



# workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

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# STANDOFF AT BORDER

## Gov't blocks Nicaragua-bound peace convoy

### Protests in U.S., Mexico hit callous Reagan policy

By Joanne Gavin  
Laredo, Texas

*Bulletin: As we go to press, the Veterans' Peace Convoy is on its way to Washington, D.C., after being blocked from crossing the border by U.S. authorities. The veterans vow to continue the struggle to break through the embargo on humanitarian aid to Nicaragua, and say they will park across from the White House until the Reagan administration withdraws its threat to impound their vehicles.*

*On June 15, while U.S. Customs and Treasury agents were detaining the vehicles of the convoy, hundreds of people on both the Mexico and U.S. sides of the border bridge joined hands in solidarity and stopped traffic for an hour.*

June 14 — Gilberto Rivera has been waiting for a week in this dusty border city, hoping to cross the International Bridge that spans the Rio Grande. He is one of the Texas coordinators of the Veterans' Peace Convoy to Nicaragua and, as a member of CAMILA (Chicanos Against Military Intervention in Latin America), shares a similar history with the people on the other side of the border.

Rivera has been camped out here with veterans and their supporters from all over the U.S. who have  
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## 100,000 rally for disarmament, non-intervention

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Youth contingent of June 11 march links issues of racism and war.

WW PHOTO: CHRIS ANTHONY

## How Soweto became symbol of anti-apartheid struggle

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Soweto, 1976: a student protest over Afrikaans turned into a popular revolt.



# U.S. political prisoners face 'cruel and unusual' punishment

## Lexington, Ky., jail sued by women activists

By Judy Greenspan  
Washington

June 5 — When President Reagan went to the Moscow summit, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev confronted him with the treatment of women political prisoners in the Lexington High Security Unit (HSU), a small, hi-tech prison within a prison located in the basement of the Federal Correctional Institution at Lexington, Kentucky.

The U.S. government, of course, does not admit that it holds any political prisoners.

However, three women prisoners in the HSU have initiated a lawsuit to expose the "cruel and unusual" punishment in the unit and shut it down. The suit, which went to trial June 2 in U.S. District Court here, charges Attorney General Ed Meese and the entire Federal Bureau of Prisons with setting up a control unit to punish

women political activists for their beliefs and affiliations.

### Unit for political prisoners

Federal Bureau of Prison documents show that plans for such a "high security unit" were laid in the '70s and early '80s as a direct response to the political activities of students, the oppressed communities and the women's and lesbian and gay movements. Regular prisons were not considered punitive or "secure" enough for those convicted of association with Puerto Rican independence groups or revolutionary Black organizations like the Black Panther Party.

An experiment based on the small-group isolation of West German and South African political activists was applied here when the Lexington High Security Unit for women opened in October 1986.

Silvia Baraldini, Susan Rosenberg and Alejandrina Torres, political activists serving long prison terms, have been living in this underground prison for approximately two years. They get only one hour of outdoor recreation per day (two hours on the weekend), and must submit to strip searches on their return to the unit (often performed by male guards).

The women have lived with constant audio and visual surveillance by guards and prison officials, no educational or work programs, no visits except for immediate family, inadequate medical care and constant psychological abuse for their political beliefs and affiliations. For ten months, they had to suffer the humiliation of not having a shower curtain so that the guards could continue their surveillance.

The women have not been told when they are going to be released from the unit or what to do to be released. How-

ever, Baraldini, currently serving 43 years for allegedly aiding the escape of Black liberation activist Assata Shakur from prison in the early 1980s, said recently that she has been led to believe that the only way to get out of the unit is to renounce her political beliefs.

Baraldini used to be held in the general population of a federal prison, but was moved to the HSU shortly after refusing to speak with the FBI.

The National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union has labeled the HSU "a living tomb." Both the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church and Amnesty International have investigated the unit and demanded that it be phased out.

The Lexington case generated international publicity when it was publicly raised by the Soviets at the Moscow summit. Along with making a strong protest over the treatment of Native peoples in this country, General Secretary Gorbachev pointed to the Lexington HSU as an example of persecution of political activists in the U.S.

The trial has heard live testimony by Susan Rosenberg, who is now in solitary confinement in the D.C. jail and is heavily shackled and handcuffed when traveling back and forth to court.

Due to the international outcry, the director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons recently announced that the HSU will be closed this summer and a new maximum security prison for women will be opened in Marianna, Florida. The National Campaign to Abolish the Lexington Women's Control Unit fears that this new prison will just be the HSU on a much larger scale. For more information, call the Campaign at (718) 624-0800 or (202) 331-0500.

## Lolita Lebron honored in NYC

New York



June 11 — Lolita Lebron, a historic fighter in the struggle for Puerto Rican independence, spoke here today at a celebration rally held in Don Pedro Albizu Campos Plaza, located on the Lower East Side. The event was to commemorate the birthdays of both the Puerto Rican and the Lares flags. Lares is a city in Puerto Rico where a famous battle took place in the national struggle against colonial domination.

Lolita Lebron, along with four other Nationalists, spent 25 years in U.S. prisons after a 1954 attack on the House of Representatives to protest U.S. domination of Puerto Rico and the heavy repression against the Nationalist Party at that time.

In those 25 years, she refused to renounce her people in exchange for a pledge of freedom. Only a long, hard struggle finally won the release of the Nationalist prisoners.

People at today's rally shouted in Spanish, "Puerto Rico needs more women like Lolita!"

WW PHOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

Lolita Lebron in New York City

**Workers World Party (WWP)** fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society. All work together in this organization — Black and white, Latino, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian and gay, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

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## CALENDAR

### NEW YORK

**Sat., June 18:** "How can we put an end to racism, war, unemployment, bigotry?" Workers World Party Forum on socialism. Featuring panel presentations and discussion. 7 p.m. Wheelchair accessible. Refreshments. At 146 W. 25 St., Manhattan. Call (212) 255-0352.

**Sat., June 18:** Demonstration to free Irish political prisoner Joe Doherty, threatened with deportation by the Reagan administration. Held illegally for 5 years in U.S. prisons.

Speakers to include representatives of ANC, PLO and the Puerto Rican-Hartford 15 political prisoners. 3-5 p.m. At Thomas Paine Park, corner of Lafayette and Pearl Streets.

**Fri., June 24:** Forum on Panama featuring Panamanian activist Esmeralda Brown, Working for Women in the Americas, and Emilio Betances of the Autonomous University of Puebla, Mexico. 7 p.m. Centro de Educacion de los Trabajadores, 308 W. 46th St. Call (212) 765-4634.

### ROCHESTER, N.Y.

**Sat., June 18:** Outdoor rally to commemorate the Soweto uprising and to fight racism from Rochester to South Africa. Speakers will include representatives from struggles in South Africa, Palestine, and against police brutality. Also, reggae band Jahmel and the Rythmn Factory and youth rap group Crazy Fresh Posse will perform. Initiated by the All-Peoples Congress. At Manhattan Square Park.

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workers world  
46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010 Editorial: (212) 206-8222  
Business: (212) 255-0352 Telex: 6501176920  
Vol. 30, No.25/June 23, 1988 Closing news date: June 15, 1988

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Workers World (ISSN-0043-809X) is published weekly by WW Publishers, 46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010. Business office (212) 255-0352. Editorial office: (212) 206-8222. Subscriptions: One year: \$10; six months: \$6. All letters received by Workers World become the property of the newspaper. We reserve the right to print letters in condensed form. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or Xerox from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010.  
Bundle rates available on request.

# 100,000 rally for disarmament, non-intervention

By Sara Flounders  
New York

Tens of thousands of anti-war activists converged here June 11 in a demonstration timed to coincide with the third United Nations Special Session on Disarmament (SSD-III).

The demonstration was built as a "peace march to abolish nuclear weapons, stop military intervention and for economic development and social justice." It drew a crowd organizers estimated at 100,000, including a very visible turnout from pacifist and religious organizations, and a smaller but enthusiastic anti-imperialist section.

Many people carried hand-lettered signs demanding complete disarmament, peace, an end to U.S. intervention. They came from small towns and suburbs, from unions and church groups, from community organizations and schools.

The largest number of participants seemed to be from the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. There were about 2,000 from the international contingent that had participated in a conference related to SSD-III. These included 1,200 Japanese anti-nuclear weapon activists (see article this page), Soviet physicists, West German anti-nuke organizers and a delegation of 40 from the French Movement for Peace.

While the thrust of the demonstration was on nuclear disarmament, for

many militant activists the march provided an opportunity to also bring signs and banners denouncing U.S. intervention around the world and to raise social and economic issues on the home front.

## Anti-U.S. intervention

These contingents included the Third World Solidarity and Non-Intervention contingent, the Money for AIDS, Not War contingent, and a militant, anti-racist, anti-imperialist youth contingent organized by Students and Youth Against Racism (SAYAR).

In the Third World Solidarity contingent there was no doubt who was considered the greatest danger to world peace. The signs of the Young Koreans United denounced U.S. nuclear weapons stored in south Korea. Salvadorans and Nicaraguans denounced the continuing U.S. war against the people of Central America.

Filipino activists carried signs against U.S. bases. Also denounced in this contingent was Washington's support of the apartheid state of South Africa, as was U.S. backing for the Israeli repression of the Palestinian people.

Through the use of music and national dress, this contingent expressed with great spirit and creativity the determination of oppressed nations to win peace with justice through the struggle for self-determination.

If the Third World Solidarity con-



Nukes are the imperialists' ultimate Big Stick

tingent expressed no illusions about U.S. imperialism's interest in "peace" for oppressed peoples, the same could not be said for some other parts of the march.

A contingent of several hundred from the Communist Party USA, for example, besides holding many placards calling for disarmament by the year 2000 and a 50% reduction in nuclear arms, carried a prominent banner with the slogan, "USA-USSR, United — 1945 United against Hitler — 1988 United for Peace" and signed by the CPUSA.

## Youth contingent shows combative spirit

In another mood completely, the Youth contingent, organized by Students and Youth Against Racism (SAYAR), attracted hundreds of young people who joined its chants of "We won't fight for Citibank, give us schools and not tanks!" and "From New York to Soweto, people fight back!"

This combative spirit was an important addition to the march. A leaflet distributed by SAYAR at New York City high schools and colleges helped draw people to the march by linking the struggles against racism and against war. Many youth wore caps that read, "Disarm the Pentagon."

Participants found an enthusiastic response to banners that made the struggle against militarism concrete by linking homelessness, unemployment and cutbacks in social services to the billions spent on the Pentagon.

## Rally reflects diversity

The program following the march to Central Park represented a wide diversity of issues and approaches to the struggle for peace. Trade unions,

community organizations, women's organizations and others were represented.

The rally, held on a clear, early summer day, was amply supplied with music from around the world. There were rock groups from Australia and the Soviet Union, and the music of South African freedom fighters, as well as from the U.S. anti-war singers that are almost regulars at rallies like these.

Among the speakers were Coretta Scott King, Dennis Rivera, who is vice president of Local 1199 Health & Hospital Workers Union, and Leslie Cagan, a leading organizer of the march.

Speakers from liberation organizations included Neo Mnumzane, the African National Congress's chief representative at the UN. Rosa Carlotta Tunnerman, a Nicaraguan poet and cultural attache of the Nicaraguan Embassy, also spoke.

Edward Said, a representative of the Palestine National Congress, strongly condemned both Israeli repression of the Palestinian uprising and U.S. financing of and support for Israel. He stressed that peace must be based on the right of self-determination for oppressed peoples.

While it may seem that a speaker from the Palestinian struggle should be a must for any major national anti-war rally, it was not until the 1981 March on the Pentagon organized by the People's Anti-War Mobilization that a Palestinian got to speak at a national rally in the U.S.

At the last large disarmament march in 1982 in New York, no Palestinian was invited to speak even though Israel had just launched its invasion of Lebanon. The invitation to Said and to speakers from other revolutionary movements illustrates the growing strength of these movements.



Japanese peace activists want a billion signatures.

## Japanese A-bomb survivors join New York march

By G. Dunkel  
New York

Demanding a "total ban and elimination of nuclear weapons," 1,200 Japanese marched in the June 11 mass march for disarmament, economic development and ending military intervention, which took place here in New York.

Many of the Japanese were "hibakusha" — the survivors, or the descendants of survivors, of the U.S. nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II.

According to Yoshitaka Uto of the Japan Peace Committee, they were part of a campaign to collect one billion signatures on a petition demanding the total abolition of nuclear weapons, which will be presented to a United Nations Special Session on Disarmament.

There was a mass campaign in Japan to collect money for their trip to this conference. According to Mr. Uto, many hibakusha played significant roles in this mass campaign because

they feel the threat of nuclear weapons personally.

This contingent attended the international conference on disarmament, held to coincide with the UN Special Session on Disarmament. Many spent their spare time the week before the march collecting signatures on the streets of New York.

Their appeal points out, "The use of nuclear weapons will destroy the whole human race and civilization. It is therefore illegal, immoral and a crime against the human community." It goes on to say, "Now is the time to call for the complete prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. Let us work together urgently to achieve a total ban."

The Japanese contingent to the New York disarmament march and the growing mass movement in Japan against nuclear weapons come at a time when the U.S. government is putting more and more pressure on Japan to significantly increase its conventional military forces.

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# Perth Amboy explodes over racist killing by police

By Gloria La Riva  
Perth Amboy, N.J.

June 10 — Carmen Coria, a 25-year-old Mexican man, was shot to death here by police at point-blank range on June 6. His 27-year-old brother, Mateo, was shot four times and critically wounded when he came to his brother's aid.

Last night, 2,500 people participating in a funeral procession from the Latino community exploded into rebellion, smashing storefront windows downtown and demanding, "Justicia! Justicia! Justicia!"

"The police had a great deal to do with what happened later. They were all in riot gear and it looked just like South Africa," explained community activist Fernando Gonzales. The police pushed into the crowd with their clubs and the crowd dispersed into the streets to continue their demand for justice.

## History of racist harassment

While touched off by police who pushed down protesters, the massive protest is also the product of the

long-standing police brutality against the Latino community in this industrial New Jersey town. There are 45,000 residents in Perth Amboy, 50% of them Latino.

Ruben Santos explained that after the demonstration had subsided and the media left, the police went on a rampage. "They split a man's head open and broke his leg. One pregnant woman was attacked by the police and had to be admitted to the hospital."

Three youths told this reporter that Allen Fuller, the cop who killed Coria, has a history of beating people. The police force as a whole singles out Latinos for harassment. "Everyone here is angry," said Hector Santiago. "There is no motive for taking someone's life who is a worker and has a family. Carmen was loved by many people here. It was an abuse against all of us."

According to witnesses, Fuller, an undercover narcotics agent, had been drinking at the Colonial Inn on State St. Carmen and Mateo Coria were also at the bar. At 1 a.m., Fuller went outside and began a confrontation with a man. The Coria brothers went out to see what was happening. Fuller



They've suffered too many killings by police.

pointed a gun in Carmen's face and shot once, killing him instantly. Mateo ran to his brother. Fuller shot him once and then three more times as he lay on the ground. Mateo is still in the hospital in critical condition.

Fuller has been suspended with pay while an investigation is conducted by the police department and the Middlesex County prosecutor, Alan Rockoff. Many see this as giving Fuller a paid vacation.

At a meeting yesterday at City Hall, community leaders presented Mayor George Otlowski with a list of demands, including a call for a special prosecutor. City officials, however, have refused the demand for an independent investigation.

Gonzales explained that witnesses to the killing will likely be intimidated from testifying against the police if the police investigate themselves. One res-

ident, Sandy Mena, said, "We want Fuller to be locked up...but when the law disobeys the law, there is no law."

The Latino community has every reason to think there will be no justice without a struggle. Six complaints of criminal misconduct have already been filed against Fuller and each time they have been dismissed. Present at the meeting was Abner Negrón, a young Latino man who was wearing a wire brace on his jaw which had been smashed by Fuller two weeks before.

The anger here has not subsided. Unity is strong among the Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Mexicans and the Black community. Another youth told this reporter, "The people don't respect the police. They think they have a right to take someone's life, but they're going to have to pay for what they did. This is not over."

# Brawley case highlights injustice for Black people

By Carmen Roundtree  
New York

In the haze which the media and the government have created around the Tawana Brawley case, one thing seems to be increasingly clear — the media, the Dutchess County officials, as well as Attorney General Robert Abrams seem more interested in vilifying Tawana, her family and legal council, then in solving a very apparent crime.

Just last week, in a hearing to show cause why Glenda Brawley should not testify before the Grand Jury, supposedly investigating the kidnapping and rape of her daughter Tawana, attorneys Alton Maddox and C. Vernon Mason cited over 400 years of oppression of Black people in this country. They described case after case where Black people in this country have not received justice under this present system.

Why should Mrs. Brawley, her family, friends, or her attorneys think that justice will be served this time? Has

the justice system in this country undergone drastic changes?

No. As a matter of fact, from the very beginning the racist media has done everything in its power to cast doubt on Tawana's story. At the same time, they have attacked her attorneys, even going so far as claiming that she is under some sort of "spell" and is somehow incapable of making clear decisions for herself and her family.

All this was dispelled on June 12 when Tawana Brawley made a statement to the media after attending a service at the Bethany Baptist Church in Brooklyn where her mother is currently seeking refuge. Brawley explained, "No one manipulates me or my family. The Brawley family is very strong. We know what we're doing... I love my mother very much. I am fully behind her." As for her lawyers, she said, "I agree with their opinions and their decisions."

## Brawley family receives standing ovation

Another myth perpetrated by the media is that the Brawley family is not receiving support. Just the opposite is true. This case has struck an important chord in the Black community, fed up with racist injustice. On June 12, the Brawleys received a standing ovation from a packed congregation at the Bethany Baptist Church. On June 9, while in a Queens church, Glenda Brawley remained surrounded by 500 supporters, protecting her from arrest.

Meanwhile Judge Ingressia, who so pompously agreed that Black people have been treated unfairly by the justice system, in the same breath sentenced Glenda Brawley to 30 days in jail for not trusting that system and refusing to testify before a grand jury many were convinced would only cover up the crime.

It is no surprise that the Brawleys are seeking justice outside the confines of the courts. History has shown us that only through the independent struggle of the oppressed will justice finally be won.

# Hartford coalition combats gay-bashing murder

By Elizabeth Toledo  
Hartford

In response to the recent gay-bashing murder of Richard Reihl, lesbian and gay organizations have come together in Hartford to form a fight-back coalition called the Connecticut Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project.

This coalition was announced at a press conference held here on June 7 where representatives from the gay community expressed their anger and charged the media with sensationalism in reporting the murder.

The new coalition includes representatives from Dignity Hartford, the Coalition of Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, Men of All Colors, NOW, and the Lesbian and Gay Focus of the All-Peoples Congress.

Michael Mishad, of Dignity Hartford, stated that, "It is a common thing to make the oppressor look like the victim whenever the oppressed fight for liberation."

That's just what the media had been doing and continued to do after his statement. In an editorial in the June 10 issue of the Hartford Current, the writer blames the rising militancy of the lesbian and gay community for gay-bashing attacks.

The two teenagers charged with the murder are Marcos J. Perez, 16, and Sean G. Burke, 17, both of Hartford. Perez stated in his confession that he and Burke drove around the Chez-Est, a gay club in Hartford, about 15-20 times until finally meeting up with Reihl. Reihl allegedly invited both to his home, a statement that cannot be proven since Reihl is now dead.

Many suspect that the two killers followed Reihl to his home, since Reihl's body was found on his front

lawn brutally beaten to death on the morning of May 15.

## Bigotry to blame

In his statement to the police, Perez says he told Reihl how he hated homosexuals and how he wanted to kill him. Perez said that soon after they left Reihl bleeding to death, they returned to the scene to make sure that he was dead and proceeded to beat Reihl over the head until finally killing him.

Two other youths, Lawrence Brush and James O'Brien, were arrested on June 8 on a related case in West Hartford where a man was tied and brutally beaten but left alive. Burke and Perez have also been charged in this attack.

Obviously, a gang of murdering bigots are going around gay bars looking for prey to rob and beat. It seems this time that they went too far and got caught.

The authorities in the Catholic high school that three of the youth attend were quick to come to the aid of their creations. The boys were portrayed in the media as choir boys whose only crime was to kill a homosexual.

The lesbian and gay community in Hartford is outraged and intends to monitor the trial of these bigots until all four are made to pay for their crimes and their attack on the community.

A demonstration will be held on June 20 in front of the court where the two killers will be arraigned. In the face of these attacks, the lesbian and gay community has risen united and strong. By joining forces with other oppressed groups, such as Latino and Black people, the community intends to fight back each and every bigoted attack.

# Governor wants arrest of Tawana's mother

New York Governor Mario Cuomo has entered the Tawana Brawley case in full force — against the Brawley family. In a June 14 public letter to State Attorney General Robert Abrams, Cuomo attacked the Brawleys and their advisers, demanding they cooperate with the state. He gave his support to the state's plan to arrest Mrs. Glenda Brawley, and called the law "the force which has tied this democracy together for 200 years." Cuomo failed to note that for almost half that 200 years U.S. law upheld slavery for Black people. And while today the law claims to be impartial and unbiased, racist courts and prosecutors routinely send poor and oppressed people to jail while refusing to prosecute the privileged.

# 50,000 march for Boston gay pride

## 'Mike Dukakis, you should know, homophobia's got to go'

By Frank Neisser  
Boston

June 11 — In a strong display of the strength and organization of Boston's lesbian and gay community, over 50,000 lesbians, gay men and their supporters marched in the annual lesbian and gay pride demonstration here today. Chants of "Money for AIDS, not for war," and "Mike Dukakis, you should know, homophobia's got to go," could be heard along the march route.

Banners from all over New England expressed the community's pride and demanded passage of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Bill, an end to the discriminatory Massachusetts foster care policy, and massive funding for AIDS research. The Coalition of Persons With Aids played a leading, visible and moving role. The Massachusetts Names Project urged march participants to see the Names Quilt, which will be on display in Boston next weekend.

Participants responded with enthusiasm to flyers carrying a statement

from Robert Traynham, Workers World Party candidate for State Senate, who is running against homophobic Senate President William Bulger. The statement greeted the march and called for the money now squandered on Star Wars to be directed to a massive, nationally-coordinated campaign to defeat AIDS.

The multinational character and diversity of the community was clearly visible both in the march and on the stage, where one of the most moving talks was given by John Manzon, a representative of the Alliance of Massachusetts Asian Lesbians and Gay Men (AMALGAM). He outlined his experiences as an Asian gay man combating stereotypes, and invited participants to attend "Celebration Massachusetts," a cultural event sponsored by AMALGAM on Saturday, June 18 at 7 p.m. at the Emanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston 02116. The event will include a forum, a slide show, a play and a dance. Admission is \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. For more information, call (617) 622-6000.



Boston march showed diversity and unity.

WW PHOTO: PETER COOK

# Appeals court sets back gay rights in Army

By Shelley Ettinger

Four months after issuing a landmark decision banning anti-gay discrimination by the U.S. Army, a federal appeals court has nullified its own ruling.

The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco announced June 9 that it would reconsider the case, referring it to an 11-judge panel for a new hearing. In the interim, the ban on anti-gay discrimination is no longer in effect.

The initial decision banning discrimination was a response to years of mass struggle by the lesbian and gay movement, and it was no coincidence that it came in San Francisco, home of the biggest and most politically powerful gay community in the country.

The move to reconsider, similarly, is a response to tremendous pressure from the Pentagon, a most powerful part of the ruling class government,

and the big businesses that are intertwined with it.

### Court system is political

Gay men arrested in bar raids, in parks and on sidewalks, lesbian mothers fighting for the right to keep their own children, writers whose works were seized and destroyed, lesbian and gay youth locked up in juvenile homes or psychiatric institutions — the lesbian and gay community has long experience with the U.S. court system. From local judges on up to the Supreme Court, which pronounced lesbians and gay men criminals in the *Hardwick v. Georgia* case in June of 1986, there has never been justice for lesbian and gay people.

Maybe most of all in relation to the military, where tens of thousands of lesbians and gay men — 1,300 people discharged from the armed forces last year alone — have been subjected to brutal terrorism and witchhunts that

have actually destroyed many lives, "justice" is a joke.

For Perry Watkins, a Black gay man who was booted out of the Army in 1984 for being homosexual — for his gay self, which the Army deemed even worse than his gay acts — "justice" has been a nightmare. After the Army kicked him out, he was unable to get a decent job, and ended up homeless and destitute, living on the streets. But his courageous determination to fight back, along with the strength of the lesbian and gay struggle itself, led to the February ruling banning such discrimination.

That ruling demonstrated clearly the political nature of the courts. It was forced by the struggle, just as every progressive ruling in history was.

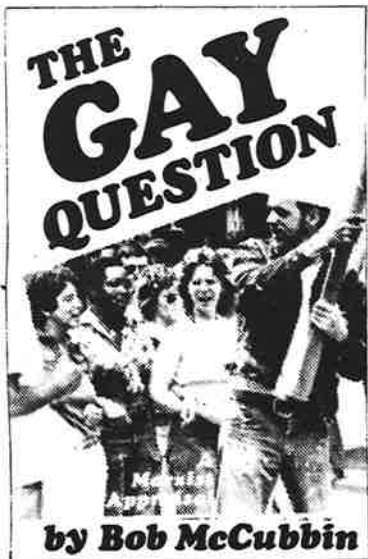
Now that the court has negated the ruling, the judiciary's political character is even clearer. The courts are an arm of the state, and the state is extraordinarily interested in scapegoating and persecuting gay people, in maintaining lesbian and gay oppression in society at large and the military in particular — all to promote division in the working class and prevent people from uniting to fight back.

But just as the viciously racist court system, for all its murderous complicity with the centuries-long ruling-class assault against the Black community, has never been able to quash the Black struggle, the lesbian and gay movement won't be turned back either.

As they reconsider their decision, the 25 judges of the Ninth Circuit will no doubt be remembering what happened two years ago when the Supreme Court's *Hardwick* anti-gay decision was handed down. The rage of the lesbian and gay community took over the streets of New York and San Francisco for two days.

### 'Koch: \$ for AIDS!'

June 13 — Demonstrators circled City Hall here in New York City today to demand AIDS funds. This city has over one-quarter of all AIDS cases in the U.S., AIDS is the leading cause of death among men aged 25-44 and women aged 25-34 here, over 2,000 people with AIDS are homeless in this city, and 53% of all new AIDS deaths here are among IV drug users. Yet Mayor Ed Koch's proposed budget only includes 112 spaces for homeless PWAs, and none of the funding for outreach to IV drug users, AIDS education, or AIDS hospital beds recommended by his own city agencies. Activists from ACTUP carried bedsheets and chanted, "Here are the sheets, now where are the beds?"



### THE GAY QUESTION: A MARXIST APPRAISAL

By Bob McCubbin

This pioneering materialist analysis of gay oppression traces the history of lesbians and gay men from ancient society to the present day.

Available from:  
World View Forum  
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## —Retail layoffs

Continued from page 7

just as industrial workers have been. At the checkout counters, in the stockrooms, display windows and offices of the big retail chains, hundreds of thousands of workers may face corporate plans to axe their jobs and un-

ion contracts.

Some of the supermarket deals have been answered with union struggles against unionbusting and layoffs, and the Food and Commercial Workers have been able to hold the line against some of the attacks. But a real fight for jobs and rights, backed by all of labor, will have to be waged as the retail barons continue their assault.

## Needle exchange program begun in Portland, Ore.

By Saul Kanowitz

In July, a community health clinic in Portland, Oregon, will start a needle exchange program with 125 IV drug users to help prevent the transmission of AIDS. Participants in the program will hand in an old needle. In return they will receive a clean needle and syringe, free condoms and counseling in AIDS prevention.

Programs of similar character have been proposed in other cities by public health organizations and drug treatment service organizations, but were

blocked by the police and other state agencies on the grounds of promoting illegal drug use. Governmental agencies say the message that IV drug users need to get is "Don't use drugs."

It is both hypocritical and cruel to tell people not to use drugs and then fail to provide services to treat those fighting drug addiction. In New York City, waiting periods are six months long to enroll in treatment programs.

In Europe, four studies of needle exchange have shown no increase in drug use and that some drug users have cut back on the frequency of injections.



# Tent City put focus on long-term jobless in Michigan

Special to Workers World  
Lansing, Mich.

"Tent City" came down on June 8 at the State Capitol here after one-and-a-half days marked by tremendous solidarity and tense confrontations. Organizers remain united in their determination to maintain the coalition and schedule further actions.

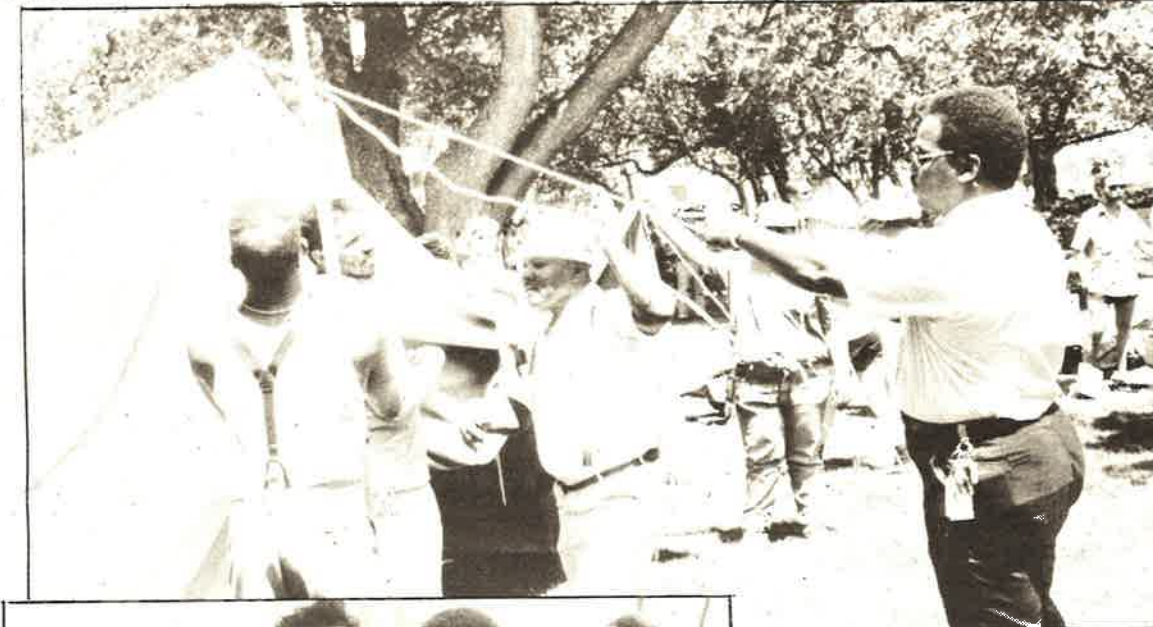
The encampment was front-page news across the state. Hundreds of jobless, underemployed and homeless people, Black, white, Native and Latino, women and men, gathered here from cities and towns across the state with the aim of wrenching emergency economic relief from the state government for the millions in need here.

The state, unwilling to take responsibility for alleviating the widespread suffering in Michigan, immediately threatened the campers with forcible eviction from the state grounds. Participants, however, were not intimidated. In town meetings where all had a chance to speak, the sense of purpose and solidarity among tenters was strengthened. It was unanimously decided to fight. For a day-and-a-half a united Tent City defied the state, and won the right to stay.

The following press release was issued on June 9 by Tent City Coordinator Bill Roundtree, a member of the Coordinating Council for the Stay in Lansing, organizers of the protest:

"We feel the Tent City at the State Capitol was a tremendous step forward. It succeeded in uniting diverse constituencies of poor and working people. Laid-off auto workers, the homeless, welfare recipients, public employees, minimum wage workers, community leaders from Benton Harbor, students, church leaders from the peace movement, Palestinians, advocates of prison reform, women's rights and lesbian activists — all stayed together, met together, worked together and discovered a common thread in their joint struggle for jobs and justice.

"It was the determination of the Tent City participants and their willingness to even risk arrests that forced the state government to back down from



Clockwise from upper left: 1) Setting up Tent city. 2) One of the many town meetings. Decisions were made by the whole body. 3) Skilled workers Monet Davis and Irene Wilson, both laid off from GM's Fleetwood plant. Their extended unemployment benefits are about to run out. They used to make \$13 an hour; now even jobs paying \$6 an hour aren't hiring them. 4) Barbara and her infant son John at the childcare tent. They had come from the COTS shelter for the homeless in Detroit.

WW PHOTOS: JOYCE CHEDIAC



their continued threats. After first denying a permit at all and then threatening to remove participants at 7 a.m. Wednesday, the Capitol Committee had to retreat and sanction the occupation.

"It was because of this same determination to struggle that the Tent City succeeded in thrusting the issues of unemployment, low pay, hunger and homelessness back into the public eye. That aspect of the Tent City was an unqualified success. It counters the outrageous claims of Governor James Blanchard and the state legislature, geared to make the poor and under-

paid invisible, that Michigan has 'come back' economically.

"Tent City participants also learned first-hand in their meetings with legislators just how callous and insensitive they are to the workers and poor.

"We are dead serious about our demands for economic relief. We will continue to press for extended unemployment benefits, a raise in the minimum wage, expanded social services, a moratorium on plant closings and layoffs, and other forms of emergency relief. The state government has the responsibility to insure jobs, food, shelter, and a decent income to all the

people of Michigan.

"But we know it will take thousands of demonstrators determined to fight and stay to win justice from a governor and legislature who are collaborating with big business in ushering in a new era of low wages and permanent unemployment for millions.

"At the encampment-wide meeting when it was decided to pull up the Tent City for now, participants vowed to return to their communities and continue organizing under the name Tent City Coalition. We will be scheduling a statewide organizing meeting to plan further actions."

## On the picket line

**After Harvard victory.** The Harvard University. AFSCME local representing 3,700 clerical and technical workers, after winning an election victory that took years to build, is now fighting the elite school's all-out effort to block the union's certification by the National Labor Relations Board. After Harvard challenged the validity of the election, based on all sorts of fabricated accusations about supposed intimidation and harassment of workers by the union, the administration moved into high gear and is now waging a campaign just as vicious and energetic as the one leading up to the union vote. Harvard President Derek Bok mailed a letter to all the workers asking them to fill out an anti-union complaint form and mail it back. Supervisors are also holding a series of workplace meetings with clerical and technical staff to "encourage" them to testify against the union. But union organizers express confidence that they will turn back the attack, and are proceeding with the work of setting up contract committees preparatory to beginning their first struggle for a union contract. Supporters are asked to write to Derek Bok at Harvard University, Massachusetts Hall, Cambridge, Mass. 02138, to demand that he stop the delaying tactics and negotiate with the union.

tics and negotiate with the union.

**Firefighter solidarity.** Her union brothers are rallying behind Lori Moon, the first woman firefighter in Athens, Ohio, who was fired one day before her probation ended in a blatant case of sex discrimination. Moon had performed satisfactorily throughout her one-year probation, but she was fired for a "bad attitude." Her fire captain actually entered a sexual harassment complaint she lodged against him as the proof of her bad attitude! AFSCME Local 3351 is fighting Moon's case and the other Athens firefighters have organized support for her, including picket lines and demonstrations outside the fire house. While some women firefighters, most notably in New York City, have encountered terrible sexism and hostility from male co-workers, the solidarity of the union brothers in this Ohio firehouse is a big step forward.

**Northwest lumber strike.** Some 3,400 lumber workers in the Pacific Northwest walked out on strike the weekend of June 4, shutting

down 14 lumber and plywood plants, a logging operation and a trucking operation. The strike reportedly hit Champion International Inc. and Willamette Industries Inc. by surprise after the Woodworkers and Industrial Workers unions rejected contract offers for a wage freeze. Strikers at several plants with expired contracts extended their picket lines to sites with a July 31 contract expiration date, where workers honored the lines, making an effective area-wide walkout. In total, 25,000 lumber workers are moving toward the July 31 deadline in Oregon, Washington and Montana. Willamette workers waged a month long strike against concessions in 1986.

### North Carolina rally.

Black and white union members recently staged a major demonstration outside the Federal Paper Board Co. plant in Riegelwood, N.C. According to the AFL-CIO News, the workers protested the hiring of BE&K Construction Company, "an anti-union contractor notorious for its strike-breaking activities." Members of 16 unions answered the call by the paperworkers and building trades unions to demand that Federal Paper

dump BE&K and stop its anti-union campaign.

### Productivity v. wages.

Workers are producing more and taking home less, according to the latest Labor Department figures, showing that the bosses' profits are ever more built on the backs of workers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that productivity in the first quarter of 1988 increased by 3.6%. At the same time, however, annual hourly wages only rose by 3.4%, and real wages continued to drop. The government acknowledged that, after five consecutive quarters in which wages lagged behind output, workers' standard of living is at its worst position since 1979-1981. That makes this the second period since the end of World War II that workers have been under this steady and unbroken siege. And according to a report recently released by the Council on Competitiveness, a pro-business group, the standard of living index for U.S. workers (a measure based on productivity, wage and employment statistics) has dropped to 78.9 from its 1972 level of 100.





# Long Is. law sets VDT safety rules

## 28M U.S. workers have stake in legal precedent

*Bulletin: The Suffolk County Legislature voted June 14 to override a veto of landmark VDT safety legislation. The victory came after a long struggle that pitted labor against a powerful big business campaign to block the law.*

*Suffolk County workers will now be the first in the country to enjoy legally mandated VDT health and safety protection. This victory is expected to pave the way for further struggles on behalf of the 28 million VDT workers in the United States who at present have no legislated protection against the hazards of working on terminals.*

By Shelley Ettinger

The first law in the U.S. mandating safety measures for all workers who use video display terminals (VDTs) was vetoed July 10 by a Democratic politician who won election by pledging support for the measure.

The Suffolk County Legislature will vote on whether to override County Executive Patrick G. Halpin's veto on Tuesday, June 14.

Jan Pierce, Communications Workers vice president, called the veto "a slap in the face to every rank-and-file worker" and Typographical Local 915 President Heinz Huesch said, "Halpin caved in to big business."

### Big business calls the shots

Halpin, who sponsored a statewide VDT bill as a member of the New York State Assembly, had campaigned for the county post with strong labor backing on an explicit commitment to

a VDT safety law.

Now, though, he said in his veto statement, he's realized that "to require employers to provide this level of . . . benefits to its VDT workers would be so crippling that the costs would force them to leave Suffolk County."

The law that was passed was actually quite modest. It only required employers with 20 or more workers to provide proper seating and lighting, detachable keyboards and 15-minute breaks every three hours for workers who spend most of an eight-hour day in front of computer screens. Even these provisions would just apply to equipment and furniture bought after Jan. 1, 1990.

These small measures for ergonomic (work environment) standards are not big-money items.

The bosses seized on one other aspect of the new law, however — the requirement that companies pay 80% of the cost of annual eye examinations and glasses for VDT operators.

Halpin didn't produce any figures to show how many zillions of dollars eyecare for VDT workers would cost. But it clearly wouldn't break those firms — like New York Telephone, Northwest Airlines, Grumman Corporation, Long Island Lighting Co., Citicorp, Newsday and Viacom International — that employ a large proportion of Suffolk County's VDT users. And many companies already cover eye exams and glasses in their medical plans, anyway.

So what's the big deal?

The big deal is 28 million VDT workers in the U.S. That number is

expected to rise to 40 million by 1990.

The bosses fought tooth-and-nail against every piece of pro-worker legislation ever passed in this country, from child labor laws to the minimum wage. Restrictions on their flexibility to exploit workers in any way they deem necessary for the maximization of profit are unacceptable. The Suffolk County bill, and similar measures now pending in six state legislatures including New York, would have serious national ramifications as more and more workers, mostly low-paid women, work at VDT screens.

VDT safety is a problem that, if it spreads, could cause real headaches for the ruling class.

Business groups like the Long Island Association and the Association for a Better Long Island warned that if Halpin didn't veto the VDT law, an area that is already suffering from heavy layoffs (at Grumman Aerospace and other industrial companies) would lose even more business. That made it sound like some sort of natural law — VDT safety equals companies leaving — instead of what it really is: the bosses once again wielding the threat of layoffs and shutdowns as a club over the head of workers.

### 'Personal commitment' to worker health

Halpin's anti-worker move was especially stark because it came just a week after the results of the first controlled scientific study on VDTs and pregnancy were announced. A group of scientists in California found that women who worked at VDTs for more than 20 hours per week in the first three months of pregnancy had twice as many miscarriages as office workers who did not use VDTs.

Other potential health hazards associated with VDTs include eye damage, headaches, stress, back problems and carpal tunnel syndrome, a painful and disabling nerve injury in the hands and arms. Radiation emitted from VDTs may also have long-term health implications.

But don't worry. Halpin said he has "a personal commitment from the county's business leaders that they will work with me to meet the health and safety needs of the thousands of men and women in Suffolk who work on VDTs."

## Retail mergers threaten deep job cuts

By Shelley Ettinger

A wave of mergers, acquisitions and leveraged buyouts took place in the retail industry earlier this spring. Now, in a round of layoffs that analysts predict is just the tip of the iceberg, workers are paying for these huge deals with their jobs.

In the biggest takeover in retail history, Campeau Corp. bought Federated Department Stores — including Abraham & Strauss and Bloomingdale's — for \$6.6 billion in April.

Meanwhile, American Stores Co. announced May 24 that it would buy Lucky Stores Inc. for \$2.51 billion, making American the country's biggest supermarket chain.

Although these buyouts were all big news on the financial pages, their real meaning for workers at the affected stores was hidden.

### Bosses' debts equal jobs

In the rarefied realm of high finance, purchases work a little differently than down in the store aisles where people buy food and clothes. These deals are not made with cash, or anything resembling it. So Campeau, for instance, is now trying to come up with funds to service the financial cost of its \$6.6 billion Federated takeover.

The way to do that is simple: cut jobs.

Abraham & Strauss announced June 7 that it would cut 794 jobs, or 7% of its workforce, at 14 New York-area stores. Workers were given the news and told to leave immediately. Sales clerks' jobs were initially spared, but are expected to be hit soon, too. The bulk of this round of layoffs was among clerical employees, stock-room workers and window dressers.

Campeau's whole empire is slash-

ing jobs. Its Lazarus chain in Columbus, Ohio, laid off 1,200 of its 15,000 workers. In Miami, Burdine's dumped 320. Rich's in Atlanta laid off 250. Bloomingdale's will reportedly cut \$60 million worth of jobs. Federated's headquarters in Cincinnati laid off 130, more than one-fifth of the workforce.

In an earlier Campeau purchase, in 1986, Allied Stores' headquarters staff was cut by 500 jobs, and Jordan-Marsh in Boston lost 600.

Top executives at Federated who were pushed out when Campeau bought the firm fared a bit better. They were gently lofted away on golden parachutes, million-dollar cash and stock settlements.

It's the same story everywhere. Foley's Department Stores, just bought by May Department Stores Co., is laying off 5% of its workforce in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma. Workers at Filene's in Boston, also part of that deal, will probably be hit next.

Supermarket workers have been under the buyout/layoff gun for several years now. Workers at Safeway, Stop & Shop, Supermarkets General Corp. and other firms have been fighting not only for their jobs but against harsh anti-union attacks by companies eager to finance their wheeling and dealing via unionbusting.

Workers at Lucky Stores in the West, now to be a subsidiary of American Stores, know what to expect. Some 14,000 of them lost their jobs several years ago when the company was sold to Dayton-Hudson Corp., which then reopened the stores with non-union labor.

When Safeway was bought out for \$4.2 billion in 1986, about 7,000 workers in the Southwest were laid off; in

another deal, Safeway sold a chain of stores on a pledge to break the union contract.

### Struggle for jobs

The surge of retail buyouts and the resulting layoffs and anti-worker attacks are very significant for the labor movement, as this sector of mostly low-paid, mostly women, and many Third World workers, gets hit hard

Continued on page 5

## Ticonderoga, N.Y., mill votes down concession to IP

By Phil Wilayto

Efforts by the International Paper Co. (IP) to impose a concessionary contract on yet another of its mills were turned back this month as Locals 5 and 497 of the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) voted down the company's proposal by a 75% margin.

IP's demands for "job flexibility" and elimination of Sunday and holiday premium pay were basically the same take-back demands that led to the strikes and lock-outs at DePere, Wisc.; Mobile, Ala.; Lock Haven, Pa.; and Jay, Maine.

Some 95% of Ticonderoga's 680 workers turned out for the vote, reflecting the high degree of concern building among UPIU rank-and-file members, who are being systematically visited by outreach teams from the four striking or locked-out mills.

Meanwhile, up in Maine, the state AFL-CIO has declared "Jay Day" on June 16, the one-year anniversary of the strike against IP's Androscoggin mill in Jay.

On that day, members of UPIU Local 14 and Firemen and Oilers Local 246 will spread out to some 20 Maine towns and cities to thank union members and community people for their continuing support and to publicize the union's call for a boycott of Casco Northern Bank. This bank is a subsidiary of the Bank of Boston, which has corporate ties to IP.

June 20 will mark the one-year strike anniversary for UPIU Local 1787 in Lock Haven, and the local has called for a mass march and rally to take place Saturday, June 18. Bus loads of union members and supporters are expected from across Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, as well as from Jay, according to Local 1787 treasurer Ron Jones.

Marchers will gather at 10:00 a.m. and proceed down Main Street to the Castenea fire station. Scheduled rally speakers include Local 14 President Bill Meserve, regional UPIU Vice President Marshall Smith and Corporate Campaign head Ray Rogers.

For more information, call Local 1787 in Lock Haven at (717) 748-2097.



# Mass upsurge pushes Arab summit to back PLO

## Shultz bemoans 'extremism' as his trip fails

By Joyce Chediac



San Francisco, December 1987.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

This month, Secretary of State George Shultz made his fourth trip to the Middle East since the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people began on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. His aim each time has been to impose a pro-imperialist settlement in the Middle East.

While each trip has met with failure, this time Shultz left saying that "extremism is spreading" in the area.

What did he mean by this? What is going on in the Middle East and why?

Few can deny that there has been a major political change in this strategic and oil-rich area of the world in the past few months. An indication of this change could be seen in the recent Arab summit held in Algeria. This meeting stands in marked contrast to another summit of the heads of Arab states held just before the uprising began.

At the November Arab summit in Amman, Jordan, the Palestinian struggle was dealt a severe blow. The Amman summit dropped the slogan of an independent Palestinian state, adhered to since 1974. Immediately after that summit, nine Arab governments resumed ties with Egypt, disregarding the pro-imperialist Camp David Accords which Egypt had signed, and which constitute perhaps the greatest historic threat to the Palestinian people.

Washington openly gloated. It had Israel as its garrison state, and now the Arab regimes were doing its bid-

ding. It hoped to be done with the Palestinian struggle once and for all.

However, this month's meeting of Arab leaders took on an entirely different coloration. The Arab governments actually formed a partnership with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to direct the course of the uprising, lending it the combined prestige of the Arab countries acting in unison.

A resolution demanded the complete Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and Jerusalem. The Arab governments backed the PLO's demand for a UN-sponsored interna-

tional peace conference to include the PLO participating on an equal footing, a move opposed by both Washington and Tel Aviv.

### Rise in anti-imperialist sentiment

Arab leaders were distinctly anti-imperialist. Interestingly enough, King Hussein, a client of Washington, who has repressed demonstrations in solidarity with the Palestinian uprising with tactics similar to those used by Israel, actually led the criticism of Washington. He said that "the only United States policy in the Middle East is the support of Israel."

The Algerian summit also adopted a resolution condemning the U.S. bombing of Libya in 1986 and backing the Libyan claim to the entire Gulf of Sidra. Washington has challenged this claim and utilized it as an excuse to attack Libya.

This month's meeting of Arab leaders may not have achieved everything that the PLO wanted, but it certainly was a remarkable about-face when compared to the November summit. And while the governments of Syria, south Yemen, Algeria and Libya have given important support to the Palestinian struggle, the majority of the Arab governments are unstable and corrupt clients of Washington. Why are they now changing their tune?

This sudden turn by Arab rulers in an anti-imperialist direction, which Shultz has labeled "extremism," is a sign of the depth of the anti-imperialist sentiment among the Arab masses, a sentiment which has left their imperialist client rulers quaking in their boots. The magnificent Palestinian uprising is overwhelmingly supported by the close to 200 million poor, disenfranchised and oppressed Arab people

who see the uprising as a shining inspiration and a source of new hope.

This mass revolt against occupation is making it clear that the mass struggle ultimately determines history, not the maneuvers of imperialist agents like Shultz. The three-day general strike with which the Palestinian people greeted Shultz reflects the sentiment of most Arab people, who see the uprising itself, and the hope it holds for all the oppressed, as the real peace initiative.

## Abolish Swiss Army?

By G. Dunkel

A coalition of Swiss progressive groups has forced the federal government to put the question of "abolishing the army" on the ballot by collecting 111,300 signatures on a petition, according to Le Monde, a French newspaper.

The government issued a very long and foaming statement against the referendum, calling it "extremism," saying it was "incompatible with the permanent neutrality of Switzerland," and asserting that they needed an army to keep the peace.

The referendum initiators are under no illusions, but they hope this proposal will raise a sharp debate on the role of force and violence within Swiss society. For all that Switzerland has not fought in a war since Napoleonic times, it is still a bourgeois state and ultimately rests on an armed body of men defending the ruling class's interests.

## No big winners in French voting

By John Catalinotto

The June 12 second round of the elections to the 577-member French National Assembly resulted as of June 13 in a slight victory of the Socialist Party over a right-wing coalition of Gaullists and centrists, 276 delegates to 271. To control the assembly 289 votes are needed.

In a surprisingly strong comeback from its poor showing in the presidential election, the French Communist Party (PCF) won 27 of the 35 seats it had gained in the last legislative elections in 1986. In the first round of the legislative elections on June 5 the PCF won 11.3% of the popular vote nationally, much more than the 6.8% it won in the presidential elections in April.

The PCF has stated that it will not automatically give support to the So-

cialist Party government but will vote on an issue-by-issue basis. The Socialists under the Mitterrand presidency have taken many actions harmful to the French working class and to oppressed nations ruled by French imperialism. The PCF opposes these policies.

The fascist National Front Party lost all but one of the 32 seats it won in 1986. In the first round it dropped to 9.7% of the vote nationally, down from 14.4% in the April presidential elections. The National Front's head, Jean-Marie Le Pen, failed to win his seat in the assembly.

In 1986 the elections were held with proportional representation, giving the smaller parties a better chance to get delegates in proportion to their popular vote.

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# Lessons of the Soweto uprising

## 12 years later in So. Africa, the struggle continues

By Monica Moorehead

On June 16, millions of progressive and revolutionary forces in the imperialist countries, in the socialist countries and around the world will be paying tribute to the 12th anniversary of the heroic Soweto student rebellion with marches, rallies and other activities.

In South Africa itself, commemorations of this profound uprising against the hideous apartheid regime are no doubt underway, despite the racist authority's recent extension of the repressive state of emergency which bans any expression of anti-apartheid sentiment.

Much has happened since June 16, 1976, when thousands of Black student activists were gunned down by a hail of apartheid bullets. Besides reviewing the events that led to the Soweto rebellion, it is important to go over the historical significance of Soweto in the overall struggle of an oppressed people to win their national liberation.

### Centuries of exploitation

For many centuries, the peoples of Africa have been subjected to colonial slavery and imperialist domination by the European powers and their imperialist allies like the U.S. and Japan. The people of South Africa have experienced the agony of seeing their labor and natural resources plundered and exploited by both the British and Dutch (Boer) empires.

Apartheid was instituted as the law of the land in 1910 in order to "legalize" such ruthless oppression. The majority of the Black South African masses and their allies responded at first by seeking a peaceful solution within the framework of the apartheid system via petitioning, legal channels, and nonviolent campaigns, especially in the 1940s and 1950s. The great majority of these campaigns were initiated by the African National Congress (ANC).

But in response to every appeal, the intransigent apartheid slave masters exposed their inherently violent na-

ture with savage repression against peaceful protest.

It was the Sharpeville massacre—in which 69 unarmed demonstrators were brutally slain on March 21, 1960, while protesting the inhumane pass laws—that propelled the ANC to abandon its nonviolent approach and embark upon a program of armed struggle. Revolutionary violence on the part of the oppressed was necessary to abolish the reactionary terror of the oppressors.

The ANC was banned and forced to operate in exile.

If the Sharpeville massacre served as a catalyst to bring clarity on the class nature of the apartheid state to the minds of the South African masses in the 1960s, the Soweto rebellion played a similar role in the 1970s.

### What led to the rebellion?

In the early part of 1976 the apartheid authorities announced that the language Afrikaans, a combination of Dutch, German, French and English, would be the official language of the country and therefore would be taught in every classroom, including those in the Black communities.

The thought of being forced to learn the language of their oppressors—one that is spoken nowhere else in the world—was more than the Black students could endure. The South African Students Organization (SAS) began organizing meetings and protests in March. These activities sparked such a tremendous interest among students that a march was called for June 16 involving many districts within Soweto.

As thousands of students approached the Orlando Stadium for a rally on that date, the police, equipped with hippos (tanks) and armed with rubber bullets and whips, indiscriminately opened fire against the students, many of whom were as young as nine and ten. As the streets began to flow with blood, more angry students converged in large numbers and surrounded the police, who sent for more reinforcements from Johannesburg and Pretoria.

The rebellion lasted for several days, sparking a full-fledged uprising throughout the country. The uprising not only focused on the Afrikaans language issue but also evolved into a militant struggle against the entire heinous apartheid system.

The rebellion quickly spread throughout Pretoria, Durban, small towns in the Transvaal and the conservative Orange Free State. Black workers in Johannesburg carried out a spontaneous work stoppage in solidarity with the rebelling students.

These students used everything at their disposal to fight back against their oppressors—rocks, bottles and petrol bombs. Thousands of students and their supporters were arrested, including the injured. Many were murdered in prison as they defiantly shouted, "Amandla!" (Freedom!)

Throughout the rest of 1976 and 1977, the apartheid regime carried out systematic mass arrests against the student organizers of the rebellion. Many who were forced to flee South Africa eventually joined the ranks of the ANC guerrilla movement Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation).

This rebellion is viewed not as a defeat, but as a very important phase in the South African struggle. The rebellion was not only social in character, but political as well. The Soweto rebellion has played a significant role in laying the basis for what is happening in South Africa today and what is yet to come.

What these students were telling their oppressors and the world then, and what characterizes the South African struggle today, is that the struggle is not about reforming the brutal apartheid system. It is about destroying every form of the system of capitalist oppression and exploitation.

### People's power challenges apartheid rule

The revolutionary situation has reached an apex today. The apartheid regime has been reduced to the number one international social pariah.

And dual power has become a way of life, especially in the Black townships. In other words, the apartheid regime can no longer govern the townships in the same old way with puppet local councils and police. Instead, the revolutionary masses have set up their own independent organs of rule in defiance of the apartheid military occupation.

Workers' organizations, like the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the largest trade union federation with close to 1 million members, have carried out a number of successful strikes and work stoppages. The most recent of these was a three-day strike involving two million workers this month in protest against the latest crackdown banning the activities of anti-apartheid organizations. Also opposed was the repressive legislation before parliament that will diminish the rights of the workers while strengthening the power of the profit-hungry corporate bosses.

The struggle in South Africa has put enormous pressure on the imperialist powers, particularly the U.S., to take some symbolic action with a limited impact, like sanctions, against their apartheid ally. Hundreds of corporations have been forced to pull out millions of dollars in investments from the dying apartheid economy due in part to the tremendous U.S. divestment movements on college campuses.

There are historical lessons to be learned from the Soweto uprising that are applicable to the struggle right here in the belly of the beast, U.S. imperialism. For example, seeking to reform the system is not enough to achieve real democracy for the workers and all the oppressed. This will take a revolutionary, independent struggle against the entire bourgeois system of exploitation and oppression.

It is precisely because the students of Soweto adhered steadfastly to this view that their blood has helped to forever change the face of the South African revolution. The spirit of Soweto lives!



Black and white students join together in the freedom struggle, Soweto, 1976.



# EDITORIALS

## CIA's man sabotages peace talks

Talks between the Nicaraguan government and the contras have broken off, and there's no doubt who's to blame. Under severe pressure from Washington, the contras have purposely sabotaged the March 23 Sapoa accords by demanding new concessions at each meeting.

The Sandinista government has no fear at all of political competition with the unpopular contra gangs. As was reported in this newspaper (June 16), the cease-fire allows the government to bring some of the benefits of the revolution to the countryside. They have everything to gain from a peace that doesn't require their surrender.

But the contras are demanding surrender. The tool to sabotage the talks is Enrique Bermudez, a former colonel in the hated national guard under the Somoza dictatorship. This contra military boss suddenly popped up on the negotiating scene in Managua and took over the talks from the other contra heads. To prevent any type of agreement from being signed, he's raised every demand from the end of the draft to the firing of all Nicaraguan Supreme Court justices.

Handling the Bermudez tool through the CIA are the reactionary forces in the Reagan administration, as even their well-wishers admit. Writing of Bermudez in the June 11 New York Times, Steven Kinzler says that, "With decisive help from the United States Central Intelligence Agency, he outmaneuvered his

critics and made plain that he is the most powerful figure among the contra leadership." (Our emphasis — ed.)

In other words, fresh from their diplomatic debacle in Panama, Elliott Abrams and Company are pulling out all stops to continue the dirty contra war in Central America, even if it means stuffing Bermudez down the throats of the other contras. They want to see more Nicaraguan children maimed, more farmers killed, more rapes and murders by the contra gangs, more drugs sold to buy weapons. They want Congress to go against the people's will to vote for military aid.

Adding to the evidence that this right-wing gang wants to pursue its contra war is the U.S. government's confrontation with the Veterans' Peace Convoy in Laredo, Texas, stopping humanitarian aid to Nicaragua. Also, it's rumored that one reason Harold Baker quit as White House Chief of Staff was to avoid having to be the administration's point man for an unpopular contra policy.

The Sandinistas have confidence that they can beat the contras on the military field as well as in political competition. But an alert and combative anti-war movement here in the U.S. can do a lot to stop those battles from being necessary. The pro-war forces in Washington can be isolated. The widespread anti-war sentiment can be turned into struggle, like the response last March after U.S. troops landed in Honduras and thousands hit the streets from San Francisco to New York demanding, "U.S. out of Central America!"

## The spirit of Che

On June 18, the great revolutionary Che Guevara would have been 60. He was one of the foremost among those brave spirits throughout the ages who have taken up arms against oppression, who have sounded the call to

struggle for a better world. Twenty-one years ago, he laid down his life, fighting in the ongoing battle to liberate Bolivia and all Latin America from the imperialist grip.

Che Guevara was an internationalist through and through, at all turns promoting working class unity in the face of the class enemy. He devoted himself to raising the consciousness of the masses of people against the old prejudices and inequalities of capitalist society. For Che the ideological question of how to build socialism always came back to the issue of the collective communist spirit in opposition to destructive tendencies which encourage getting ahead at the expense of class brothers and sisters. What divided people on the basis of greater privileges he despised, what would unite them in cooperation and thus raise the morale of all, he embraced.

Socialism must be constructed with socialist methods, he tirelessly explained, not by trying to adapt the worn-out and discredited tactics of the enemies of socialism. Every person is important, every person has something valuable to offer, Che believed, especially the poor who have the most to gain by building the world anew.

Flexible on tactics, Che Guevara was rock hard on these principles, shunning unnecessary concessions that would weaken the class struggle. In the end, it all came down to his confidence in the revolutionary potential of everyday people and his certainty that the most oppressed are the best custodians and defenders of the socialist future.

Che is no longer with us physically, but his spirit is more alive than ever, in the hearts and deeds of the revolutionary peoples of Central America, South Africa, the Philippines, Palestine and other regions where struggle burns bright.

## Medicare catastrophic coverage plan: what it does and doesn't do

By Sharon Shelton

Last winter, seven-year-old Coby Howard died because the state of Oregon refused to allow Medicaid funds to pay for a bone marrow transplant he needed to stay alive.

Coby Howard's case, however, wasn't an isolated incident. It could happen to any number of people across the U.S., which stands almost alone in the industrialized world — along with South Africa — in having no national health program.

During this election year, it should surprise no one that suddenly the politicians in the Democratic and Republican parties have discovered the health care crisis, after having cut health services to the bone over the last eight years.

The big business press is full of lamentations over the state of medical care in the U.S., and on June 9 Congress passed a bill dubbed by House Speaker Jim Wright "the most important health initiative in recent years."

This bill, the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Plan of 1988, has been hailed as a "far reaching" effort to increase benefits for the aged and a sign that all medical benefits will be broadened in the future. But does this election-year bill, which Reagan is expected to sign, do enough? Does it point the way toward a real solution to the astronomical health care costs in this country?

### Provisions of the bill

The bill provides unlimited hospital care for those on Medicare instead of the 59 days currently allowed. It also sets a \$1,400-a-year ceiling on the

charges patients must pay their Medicare-approved doctors. Until now, many elderly people could lose all they had saved over a lifetime when illness struck.

Among other of the bill's provisions are half payments for prescription drugs after the patient pays \$600 a year, 38 days a year of continuous home health care, and 150 days a year of skilled care in nursing homes.

However important these benefits are — and they have been hard fought for in the struggles of seniors and trade unionists — they nevertheless fall far short of what is needed.

Even as it passed the Catastrophic Coverage bill, Congress rejected a long-term home care bill that would have added \$9 billion a year in home care for chronically ill Medicare recipients unable to perform two or more daily activities such as bathing or eating.

While the Democrats are eager to portray themselves as champions of the needy, it is noteworthy that this bill was blocked by 99 Democrats who voted with the Republican Party. Big business had opposed this bill as "giving the elderly too much federal aid."

### What bill doesn't cover

The Catastrophic Coverage plan itself has numerous limitations. For example, the \$1,400 a year deductible is just too high for many forced to live on fixed incomes. And doctors' bills which exceed Medicare guidelines — as most do! — are not covered, causing many patients to have to pay the difference from their own pockets.

The bill also fails to provide even a penny for continual nursing home

care, which is becoming too expensive for ordinary working and poor people and which itself constitutes a national crisis.

Finally, the cost of the increased benefits must be borne by Medicare recipients themselves in the form of higher premiums and an income tax surcharge. If the politicians' aim really was to ease the financial burden of the people, why couldn't they have put a ceiling on exorbitant doctor and hospital fees instead of finding new ways to make the aged pay?

### 32 million have no coverage

And why do the so-called representatives of the people continue to ignore the 32 million people who have no health coverage at all? It is an outrage in the U.S. today that people die, not because the technology to cure them is unavailable, but because the medical industry is based on profits and not on filling human needs. Consider:

- The infant mortality rate in the U.S. among Black and other oppressed peoples is as high as in many undeveloped countries.

- In 1986, a million people were denied treatment by emergency rooms or by private doctors in the U.S. because of inability to pay.

- An estimated 14 million people needing treatment did not seek it in 1986 because they could not afford it.

Health care is a right and should not be the privilege of an elite few. In a rich country like the U.S., there should be no Coby Howards. What is really needed is free health care for all in a medical system owned and controlled by the people.

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# Korean students battle 60,000 cops, demand reunification

## Want U.S. troops out, end to dictatorship

By Andy Stapp

On June 8, Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci flew into Seoul, the capital of south Korea, to deliver a message. North Korea, Carlucci said, was interfering in the internal affairs of the south. Needless to say, this would not be tolerated.

The next day, the south Korean regime issued arrest warrants for 13 south Korean student leaders. Police checkpoints were hurriedly set up at train and bus stations all over the country and hundreds of leftist students were seized and dragged off into custody.

Carlucci then left Seoul to return to Washington, having successfully demonstrated who really calls the shots in south Korea.

At least, that was the plan.

Then came Friday, June 10th. Legions of students hit the streets in at least eight provincial cities, engaging the police in fierce battles. Wearing makeshift plastic gas masks, they bombarded the cops with firebombs and rocks. Their chants, however, were directed against the United States government, accusing Washington of propping up military dictatorship in south Korea and keeping the people of the south forcibly divided from the north, which is socialist.

Seven hundred students were arrested at 57 colleges. Yonsei University in Seoul was the scene of the most dramatic events of the day. Eight thousand soldiers surrounded the



It took 60,000 Korean police to stop the students' planned march to the DMZ.

campus, firing hundreds of cannisters into the crowds as the students tried to break out to march the 30 miles to the military border that cuts south Korea off from the north.

This action was planned May 14, when students from over 70 universities gathered in Seoul to organize for a

meeting with their student counterparts in the north at the border village of Panmunjom. There they intended to discuss north-south student sports, an exchange of families torn apart since the division of the country 43 years ago, an exchange of students from north and south, and co-hosting the upcoming Olympic games.

On June 10th, while the north Korean students waited for them at the designated site, the 15,000 southern students were engaged in a near war with the cops at the gates of Yonsei U. The few who broke out and actually got near Panmunjom were beaten and arrested.

The south Korean students have sent a public apology to the northern students for not being able to meet with them. Ko Ung Sam, the head of the south Korean delegation, said, "The responsibility for the failure of the talks rests entirely with the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean rulers."

Everybody in south Korea knows that the whole business of repressing this gathering was planned and executed in coordination with the U.S.

Embassy, a building located on Seoul's main boulevard, conveniently adjacent to the south Korean government ministries.

Everybody in south Korea can see who is against reunification of their divided country. Everybody knows now just who is against freedom to travel and the free flow of information and the right to assemble and all those other things that the rulers of the "free world" claim to be for but aren't.

Right in the heart of downtown Seoul is a military installation called the Yongsan base. The soldiers stationed there are not Korean. They are from the United States. There are forty such bases scattered all over south Korea. Until those U.S. bases are removed, the Korean people will face one obstacle after another in the quest for a prosperous, just and reunified society.

"We have realized," one Yonsei student said after Friday's battle, "that we can't have true democracy with a regime represented by military force and manipulated by a foreign invasion force — the United States."



WW PHOTO: CHRIS ANTHONY

Marchers at June 11 disarmament demonstration in New York City.

## —Vets' convoy

Continued from page 1  
been prevented from moving their convoy over the bridge by U.S. Treasury and Customs authorities.

The convoy is made up of 38 trucks, school buses and cars filled with humanitarian aid supplies for the children of Nicaragua. The brightly decorated vehicles, together with their cargo, were donated by people around the U.S. and driven to the border. The convoy intends to drive through Mexico and Central America and deliver the aid to non-governmental human rights organizations in war-torn Nicaragua.

But the Reagan administration, which looks the other way when rich U.S. citizens donate military hardware to the contras (used to kill and maim the children of Nicaragua), has decided that the vehicles violate the president's executive order that embargoes peaceful goods to Nicaragua.

When the convoy first arrived at the border, it was stopped from going over. The U.S. government demanded that a \$100,000 bond be posted to guarantee the return of the vehicles to this coun-

try within 30 days. Convoy leaders say the supplies are useless to the Nicaraguan people without the means to transport them out to the countryside, where the contras regularly target schools, daycare centers, medical installations and the children in them.

### Treasury, Customs agents harass convoy

Convoy leaders say agents of the Treasury and Customs departments have repeatedly reversed their own decisions, revoking clearance to cross after first giving it. On Friday, June 10, for example, when it appeared that ABC-TV's Nightline program would be devoted to the confrontation at the border, U.S. agents allowed the convoy to think it had clearance to cross. This caused the producers of Nightline to cancel the show.

Once that happened, the authorities said nothing had changed — that the convoy would still have to guarantee the return of the trucks.

One of the forms U.S. agents wanted the convoy to sign actually had "Veterans' Peace Convoy to Nicaragua" printed across it. The vets say this shows the selective enforcement that is being used against them.

On the other hand, the people on both sides of the border are showing enormous support. Donations are coming in from all over the U.S. and Mexico. Demonstrations have been held in at least 26 U.S. cities. In Mexico, there are currently round-the-clock vigils at U.S. consulates and other official buildings in 15 cities.

The largest demonstration in support of the convoy was held June 11 at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City. The Mexican Army was called in to disperse the crowd of 50,000 people.

People in Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, have been bringing the convoyists "water, oranges and hugs," according to Rivera. He says Mexican indigenous women, forced by the ruined economy of their country to beg on the streets, have pressed peso notes into convoyists' hands. People have come from the mountains in traditional dress and speaking their own languages (not Spanish) to communicate that they understand what the convoy is trying to do and that they are in solidarity with it.

The Mexican support coalition for the convoy has swelled to include 82 organizations, and is chaired by the

retired archbishop of Cuernavaca.

Houston's Representative "Mickey" Leland is trying to get the Treasury Department to lift the ban, and joined tonight in a vigil here. Peace activists Bella Abzug and Brian Willson, whose legs were cut off by a U.S. Navy train during a demonstration in California, are here as well.

Jesse Jackson has sent a letter of support. At least 25 U.S. Congresspeople have signed a letter written by Texas Representative Bustamante, asking that the ban be lifted and that the convoy be allowed to proceed.

Many stores in the Laredo area are giving discounts to the convoy, including a grocery chain that is selling them food at half price. Prepared food has also been donated by restaurants and individuals.

The convoy itself includes European and Latin American members, and an Australian film crew is recording the entire trip. When the convoy tried to purchase six ambulances with donated funds, no U.S. manufacturer would sell the vehicles for export to Nicaragua. So the convoy turned to Japan. Not only was a Japanese manufacturer happy to sell the ambulances, but it shipped them free to Managua, stuffed full of medical supplies.



## Otro latino víctima de la brutalidad policiaca

Por Gloria La Riva  
Perth Amboy, Nueva Jersey

El lunes, 6 de Junio, Carmen Coria, un mexicano de 25 años, fue muerto a sangre fría por un policía. A Mateo Coria de 27 años, le dispararon 4 veces quedando herido y en estado crítico, cuando este fué a ayudar a su hermano.

El funeral en el que participaron más de 2.500 personas de la comunidad latina, explotó en una rebelión en el centro de Perth Amboy causada por la provocación de las fuerzas policiales y que esta se tradujo en destrozos ya que las vitrinas de los centros comerciales resultaron quebradas. Los manifestantes exigían "¡Justicia, Justicia, Justicia!" Esta masiva protesta popular fué reprimida por parte de las fuerzas policiales, confirmando la larga historia de brutalidad policiaca en contra de la comunidad latina. En esta ciudad ubicada en el centro de Nueva Jersey de 45.000 habitantes, el 50% de la población es latina.

Tres jóvenes entrevistados por esta reportera declararon: que el policía que mató a Coria, Sargento Allen Fuller, tiene una larga historia de ataques en contra de la gente, y que la fuerza policial en su totalidad hostigan constantemente a los latinos. Hector Santiago dijo, "Todos aquí están con rabia. No hubo ningún motivo para quitarle la vida

a alguien que es trabajador y que tiene familia. Carmen era querido por mucha gente por aquí. Esto es un abuso contra todos nosotros."

Otro joven, Ruben Santos, dijo que después que la manifestación había llegado a su término y los medios de comunicación se habían ido, la policía atacó a la gente. "Le rompieron la cabeza a un hombre y le quebraron la pierna. Una mujer embarazada fué atacada por la policía y la tuvieron que hospitalizar."

De acuerdo a testigos, Fuller, un policía encubierto anti-narcóticos, estuvo tomando en el Colonial Inn en la calle State donde también se encontraban Carmen y Mateo Coria. A la 1 am, Fuller salió y empezó una discusión con un hombre. Los hermanos Coria salieron a ver que pasaba. Fuller apuntó un arma hacia la cara de Carmen y disparó, matándolo instantáneamente. Mateo corrió hacia su hermano. Fuller entonces le disparó una vez, se cayó al piso, entonces le disparó tres veces más. Mateo sigue hospitalizado y su condición es crítica.

Fuller ha sido suspendido con pago o sea vacaciones-, mientras el departamento de policía y el fiscal de Middlesex Alan Rockoff conducen las pesquisas sobre el asesinato. En una reunión en el ayuntamiento municipal, líderes comunitarios presentaron al alcalde de Perth Amboy George Otlowski una lis-



Latinos demuestran repudio al asesinato de Carmen Coria.

ta de demandas, incluyendo la de designar un fiscal especial, Fenando Gonzales, un activista comunitario declaró que muchos de los testigos se sentirían con miedo de testificar en contra de la policía si son ellos mismos los que están haciendo la investigación. Sin embargo los oficiales municipales rechazaron el pedido por un fiscal independiente.

Un residente, Sandy Mena, manifestó "queremos a Fuller bajo rejas...pero se sabe que cuando la ley quiebra la ley, entonces no hay ley". La comunidad latina tiene toda la razón cuando piensa que no se hará justicia, seis denuncias de conducta criminal han sido registradas en contra de Fuller en todos los casos han sido declaradas impunes. En la misma reunión se encontraba Abner Negrón un joven latino al cual Fuller se había destrozado la mandíbula semanas antes, Negrón nostraba un tensor especial de alambres en su cara.

Esa misma noche, más de 400 personas asistieron al funeral de Coria en la iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Fátima. Después del servicio hubo una proce-

sión junto con el féretro de Coria hacia la funeraria pasando por la jefatura de la policía. Otras 1.000 personas se unieron a la procesión, y esta creció aún más cuando llagaron a la calle principal, Smith.

60 policías con vestimenta anti motines rodeó la jefatura. En declaraciones al Mundo Obrero Fernando Gonzales afirmó, "la policía será la culpable de lo que pueda pasar, todos están con su vestimenta anti motines como si aquí fuera Sur Africa". La policía se avalanzó sobre la gente con bolillo en mano dispersándolos en las calles donde siguieron lucha por una verdadera justicia.

El repudio por el asesinato no se ha disminuido en Perth Amboy, lo que ha pasado es que la unidad ha crecido más fuerte entre los puertorriqueños, dominicanos, mejicanos y la comunidad negra. Un joven activista aseguró a esta reportera, "la gente no respeta a la policía. Ellos piensan que tienen el derecho de quitarle la vida a una persona, pero ellos van a pagar muy caro por lo que hicieron. Esto no ha terminado".

## Contras rompen tregua: pueblo nicaraguense defienden revolución

Por Carlos Vargas y  
Santiago Manque-Milla

Desde que se puso en vigor la tregua entre sandinistas y los representantes de la contra, se sabía de antemano que esta no iba a fructificar, ya que el ex coronel de la Guardia Nacional somocista Enrique Bermúdez, que representa los intereses norteamericanos y siguiendo la política de agresión de estos, saboteó desde un principio tales conversaciones y rompieron la tregua acordada por ambas partes dejando todo en un punto muerto con la consabida abertura de hostilidades de parte de la contra.

Ya que en la región norte de Nicaragua, vale decir en la provincia de Jinotega fueron emboscadas dos patrullas del Frente Sandinista. Con esto estamos viendo que la contra sólo ocupó este espacio de tiempo para reorganizar sus filas totalmente diezgadas por la ofensiva sandinista denominada "Danto 88" en honor al legendario comandante guerrillero que participó en la lucha por la liberación de Nicaragua.

A todo esto el Frente Sandinista se encuentra en estado de alerta y todos sus efectivos se encuentran en disposición de combate. Como lo dijera el Comandante Luis Carrión "que el prevé que la guerra va a reanudarse en un

corto plazo y que la respuesta del ejército sandinista será contundente."

Esta guerra de agresión planificada por la administración Reagan y ejecutada por los mercenarios contras no tiene un futuro victorioso, pero sí que en las posibilidades del directorio rebelde se considera que la reanudación de las hostilidades podría mantenerse hasta pasadas las elecciones norteamericanas que con un hipotético triunfo de Bush, estos seguirían existiendo y contarían con la ayuda monetaria, (105 millones de dólares según lo estimado por Calero) y que en todo caso no iría a parar para subvencionar gastos de la guerra sino que irían a los bolsillos de la dirección de la contra.

Sin embargo el Frente Sandinista está consciente que se enfrentará con un ejército mercenario estratégicamente derrotado y que gracias a las desesperadas maniobras del régimen norteamericano estas no fueron aniquiladas por el frente, ya que este se encuentra con una moral combativa al cien por ciento y con la convicción de que todo un pueblo, vale decir el nicaraguense, cierran filas en torno a su vanguardia, y que a la vez cuentan con el apoyo solidario de todos los pueblos que en estos momentos luchan por su liberación y autodeterminación.



FOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

## Lolita Lebrón

Nueva York

11 de Junio—Lolita Lebrón, un ejemplo de sacrificio heroico en la lucha por la independencia de Puerto Rico, habló ayer en el parque Albizu Campos donde se llevó a cabo la celebración de las banderas, la de Puerto Rico y la de Lares. Lebrón y otros cuatro nacionalistas fueron encarcelados por el gobierno estadounidense por 25 años, por haber disparado balas en la Cámara de Representantes en 1954.

Aunque el gobierno de los EE.UU. le ofreció la libertad si firmaba una confesión, ella nunca lo hizo. Al final de cuentas fué la solidaridad y presión internacional que la liberó a ella y sus compañeros. El valor de los nacionalistas siempre será un ejemplo de lucha y una inspiración para todo el pueblo consciente. Como gritaron ayer en el parque, "¡Mujeres como Lolita, necesita Puerto Rico!"

Gloria La Riva