pollyanna act and the hero worship. It's time to stop demanding the super human and start letting the guardians of sport know that anyone who benefits from an athlete's rise to the top should also accompany their fall from grace.”

On the one hand, what both Belichick and Jones did was not make the rules but only play by the rules of capitalist competition in order to gain an advantage over their rivals.

A major difference is that while Belichick was all but forgiven because he is privileged, Marion Jones was an easy scapegoat of an inhumane system that will use divide-and-conquer tactics like racism in order to toss aside any human being, gifted or not, as long as its precious profits are not threatened. Most sacred of all

# From Amadou to Tiger, it's racism

By Richard Kossally

There has never been a period in this country when racism did not permeate the entire society, whether up North or down South. Overt racism, however, had diminished to varying degrees in different areas of the country. The struggles of the civil rights era were instrumental in large part in bringing this about. These changes came through much sacrifice and the loss of many courageous fighters, predominantly but not exclusively people of color.

While the cops and courts and all the repressive branches of the state have constantly been a greater burden on the backs of Black, Brown and Native people, there have been periods when this repression was ratcheted up. The framing up of members of the Black Panther Party, the Young Lords and others through the FBI's Cointelpro was such a time.

The reasons are different but we are experiencing another of those periods now. Nobody is surprised when police kill an unarmed Black person and don't even face criminal charges. Recently in West Virginia a group of depraved white men and women held hostage and repeatedly sexually assaulted a young Black woman. They even forced her to eat feces, but there was no national outrage.

Many atrocities are remembered just by a name or a place, such as Amadou or



Amadou Diallo with his younger brothers Ibrahim and Addoul Salam, left.

Tiger Woods and father Earl Woods in 2006, right.



Louima or Katrina or Jena.

Another name is also part of the collective consciousness, but usually for a different reason—excellence. That name is Tiger.

On the Golf channel during a recent tournament, commentator Kelly Tilghman suggested that Woods be “lynched in a back alley” by young players because of his dominance in the sport. It was not until after Al Sharpton of the National Action Network threatened to picket the Golf channel that Tilghman was suspended for two weeks. In an online discussion about the incident, most of the respondents found more fault with Sharpton than they did with Tilghman. Some even went so far as to suggest that Black people are responsible for the per-

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petuation of racism because of our unwillingness to let this racism thing go and move on.

At the same time, in the same country, white supremacists have announced plans to march down the street carrying nooses in Jena, La., on Martin Luther King Day in reaction to the outpouring of support for the Jena Six last September. There is also a call to oppose this hateful action.

Of all the things that keep us divided, racism is still the greatest barrier to working class unity. The primary burden for the eradication of this disease rests on the shoulders of our white brothers and sis-

ters. Progressive whites must address this problem in themselves, their families, at work and in all walks of daily life. Unity is needed to combat the predatory ruling class that is the true enemy of us all.

The problems that we face—lack of good-paying jobs, insufficient access to healthcare, etc.—are not caused by Blacks or immigrants or Arabs or any demographic other than the class that owns the means of production and directs the activities of the state. We must combat racism, sexism, homophobia, religious intolerance and all the ills of class society. Together let us all build a workers' world. □

# Worldwide protests hit abuses at Guantanamo

By David Hoskins

Human rights activists staged protests in major cities around the world on Jan. 11 calling for the closure of the U.S. detention center at Guantánamo Bay. The horrific treatment of the detainees, some of whom have been held without trial for six years, has outraged the Muslim world and peeled off the veneer of democracy used to cover up imperialism's crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The protests were spearheaded internationally by Amnesty International and were supported in the U.S. by groups such as the ACLU, Witness Against Torture and World Can't Wait. They were organized to coincide with the six-year anniversary of the imprisonment of detainees at the naval base, where the U.S. Navy continues to occupy Cuban territory without the permission of that country.

Protests occurred in at least 22 cities in the U.S. and activists in different cities used creative techniques to get the word out. In Seattle they performed a mock interrogation, complete with a full simulation of the waterboarding torture technique implemented by the CIA for interviewing detainees.

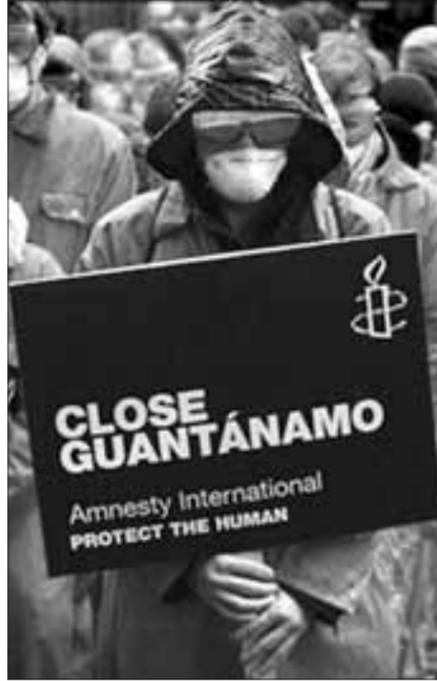
Activists in Salt Lake City held a candlelight vigil to protest abuses at the detention facility. Demonstrators were encour-

aged to wear orange, matching the color of Guantánamo jumpsuits. ACLU of Utah Executive Director Karen McCreary pointed out that "Orange is a symbol, in many countries, of someone who is condemned and going to die. For all intents and purposes [Guantánamo detainees] have died from whatever life they had before."

Almost a dozen protesters were arrested in the lobby of the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Illinois. The Chicago protesters connected the call for closure of Guantánamo Bay with opposition to the U.S. "war on terror" and to brutality by the Chicago Police Department.

In Washington protesters held a rally at the National Mall and marched to the Supreme Court wearing the orange jumpsuits and black hoods worn by Guantánamo prisoners. Eighty-two people were arrested for protesting at the Supreme Court. After being detained for 30 hours, they appeared in court and were asked to identify themselves. About 70 instead gave the name of a detainee held at Guantánamo. That ensured that the detainees' names, which have been kept away from the public, were on the court's arraignment schedule.

Mark Goldstone, an attorney for Witness Against Torture, emphasized that "Even if it's symbolic, it's incredibly important, because these names are finally being heard in a courtroom."



Protest in London

Lawmakers in Britain, Japan, Israel, Bahrain and Germany were among 1,200 elected officials who have joined with Amnesty International to call for the end to illegal detentions by either charging the detainees in civilian courts or releasing them.

## Court declares detainees not 'persons'

On the same day, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit dismissed a suit against former Secretary of Defense Don-

ald Rumsfeld and other senior military officers for ordering torture and other human rights abuses. The suit was filed by four former British detainees—Shafiq Rasul, Asif Iqbal, Rihel Ahmed and Jamal Al-Harith—who had spent more than two years in Guantánamo before they were finally repatriated to Britain in 2004.

Circuit Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson authored the opinion, in which the court declared that the detainees are not considered "persons" under U.S. law. It dismissed the detainees' claims under the Geneva Convention, saying that "torture is a foreseeable consequence of the military's detention of suspected enemy combatants" and therefore Rumsfeld and his military cohorts have immunity.

Michael Ratner, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights and co-counsel on the case, stated, "We are disappointed that the D.C. Circuit has not held Secretary Rumsfeld and the chain of command accountable for torture at Guantánamo. The entire world recognizes that torture and religious humiliation are never permissible tools for a government. We hope that the Supreme Court will make clear that this country does not tolerate torture or abuse by an unfettered executive." According to the CCR, plaintiffs have 90 days to file their petition before the Supreme Court. □

# U.S. war crimes in Iraq are coming home

*Dahlia Wasfi is a well-known speaker and activist on social justice focusing on Iraq. Her father was born in Basra, Iraq, and her mother is an Ashkenazi Jew from New York. Wasfi is educated as a medical doctor but has devoted herself as a full-time activist in the struggle to end the war. She has been to Iraq twice, as much of her father's family still resides there. Wasfi calls for the immediate and total withdrawal of U.S. troops from her father's homeland. The following are excerpts from her talk at the Martin Luther King Community Forum in Denver on Jan. 7.*

Many members of our law enforcement are war veterans who are psychologically destroyed from their experiences overseas. They are traumatized and they are used to treating communities of color as subhuman.

In Iraq daily house raids are taking place at every hour of the day. Some units have a soft knock policy, which is basically where they knock on the door and then they will give a few seconds for someone to answer. But many of us are more familiar with the hard knock policy, which is where they kick the door in. Veterans who are willing to share their experiences talk about the terror that they induce when they perform these daily house raids.

This is not a war on terror, this is a war of terror, that is happening from our inner city streets all the way to Afghanistan and Iraq. For those individuals who have been trained to give less respect for human life overseas, they will then come home and get jobs in law enforcement. They also have become traumatized and won't get the help that they need from the Veterans Administration and therefore they will self-medicate, abusing drugs and/or alcohol.

This leads to domestic violence, crime in the streets and homelessness. There are already veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan who are homeless on our city's streets. In this country, which is seen by many



WW PHOTO: LEILANI DOWELL

Dahlia Wasfi speaks at Martin Luther King event.

people of the world as a land of great opportunity—and certainly we are standing here with electricity and potable water so we are doing much better than most of the rest of the world—but the reality of the American dream is that it is real for a very few ... and built on the nightmare of everybody else.

Of the homeless on the streets, 38 percent are veterans. When they talk about supporting the troops, please by all means bring them home; get them out of harm's way so we can take care of them when they get here.

But they will come back and not get treated and vent their angers and frustrations on their families. Or, if they are in law enforcement, on their victims, whether they are working the streets or they are working the prisons, and of course

the prison system in this country has a long history of humiliation and degradation. You don't have to go to Abu Ghraib to see the horror of that.

These are the problems we are seeing only a trickle of right now. I devote most of my efforts to convincing people to bring the troops home. We now have just a handful of soldiers who have come home. They are here only temporarily before they are sent back on their second, third or fourth tour of duty.

When this occupation does end, which will hopefully be soon, we will start reaping what we have sown, because then we will have close to 200,000 who have served overseas, who are psychologically traumatized, who are supposed to come back here and resume a normal life, and we are going to pay for it one way or another.

Now, I'm not excusing the treatment of anyone who has been abused and victimized in their homes by Denver police or any other city's police, but it's all connected and it's all part of a cycle. At some point I am willing to bet those police officers were victimized, whether it was as children and the state wasn't available to protect them, or as soldiers, but at some point this all comes around. This does not excuse it, but it does make it understandable.

We are all in this together. It's interesting and a sad irony to have a Martin Luther King Day parade where they have

said, "No anti-war messages." Dr. King gave a landmark speech with an anti-war statement at Riverside Church in New York on April 4, 1967. That's when he starting criticizing the Vietnam War and that's when he needed to be silenced. And he was killed one year later.

He said he could no longer condemn the violence in the ghettos without criticizing "the greatest purveyor of violence, my own government," and unfortunately that stands today. But we still stand here and every one of us as an individual is making a difference.

I know we may feel anonymous but right here is a room of revolution and we celebrate being here. Even this is a small but big step. Every day individuals and groups like this make it easier and easier to support the Iraqi resistance. I spoke with a war photographer who was in Iraq and he said he wished he had an audio recorder because of the number of soldiers who are saying, "If I lived here I'd be an insurgent."

Not that it's that hard to figure out, as you might be labeled an insurgent based on where you live and the color of your skin. We are all making a difference, however small. Even though there is never a winner in the situation, with the destruction Iraqis are experiencing and the pain that American troops are suffering as well, no matter how they feel about the politics, every single ounce of resistance in Iraq matters. And although the Iraqis are hungry and disarmed, they are defeating the most powerful military nation in the world.

Although we're celebrating Martin Luther King, I'm a personal fan of Malcolm X, so I will close with a quote by him: "Time is on the side of the oppressed today, it's against the oppressor. Truth is on the side of the oppressed today, it's against the oppressor. You don't need anything else." Thank you and I will see you all on the 21st. □

## A grisly debate

# How many civilian deaths in Iraq since invasion?

By John Catalinotto

There is evidence that a new, extensive study of violent deaths in Iraq under the U.S. occupation severely understates the number of Iraqi dead.

The apparent goal of the study was to undermine confidence in an earlier study reporting many more Iraqi deaths over the same period. A look at the study's political impact as well as its technique reveals this.

Researchers from the World Health Organization (WHO) reported on Jan. 9 that the best estimate of the number of violent deaths of Iraqi civilians between March 2003 and June 2006 is 151,000. Their report is based on an extensive questionnaire of Iraqi households in 2006 carried out by the Ministry of Health of the puppet Iraqi regime. The report was published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM).

The WHO report reveals its political character by specifically mentioning, for comparison, two other estimates of violent deaths in Iraq over the same exact period. The Iraq Body Count (IBC), compiled by a group in Britain that uses mainly media reports of violent deaths, put this number at 48,000. A Johns Hopkins study, published in the Lancet, a British medical journal, estimated the violent deaths in that period at about 600,000.

For simplicity we have rounded off the published numbers, which are rough estimates.

Politically as well as numerically, the WHO report is a compromise between the two others. While it is three times

the IBC number, it is only one-fourth the Johns Hopkins number.

### Bush minimizes deaths

U.S. imperialism in general and the Bush administration in particular would like to minimize the perception of the damage the U.S.-British war and occupation have done. Bush even tries to argue that the invasion somehow "helped" the Iraqi people.

When the IBC first started publishing Iraqi death figures, both Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair attacked the IBC for exaggerating. Later, after the Hopkins estimates were published, Bush's public statements on Iraq started using numbers close to the much lower IBC number. Bush also has tried to blame the civilian deaths on the resistance or on what he describes as "Al Qaeda."

Few people now believe that even the violent deaths tabulated from media accounts, which report deaths almost exclusively from bombings and only in the big cities, can be accurately estimated.

Sympathizers with the Iraqi resistance and many anti-war people worldwide have accepted the Hopkins estimate as reasonable. These numbers, based on a standard sampling technique, are far more believable than those of the IBC.

The Hopkins estimates have a political impact. Add the deaths since June 2006 to the 600,000 figure given at that time and the estimated number is greater than 1 million. This number turns the U.S. occupation of Iraq from a "normal" illegal war into an act of genocide. And that is why Washington wants to discredit the

Hopkins study.

Add to the 1 million deaths those 1.5 million from the 1990-2003 period caused by the U.S. sanctions on Iraq and Washington's policies have caused the deaths of between 2 million and 3 million Iraqis: children, civilians and combatants. In addition, the U.S. occupation has still failed after 58 months to restore any semblance of stability to Iraq. People still have inadequate health care, little access to potable water, poor sewage systems and little electricity. "Non-violent" deaths from these sources are not even included in the totals discussed in the WHO report.

Much of the U.S. media accepted the WHO report, but mainly in order to attack the Hopkins report. Had there been no Hopkins study, this same media would undoubtedly have challenged and attacked a report of 151,000 deaths when Bush was claiming only 50,000.

### Problems with WHO study

The WHO study interviewed people in 1,080 "clusters" and 10,800 households. Although this was five times bigger than the Johns Hopkins sample, both samples, if random, are large enough to get accurate results under normal conditions.

But conditions were far from normal. The unstable and dangerous conditions are themselves proof of the failure of the occupation. It is impossible to make a universally acceptable estimate of the deaths. The Iraqi regime cannot even take an accurate census of the population.

Below are three factors that contributed to inaccuracies of the study and an

understatement of deaths.

Some 115 of the 1080 clusters (10.6 percent) were in areas so dangerous that the investigators in the Ministry of Health would not risk entering them. These were in Anbar and Nineveh provinces and parts of Baghdad. The WHO study had to use IBC figures in those areas as a basis to estimate deaths there. Since media coverage was so spotty in these provinces, the IBC approach would lead to underestimates of the deaths.

Those asking the questions were connected to the puppet government, and many people could have feared giving honest answers if it made them seem like relatives of resisters. Les Roberts, one of the principal authors of the Johns Hopkins studies, says of the WHO report: "We confirmed our deaths with death certificates, they did not. As the NEJM [WHO] study's interviewers worked for one side in this conflict, it is likely that people would be unwilling to admit violent deaths to the study workers."

A third important factor is that the IBC and Johns Hopkins studies, plus general knowledge about the level of the fighting in Iraq, all point to an increase in deaths from year to year. But the WHO study finds deaths to be steady, year by year. Roberts writes: "They roughly found a steady rate of violence from 2003 to 2006. Baghdad morgue data, Najaf burial data, Pentagon attack data, and our data all show a dramatic increase over 2005 and 2006."

This and other factors indicate that the report understates violent deaths and thus minimizes the extent of the U.S. crimes in Iraq. □

## Pentagon faked Iran boat 'attack'

### Anti-war group demands investigation of U.S. war provocations

Continued from page 1

in August 1964. This fraud provided the justification for a congressional resolution authorizing the escalation of the U.S. war against Vietnam.

This latest fabrication comes after a National Intelligence Estimate from 16 top U.S. spy agencies publicly reported that Iran has not had a nuclear weapons program since at least 2003, nor does it possess any nuclear weapons.

This NIE Report exposed to the world a rift within the top levels of the U.S. military and the ruling class, where there is concern that the Bush/Cheney push for a wider war involving Iran would boomerang.

The attempt by the administration to suppress the NIE Report and the fact that it was publicly released are signs of just how overstretched and conflicted the U.S. government is as it faces massive popular resistance in both Iraq and Afghanistan, along with growing instability in Pakistan.

Even after the NIE Report, Bush's threats on Iran continued unabated. But the U.S. charge of a Jan. 6 Iranian "provocation" began to unravel by Jan. 9 and soon turned into a miniscandal.

Iran charged that the U.S. footage was a "bad fake" and that the audio and video were not even synchronized. Iran's Revolutionary Guard released its own four-minute video clip showing its two- and three-person, clearly unarmed speed boats asking the U.S. warships to identify the number on their ship and their reason for being in the area. A U.S.-accented voice responded by giving the number of

his ship and claiming to be operating in international waters.

Blog commentaries asked the obvious question: Why in the U.S. Navy's video was there no ambient background noise of water, wind and motors as the small open Iranian boats supposedly made threats to "explode" the warships? This and other discrepancies discredited the U.S. story.

By Jan. 10 the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet in Bahrain cast doubt on the earlier U.S. version of the incident. "There is no way to know where this [radioed threat] exactly came from. It could have come from the shore ... or another vessel in the area," Lt. John Gay told the French Press Agency. Some media speculated the message was from "a prankster."

But none of the corporate media have even once asked what this deadly array of U.S. warships is doing in the narrow waters off the coast of Iran that are vital to shipping. This is the real issue.

### U.S. warships violate international law

The largest and deadliest ships in world history, armed and in attack mode, with targets already selected, are now off the coast of Iran. This is international lawlessness on a grand scale.

Contrary to what the corporate media claim, the conduct of the vast U.S. armada in the Gulf is in explicit and continual violation of international law and United Nations treaties.

According to a Jan. 15 article by Kaveh L. Afrasiabi in Asia Times OnLine, there is no "international water" in the Strait

of Hormuz. The two-mile-wide inbound traffic lane there is within Iran's territorial waters.

Vice Adm. Kevin Cosgiff claimed that the U.S. ships were "five kilometers outside Iranian territorial waters." This is impossible. Even a voice from one of the U.S. ships says, "I am engaged in transit passage in accordance with international law," making it clear that the commanders recognized that they were inside Iranian waters. Peaceful transit through passages is permitted, according to the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The U.S. has refused to sign this international treaty, along with countless other international agreements, yet it invokes its right to avail itself of convenient parts of the UNCLOS treaty, such as transit for its giant warships through the territorial waters of other countries. On the other hand, the U.S. Navy flagrantly violates the provisions that explicitly prohibit actions like the continual war exercises, nor does it bring its submarines to the surface as required.

### U.S. position slipping

Bush's visits to the Israeli apartheid state and to the occupied Palestinian West Bank confirm that the U.S. president has no solutions and no proposals even worth coverage in the corporate media. U.S. credibility is at an all-time low throughout the Arab world. On a world scale there is a drastic decline in the ability of U.S. imperialism to influence events or impose its colonial solutions.

Even in the United Arab Emirates,

Bush's lecture on democracy to a gathering of oil-rich feudal monarchs, their political appointees, wealthy corporate investors, and police and military functionaries aroused only a perfunctory scattering of applause. By all accounts his efforts to rally support for a U.S.-led Arab alliance to financially squeeze and isolate Iran flopped.

Throughout the region, U.S. puppet rulers fear their own masses and fear standing too close to Bush. For imperialism and for the thin strata of corrupt rulers in the area, the war in Iraq is a disaster. And the war in Afghanistan is in serious disarray. The U.S. alliance with the Pakistani military is in crisis. Israel, Washington's one totally dependent and usually dependable military outpost, proved unable to destroy Hezbollah in Lebanon or even to defeat Hamas by starving and surrounding Gaza.

While each of the many ships in the U.S. armada has the deadly power to destroy entire cities with one launch, the political, diplomatic and economic position of the U.S. is slipping faster than the dollar. This can drive U.S. imperialism to ever more drastic adventures and desperate measures. It is also what silences large sections of the U.S. ruling class and top political leaders of both parties.

The world movement for human progress and all opponents of endless U.S. wars must be on full alert at the possibility of a new, deadly military offensive. They must continue to expose this phony incident off the coast of Iran and confront the U.S. war makers. □



## Race, gender— & class

The latest news stories about the Democratic campaign trail are all about “race vs. gender,” its use in the campaigns of Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, its perception by voters and the media coverage of it all.

Several articles in the corporate press have attempted to determine which is the more oppressed group—women or Black people. Such posturing facilitates the “divide-and-conquer” tactics the ruling class has used since the founding of this country. Furthermore, it evades the real issue—which side are both candidates on when it comes to support of all oppressed peoples, worldwide?

Should we be concerned that Clinton is targeted by misogyny? Of course. At a campaign rally in Salem, N.H., two men stood in the crowd with signs reading “Iron my shirt.” Media coverage of Clinton focuses on her looks and a gendered perspective of her campaign—whether it be her tears or what one writer called the predication of her candidacy on the “masculine virtues of toughness [and] resolve.” (New York Times, Jan. 13)

But let’s not forget that it was the Bill Clinton administration, presumably with the First Lady’s approval, that threw hundreds of thousands of women off welfare, taking away what little income they and their families had. In her role as senator, Clinton has supported a war that has killed tens of thousands of women and children.

Should we be concerned that Obama is targeted by racism? Absolutely. Even before Obama seemed like a viable candidate, Sen. Joe Biden described him as “clean” and “articulate.” And many Black people are legitimately concerned that racist forces will try to hurt or even kill him for attempting to be the first Black president.

Yet when Obama plays down racism and pretends that it doesn’t exist, he is appealing to the bourgeoisie. He is signaling to the military and corporations that if they choose him, he will do their bidding, and he will not stand for working people of color.

Race and gender are serious factors in the election campaign. However, it’s capitalism that exploits and oppresses both people of color and

women. Class is the elephant in the room.

Some op-eds suggest that voters should ignore race and gender and simply choose the most qualified candidate. This begs the question, qualified to do what? If the answer is “to protect the capitalist system and those that profit the most from it,” then both candidates are aptly qualified.

If the answer is, “to push for an end to sexism, racism and all oppression,” better candidates could be found in cities and towns throughout the country. Gary Kamiya, in a Salon.com article, states, “A figurehead, albeit a powerful one, will not necessarily advance women’s rights or race relations.” (Jan. 15)

As collaborators with the ruling class and staunch believers in the capitalist system, neither Clinton nor Obama can bring about the change that is so desperately needed by working-class people of color, women and whites—including an end to poverty, police brutality and war; accessible reproductive rights and health care for all; environmental justice and so much more.

The only reason the issue of race vs. gender has come up in this election is that all women as well as men of color have been excluded from high office in this country. Therefore, the whipping up of the race and gender “rivalry” around the campaigns of Clinton and Obama only serves the interests of those who want to keep the status quo—i.e., the rich ruling class dominated mostly by conservative white men.

Yet in the streets, the potential for solidarity among Brown, Black and white workers, women and men, lesbian/gay/bi/trans people and straight, etc., is growing as the economic crisis deepens. It can be seen in the events throughout the country on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, demanding an end to racism and sexism at home and abroad. In New York, the Jan. 21 march will begin at the studios of anti-immigrant Lou Dobbs and end at the studios of racist, sexist Don Imus. (troopsoutnow.org)

It is also in the streets, through an independent movement, that real social change will come about—not in the ballot box, no matter who gets elected in 2008. □

## U.N. plots with Belgian imperialism to strangle Congo

By V. Grey

*Editor’s note: Workers World is in its 50th year of publication. Throughout the year, we intend to share with our readers some of the paper’s content over the past half century. This article was originally published in Volume 2 on July 28, 1960. The accompanying article, on a New York solidarity demonstration, appeared on Aug. 25, 1960.*

“It is racism to kick the white people out of the Congo!” So screams the racist capitalist press in the United States.

But who were the white people who were in the Congo?

You can bet they were not copper mine workers, sweating half-naked as they dug up the fabulous copper wealth to be exported out of Africa. And you can bet they were not diamond miners, nor cobalt, nor uranium miners. They weren’t porters, janitors, mill workers, plantation workers or harbor workers, either.

As a matter of fact, the white people that were in the Congo were not working people at all. They were the overseers for the real slave masters back home in Belgium.

They were the middle class representatives of upper class capitalism. They were the higher-paid clerks, the engineers, the petty bosses, the merchants and technicians—most of them armed with pistols and whips—some of them weighted with a guilty conscience.

(These latter did not wait until “Independence Day” to leave the Congo. They got out weeks before, because they feared the vengeance of the long-suffering masses.)

This job monopoly for Belgians is a great help to the Belgian capitalists in bribing their middle class servants and keeping them satisfied and supporting the imperialist oppression of the Congo.

The white people in the Congo do not represent the white race, but the middle and upper class of exploiting capitalists. The Congolese are treating them not as whites, but as oppressors.

### Rape and murder

What about the horrific reports of mistreatment of white people, alleged rapings, and even the killing of several?

Actually, this is another example of the astonishing generosity of the oppressed to their oppressors. It is amazing there was not a real bloodbath against the Belgians.

The bloody horrors of Belgian misrule are burned into the memory of the Congolese. And they are infinitely worse than even the false claims of Congolese violence against the Belgians!

The accusations of “rape” and especially “rape of nuns” are always used during times of mass rebellion and revolution, in order to discredit the poor workers. This is especially true when an oppressed race is involved. And these tales should be dismissed as lies and slander.

But there have been tens of thousands of individual and real rapes by the Belgian oppressors. Of course, this is not even defined as rape in the dictionary of imperialism. The women of an oppressed race or nationality are automatically considered less than human by their oppressors.

The Congolese, however, are human beings. And they are ready to die to prove it. They consider that they and their whole country are being raped by the Belgians. And that is why they want to get the Belgians out.



WW PHOTO

Workers World Party founder Sam Marcy (second from left) at 1960 demonstration.

### Pickets demand U.N., Belgium, both get out of Congo

WW, Aug. 25, 1960

Demonstrating for Congo freedom with their feet—by picketing for many hours in the broiling hot sun before the U.N. last Sunday [Aug. 21, 1960]—about 75 people, black and white together, called for the ousting of Belgian and U.N. troops from the Congo.

Picket lines were organized by two separate groups—but within a short time, the two lines were united. Both groups set the protest demonstration to coincide with the Security Council meeting of the U.N., called to discuss the Congo.

The first picket line to start marching was organized (according to leaflets distributed there) under the auspices of the Committee For All Nationalities Struggling For Freedom & Independence. This is a broad committee embracing three organizations listed as Heart of Africa Committee, Eloise Moore, Chairman; 21st of March Movement (for Puerto Rican Independence), Luis Munoz, Chairman; and New York Committee in Defense of Oppressed Peoples, Dorothy Ballan, Chairman. In full support of the Committee’s action, and participating with a sizeable delegation was the 26th of July Movement (for Cuban independence).

The second picket was organized by several African Nationalist groups. It was difficult to determine exactly what were the names of the other organizations because they did not distribute any notices.

But it was a great triumph for oppressed peoples everywhere, and for everyone fighting for national independence, when the second picket line, organized by African Nationalists, agreed to have the first picket line join them, and all united in a solid demonstration for the Congolese people—and against imperialism. □



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## Protest puts ICE

Continued from page 5

south of Tucson. So-called “border enforcement” has steadily moved inwards; high-tech, mobile surveillance towers are now located 40 miles north of the border and a permanent checkpoint has been set up on Interstate 10, halfway between Tucson and the international border.

The agreement had been placed on the board’s consent agenda, meaning it would not receive a public hearing or any public input. Derechos Humanos, a Tucson immigrant rights group and member of the Tucson May 1st Coalition, discovered the agenda

# FARC releases two women in humanitarian gesture

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez publicly announced on Jan. 9 that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia had just sent him details of the location in their country where two women held by the FARC, Clara Rojas and Consuelo González de Perdomo, were to be released.

Immediately, Chávez, through Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolás Maduro, requested from the Colombian government authorization to send helicopters marked with the Red Cross symbol to the area of Guaviare, in the heart of the jungle in the southeastern part of Colombia.

The Colombian government authorized the process. In the early morning of the following day, two Venezuelan helicopters landed in the southern part of Guaviare. It was an operation carried out under very strict guidelines. The pilots were informed of the exact landing point after takeoff.

For obvious reasons, the FARC had requested a cease-fire by the Colombian Army in a large area of the region. International pressure on the Colombian government helped make this demand a reality, for the only way that the two women could be released safely would be if there was no active Colombian military presence. The Army surrounded the area but could not operate from 6 a.m. through 6 p.m. by orders of Colombian Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos.

## Release in the jungle

At 11 a.m., a humanitarian delegation—composed of Colombian Sen. Piedad Córdoba, Venezuelan Interior Minister Ramón Rodríguez Chacín, Cuban

Ambassador to Venezuela Germán Sánchez, members of the Red Cross, a physician and a Telesur correspondent from Venezuela—greeted Rojas and González, who emerged from the thick jungle accompanied by a guerrilla unit responsible for their safe delivery.

In an unedited video transmitted through VTV, the Venezuelan state television station, both women can be seen happy and in good physical condition. Immediately, Minister Rodríguez called Chávez through a satellite phone and both Rojas and González movingly expressed their appreciation for his intervention in the liberation. Chávez also spoke with the FARC member leading the unit.

On the video Rojas and González can be seen smiling and hugging and kissing the women guerrillas who accompanied them and shaking hands with the male guerrilla members.

The guerrilla group also gave Rodríguez Chacín “proofs of life”—photos and letters—from 16 other prisoners retained by the FARC, to be delivered to their relatives. Last month, when the FARC sent Chávez “proofs of life,” they were intercepted by the Uribe government and the messengers jailed. This time the messages were delivered directly to the Venezuelan envoy, guaranteeing they would go to their intended recipients, the relatives, and not to the Colombian and U.S. governments, as happened then.

The helicopters waited an hour before leaving for Venezuela, giving the guerrillas time to disappear in the jungle.

## Details revealed by Rojas and González

Once in Caracas, after meeting their relatives following six years of captivity,

Rojas and González gave ample interviews to the national and international press that clarified many facts.

Both women spoke of spending 20 days on a long and dangerous walk through the jungle to their liberation, accompanied by the FARC commandos. This exposed the lies of Colombian President Álvaro Uribe, who had stated on Dec. 31—the day they had originally been expected to be freed in Villavicencio, a town close to Bogotá—that the FARC were lying and had no intention of releasing the women.

Earlier, while in the aircraft that took them to Caracas, the two women had told Sen. Córdoba of their fears that the bombing and military operations of the Colombian Army could have prevented their freedom.

Rojas had been an aide during the presidential election campaign of candidate Ingrid Betancourt, also retained by the FARC. Rojas mentioned that sometime around Dec. 31 bombing had been heard close to their location in the jungle. Uribe had declared at the time that no military operations were taking place in that area.

A report in Indymedia Colombia under the heading “El mismo ejército contradice a Uribe” (The Army itself contradicts Uribe) carried a statement of the 4th Army Division dated Dec. 26, showing that there were military operations in the area.

## Emmanuel's situation

The third person to be part of the release was Rojas' son Emmanuel, now three years old, who was born in the jungle after she had a love relationship with a guerrilla. The boy had been taken to a family trusted by the FARC when he was eight months old to be taken care of and given medical attention.

What happened after that is still not clear. A member of the family caring for him supposedly took him to a hospital, after which he was placed in an institution for abused children. Many reporters speculate that the Uribe government abducted him in order to sabotage the humanitarian exchange.

Uribe had accused the FARC of child abuse and neglect, stating that the guerrillas gave the boy to the institution.

Rojas, clarifying this, talked in detail about her emergency Caesarean section, performed by a guerrilla member in the jungle, and the boy's subsequent illness with leishmaniasis, a parasitic disease. There were no medications for the baby so she decided “to get my boy out to save his life” and asked the guerrillas to take him for treatment. “I kept insisting,” Rojas said during an interview, “and you see, they finally listened, God listened.” Rojas visited her son after her release and steps are being taken for their permanent reunion.

Despite Uribe's statements, the FARC had never claimed that the boy was in the jungle, only that he was going to be released. What happened proves once more the lies of the Colombian government and the transparency shown by the guerrillas.

In the latest development related to the exchange, Chávez called on governments to take the FARC off their list of terrorist organizations, stating that it is “an army that has a space and has a political program that is Bolivarian”—that is, a program that conforms to the ideals of Simón Bolívar, often referred to as the Great Liberator, who fought in the 19th century for the freedom and integration of all Latin America. □

# U.S. med students get free training in Cuba

By Bryan G. Pfeifer  
Detroit

There's a bright ray of hope for students in the United States who want to become doctors. And it's shining in socialist Cuba.

Beginning in 2001 students from the U.S. began studying in Havana for free at the Latin American School of Medicine (LASM). Originally 500 students were offered scholarships annually. This has been increased to 1,000. The only condition is that the students make a commitment to serve poor communities in the U.S. after receiving their medical licenses.

This is in stark contrast to the U.S. where, confronted with a capitalist edu-

cational system rife with institutional oppression and massive economic barriers, poor working class and/or students of color are virtually excluded from pursuing medical and most other degrees. Entrance exam fees and tests alone can be thousands of dollars. Poor students in the U.S. wanting to obtain an M.D. are often forced to either go deep in debt through high-interest loans and/or rely on loved ones who are also facing economic disasters—such as layoffs, foreclosures and bankruptcy.

More than 3,400 students from 23 countries, mostly in Latin America and the Caribbean, are already at the Latin American School of Medicine, all studying for free. The school was established in the wake of the terrible hurricanes that caused many deaths and extensive damage in Central America in 1997.

Most of the U.S. students who have either graduated from the LASM or are now in the medical program are people of color and/or women. In U.S. medical schools it's just the reverse.

Chinere Knight and Ese Agari of Detroit began their studies at the LASM in Havana in the fall of 2007.

“It showed you that, yes, we are in America and we have all these resources, but once you go through the bureaucracy and you go through the prejudice and the bias, you might not get the assistance that you should,” Knight told the Michigan Citizen, a Black news weekly in Detroit that published a feature article on these students in August 2007.

Detroit City Council member JoAnn Watson helped facilitate Knight's and Agari's scholarship process, logistics and fundraising with many Cuba supporters in Detroit. The Rev. Dr. Lucius Walker Jr. spoke to the Detroit City Council about the medical school program in December 2006.

Walker, director of the Inter-Religious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) and founder of Pastors for Peace, is the keynote speaker for this year's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. rally in Detroit.

Pastors for Peace administers the scholarship process for the Cuban medical school program.

## Socialist Cuba: A beacon of hope

A December 2004 New England Journal of Medicine article, “Affirmative Action, Cuban Style,” cited health indicators in Cuba being “on par with those in the most developed nations.”

According to the World Health Organization, Cuba has twice as many physicians per capita as the U.S. and the infant mortality rate is less than most cities in the U.S.

Cuba has sent more than 60,000 medical personnel to countries on every continent, exceeding even the World Health Organization, since its first internationalist brigade of 56 medical helpers went to Algeria in May 1963.

But no Cuban doctors are allowed in the U.S.

Despite a dire need for health care services in this country, due to the blockade

against Cuba by the U.S., Cuban health care professionals are denied entry. The effect of this criminal blockade was starkly exposed during Hurricane Katrina when Cuban medical personnel, who have much experience in dealing with tropical storms, were mobilized and ready to assist those devastated by the hurricane. Both they and Venezuelan medical personnel were refused entry by the U.S. even as mostly poor Black people were left to languish and die, many from a lack of basic medical equipment or untreated ailments.

Students like Agari and Knight are intent on remedying this situation by studying in Cuba and then returning to their communities. They see hope for humanity in revolutionary Cuba, where becoming a doctor is motivated by humanitarian internationalism, not profit.

“If we do want to improve our level of health and eradicate diabetes and hypertension, then we need to figure out some alternative way to do it. I think Cuba's medical system offers that,” Knight told the Citizen.

She added, “You have an obligation to work, when you come back to the U.S., in an underrepresented community, where there's need. And you dedicate yourself to that for your entire career. I said, that's not a problem, I'd do that anyway.”

For more information on the Jan. 21 event, see [www.mlkdetroit.org](http://www.mlkdetroit.org), call 313-383-6767 or email [info@mlkdetroit.org](mailto:info@mlkdetroit.org). For information on the Cuban medical school program, see [www.ifconews.org](http://www.ifconews.org). □

## plan on ice

item on the board's Web site and issued a call for the community to attend the Jan. 8 meeting and oppose the measure. After hearing hours of opposition from the community, the county sheriff withdrew the item from the agenda. Because it was withdrawn and not voted upon, the possibility remains that a similar measure could be introduced in the future.

However, the outrage of the community did force the sheriff to back down. Activists are now focused on organizing to resist the raids and deportations and get the Border Patrol out of the community. □

¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los países, uníos!

## Alerta: Provocación de guerra de EEUU contra Irán

Por Sara Flounders

¿Qué hace una armada de barcos de guerra estadounidense frente a las costas de Irán?

El Pentágono ha iniciado una provocación de guerra extremadamente peligrosa cerca de las costas de Irán en el Estrecho de Ormuz.

La Marina de los Estados Unidos ha reunido barcos portaaviones con armas nucleares, destructores con guía laser, fragatas, cruceros y submarinos a miles de millas de los Estados Unidos frente a las costas de Irán.

¿Acaso no es esta movilización masiva de equipos con armas mortales nucleares una gran provocación?

El 6 de enero, Estados Unidos dijo que hubo un "enfrentamiento" entre tres naves de ataque con guía laser de Estados Unidos y cinco pequeños botes iraníes de carrera a la entrada del Golfo Pérsico. La prensa iraní del 9 de enero negó tales acusaciones por los Estados Unidos diciendo que Washington fabricó un video mostrando el enfrentamiento.

En su punto más estrecho, el Estrecho de Ormuz es de sólo 34 millas. Sin embargo, hay sólo dos millas de ancho en el canal que son navegables por los tanques petroleros y dos millas que se utilizan como zona adicional. Casi un 40% de todo el comercio global de petróleo pasa

por este punto angosto de agua entre el Golfo Pérsico y el Mar Árabe.

Es esencial notar cuándo este peligroso "incidente" ocurrió. Se dio un día antes de la visita del Presidente George W. Bush a la región. Se espera que Bush pase ocho días visitando a Kuwait, Bahrein, Abu Dabi, Dubái y Arabia Saudita. El propósito de su viaje es el de convencer a éstos regímenes feudales corruptos, clientes dependientes de los Estados Unidos, que Irán representa una amenaza muy peligrosa.

¿No es este viaje amenazante a los países que rodean a Irán un acto de provocación?

Mientras el gobierno de Irán ha intentado aminorar el incidente, Washington ha aumentado sus amenazas contra Irán. La prensa capitalista al unísono ha reportado sin ningún sentido crítico las acusaciones de los Estados Unidos de que lo que pasó fue una "provocación" iraní.

El Presidente Bush afirma que Irán cometió "un acto de provocación y una situación peligrosa". El Vice Almirante Kevin Cosgriff atacó a Irán calificándolo de "innecesariamente provocador". La Secretaria de Estado Condoleezza Rice describió la maniobra como "provocadora y peligrosa". Bryan Whitman, un vocero del Pentágono acusó a los iraníes de conducirse de manera "imprudente y peligrosa".

**Naves de guerra de EEUU son una constante amenaza**

Nadie en la prensa capitalista ha preguntado ninguna vez cuál es la razón por la cual éste despliegue mortal de naves de guerra de los Estados Unidos está en esta estrecha vía vital frente a las costas de Irán.

La marina de guerra de los EEUU ha conducido ejercicios de guerra varias veces para planear y preparar una confrontación con Irán. El Pentágono ya ha anunciado que ha escogido miles de lugares como blancos en Irán.

Un video repartido a los medios noticieros contradice la misma historia que está siendo enfatizada por la administración de Bush. Muestra cinco pequeños barcos de motor zumbando en la distancia, muy lejos del barco de guerra USS Hopper. Los barcos iraníes tienen todo el derecho de patrullar sus propias aguas costeras.

Se debe notar que, según la descripción del mismo Pentágono, el USS Hopper es un destructor pertrechado con proyectiles teledirigidos. Porta una ametralladora M240 capaz de disparar 10 proyectiles penetradores de blindaje por segundo y también puede portar cohetes nucleares que pueden destruir ciudades enteras. Este buque de guerra de alta tecnología pesa 8373 toneladas (7596 toneladas métricas) y mide 504 pies de largo (154 metros). Estaba viajando en un convoy con el USS Port Royal, un crucero con proyectiles teledirigidos que pesa 9600 toneladas (8709 toneladas métricas) y que tiene un equipo completo; mide 567 pies (173 metros) de largo y también es capaz de lanzar misiles "Tomahawk Cruise" –y también con la fragata con proyectiles teledirigidos USS Ingraham, que pesa 4100 toneladas (3719 toneladas métricas) y mide 445 pies (136 metros) de largo.

Estos tres buques mortíferos son sólo una pequeña parte de la armada naval de los EEUU desplegada en las costas de Irán que incluye además a portaaviones que pueden llevar a cabo campañas de bombardeo prolongado. Además, el blindaje pesado y pertrechos militares para la ocupación de Irak y de otros países del Golfo por los EEUU pasan por el canal a bordo de buques que pertenecen a la Marina de Guerra de los EEUU, y otros buques con banderas de EEUU y de otros países.

La administración de Bush ha seguido amenazando a Irán incluso después de que 16 de las agencias más importantes de espionaje de los EEUU publicaran un Estimado Nacional de Inteligencia (NIE por las siglas en inglés) concluyendo que Irán no tiene ningún programa nuclear, por lo menos desde 2003, ni tampoco tiene armas nucleares. Este reporte NIE fue una división pública entre las capas más altas de los militares y de la clase dominante de los EEUU, que está preocupada porque los deseos de Bush/Cheney hacia una guerra más amplia involucrando a Irán sería contraproducente.

El intento por la administración de suprimir el reporte del NIE y el hecho de que fue publicado abiertamente son

señales de que el Pentágono está sobre extendido mientras enfrenta resistencia masiva en Irak y Afganistán.

Pero Bush, hablando a los medios noticieros después de la publicación del NIE sólo pudo decir que, "Irán era peligroso, Irán es peligroso, e Irán seguirá siendo peligroso". El viaje de Bush a la región se ve como otro intento de escalar la confrontación contra Irán. Justo antes de salir, el mensaje repetitivo fue: "Irán era una amenaza, Irán es una amenaza, e Irán continuará siendo una amenaza".

**El incidente del Golfo de Tonkín en 1964**

Es importante recordar que el masivo bombardeo estadounidense de Vietnam y la intensificación de la guerra por la administración de Johnson fueron precedidas por reportes de un ataque al destructor estadounidense en el Golfo de Tonkín cerca de la costa de Vietnam – hecho que finalmente años después fue admitido ser una falsedad.

El 2 y el 4 de agosto de 1964, el Pentágono sostuvo que pequeños barcos vietnamitas habían disparado contra el USS Maddox y otros destructores en el Golfo de Tonkín. Lyndon Johnson usó este "ataque" como un pretexto para forzar una resolución a través del Congreso para que le diera el poder y los fondos para emprender la guerra contra Vietnam.

Los propios documentos de Johnson revelaron más tarde que el supuesto ataque fue un fraude y el entonces Secretario de Defensa Robert McNamara concedió en la película "La neblina de la guerra" (Fog of War) que todo el incidente había sido una falsedad.

El ejército estadounidense ha preparado un plan para atacar más de 10.000 posibles objetivos en el interior de Irán, lo cual podría destruir toda la infraestructura de ese país.

Casí todos los republicanos y demócratas en ambas cámaras del Congreso incluyendo los contendientes actuales para la nominación presidencial, votaron por resoluciones contra Irán. En una confrontación fraudulenta contra Irán, con acusaciones extremas de los medios de difusión cuyos dueños son las corporaciones, la oposición congressional es muy improbable.

Es vital que el movimiento contra la guerra esté totalmente alerta al peligro de una guerra contra Irán. Podría comenzar, como ocurrió con Vietnam, con una fraudulenta "provocación".

Como en Vietnam y hoy en día en Irak, una vez que el Pentágono inicia una guerra de conquista colonial, ésta puede perdurar por muchos años a un costo de millones de vidas y de destrucción incalculable. Pero a largo plazo, la determinación popular de resistir la ocupación es más poderosa que las armas más devastadoras del Pentágono.

Flounders es coordinadora de la campaña Alto a la Guerra contra Irán, un proyecto del Centro de Acción Internacional.

### LA CARA HUMANA DE LA POLÍTICA INMIGRATORIA DE LOS EE.UU.

*La Coalición Primero de Mayo les invita a un evento especial.*

El martes 22 de enero, por favor, vengan a conocer y a escuchar a trabajador@s inmigrantes que han sido afectad@s directamente por los actuales y crueles ataques contra inmigrantes. Una organizadora importante del movimiento Primero de Mayo nacional de Chicago también estará presente.

#### Invitad@s especiales:

**Flor Crisostomo** es una inmigrante mexicana que actualmente se enfrenta a una orden de deportación. Ella ha estado organizando en Chicago por sus derechos así como los de tod@s l@s inmigrantes, participando incluso en una huelga de hambre.

**Emma Lozano** es la Directora de Pueblo Sin Fronteras en Chicago. Ha sido una activista por mucho tiempo por los derechos de Chican@s/Mexican@s/Latin@s y fue la organizadora principal para el apoyo de Elvira Arellano cuando la iglesia Metodista Adalberto Unida valiosamente le dio santuario. Actualmente es miembro del Primer Parlamento Mexicano de Líderes Migrantes que hizo un llamado para el Primero de Mayo 2008.



Emma Lozano con Saul Arellano



Víctor Toro

**Representantes de Sentosa 27** La Sentosa 27 son un grupo de enfermeras filipinas inmigrantes víctimas por el tráfico humano, reclutamiento ilegal por ambos gobiernos corruptos de los E. U y filipinas. Diez de las enfermeras han estado acusadas criminalmente en represalia por haber renunciado. El juicio criminal empieza enero 28 en Suffolk County.

**Víctor Toro** está luchando actualmente en contra de su deportación a Chile, exigiendo asilo político. Víctor ha sido activista por mucho tiempo, fundador del MIR de Chile y cofundador de La Peña del Bronx.

Únase a nosotr@s el 22 de enero para participar de este foro y escuchar sobre los planes para el Primero de Mayo del 2008. Y el 21 de enero el movimiento progresista está organizando una Marcha Contra el Racismo para conmemorar el Día de Martin Luther King incluyendo una protesta en contra de Lou Dobbs. ¡Asista!

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Por favor, traiga su libreta de cheques y efectivo adicional. Rifaremos obra de arte firmada por Elvira Arellano a beneficio de la Coalición del Primero de Mayo.