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**'Bush, Israel—
Stop your violence!'**
Millions march in solidarity with Palestine

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FREE MUMIA!

The revolutionary Black journalist tells Workers World in a prison house interview, 'Don't let them depoliticize my case'

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INS VS. IMMIGRANTS

First it was passengers being dragged off planes. Now it's airport workers being fired for union activities, thanks to the 'Patriot Act.' But immigrant workers are fighting back, with support from some unions

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TARGET EARTH

Bombs-even practice ones-kill and pollute. The Pentagon doesn't want to be bothered with environmental regulations. So it's pressuring Congress to let the brass wage unrestricted war on the environment

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CUBA UNDER BLOCKADE

Women testify on U.S. crimes before an international tribunal. Cubans have relied on ingenuity and mutual support to survive material deprivation and even germ warfare

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By Richard Becker

On March 29 Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon answered the Arab League's "peace plan," adopted the previous day at its meeting in Beirut, with a declaration of war on the Palestinian people.

The new war of re-occupation began with a massive assault on Palestinian cities, towns and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza. The compound of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat in Ramallah, the PA's administrative capital, was the first target. The complex of buildings was invaded and largely destroyed. Arafat remains trapped in two rooms as of this writing on April 3. Many Palestinians have been killed, wounded and rounded up. There is irrefutable evidence that the Israelis executed five Palestinian police officers inside the Ramallah compound. All were shot in the head at close range. Widely published photos of the murder scene show bloodstains on the walls two to three feet above the floor, indicating that the officers were kneeling or squatting when they were executed.

The Israeli offensive quickly expanded to Bethlehem, Qalqilya, Jenin and other West Bank and Gaza cities and towns. Israel has called up 20,000 reservists in preparation for wider attacks and occupation.

The entire Palestinian population in the re-occupied areas has been subject to a reign of terror and collective punishment. Round-the-clock curfews have been imposed on hundreds of thousands of people, electricity and water

lines have been deliberately cut, food and medical supplies blocked. Shoot-to-kill orders are in place to enforce the 24-hour curfews.

A U.S.-Israeli war

A necessary pre-condition for launching this new war was support from the United States, Israel's chief patron and military supplier. Backing from the Bush administration was immediate and emphatic.

In an astonishing display of arrogance that elicited widespread outrage in the Arab world, President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Colin Powell all demanded that President Arafat "do more to stop the violence," even as Israeli troops surrounded him in his shattered and darkened headquarters.

"Do those Americans live with us on the same earth?" asked Wael Hassan, an Egyptian law student protesting the Israeli assault in Cairo, quoted in the Washington Post. "Can't this Bush realize what the Israelis have been doing to the Palestinians for the past 50 years? Well, how could he realize the pain of the poor Palestinians who are living in camps while he is condemning them from his ranch playing with his dogs."

"He [Bush] had a limited vocabulary," said former Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir Masri responding to the president's comments. "He kept repeating terrorism 10 or 20 times and not mentioning occupation. It was as if the

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Endless war meets Intifada
Bush runs into a big contradiction
as he seeks to dominate the globe

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WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

From San Francisco (above) to Calcutta (left), outrage over U.S./Israeli terror against the Palestinians has brought large and militant protests.

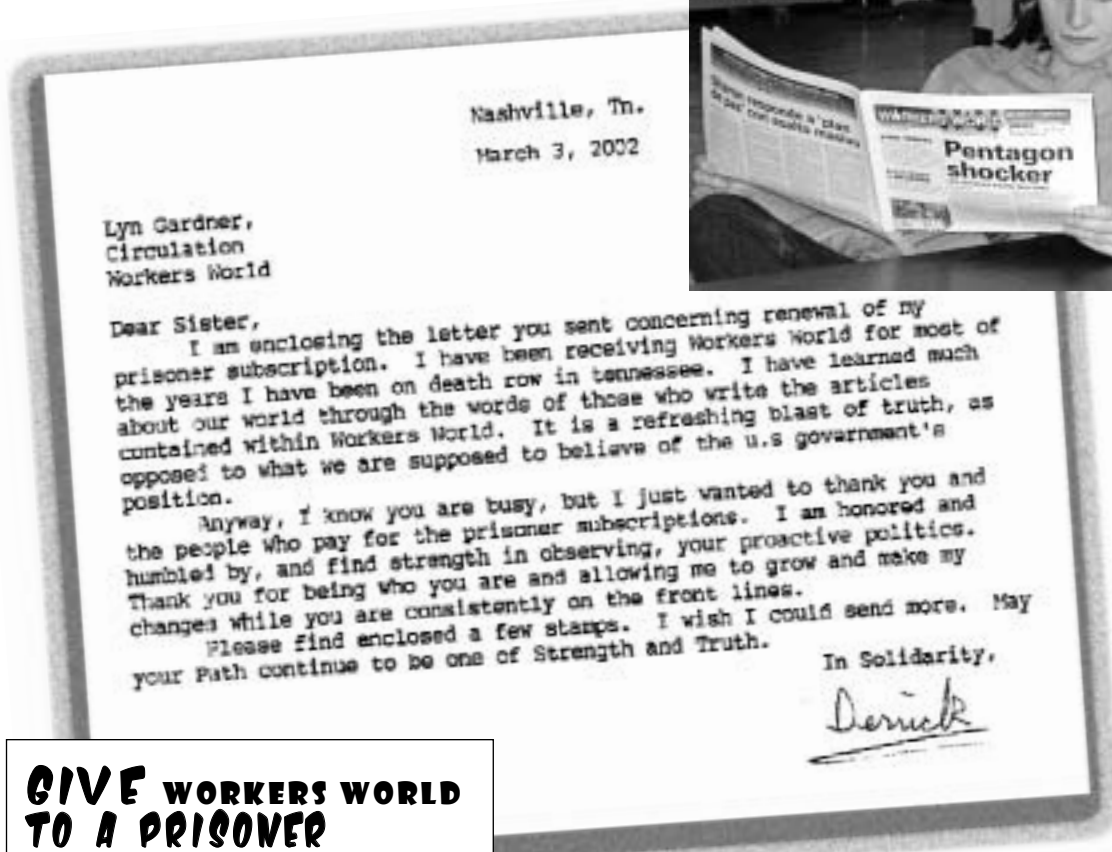
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WW CALENDAR

BALTIMORE

Mon., April 15
 Tax Day Protest. Spend our taxes for jobs and human needs, not war, racism and greed. 5:30 p.m. At the Main Post Office, 800 Fayette St. For info (410) 235-7040.

NEW YORK

Fri., April 12
 Fundraiser for the medical care needs of the survivors of hunger strikes in Turkey. Sponsored by the U.S. Friends of Human Rights Foundation of Turkey. 7 p.m. At Walker Stage, 56 Walker St., betw. Broadway & Church (N, R, A or C to Canal).

PHILADELPHIA

Sat., April 6
 Demand Freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal. 11 a.m. March. Gather at State Office Bldg, Broad & Spring Garden. 2 p.m. teach-in. For info www.millions4mumia.org.

RICHMOND, VA

Fri., April 5
 An evening of discussion with transgender activist/author Leslie Feinberg. Sponsored by Richmond Queer Space Project, Richmonders Against War & Racism, and the VCU Women's Studies Dept. 7 p.m. At Queer Paradise, 120 W. Marshall St. For info (804) 562-4713.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sun., April 7
 Eyewitness report on the people's struggle in Argentina. Meeting sponsored by IAC. Slideshow and presentations. 5 p.m. At Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. betw. 24th & 25th. For info (415) 821-6545.

Sun., April 14
 Workers World Party Forum: Palestine and the U.S. War Drive." 5 p.m. At 2489 Mission St., Room 28. For info (415) 821-6545.

Workers World

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Face to face with Mumia

'Don't let them depoliticize my case'

By Monica Moorehead

Larry Holmes and Monica Moorehead, national leaders of Workers World Party, met with death-row political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal on March 17 at the SCI Greene Unit near the border of Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Our visit with this remarkable revolutionary and journalist lasted for more than five hours, so every opportunity was taken to converse with Mumia on a whole array of political issues, including the heroic Palestinian resistance in the face of monstrous Israeli/U.S. aggression. Mumia conveyed how much he especially admired the self-sacrificing role that Palestinian women are playing in the current phase of the intifada, which began in September 2000.

Other issues discussed with Mumia included his reaction to the outrageous first-degree murder conviction of political prisoner Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, formerly H. Rap Brown. Al-Amin was recently sentenced to life in prison for the killing of a police officer.

Mumia was asked what aspect of his legal case the movement should be most aware of. Without hesitation, he answered that the courts are trying to "depoliticize" his case. Mumia went on to explain, "Well, it's the first time a court has issued a decision on my case and not mentioned a word of my relationship with the Black Panther Party. If this is not depoliticization—what is?"

He was referring to the decision issued this past Dec. 18 by Federal District Court Judge William Yohn, who overturned Mumia's 1982 death sentence but not the first-degree murder conviction. Yohn based his ruling on one out of 29 constitutional rights violations outlined in a federal appeal brief filed by Mumia's former attorneys on Oct. 4, 1999.

This brief had requested that Mumia be granted an evidentiary hearing as a vehicle to allow all suppressed evidence to finally be heard. This evidence, it argued, would prove that he did not kill white Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner on Dec. 9, 1981.

Yohn's ruling stated that the original jury had not been properly instructed by the judge regarding its sentencing "options": that it could sentence Mumia to either a life sentence or to be executed. The ruling implied that none of the other constitutional violations raised in the appeals had any merit. For example, during the original trial Mumia had been denied the right to the legal counsel of his choice. Also, the district attorney's office had put Mumia's political beliefs on trial while not presenting any real evidence to prove his guilt.

His trial was political, but now court denies it

It is common knowledge that after Mumia joined the BPP as a teenager in Philadelphia, the Federal Bureau of Investigation began to keep a detailed file on his political activities. When this file was recovered by the defense, the word "dead" had been written across it.

If the court allowed the district attorney to try Mumia because of his revolutionary beliefs, why was this overlooked in the Yohn decision, along with the other obvious constitutional violations? Yohn's decision was a political one, but couched in legal terms.

Mumia also mentioned that the Yohn decision is an attempt to "deracialize" his case and obscure the prejudicial reaction by the courts towards his political beliefs. The systematic exclusion of Black people from jury selection in criminal cases is grounds for overturning a conviction.

Mumia raised the examples of three relevant Pennsylvania cases, *Hardcastle vs. Horn*, *Commonwealth vs. Basemore* and *Commonwealth vs. Sneed*. In these three cases, it was found that the district attorney used racial profiling to improperly exclude Black people from the jury pool.

Mumia explained to this writer in a March 25th letter that if the district attorney used racial profiling in some cases, wouldn't it have been used when a Black revolutionary's life was at stake? Mumia stated, "Hardcastle involved an arson/robbery and murder of two elderly blacks who ran a speakeasy in North Philly; Basemore involves a robbery of a school where the security guard was killed (a white man); and Sneed involves the shooting of a man in a drug-related dispute. Now is it even remotely logical that the district attorney would use race improperly to exclude blacks in cases involving two old blacks, a security guard and a guy involved in drugs and not use it in a case involving a Black Panther charged with killing a white cop? Does that make sense?"

General statistics show that Black people are four times more likely to be dismissed from jury duty than whites. During Mumia's pre-trial jury selection, Black people were dismissed at a rate four times higher than this national statistic. At one point, the district attorney used racially charged language to dismiss 11 of the 15 African American prospective jurors.

Sitting on the bench during Mumia's original trial—and brought out of retirement to preside again during Mumia's post-conviction hearings in 1995 and 1996—was none other than "hanging" Judge Albert Sabo, a card-carrying member of the Fraternal Order of Police. Sabo has sentenced more people to death row than any other judge in the U.S.

Before his arrest, Mumia was an award-winning journalist known for his hard-hitting exposés of police brutality in Philadelphia, especially in the 1970s when then-



WW PHOTO: LARRY HOLMES

Monica Moorehead on an earlier visit to Mumia before cameras were banned.

Mayor Frank Rizzo unleashed a reign of police terror against the Black and Latino communities and movements.

Still trying to get courts to hear the evidence

Mumia's new attorneys have appealed the Yohn ruling. It is part of their legal strategy to try to force the state and federal appeals courts to hear the videotaped statement of Arnold Beverly, a self-confessed mob hitman who has stated under oath that he, not Mumia, killed Faulkner. They also are trying to get the appeals courts to consider other sworn affidavits from key witnesses who have recanted earlier testimony and now say that Mumia is innocent.

The district attorney has also appealed the Yohn ruling, hoping to have the death penalty reinstated.

Hundreds of people have spent much of their adult lives in prison because of their radical, revolutionary beliefs. The progressive movement has deemed them to be political prisoners and prisoners of war, and rightfully so. The Counter Intelligence Program, or Cointelpro, was initiated in the 1950s by J. Edgar Hoover's FBI. It expanded in the 1960s with the intent to destroy national liberation movements inside the U.S., including the Black Panther Party and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. Mumia and Al-Amin were both members of the BPP. Al-Amin was also a leader of SNCC.

The incarceration of both Mumia and Al-Amin as well as American Indian Movement leader Leonard Peltier and many others is a constant reminder that political repression against those who dare to struggle against all forms of racist injustice is very much alive and well. The progressive movement must continue to find popular ways to build mass support for their freedom.



Boston women rally against budget cuts

PHOTO: AZAH CHE

In honor of International Women's Day, these members of Young Sisters for Justice, part of the Boston Women's Fund, participated in a rally against budget cuts on the steps of the Massachusetts State House on March 15. The rally was called by the Women's Fightback Network of the Int'l Action Center. Targeting Gov. Jane Swift and other politicians, the unionists, students, mothers, city officials, welfare activists and members of the lesbian, gay, bi and transgender community demanded money for healthcare, housing, food, childcare, schools, youth services and AIDS programs, not warfare. Shanee Amani Franklin spoke for Young Sisters for Justice.

—Phebe Eckfeldt

From death row
by MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

Friends like these

This column was written on March 13 before Israel's all-out offensive.

As Israeli tanks rumble through Palestinian lands, and tens of thousands of Israeli troops trash hundreds of Palestinian homes, the president of the United States speaks at a rare live press conference on the U.S. ally's military assault: "I think it's unhelpful."

In one of the Palestinian people's darkest hours, when Ramallah and its refugee camps are being ravaged by over 20,000 Israeli troops, hundreds of tanks and the relentless repression of F-16 air power, the response of the American government is insipid, uninspired and reflective of the overwhelming bias that marks the U.S. stance in regard to the Middle East conflict.

While U.S. diplomats and politicians repeatedly call for peace, the U.S. can hardly be called a fair arbiter. Consider, for example, the role of the U.S. in the halls of the United Nations, whenever Palestinian issues were put forward:

- 1) Resolution 33/110; On living conditions of the Palestinian People (Date: 12/18/78).
Vote: 110-2 (U.S., Israel).
- 2) Resolution 34/113; Request for report on the living conditions of Palestinians in occupied Arab countries (12/14/75).
Vote: 120-2 (U.S., Israel).
- 3) Resolution 34/133; Assistance to Palestinian people (12/14/79).
Vote: 112-3 (U.S., Israel, Canada).
- 4) Resolution 35/169C; Rights of Palestinians (12/15/80).
Vote: 120-3 (U.S., Israel, Australia).

The writer could have extended this list, but the point is made.

Is there any wonder that either Palestinians in particular, or Arabs in general, feel that the U.S. is ill-suited to arbitrate between the two sides?

Whenever a Palestinian harms an Israeli, the U.S. is quick to castigate Arafat for "not doing enough" for peace. When Israeli soldiers or settlers engage in anti-Arab violence, there is either deafening silence from the U.S. or the same type of tepid, lukewarm "unhelpful" comments that President Bush made in response to the recent massive military incursions in Ramallah and refugee camps. The UN Security Council recently voted, with U.S. support, for a resolution approving the establishment of a Palestinian state. Has the U.S. suddenly, like Saul on the road to Damascus, seen the light? Hardly.

In this new age of global war, even the U.S. Empire had to act in a certain way to placate Arab allies like Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The question is what kind of state? An independent, sovereign territory, or a proxy for U.S. and Israeli interests?

A nation is far more than a flag, a capitol and an airport, especially in this age of imperial globalist hunger and unbridled power.

Unless events drastically change, a Palestinian state will be what Israel and the U.S. allow—and no more.

First travelers, then airport workers

Arrests of immigrants spark protests

By Adrian Garcia
Los Angeles

"Que queremos? Justicia!—What do we want? Justice!" reverberated from a crowd of hundreds marching through Los Angeles International Airport on March 28, amidst glares from bewildered travelers. The march's destination was LAX's terminal one, which has been the scene of recent INS raids against the undocumented, mostly Mexican immigrants.

The protesters came from local unions, church groups and immigrant rights groups, and included a great number of immigrant workers. All called for an end to the vitriolic government policy of detaining and arresting immigrants in airports.

In the first two weeks of the new policy, from March 18 to March 27, 184 suspected undocumented immigrants were arrested before boarding flights to destinations throughout the country, reported the Los Angeles Times on March 27. Images of these fascist-like sweeps were broadcast on Spanish-language television, arousing grave indignation within the Mexican and Latin American communities. "I have done nothing but work hard since I got here. The raids are unjust. La migra is just harassing us for being Mexican," commented Alfredo, one of the protesters.

Federal authorities admit the sweeps against immigrants have proven unsuccessful in curtailing the smuggling networks they profess to be fighting. Nevertheless, INS officials have made it clear that the sweeps will continue.

The attack on immigrants at airports by

the federal government has expanded its aim and gone beyond harassing travelers to targeting airport employees. Some 200 airport workers have reportedly been arrested throughout the western U.S. Under "Operation Tarmac" the INS is currently reviewing the employment records of airport employees at LAX. This operation has resulted in arrests in Boston, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Las Vegas and elsewhere.

This blatant assault on immigrants' rights was widened further with a March 27 ruling from the Supreme Court concerning the right of undocumented workers to sue if they are summarily dismissed for unjust reasons. In *Hoffman Plastic Compounds vs. NLRB*, Jose Castro and three of his co-workers were fired for distributing union cards to workers in their plant. In a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court

ruled that illegal immigrants who are wrongly fired for union organizing are not entitled to back pay.

Immigrant rights activists and union leaders immediately condemned the decision and warned that the ruling undercuts the rights of the most vulnerable workers. "This decision will allow employers to victimize undocumented workers and escape the consequences for doing so," stated Jonathan Hiat, a lawyer for the AFL-CIO. As always, the workers suffer legal ramifications for simply working at jobs that are poorly paid while the capitalist bosses exploit the labor force and are freed from legal scrutiny.

This series of aggressive attacks against honest, hard-working people exposes the duplicitous and conniving policy of the Bush administration. Not even a year ago

George W. Bush was courting Mexico's President Vicente Fox and the Mexican-American community in the U.S. with professions of friendship. Fox and others were fooled by Bush's empty promises of coming to a favorable agreement concerning the large number of undocumented workers of Mexican origin in this country. The Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., gave the Bush administration the excuse it was looking for to distance itself from any further negotiations concerning legalization of undocumented workers in the U.S.

The Bush administration's reactionary policies will not go uncontested. The working people's protest at Los Angeles International Airport is just one step forward in the struggle for the rights of undocumented workers.

Amanpour asks a besieged Arafat to 'stop the violence'

What planet is CNN on?

By Leslie Feinberg

Even the phrase "blaming the victim" can't convey the arrogance of CNN journalist Christiane Amanpour's March 29 telephone interview with Yasser Arafat. Speaking by phone to the Palestinian leader in his besieged compound, as several of his closest aides were being assassinated by Israeli troops, Amanpour sounded like a reporter from the antebellum South asking slave rebellion leader Nat Turner or Abolitionist John Brown if they would "rein in the violence."

Arafat was literally being held captive inside his Ramallah headquarters by Israeli settler military might. Tanks circled and shelled his compound. Bulldozers and tank turrets were tearing down the fences and walls around him. Explosions and gunfire crackled and boomed from all directions. Israeli snipers poised on nearby rooftops fired right into the headquarters of the Palestinian Authority.

In the midst of this all-out siege by the

generals of Tel Aviv, the highest-paid foreign correspondent in the world asked the Palestinian leader, "What are the conditions like at your compound right now?"

Arafat was used to the Western press personalizing and trivializing the news. "Still you are not following this aggression against the Palestinian people in all of the West Bank and Gaza," he replied. "They have divided Gaza into three parts, completely separated it. And also the aggression and the attack in Ramallah against my headquarters and against the Palestinian people ... all around. At the same time, they are increasing their forces, their military activities to follow up their aggression against many other places, many other towns, many other cities, many other areas in our Palestinian liberated areas."

Amanpour sounded surprised. "Are you under direct physical threat right now?"

Arafat answered, "It seems that you are not following the TVs all over the world. They have destroyed completely seven of our buildings, completely around my of-

fice and pounded my office with all their armaments. ... Israel is the real terrorist of the occupation. And especially they are using now all the American weapons against us—F-15s and F-16s and ... rockets and bombers and artillery and everything."

Then Amanpour bared the real role of the imperialist media in times of political and military crisis—to refashion the oppressed into the oppressor. Secretary of State Colin Powell, she said, "called on you to rein in the violence. What do you make of that statement, and can you and will you rein in that violence?"

Arafat could not contain his anger. "Are you asking me while I am under complete siege?"

The CNN star reporter repeated the monstrously loaded question: "Are you able to rein in the violence?"

Arafat blew up. "You are covering, with such questions, the terrorist activities of the Israeli occupation and the Israeli crimes."

He hung up. Amanpour, for once, was at a loss for words.

A painless way to help WW

By Gary Wilson

After Sept. 11, the online readership of Workers World soared. In the following months, the WW Web site averaged nearly 1 million hits a month.

In that same period, email subscriptions doubled.

Clearly, Workers World stood out in this period as a unique source for anti-war and anti-racist news and analysis. The kind of reporting found in Workers World can be hard to find, even on the Internet.

This kind of independence comes at a price, however.

"Even though we write, edit and lay out the paper with volunteer labor, it still takes lots of money to produce and distribute," writes Workers World editor Deirdre Griswold in a recent letter to subscribers.

"You know we don't raise funds through advertising. WW struggles to be financially independent so we're free to say what we believe," Griswold said.

The letter is part of a fundraising effort to cover the weekly costs for the production of the newspaper, including the Web site and the free email subscriptions.

If the fund drive is "moderately successful, we'll stay ahead of our creditors. If it's a big success, we'll be able to think about expanding the paper," Griswold said.

It is now possible to donate and/or subscribe by credit card online at www.workers.org/orders. Just go to the Web site and click your way through it.

AIDS rally April 10 in D.C.

By Elijah Crane

On April 10, HIV/AIDS activists will gather in Washington for a national rally to demand that the Bush administration increase its contribution to the Global AIDS Fund and drop the debt of Third World countries.

The call to action, issued by Health GAP, ACT UP Philadelphia, ACT UP New York, Artists for a New South Africa, and Jubilee USA, states, "We will demand that the United States contribute the modest resources—\$750 million emergency supplemental—needed to fight the escalating global AIDS epidemic."

The groups are also seeking access to medications and treatment for all those living with HIV/AIDS.

The statement continues, "As we planned this event, we considered periodically ringing a bell to mark each death from AIDS during the time of our rally. Then we did the math. Some 8,000 people die from AIDS each day. One death every 11 seconds.

"That is not a periodic ringing. It is a

metronome of overwhelming and absolutely unnecessary suffering and loss from a treatable illness."

There are currently 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the world. The largest concentration of those infected, 28 million, is in sub-Saharan Africa.

"Since 1996 when life-extending anti-retroviral therapy first became available for those who could afford it in wealthy countries," the statement explains, "not one person in the developing world has received such drugs as a result of financial assistance from the U.S. or other wealthy governments.

"Not one person. Not one person of the 2.3 million Africans who died in 2001 due to AIDS."

At the same time that George Bush requested a \$48-billion increase in the Pentagon budget to deal out death and destruction, he cut the U.S. contribution to this life-saving fund to a meager \$200 million. The financial goal for the fund is to receive \$7 billion per year from the richest countries.

Budget cuts at home continue to detri-

mentally impact HIV/AIDS service organizations. And as housing, health care and welfare continue to be wiped away, those infected with HIV are some of the hardest hit.

Organizations from around the world have endorsed this call to action. Free buses will be leaving from New York City and Philadelphia to bring out the most oppressed in the struggle against AIDS, along with their supporters.

Actor Danny Glover is scheduled to be at the 12:30 p.m. rally on the west steps of the Capitol. Immediately following the protest, hundreds of AIDS activists and other experts will converge on U.S. congressional offices to demand action.

The national demonstration will conclude with a dinner for participants in the day's activities.

For more information, see www.health-gap.org.

The struggle for AIDS funding will continue. On April 20, at the National March on Washington Against War and Racism, an HIV/AIDS contingent will mobilize to demand money for AIDS care, not for war.

Pressures Congress to drop regulations

Pentagon wages war on environment

By Heather Cottin

Chalk up another casualty of this administration's "War on Terrorism"—the environment.

The Pentagon is calling on Congress to pass a bill that would exempt the Department of Defense from important environmental protection legislation. It threatens many forms of life in the 25 million acres of undeveloped land owned by the U.S. military.

And beyond. The lethal exemptions would apply in air and sea as well.

The bill would grant "exemptions on national security grounds for bombing ranges, air bases and training grounds from sections of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Noise Control Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act," reported the March 30 New York Times.

Both Democrats and Republicans are endorsing the exemption bill.

According to Jeff Ruch, executive director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, whose members include people who work for the military as well as for environmental agencies, the "military will be free to contaminate public drinking water with munitions, discharge air pollutants in bombings and exceed noise limits as well as test weapons that could harm whales and other marine life."

Congress, ever ready to support the "War on Terrorism," is being asked to sacrifice the environment and a variety of

species to "protect our military people, our nation and our way of life," urged Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Col. Cynthia Colin.

Both Republicans and Democrats in Congress have appropriated billions of dollars for the Bush administration's "Per-mawar," as one environmental group dubbed it. Since they show little concern for the thousands of people killed in this ongoing war, why should they care about whales and tortoises and birds?

Patriotic war on the environment

Since the mid-1990s, the Navy has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on a low-frequency sonar system called SurTASS LFA (Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active sonar) to scan the oceans for "quiet diesel submarines." Scientists suspect that this underwater sonar is causing some species of whales to hemorrhage in the ears, thus beaching the whales and killing them. Environmentalists protested in vain. (<http://www.oceanmammalinst.org/lfadates.html>)

The Clinton administration, according to the Las Vegas Sun article, turned a blind eye to environmental depredations conducted at the most covert base in the U.S. military network—Groom Lake in Nevada. The Project on Government Oversight, a government watchdog group, documented the burning of toxic waste in huge, open-air pits at the base.

The activities at Groom Lake caused the death of at least one worker and severe injuries to others. Groom Lake became the site where other government facilities could dispose of their environmental

waste—in violation of environmental laws.

The Pentagon was trying to scuttle environmental regulations before 9/11. On Aug. 22, 2001, WorldCatcher News Network revealed that the Defense Department was about to "attempt to convince Congress to amend the Endangered Species Act to exempt military operations from ESA compliance, according to internal documents received by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility." (<http://www.nonukesnorth.net/Military>)

PEER released "Pre-Decision Working Papers" from the Department of Defense (DOD) titled "Maritime Sustainability Issues and Action Plan." What the DOD wanted amounted to the abrogation of five environmental laws and two executive orders which "impact DOD operations, training and testing in the marine environment," according to the documents, which had been issued on Dec. 17, 2000.

The DOD has been frustrated by the worldwide attention that opposition to the U.S. practice bombing of Vieques island off Puerto Rico has been receiving. DOD also grumbled when a military base in California was designated as a critical habitat for the desert tortoise.

The pro-corporate, pro-military lobby ridicules laws that protect various endangered species, refusing to admit their larger significance. These laws on particular species, whether owls, salamanders or whales, were won by environmental activists as a concrete and measurable way to keep the land, water and air clean enough to sustain life.

Havoc from Hiroshima to Belgrade

September 11 produced the justification the DOD needed to try to knock down environmental regulations in the United States.

The Pentagon's business is to wreak environmental havoc. In Hiroshima, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Yugoslavia they used atomic bombs, Agent Orange dioxins, depleted uranium, and many other ecocidal weapons in an attempt to demoralize the population.

Now the Bush administration wants the go-ahead to widen its experimentation with these weapons in the United States.

The current bill due to be introduced to Congress later this month states: "Federal departments and agencies shall not place the conservation of public lands, or the preservation or recovery of endangered, threatened or other protected species found on military lands" above the need for "realistic training on military lands and in military airspace."

Rep. Joel Hefley (R-Colo.), chair of the subcommittee on military readiness, says all this is "to ensure national security." The environment isn't counted as part of that.

Bush's endless war is bringing the environmental movement into conflict with the U.S. military. The capitalist government's reckless path will only add more people to the struggle. Activists who seek to protect the earth will be joining those opposing this government's militarism and imperialism at the White House on April 20.

Organizing centers:

National Offices

New York City

212-633-6646

San Francisco

415-821-6545

Washington DC

202-543-2777

Baltimore

410-235-7040

Boston

617-522-6626

Philadelphia

215-724-1618

Atlanta

770-989-2536

Chicago

773-583-7728

Detroit

313-831-0750

NYC bus Info call:

1-212-633-6646

Online Ticket Sales:

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ENDORSERES (partial list):

Black Voices for Peace • Howard Zinn • Ramsey Clark • Al-Awda Palestine Right to Return Coalition • Rev. Graylan Hagler, Senior Minister, Plymouth Congregational Church • Chuck Turner, Boston City Council, District 7, MA • Palestine Aid Society • Bishop Thomas Gumbelton, Auxiliary Bishop, Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit • Simmons College Feminist Union • Anti-War Committee, Minnesota • Prof. Richard Lewontin, Harvard University • Chicago Coalition Against War & Racism • Rev. Curtis Gatewood, President, Durham NAACP • Int'l Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu Jamal • WESPAC • American Muslims for Global Peace and Justice • Sally Davies, President, AFSCME District Council 92 • Charlotte Coalition for Peace & Justice • National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America • Queers For Racial & Economic Justice • United American Indians of New England • Committee in Support of the Iraqi People

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

against WAR & RACISM

saturday

APRIL 20

at the White House
11 a.m.

STOP BUSH'S WAR AT HOME & ABROAD:

- Demand money for education, housing, jobs and healthcare— not for war & corporate giveaways!
- Stop the racist attacks!
- Defend civil liberties, civil rights and immigrant rights!

in **San Francisco**
Assembly 11a.m.
Dolores Park



Endless war meets Intifada

Uprising reveals the flaws in

By Fred Goldstein

“Operation Protective Wall”—the terrible military offensive being waged by the Israeli occupation army against the heroic Palestinian resistance in the major population centers of the West Bank—is meant to be the final, intensive, all-out phase of a prolonged, incremental military campaign to crush the liberation movement that began in the winter of 2000.

This bloody offensive, with its virtual imprisonment of President Yasser Arafat, comes as the extremist, counter-revolutionary regime of Ariel Sharon and his Likud Party, to which the Labor Party is chained, rides a wave of support from the Bush administration in its post-Sept. 11 phase of imperialist military expansionism.

On the part of U.S. imperialism, this offensive is an arrogant attempt to secure and stabilize once and for all its only truly reliable base in the Middle East—an objective no U.S. imperialist administration has been able to accomplish since Washington played the decisive role in establishing and supporting the colonialist settler state of Israel in 1948.

For Sharon and the Israeli ruling class, it is an attempt to destroy all elements of armed resistance and political authority—the germs of true statehood—achieved by the Palestinian struggle.

Israel is Washington’s only truly reliable base in the Middle East because it is tied by its umbilical cord to U.S. and Western imperialism. It was founded and shaped by reactionary bourgeois leaders from the U.S. and Central and Eastern Europe. These leaders explicitly gained the support of imperialism by openly proclaiming their intention to be an outpost of the West.

In pursuit of the establishment of the Zionist state, Theodor Herzl, Chaim Weitzman and David Ben-Gurion over the years appealed to the German Kaiser, the Turkish empire, the British Colonial Office and finally to the rising star of U.S. imperialism for support. They appealed to everyone but the inhabitants, the Palestinians.

A fundamental contradiction

Since the mass expulsion of the Palestinians by force and terror in 1948, the destruction of homes and villages, the expropriation of lands by the settlers, and the establishment of the colonialist, privileged position of Israel in the Middle East, U.S. imperialism has been wracked by an overriding contradiction. Its greatest military asset in the region was also its greatest political liability in the Arab world. This is the fundamental contradiction that the Bush administration is trying to solve.

This contradiction was immeasurably multiplied by the 1967 war in which the Israelis, with U.S. backing, occupied the West Bank, Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula, creating a second generation of refugees throughout the Arab world who were fleeing occupation. Military rule was instituted over an additional 1 million Arab people.

The consolidation and expansion of the Israeli regime were carried out under the cover of the Cold War. Only massive backing by Wall Street and the Pentagon was able to sustain Tel Aviv because this brand-new, brutal colonial state was forcibly established against the background of the rising worldwide tide of anti-colonialism.

The British were being pushed out of India, the French were being driven out of Algeria, the Dutch out of Indonesia. The Chinese Revolution liberated one quarter of humanity. The Vietnamese and Korean revolutions were on the march. Sub-Saharan Africa was rebelling, from Kenya to Ghana to Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) to South Africa. The Cuban Revolution soon exploded just 90 miles from the shores of the U.S. And all the while, an atrocious colonial crime of wholesale expulsion and occupation was going on right in front of the eyes of the Arab world.

Imperialism made sure to secure its base by seeing that, in addition to billions in arms, sufficient financial support flowed in to maintain a privileged position for the Israeli population as a whole relative to the Arab peoples.

But the general rise of the socialist camp and the advance of the anti-imperialist struggle worldwide—especially the toppling of the colonial, feudal monarchy in Egypt, followed by the Iraqi and Algerian revolutions and struggles in Libya, Yemen and elsewhere—ultimately created an international environment of support for the Palestinian masses. They were able to start a



Cairo, Egypt



Istanbul, Turkey

struggle against the occupation, particularly after the 1967 June war.

A force of last resort

Thus, since 1948 imperialism has relied on the Israelis as the force of last resort whenever a crisis was brewing. The Israeli regime invaded Egypt in 1956 when the government of Abdul Nasser nationalized the British-owned Suez Canal. The 1967 war was a preemptive strike against a growing nationalist movement in Syria and in general against the rising tide of militancy in the Arab world, which was a threat to the oil monopolies and the Pentagon.

The \$100 billion given to the Israeli government since 1967 has been meant to keep the 300 million Arab people in check. It threatens their regimes, which in turn hold the people back from challenging imperialism.

Washington can regard no Arab king or prince, sultan or emir—no matter how rich, no matter how tied to the oil companies and bankers of imperialism—as safe. They rule over super-exploited oppressed peoples, impoverished by the multinational corporations. Their regimes are inherently unstable. As opposed to this, the Israeli state is not only tied to imperialism militarily, financially and politically, but is based upon a privileged position in the Middle East and is an oppressor nation.

The Palestinian resistance represents for the Arab people in general their own aspirations to finally be free of oppression in the form of neocolonialism. The Israeli settler state represents the tortured colonial past of the masses as a whole. Every act of aggression and repression by Tel Aviv, which is armed to the teeth with U.S. planes, helicopters, missiles, bullets, communications technology, and so on, is regarded as an act of colonial bullying and terror. And it is totally associated with Washington.

It is not out of love for the Jewish people that the anti-Semitic U.S. ruling class has nurtured the Israeli ruling class for decades. It is pure class interest of the oil billionaires and the Pentagon that defends them and is intertwined with them.

But this support has come up against Palestinian resistance year after year, since the founding of Israel. And with each generation it has grown stronger. With each new round of struggle, the hatred of Washington in the Arab world grows deeper and wider. So long as the Palestinians resist, U.S. imperialism and its Israeli clients will always be on the defensive, living in fear of their futures in the Middle East.

Attempt to liquidate movement

In the period of general reaction since the collapse of the USSR and the decline in the worldwide struggle, the U.S. military and foreign policy establishment decided that the situation was finally favorable for them to try to contain, if not liquidate, the Palestinian national movement.

They supported the Israeli attempt to crush the first Intifada. In that four-year-long national uprising from 1987 to 1991, some 2,000 Palestinians were killed and 117,000 wounded. But they could not defeat it. Washington and Tel Aviv were forced to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization after 20 years of struggle.

The first Bush administration and then the Clinton administration tried, by dragging out the Oslo “peace process” for seven more years, to take from the Palestinians the victory they had won on the battlefield. They

were trying to impose a Bantustan settlement upon the Palestinians whereby their territories would be carved up into 200 enclaves; their air space, water supply, travel, and so on would be controlled by the Israeli government. A few thousand settlers would get the lion’s share of the resources while roads on which only Israelis could travel would divide up the Palestinian territory.

When this form of liquidation failed, Ariel Sharon made his infamous armed march with 2,000 soldiers on the al-Haram al-Sharif mosque, setting off the second Intifada in September 2000. This Intifada was met with the utmost brutality by the Israelis. U.S. imperialism was faced once again with its perennial contradiction in the Arab world: Its closest ally, by once again trying to destroy the Palestinian resistance with U.S. military support, was reviving anti-U.S. sentiment throughout the Arab world. Furthermore, the Palestinians were dealing more and more damaging blows to the Israelis.

Then came Sept. 11 and the decision by the Bush administration to launch an all-out, worldwide offensive against any and all regimes that stood in the way of the total domination of the globe by Washington, Wall Street and the Pentagon.

Yet even as the Pentagon was busy incinerating people with megabombs in Afghanistan, the Palestinian people would not curb their struggle against the onerous 53-year occupation, despite the Apache helicopters, F-16s, U.S.-made tanks, assassinations, murder of civilians, destruction of buildings and olive trees, blockades, intimidation at military checkpoints, and all the features of the Israeli regime’s campaign.

Now the Bush administration has decided that, after 53 years, it will put an end to the ugly contradiction of having to try to placate the Arab masses by maneuvering with the Palestinian leadership while giving military support to the repressive Israeli settler regime. The Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld solution, being loyally peddled to the international community by Colin Powell, is to go all out to subdue the Palestinians, using the instrument of the racist, genocidal butcher Ariel Sharon.

Politically, the Bush method is to equate the self-sacrificing resistance of the Palestinian struggle with the horrific Sept. 11 bombings in the U.S. by calling Sharon’s offensive part of the “war against terrorism.” The administration feels this is its political strong point.

But there is a vast difference. One channels self-sacrifice into a conspiracy to harass imperialism through an underground network that is devoid of any progressive ideology. The other is a genuinely popular, many-faceted, all-encompassing liberation struggle of the Palestinian people. The differences are obvious, and no one in the Arab world or the oppressed anywhere will be taken in by Bush’s strategy, as the mass demonstrations supporting the Palestinians show.

A whirlwind of resistance

Such a policy will never work. The demonstrations on the streets of Cairo, Amman, Damascus, and all over the Arab world have already shown that Washington will ultimately reap the whirlwind of resistance should it continue to pursue this course.

The determined campaign of suicide resistance bombings shows the determination to end the occupation has taken such deep root among the people, young and old, women, children and men, that after 35 years there is no way to eradicate the struggle.

Bush plan to dominate world



Baghdad, Iraq



Amman, Jordan



Beirut, Lebanon

Given the depth of this resistance, the long-term contradiction of the Israelis is insoluble. They cannot sustain an occupation and they cannot withdraw. Their settler state will be in permanent crisis until the Jewish people change their leadership, break with Washington, and come to terms with the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

Right now, however, the Palestinians are suffering heavy blows. And 99 percent of their problem originates in Washington. The U.S. has given the Israelis more arms than all its other client regimes in the world combined. Yet when one shipload of arms is discovered on

its way to Palestine, Bush has the audacity to consider this a high crime.

For the imperialists, any attempt by an oppressed people to arm themselves against their oppressor is a crime. But it is perfectly within reason for the oppressors to arm themselves to the teeth.

This is what the movement in this country must address. The Palestinian people are waging a heroic struggle against unbelievable odds. The movement in this country must do everything in its power to change those odds in favor of the oppressed by fighting to close the Pentagon pipeline to the war criminals in Tel Aviv.

Arab world engulfed in protest

By G. Dunkel

Since Israel's all-out invasion of the Palestinian territories, millions of Arabs from Iraq to Morocco have taken to the streets daily to support their sisters and brothers under attack. Tens of thousands in Muslim countries like Iran, Turkey, the Sudan and Bangladesh, but also in Western Europe, southern Russia and Japan, also protested Israeli violence and its patron, the United States government.

In Yemen and Libya, the demonstrations were massive and militant. On March 26, hundreds of thousands of Yemenis took to the streets of the capital Sanaa, according to the French Press Agency, chanting "Freedom of Jerusalem is a must," "No to capitulation" and "Let's resist in Iraq and Palestine." The official SABAA news agency estimated that 1.5 million people took part in the march. General Popular Congress Secretary General Abdul Karim al-Iriyani led it and called on the Arab League to support the Intifada.

On March 31 Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi led a demonstration of more than 100,000 people in Tripoli and declared Arab countries must "open their borders and let through the Libyan volunteers to Jerusalem."

Street fighting in Egypt

Egyptian television covered the Israeli occupation of Ramallah live. It was reported that a scene in which an Egyptian driver, who was dying after the Israeli Defense Forces had shot him, asked the person filming him to take care of his son caused people to openly weep in the streets and coffee shops where they were watching.

But they didn't just weep. They got out into the streets and fought the cops. Over 50,000 Egyptians protested March 31 and April 1, most in Cairo but also in northern cities in the Delta. In Cairo, the cops tried to control the demonstrators with tear gas and water cannons. When they were turned back from the Israeli Embassy, they attacked a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet. Nine police injured by thrown stones and 16 demonstrators went to the hospital. Thirty demonstrators were arrested.

The slogans of the protest challenged the collaboration and collusion between Israel and the United States and called on Egypt to break off the relations it had established with the Zionist state in 1979.

Street protests in Egypt have been illegal and harshly repressed ever since President Sadat's assassination in 1981. For Egyptian cops to attack Egyptian students to protect the Israeli Embassy while the Israeli army was

attacking Palestinians in Ramallah adds to the political crisis in Egypt. Egypt is the largest and most influential Arab state.

Some 100,000 Iraqis marched in Baghdad on March 30 denouncing Israel's "savage attacks" against the Palestinians. "Palestine is Arab, down with Zionism," "Don't worry Arafat, with our blood we will redeem Palestine," "Beloved Saddam, hit Tel Aviv," the demonstrators chanted. The protesters carried portraits of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Some read poems over loudspeakers calling for "jihad (holy war) for the liberation of Palestine."

In Jordan, the government had to allow the spontaneous feelings of its citizens, a majority of whom are Palestinian, to be expressed in the streets, even though the Jordanian monarchy has warm diplomatic relations and a long border with Israel.

Jordanian state television, as quoted by the BBC, even said, "For the second consecutive day, Amman and a number of cities and refugee camps witnessed marches that hailed the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and condemned the criminal Israeli acts against the Palestinian people and their sacred issue and legitimate national authority."

According to the French press, about 20,000 people marched in Amman. There were numerous militant protests in and around refugee camps, where burning barricades were set up and traffic was stopped. There were some skirmishes with the cops, but none as serious as the ones in Egypt.

A general strike was called on April 1 in Jordan in solidarity with the Palestinian people and to back up calls for a boycott of U.S. goods and a holy war against Israel.

Marches in refugee camps

Tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees demonstrated on March 29 in refugee camps in Lebanon to denounce the assault on Ramallah.

An estimated 30,000 refugees marched at the refugee camps of Rashidiyeh, Bass, Burj Shamali and Ain al-Helweh in southern Lebanon.

"Death to Sharon, long live Arafat," they chanted at Ain al-Helweh on the outskirts of the southern port city of Sidon. Referring to Arafat's nom de guerre, they chanted, "We are with you Abu Ammar, we are all martyrs to save Palestine."

More than 20,000 refugees demonstrated at the Shatila and Burj Barajneh camps south of Beirut while

6,000 people marched at the Beddawi camp in northern Lebanon. Shatila was the site of an infamous massacre of Palestinians orchestrated by Ariel Sharon in 1988.

On April 1, according to the German press agency Deutsche Presse-Agentur, hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinians demonstrated outside the heavily guarded U.S. Embassy.

"We want to bomb embassies and planes if Arafat is killed," demonstrators chanted. "We want to fight, we want to die." "Stop the massacres against the Palestinians," read a placard.

Demonstrators were led by four ambulances and doctors of the Palestinian Red Crescent, whose volunteers had been stopped from evacuating the wounded and the dead in the besieged town of Ramallah.

The protesters were stopped by Lebanese antiriot police 100 feet away from the embassy, located in Awker, northeast of Beirut.

Protests even occurred in statelets like Bahrain and Kuwait, whose feudal rulers are totally dependent on the good wishes of the United States. Leaders throughout the Arab world are watching their streets as thousands protest what they see as Israeli aggression and the "passivity" of their governments in protecting the Palestinians. These protests, if they grow, could shake their hold on power.

Protests in Western Europe

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in England called a protest on March 30 that had originally been against the U.S. threats of nuclear war against Iraq. Some 8,000 came out, more than traditionally show up for this traditional Easter protest. CND vice president Bruce Kent led the crowd in a chant of "Justice for Palestine" and criticized Israel's military policies.

Easter peace protests in Germany were also larger than normal and raised the issue of Palestine. In Canada, small cities like Edmonton in Alberta and Halifax in Nova Scotia had demonstrations on Easter Sunday, March 31, of a thousand or so in support of the struggle of Palestinians. A few thousand rallied in Canada's capital, Ottawa.

A protest in Krasnodar in southern Russia, as reported by the BBC on March 30, was mainly directed at U.S. special forces being based in the neighboring country of Georgia. But a contingent of Palestinian students also marched and burned some Israeli flags while an "effigy of the American president was burnt on the banks of the River Kuban."

From sunny California to icy Chicago

Support for Palestine echoes across U.S.

By Deirdre Griswold

Palestinian demonstrations had already been scheduled in many U.S. cities for Saturday, March 30, to mark Land Day—annual protests over Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands where the demand is raised that those in exile be allowed to return to their homeland.

But then came the news that Israeli forces had invaded the major Palestinian cities on the West Bank and were holding President Yasser Arafat hostage. As word got around of the worst brutality against Palestinian civilians since the 1948 expulsions, shock and horror turned into a determination to turn these demonstrations into a mass outpouring by Palestinians and their supporters.

From sunny California to ice-bound Chicago, from Atlanta to Seattle, thousands turned out over the weekend to demand Israel get out of the occupied territories and to support the heroic Intifada. It was the most spontaneous and massive sign yet of the growing support for the Palestinian struggle in this country.

Here's a summary of reports received by this newspaper.

3,000 protest in Los Angeles

By the time the march kicked off, 3,000 people were shouting, "Sharon/Bush you can't hide, we charge you with genocide" and "Hey, hey, ho, ho, the occupation has got to go."

Demonstrators demanded an end to the killing of innocent Palestinians by Israeli military forces and for an immediate end to Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands.

The march and rally included people from throughout the Southern California region, Palestinians and Arab-Americans, peace, religious and community groups. There was a diversity of racial and ethnic representation and a large participation of youth.

A procession of coffins draped with the Palestinian flag lined each side of the march in commemoration of the more than 1,200 Palestinian men, women and children who have been murdered by the Israeli military. Hundreds of Palestinian flags were carried in solidarity with the national

Anti-abortion politics

Bush denies Afghan women aid

By Sue Davis

Remember last October when President Bush swore to lead the United States into battle to free Afghan women from the tyranny of the Taliban?

Remember that First Lady Laura Bush was so upset about rabid fundamentalists denying women basic health care needs that she magnanimously invited some Afghan women to tea?

All that's history. The crocodile tears the Bushes shed for Afghan women have been dried by anti-abortion politics.

In January Congress approved a \$34-million stipend to the United Nations Population Fund. The fund, as part of its services, supplies soap, clean underwear and sanitary napkins to Afghan women in refugee camps. Even though Bush had already signed the bill, he refused to allow the State Department to release the funds after anti-abortion fanatics screamed that the UN family planning workers promote forced abortion and sterilization. In fact, the fund supports treatment for women suffering complications from unsafe abortions, but does not perform abortions.

Even Secretary of State Colin Powell has more than once tried to appease the anti-abortion forces by clearing the UN fund of such allegations. He stated, according to *Newsday*, that the work of the fund is "fully consistent with overall U.S. efforts in developing countries to raise the standard of living, reduce poverty and lessen disparities of wealth among countries."

But that didn't satisfy the right wing. So the basic health care needs of Afghan women refugees are still being denied by extreme fundamentalists. Only now the zealots are home grown in the U.S.A. and headed by President Bush himself, who only used world sympathy for Afghan women as an excuse to carry out a murderous imperialist invasion of the country.

and political aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Speakers included Michel Shehadeh, Western Region Director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC); Maggie Vascassenno of the International Action Center; and Jim Lafferty of the National Lawyers Guild.

San Francisco: Refugees speak

Some 1,000 people marched down Market Street to UN Plaza in a militant protest against the reign of terror by the U.S. against the Palestinian people. The demonstration was organized by the ADC San Francisco and the Free Palestine Alliance. Featured at the ending rally were two young Palestinian women from the Dheisheh refugee camp that is under siege by Israeli forces.

Seattle: 20 groups call action

At least 700 Arab people and their supporters, led by Palestinians, marched through downtown Seattle on Land Day to protest the U.S./Israeli war and occupation of Palestine. The action was called by 20 organizations, including Arab, social justice and peace groups. On March 18, 250 people had rallied in front of the INS building here to protest the arbitrary detention of three members of the Hamouis family, who come from Syria. Safouh, Hanan and Nadin Hamouis—the father, mother and daughter—had all been arrested at gunpoint in late February by the INS and FBI under the secretary of state's absconder initiative. Rallies will be held every Thursday until their release.

Chicago: 1,000 march in freezing rain

More than 1,000 protesters braved snow and freezing rain on April 1 to march on the Israeli Consulate demanding an end to the U.S.-backed war on the Palestinian people. They came mainly from Chicago's Palestinian, Arab American and Muslim communities, with support from anti-war activists. The protest came just two days after 250 people had held a very vocal vigil in the upscale "Miracle Mile" shopping district to oppose Israeli terror.

The downtown march and rally were initiated by the Coalition for Justice in Palestine. The demonstration demanded an end to the occupation, to Israeli violence and to U.S. aid to Israel. It called for the right of return for the Palestinians.

Community organizers have called for another demon-



stration at the Israeli Consulate April 6 at noon. Leaders of the Palestinian, Arab and Muslim communities have vowed to pull out all stops in bringing people to Washington April 22 to protest at the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, widely regarded as the most powerful pro-Israel lobbying group in the United States. That conference features a joint appearance of George W. Bush and Ariel Sharon and will be met with a massive protest.

Dearborn: 5,000 march against occupation

In this suburb of industrial Detroit, where there is a large population of Arab workers, nearly 5,000 marched to City Hall, led by a contingent of schoolgirls chanting "Money for education, not for occupation." Speakers at a rally included State Sen. George Hart, who said that "the genocide against the Palestinian people must stop." David Sole from the International Action Center announced the April 20 demon-

'Bush, Israel—stop your

Continued from page 1

Palestinians are the aggressors."

The strong support from Washington for Israel's massive assault on the Palestinians may appear paradoxical to some. Massive demonstrations have swept the Middle East, worrying the pro-U.S. regimes in Egypt, Jordan and elsewhere, and seemingly making it more difficult for the U.S. to move ahead with its plans for a new war against Iraq.

Others see the Bush administration's stance as evidence that it is being "held hostage" by the pro-Israel lobby; that is, that the administration has assumed a position that runs counter to its own interests in order to satisfy the needs of Israel.

The reality is that the most extreme, adventurist and militarist elements, who tightened their grip on the reins of government in the aftermath of Sept. 11, view the U.S.-armed Israeli offensive as the opening of a new, wider war of domination in the Middle East.

In order to carry out the war, and particularly a new attack on Iraq, conventional wisdom says that the Palestinian-Israeli struggle must first be calmed down. Even the most pro-U.S. leaders in the Arab world, like Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, have repeatedly stated that an attack on Iraq while the struggle was still raging in Palestine would produce "an explosive situation" in the region.

Vice President Cheney's tour of 10 Middle East countries in March dramatically illustrated the problem. While it was intended to line up support or acquiescence for a new U.S. war on Iraq, Cheney ran into the Palestine-Israeli conflict in every Arab capital he visited. The Palestinian struggle had become an obstacle to the administration's war plans.

The argument in Washington has been how to remove that obstacle in order to get on with the wider Middle East

agenda. One side, led by Secretary of State Powell, has advocated a renewal of negotiations. Powell was clearly behind the Saudi plan passed by the Arab League. The idea was that the Palestinians would call a halt to the struggle and talks would then resume, possibly leading to the creation of a Palestinian mini-state on part of the territory of the West Bank and Gaza. Powell's aim is to liquidate the struggle by splitting the Palestinians and making the Palestinian Authority beholden to the U.S.

But there is another view in Washington, as Sharon was well aware, of how to achieve the same objective, the liquidation of the Palestinian resistance movement.

Cheney, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and others see the Palestinians as a whole as a force that must be crushed and destroyed as part of subjecting the region as a whole. And it is this view that is holding sway in the Bush administration today.

Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld have repeatedly promised a prolonged and far-flung war. Phase I of the endless war was Afghanistan. Phase II is Palestine.

If they succeed in these opening phases—and success is far from assured—Iraq, Iran and Syria will be future targets, as indicated in remarks by both Bush and Rumsfeld on April 1.

The administration's aim is the recolonization of the entire vital Middle East, home to two-thirds of the planet's known petroleum reserves.

To achieve their neocolonial objectives, the U.S. leaders are seeking to crush all who would resist. The Palestinian struggle is at the very heart of the liberation struggle in the Middle East, as evidenced by the militant solidarity protests that have swept the Arab world in recent days.

The unambiguous support of the Bush administration for the Sharon offensive, and the fact that the Pentagon has supplied the F-16 fighter-bombers and Apache helicopters being used by the Israeli military, make it clear



PHOTO: MIKE/ INDYMEDIA

stration against war and racism in Washington, D.C.

Houston: Palestinians crowd downtown

Many hundreds of Palestinians filled the sidewalks around the building housing the Israeli Consulate. Response from rush-hour traffic was good. There were a lot of youth and many families with children in tow, plus elders from the community. It was a broad display of righteous anger against Sharon and his U.S. backers who fund the death and destruction in occupied Palestine.

Members of Houston ANSWER were there as well as university students and members of the New Black Panther Party. Also, lots of cops.

Atlanta: Rally at Mandela sculpture

More than 200 people marched to the Israeli Consulate in a pouring rain chanting and carrying flags and signs. The demonstration was organized by Al-Awda Georgia and Students Organizing for Justice. It was supported by the International Action Center, Federation of Indian Leftists, and the American Friends Service Committee, among others. A rally was held at a sculpture celebrating the release of Nelson Mandela from prison.

Thanks to John Parker, Bill Hackwell, Jim McMahan, Bill Massey, Cheryl LaBash, Gloria Rubac and James Raynor for these reports.

violence!

that this must be called what it is: the U.S.-Israeli war against the Palestinian people.

Anti-war movement must support Palestinians

The stakes in this struggle are very high, first and foremost for the Palestinians, who are fighting for their long-denied right to self-determination. But it is not only the Palestinians who will be greatly affected by the outcome.

If the combined might of the U.S. and Israel—which are the first and fourth-rated military powers in the world—were to be successful in crushing the Palestinian Revolution, new wars against Iraq and other countries in the region would likely come sooner rather than later. U.S. global domination would be greatly enhanced, to the detriment of the masses of working people around the world and here at home as well.

The Palestinian struggle, in other words, is today the key barricade in the world struggle against imperialism.

All who truly stand for justice and against war must rally to the side of the Palestinians in their heroic and unequal fight. This is especially true in the United States, the heartland of Palestinian oppression, where the traditional peace movement has too often in the past looked away from the struggle in the Middle East.

Twenty years ago this June, in the midst of the U.S.-backed Israeli invasion of Lebanon, an anti-nuclear war rally was attended by a million people in New York City. The organizers of that rally disgraced themselves and their movement by refusing to address the carpet bombing of Beirut taking place as they gathered. No anti-war or peace movement is worthy of that name if it does not forthrightly defend the Palestinian people today.

Solidarity with the Palestinian cause will be a central focus of the April 20 marches called by the International ANSWER coalition in Washington and San Francisco.



Atlanta

PHOTO: INDYMEDIA



San Francisco

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL



Chicago

PHOTO: CHRIS GEOVANIS/CHICAGO INDYMEDIA



Los Angeles

PHOTO: RAY WHITE

U.S. bombs sow a new crop

Afghan heroin floods market

By Leslie Feinberg

Get ready for a bumper crop of poppies in Afghanistan. Once processed, it will flood the streets of this country with tons of low-priced heroin.

On March 31, 7.5 tons of unrefined morphine were seized by police in Turkey, a NATO power that is playing a big role in Bush's war in Afghanistan. This biggest drug haul ever in Turkey is believed by the authorities there to have come from Afghanistan.

On April 1, a front-page New York Times article reported that U.S. and British officials admit Afghanistan will produce enough opium this year to regain hegemony of the world supply. And the story was no April Fool's Day prank.

But wait a minute. Isn't the Bush administration spending billions of dollars "securing" Afghanistan against those it calls the "bad guys"? And isn't the Bush administration also carrying out a "war on drugs" in Colombia?

The surge in morphine and heroin from U.S.-occupied Afghanistan shows that U.S. military intervention has nothing to do with stopping drugs. On the contrary, U.S. wars since Vietnam have paralleled big increases in narcotics reaching this country.

So why is Washington intervening in Colombia with military advisers and billions of dollars?

A popular revolutionary army has been fighting the Colombian wealthy class for the last three decades. Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, when he was commander of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, invented the term "narco-terrorists" to slander these revolutionaries.

Those who are trying to change Colombian society and who risk everything fighting for the workers and peasants are branded drug lords in films and television dramas here. In fact, the U.S. is giving military and economic aid to the same corrupt and brutal ruling elite in Colombia who owe much of their affluence to cocaine commerce.

Back in Afghanistan, it's an open secret that many of the CIA-backed mercenaries who fought from 1979 until a decade ago to defeat a secular and progressive government were allowed to earn extra cash by growing and selling opium. In imperialist double-speak, these drug lords were dubbed "freedom fighters."

Now they're back in business. Big time.

In the mid-1990s the Taliban, proponents of a severe Muslim fundamentalist ideology, took over in Afghanistan. The CIA's own reports reveal that under the Taliban, opium output plunged from an estimated 4,042 tons in 2000—some 71 percent of the world's inventory—to just 80 tons last year.

The Times article notes, "What little opium Afghanistan produced in 2001 came almost entirely from the 10 percent of its territory then controlled by the Northern Alliance, the backbone of the new government." In other words, from the faction of gangsters the U.S. was grooming to install as the regime after the Pentagon toppled the Taliban.

Now, U.S. officials "have quietly abandoned their hopes to reduce Afghanistan's opium production substantially this year and are now bracing for a harvest large enough to inundate the world's heroin and opium markets with cheap drugs."

Once the U.S. installed Hamid Karzai as the titular head of state of Afghanistan, he publicly proclaimed a ban on opium cultivation. But, the Times adds, "While foreign officials have applauded Mr. Karzai's ban, it was issued only after the poppies had been planted and without any viable means of implementation."

Don't expect the "war on drugs" to aim its massive weapons at the new Afghan administration as long as it supports U.S. economic and geopolitical dominion in the region.

But from a public relations position, what is the imperial solution when one excuse for war blocks the path of another? Rank them to get military traffic flowing again. "The fight against terrorism takes priority," the Times quotes a British law enforcement official. "The fight against narcotics comes in second." Virtually all the heroin hawked on the streets of the English isle comes from Afghanistan.

In fact, as with the "war against terrorism," Wall Street and its White House will formulate any pretense to power the military juggernaut. And if the truth gets in the way of their crusade to command the world's capitalist markets and the profits that flow from them, then crush it under the treads of a military tank.

So when the heroin deluge pours into the U.S. and England, perhaps its domestic casualties should be listed as victims of "friendly fire."

It's always a lie

It started with a lie. That phrase, inspired by a history researcher's new book on Angola, fits all U.S. imperialism's interventions, from the opening of a propaganda library to the opening of a bombing campaign. Almost 27 years after Washington began funding a war against newly liberated Angola, the official papers have finally been unearthed that reveal the lies behind a generation of bloody conflict in that African country.

In 1975, the Ford administration claimed it had to intervene because socialist Cuba was helping the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). The MPLA had just won a liberation war against Portugal, the colonial power, and Washington thought it could overthrow the new African government. The excuse in those days was the "cold war," and Cuba was represented as a dangerous communist enemy.

Henry Kissinger, then secretary of state, claimed both at the time and more recently in his memoirs that Washington was only responding to Cuban military support for the MPLA. Further, he said he knew nothing about apartheid South Africa's backing for the counter-revolutionary army of mercenary leader Jonas Savimbi.

Using recently released U.S. and Cuban documents, Piero Gleijeses of the Johns Hopkins School of International Studies has exposed these two basic lies. Before the Cuban troops went there, the U.S. took steps to try to defeat the MPLA. And it collaborated with the South African racists.

Kissinger, who also plotted the 1973 Chilean coup that slaughtered 30,000 worker organizers, knew exactly what he was doing in Angola. His responsibility went beyond false words.

While the New York Times and then Reuters have reported on Gleijeses's new book, they neither gave the story prominence nor did they point out just how serious Kissinger's crime was. The U.S.-backed war against the Angolan revolutionary government has left at least 500,000 dead and tens of thousands crippled for life by U.S.-made land mines.

Both apartheid South Africa and U.S. imperialism supported Jonas Savimbi and his counter-revolutionary organization, UNITA. Just this year the Angolan army finally killed Savimbi, defeating his armies.

The U.S. intervention was state-sponsored terrorism bordering on

genocide. This truth should be spread throughout the world, and it raises many other questions.

For example, what role did U.S. secret agencies play in the slaughter that took place in Rwanda in 1994? It's well known that the current Rwandan leader, Paul Kagame, got his military training in the U.S. and is tight with Washington. Did U.S. covert aid to his organization help provoke the bloody and desperate civil war and the hundreds of thousands of deaths?

In neighboring Congo, what was the role of the U.S. in the assassination of Laurent Kabila a year ago? What did the U.S. agencies do to promote a civil war and an invasion of that country that has cost 3 million lives?

What lie will Washington use to try to justify its next attack on Iraq?

Kissinger isn't the only one who has been caught in lies. His Democratic Party twin, Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was Jimmy Carter's national security adviser, finally admitted that U.S. intervention against the progressive Afghan government began in 1979 before Soviet troops were invited into that country. This completely demolishes the official myth that the intervention was in response to a "Soviet invasion." In fact, it was the other way around. Washington's intervention caused immense suffering in Afghanistan—which continues with the present war against some of the same fundamentalist forces that the U.S. supported back then.

Rather than wait until 2020 for a diligent researcher to dig out the papers proving that the excuses for today's imperialist adventures are all lies, it's wisest to assume that Washington at this very moment is spending a lot of money manufacturing cover stories for current and future interventions. The same class of the banking/corporate elite runs foreign policy today. If anything, their insatiable appetite for profits is more uncontrollable than ever.

Let's not forget that these interventions are monstrous crimes against the people of the world—and against the most fundamental interests of the workers and poor in the U.S., who are forced to pay for and fight in them. Stopping imperialist wars and interventions is an inseparable part of the struggle for jobs and justice at home.

For more information on the documents Gleijeses used, see <http://www.gwu.edu/nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB67/>.

Jailed Yugoslav leader ill

Doctors demand better care

By John Catalinotto

Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is suffering from life-threatening illnesses and receiving inadequate medical care from his NATO jailors in The Hague, say supporters in Yugoslavia.

In a release published on March 26, the Freedom Association—Yugoslav Committee to Liberate President Milosevic noted that two prisoners at The Hague had already died due to lack of medical care.

They wrote that the 60-year-old former president suffers not only from chronic high blood pressure but also from "malignant hypertension," in which the pressure can rise quickly and therefore threaten damage to vital organs. In addition, he has angina pectoris, indicating heart problems that need regular care.

For 10 days in March, Milosevic was running a high fever. Prison doctors said it was from a flu, and prescribed only aspirin for his care.

Medical experts from Belgrade University say that "he is under total life risk in such circumstances" and that "he needs an urgent checkup by medical specialists that the NATO 'tribunal' has prohibited up to now."

The Freedom Association makes the point that since Milosevic has been conducting his own defense, he is under constant severe stress at the court. He is doing this with little help on the spot, and this stress itself can set off problems from one of his existing illnesses.

The "trial" of Milosevic opened Feb. 12 with the NATO-backed prosecution claiming he was responsible for 10 years of war in the Balkans. Their original strategy appeared to be aimed at using the proceedings to make NATO's propaganda case against Serbia and Yugoslavia, with Milosevic as the symbol of resistance to NATO.

When Milosevic began his defense, he succeeded in exposing the U.S. and NATO leaders as those who plotted and carried out steps to dismantle Yugoslavia and plunge the Balkans into war. His presentation won support and changed minds wherever it was broadcast in any thorough way. In Serbia itself, a million people regularly watched the trial and, according to polls, considered that Milosevic was waging a heroic and effective defense.

Some observers fear that with the case going so poorly for NATO, those running the court in The Hague might find it convenient if Milosevic's health were to deteriorate.

The professors at Belgrade University—Dragana Bojic, cardiologist; Vojislav Suvakovic, infectious disease specialist; and Milos Janicijevic, neurosurgeon—ended their analysis by stating that "We are not talking about the quality of life, we are fighting for life!"

These professors, in a March 25 note to the authorities reviewing Milosevic's medical condition, demanded that Yugoslav doctors familiar with his medical history have access to the imprisoned former president.

'Free Mumia' heard in Moscow

By Larissa Kritskaya

Three hundred people marched on the U.S. Embassy in Moscow on March 17 to demand freedom for political prisoners in the United States. The Peoples Communist Movement of Russia organized the demonstration. Young people led the march carrying a banner that read, "Free the political prisoners, the freedom fighters."

Speakers at the protest included A. Reaniks of the Central Committee of the Communist Party; P. Oleg Fedukov of the anti-capitalist labor federation Zashita (Defense); Elena Gromova of the Stop NATO Movement; Leonid Petrovsky of the PCM; and Viktor Anpilov of the Workers' Russia movement.

"We have the names of 200 American people, locked up in U.S. prisons for years for their political points of view," Anpilov told the crowd. "They are anti-war activists and anti-racist protesters. People who devoted their lives to the struggle against the ruling capitalist system in the USA. Foremost among them is the word-renowned journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal."

Anpilov also reminded the crowd about Russian anti-capitalist political prisoners Igor Gubkin, Nadejda Raks, T. Nechorosheva and E. Limonov. He condemned U.S. war policy around the world and called for solidarity with the people of Palestine.

"We have an obligation before the world to restore the Soviet Union that was stolen from our children," said PCM leader Petrovsky. "We will be united with the world of oppressed people who are fighting against imperialism. International unity will bring us victory."

The protesters delivered a letter calling for the freedom of Mumia Abu-Jamal to the U.S. Embassy.

A solidarity message from the U.S.-based International Action Center, translated into Russian, was distributed on the streets of Moscow. The message exposed the hypocrisy of the U.S. proclaiming itself the international guardian of human rights when it has the death penalty, the world's largest prison system, epidemic police brutality and rampant racist oppression.



WW PHOTO: SUE KELLY

Members of the ANSWER coalition at April 3 press conference announce plans for anti-war protest at White House on April 20 and an emergency demonstration April 5 at New York's Times Square in solidarity with Palestinian resistance to U.S./ Israeli terror attacks

Testify to international tribunal on blockade

Cuban women detail crimes of U.S.

By Gloria La Riva
Havana, Cuba

Biological warfare, military invasion, economic blockade and sabotage: these acts of U.S. aggression against Cuba were roundly denounced last month before a court of Cuban women in Havana.

Convened on March 22 in the capital's Convention Center, the International Tribunal of Cuban Women Against the Blockade heard 27 testimonies from women and five expert witnesses. The women spoke of the tragedies they have suffered from U.S. imperialism's tactics of terror against the population.

As more than one speaker noted, the Cuban people are the direct target of the 43-year U.S. blockade because the people are the bedrock of the Cuban revolution, a reality that the U.S. ruling class has never reconciled itself to.

Amidst the emotional personal narratives were heroic words of resolve to defend the gains of their revolution at any cost.

Mauria Herrera Lobato, a nurse, spoke of the hemorrhagic dengue epidemic that broke out in Cuba in July and August 1981. Her 4-year-old niece, Sianny Herrera Suarez, died three days after falling ill with fever, despite heroic efforts to save her.

Evidence of U.S. biological warfare

Her testimony was preceded by the expert witness of Soledad Díaz Otero, director of the Cuban Observatory of Science and Technology. She quoted from an extensive Cuban investigation that concluded the epidemic was caused by a unique virus strain, "New Guinea 1924, serotype 02 ... a strain engineered in laboratories."

The U.S. government's biological warfare labs were the only ones with access to the virus and its mosquito vector, "aedes aegypti." Dengue had never existed in Cuba before 1981. Within weeks of its sudden appearance, 344,000 people fell ill. Later, in 1984, anti-Cuba terrorist Eduardo Arocena, head of Omega 7 in Miami, admitted that hemorrhagic dengue fever had been introduced by U.S.-based terrorist groups.

Díaz added, "The U.S. government denied us the possibility of importing the only product—malathion—existing at that time to combat the mosquito.

"It was necessary to seek the help of the World Health Organization to import the product through another country." Of the hundreds of thousands infected, 158 died, 101 of them children. Only with the massive and organized efforts of all medical workers and the population was the epidemic contained and defeated.

Nurse Herrera cried as she concluded, "Those deeds, we can never forget. My brother ran screaming in the streets, she was his only daughter. ... That's why I come here to charge U.S. imperialism for the death of that child."

Making do without medicines

The U.S. blockade—a cruel, methodical strategy by imperialism—has caused hardship to Cuba. This in turn has been felt most by women, children and the sick. Cuba's inability to buy medicines from the U.S. has created a great burden on the health system.

Dr. María Cecilia Santana Espinoza, a pediatrician, said, "In 24 years of practicing pediatrics, imagine how many times I've tended children with streptococcal in-

fections, simple situations that could be resolved with penicillin, and how many times we had no possibility to obtain that medicine.

"I'm here to testify about the pain over so many years I've seen in my patients, their parents, and especially the mothers.

"And yet, we are pleased by the Cuban state's continued encouragement of the development of our principal resource, which is the human resource, that each day innovates. In spite of everything, today we have health indicators that are only comparable with developed countries."

Hardships of Special Period

Other testimony covered women's hardship in everyday life, especially over the last 12 years of the Special Period since the fall of the Soviet Union. The period of the 1990s was especially rough.

Teresa Segura Cisneros, an economist, gave testimony on the creativity of the Cuban people in overcoming adversity in that time. "I spent almost a third of my time cooking and we needed a lot of imagination to do it. First you have to think what to cook, then how to do it without fuel.

"Most of the time we had to cook with firewood, together with other neighbors and outside. I learned the value of nature. I took advantage of the nearby river that allowed us to wash because it doesn't depend on electricity. Sometimes I looked angrily at my washing machine. I learned to use it as a table, putting a tablecloth over it.

"Though it was probably the most difficult moment, it was unforgettable because you always learn that your life is linked to the people surrounding you. I shared the heroism of many people. We did not close even one school in Cuba but we had to repair old books and children had to write



WW PHOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

Mirta Rodríguez Pérez (right), mother of a Cuban jailed in the U.S. for gathering information on right-wing terrorists, talks to Maria Cristina Fuentes, whose husband was murdered by U.S.-backed counter-revolutionaries in 1962.

with ink from tree leaves."

Listening to the sisters tell about the U.S. government's endless attacks, it was clear that only a planned, socialist system such as Cuba's, and a revolutionary people determined to defend it, could survive the U.S. blockade as they have.

The court convenor was Corinne Kumer, director of "El Taller" of Tunisia. A panel of seven jurists heard the testimony: Denis Halliday, a spokesperson against the U.S. blockade of Iraq; Puerto Rican leader Eunice Santana; Fatima Meer, an opponent of South Africa's former apartheid system; German-Mexican professor Heinz Dieterich; Argentinian Nora Cortina of Madres de la Plaza de Mayo; Jouba Sokona, a Senegalese activist from El Taller, and Gloria La Riva from the Free the

Five Committee in the U.S.

The jury issued a report that was quickly submitted to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights now meeting in Geneva. It states in part, "The blockade confirms the gross illegality of sanctions as a tool to destroy the lives of innocent civilians in order to destabilize a government." It concluded that they are therefore genocidal in nature.

It calls for re-establishment of a United Nations with pre-eminence of the General Assembly, economic compensation to Cuba for damages, and freedom for the five Cuban political prisoners held in the U.S., who penetrated right-wing Cuban groups to stop terrorist actions against their homeland.

As U.S. Navy resumes bombing

Struggle continues in Vieques

By Berta Joubert

In the early morning of April 1, despite mass popular opposition in Puerto Rico, the battle group USS George Washington began pounding the eastern tip of the island of Vieques with bombs. The U.S. Navy had earlier issued a statement that it was resuming war exercises because they are essential to the "war on worldwide terrorism."

"The struggle continues," reads a statement released by the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques (CPRDV), the group leading the anti-Navy organizing activities, as it announced a resumption of protest actions.

This latest round of military exercises, dubbed COMPUTEX (Composite Unit Training Exercises), is planned to last for 22 consecutive days before the battle group leaves for Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf. Some 2,000 U.S. military personnel are staffing the 11 warships with their F-18s, F-14s and helicopters.

But the people of Vieques are determined to stop the bombing, or at least make it as difficult as possible to conduct war business as usual.

Protest actions started on the night of March 30 with a vigil at the front gate of the naval compound, Camp García. It was followed by a convergence of 150 activists

from both the Big Island and Vieques. Defying U.S. military orders that ban civilians from entering the restricted territories, they traveled by boats to "Cayo La Yayí," a small key in the bombing range.

Once in the key, they planted a big cross symbolizing the death and destruction that the Navy has brought to the island for 60 years. The next day, Easter Sunday, protests continued in front of the gate, making it difficult for military vehicles to enter or exit the base.

Weekend of caravans and protests

At one point Tito Kayak climbed on a military bus leaving the compound in an effort to stop it. Kayak was recently released from a New York federal prison after serving a year for hanging a huge sign from the Statue of Liberty saying "Peace for Vieques."

Over the weekend car caravans and protests continued throughout the island in a very tense environment with a heavy police presence. An extra 200 heavily armed men were added to the normal Puerto Rican police force. The new police commissioner, Miguel Pereira, is an ex-military officer and previous federal prosecutor. He has added a yet more repressive character to the local police since the passing of the "Patriot Act."

Several confrontations occurred be-

tween protesters and police and military personnel. During one of the protest events, a woman was injured—shot by a military officer.

The police have encouraged provocations. Two men carrying a U.S. flag were allowed to parade in front of the anti-Navy protest. Activists, enraged at the sight of this hated symbol of the military presence in their island, grabbed the flag away. One of the men, representing a small group called "Renacer Estadista" (Statehood Awakening), punched CPRDV leader Ismael Guadalupe, forcing him to defend himself. Assault charges were then filed against Guadalupe and Nilda Medina, another CPRDV activist.

During the incident, the police hit several members of the press, prompting immediate criticism by the Overseas Press Club and the Puerto Rican Journalists Association. Despite the threatening presence of the military and the police, the shootings and the use of teargas, the protesters remain defiant.

Five women from the Puerto Rican Independence Party were arrested on the morning of April 1 after entering the bombing range in an act of civil disobedience. The CPRDV announced that several squads are preparing to enter the restricted area. The struggle definitely continues.

Conforme el caos económico se profundiza

Protestas masivas estremecen a Argentina

Por Bill Hackwell y Alicia Jrapko
Buenos Aires, Argentina

La lucha política en curso en Argentina continúa su ascenso con protestas masivas en Córdoba, Mendoza, Buenos Aires y otras ciudades. Esta ola de protestas se dieron en el 26 aniversario del golpe militar que resultó en la desaparición de 30.000 personas y permitió una escala en la penetración imperialista en el país.

En Córdoba, la segunda ciudad más grande en Argentina, 20.000 personas se reunieron el 22 de marzo en la intersección de la Avenida Colón y la General Paz y marcharon a la Casa de Gobierno. La marcha convocada por las organizaciones HIJOS y por Abuela de Plaza de Mayo. Estas organizaciones están compuestas por hijos y abuelas de los desaparecidos.

Un significativo número de sindicalistas llevaron grandes contingentes de sus filas de membresía. Los sindicatos que fueron representados entre otros, Luz y Fuerza, La Unión de Empleado Municipales Unidos, La Unión de Trabajadores Gráficos, La Unión Provincial de Trabajadores Sanitarios y la Confederación de Trabajadores Argentinos.

La lucha contra la privatización ha activado al movimiento sindical en un intento de preservar sus empleos. Las corporaciones transnacionales son propietarios de casi todas las industrias básicas en Argentina. Las corporaciones extranjeras son dueñas aún de carreteras y los peajes cobrados en las carreteras son un acto de gran robo atroz.

También participaron en las manifesta-

ciones estudiantiles universitarios y de escuela secundaria al igual que organizaciones de base de las asambleas populares. Las asambleas populares son nuevas organizaciones políticas de barrios que emergieron durante el mes de diciembre del año 2000 y son independiente del gobierno.

También presente estuvieron partidos políticos de la izquierda, incluyendo a la Izquierda Unida, Patria Libre, Partido de los Trabajadores, Partido de Liberación y otros.

Al pasar la marcha frente al banco más odiado en Argentina—el Banco de Boston—un grupo de jóvenes rompieron ventanas, pintaron las paredes, rompieron una máquina Terminal Bancaria y prendieron fuego al césped del banco.

Manifestantes llenas las calles de Buenos Aires

La protesta más grande se dio lugar en Buenos Aires. Unas 250 mil personas llenaron la Avenida de Mayo desde el Congreso hasta la Plaza de Mayo frente a la Casa Rosada.

Además recordar al grupo reaccionario del golpe de hace 26 años y la demanda de justicia por los desaparecidos, la manifestación fue también una lucha contra el actual gobierno Duhalde, visto por muchos como un sirviente al imperialismo.

Otras marchas se integraron a la principal con grandes contingentes que representaban a la mayoría de distritos de Buenos Aires. La presencia de muchos del Movimiento de Trabajadores Desempleados (MTD) tuvo gran significancia. Miem-

bros de este grupo, regularmente conocidos como piqueteros, han conducido bloqueos en las carreteras en toda la nación, huelgas de brazos tendidos y los lugares de trabajo que están a punto de ser cerrados y protestas espontáneas contra objetivos transnacionales.

Lo que también hizo deferente a esta marcha de la anteriores fue la participación de los partidos capitalistas nacionales establecidos, incluyendo al Partido Radical, el Partido Intransigente y aún grandes elementos del propio Partido Peronista de Duhalde.

Las hoyas y cazuelas que eran común en protestas previas ahora han sido reemplazadas por grandes secciones de tamborileros que acompañan a cada contingente. Petardos de alta potencia también se unieron al sonido ensordecedor de la marcha en esta calle importante donde el poder político de Argentina reside.

Los principales organizadores de este evento fueron las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo. Hebe Bonafini, su presidente, dió un discurso revolucionario antes de comenzar la marcha frente al palacio presidencial. Ella demandó el enjuiciamiento de los políticos corruptos que han robado a este país y han permitido que el Fondo Monetario Internacional y la Banca Mundial roben a Argentina.

Ella agregó, “Es un crimen mucho más grande el abrir un banco que el robarlo.” Bonafini comenzó y terminó su discurso cantando el himno revolucionario, “La Internacional”.

El 25 de marzo, el enfoque político había cambiado a la crisis económica que está

fuera de control. Aquí en la capital, en toda la calle San Martín, los bancos y las oficinas de cambio de moneda tienen largas filas de gente que desesperadamente tratan de comprar dólares estadounidenses por temor a que el peso salte a más de 20 por dólar. El cambio ahora es de tres pesos por cada dólar.

La mayoría de esta gente, de la clase media, han guardado efectivo en sus hogares. El peso que una vez se mantuvo artificialmente enclavado a uno a uno con el dólar por medio de los préstamos del FMI está ahora comenzando a flotar. Eso es porque los oficiales del FMI se rehusaron a dejar que la deuda argentina de \$141 mil millones de dólares incrementara.

Allí parece estar la pregunta de que si los imperialistas quieren o no mantener a Duhalde en el poder. Aunque este ha cedido ante las demandas de austeridad del FMI y la Banca Mundial, él se ha rehusado a seguir los mandatos en ciertas cuestiones, incluyendo el hacer que las provincias paren de imprimir sus propio dinero en certificados de inversión locales que no tiene valor. La razón por la que Duhalde ha sido renuente a hacer esto es porque esta es la una forma que las 25 provincias pueden pagar a los trabajadores gubernamentales.

Esta es una situación donde es imposible satisfacer a los bancos y a las aspiraciones de los trabajadores. Pero todavía que ver quien va a ganar. Pero las protestas masivas y la inminente falla económica puede precursar un posible período revolucionario en Argentina.

20 DE ABRIL

Protestan contra la guerra y el racismo alrededor del mundo

El 4 y 5 de marzo, activistas de los Estados Unidos trajeron la convocación del grupo ANSWER Internacional por un Día Internacional el 20 de abril de Protesta Contra la Guerra y el Racismo al Segundo Encuentro Internacional en Solidaridad y por la Paz en Colombia y Latinoamérica que se llevó a cabo en la Ciudad de México.

El llamado fue recibido con una reacción sumamente positiva. Como resultado, manifestaciones simultáneas están planeadas para el 20 de abril en Tabasco, Oaxaca, y el Distrito Federal de México; en Santo Domingo, San Salvador, Santiago de Chile, Managua, Buenos Aires, el País Vasco, en Madrid y en Montreal.

Se están planeando a la vez protestas en más ciudades aún de América Latina.

Activistas del Japón se están movilizándose para montar una protesta frente a la embajada de los Estados Unidos en Tokio. El noviembre pasado estos mismos

activistas juraron responder a todas las iniciativas de esta clase del grupo ANSWER Internacional.

En los Estados Unidos, centros de movilización en casi 100 ciudades están organizando para llevar gente a la marcha en la Casa Blanca en Washington, D.C. y a una marcha en San Francisco por la Costa Oeste de los EE.UU.

La convocación del grupo ANSWER de organizar protestas alrededor del mundo declara: “La necesidad de solidaridad internacional en contra de la carrera bélica de los EE.UU es extremadamente peligrosa y se está extendiendo. Nunca ha sido más importante... Enfrentamos a un momento muy crítico.

“Fuerzas militares estadounidenses y británicas siguen con la guerra en Afganistán —una guerra lejos de terminar. En semanas recientes los EE.UU. ha enviado tropas a las Filipinas, Yemen y a la

República de Georgia, y ha anunciado sus planes de incrementar la intervención militar en Colombia y en el Perú.

“La guerra de Israel y los EE.UU. sigue en contra del pueblo palestino, que resisten a la fuerza abrumadora con su valentía y resolución.

“Un asalto nuevo contra Iraq —un país devastado por más de 11 años de bombardeos y bloqueo—ya no es una pregunta de si van a atacar sino de cuando, según los estratégicos de la administración de Bush.

“Planes nuevos de una guerra nuclear en contra de siete países, cinco de ellos que no tienen armas nucleares, han sido enviado al Congreso por el Pentágono. Estos planes desafían al derecho internacional, acuerdos internacionales y los derechos humanos más elementales.

“Para auspiciar a sus planes militares maníacos, la administración de Bush está pidiendo que el presupuesto del

Pentágono sea incrementado hasta alcanzar a un medio billón de dólares—\$500,000,000,000—para el año 2007, mucho más que los gastos militares combinados de todos los demás países del planeta.

“El programa de Bush amenaza a toda la humanidad. Tiene que ser parado, y la única fuerza capaz de desviar esta carrera peligrosa es el movimiento de los pueblos del mundo.

“La coalición ANSWER Internacional urge a todos los activistas en contra de la guerra, los sindicalistas, y de las organizaciones de mujeres estudiantiles y otros progresistas que organicen protestas en contra de la guerra y el racismo el día 20 de abril.”

Por más información, envíe cartas electrónicas a ANSWER@afgj.org o visite el sitio del Web, <http://www.internationalanswer.org>.