

As Israeli tanks spread terror

Bush demands veto on Palestine leader

By Richard Becker

Even by U.S. presidential standards, it was a speech of astounding imperial arrogance. As one headline put it, "Speech Stuns Palestinians and Thrills Israelis."

While President George W. Bush's June 24 Middle East speech unsurprisingly offered no "road map" for the creation of a Palestinian state, it very much pointed in the direction of a new, wider war in the region.

Not only did Bush issue dire warnings to the long-suffering Palestinian people if they didn't toe the U.S. line, he at the same time threatened Iran, Iraq and particularly

Syria, which was given a virtual ultimatum.

At the same time, Bush ordered the Palestinians to get rid of their elected leadership and replace it with one acceptable to Washington.

Bush blamed not the Israeli occupation but Palestinian resistance to that occupation for the crisis in the Middle East.

The government of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon responded to the long-awaited speech by accelerating the full reoccupation of the West Bank. As of this writing, all the major cities and towns, with the exception of Jericho, are reoccupied. Two million Palestinians are confined to

their homes under a 24-hour, shoot-to-kill curfew. At least 11 Palestinians have been killed, including several children, for violating the lockdown.

Speech reeks of colonialism

It would be hard to make up a statement more reeking of colonialism than the June 24 speech, as a few of Bush's quotes illustrate:

"Peace requires a new and different Palestinian leadership, so that a Palestinian state can be born. I call on the

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Hundreds on death row affected

Behind the Supreme Court rulings

By Deirdre Griswold

He was called "Governor Death" before his brother's Florida political machine and the Supreme Court made George W. Bush president of the United States. As governor of Texas, he sent more people to their deaths than any other U.S. politician.

Now, the same conservative court that declared Bush the winner of the 2000 presidential election has made two rulings limiting the application of the death penalty.

The first came on June 20, when the court ruled six to three that it was unconstitutional to execute people who are mentally disabled.

Of the 38 states that have the death penalty, nearly half of them—18—already have such prohibitions. The court overturned an earlier Supreme Court decision that had allowed such executions, ruling that a "national consensus" has since developed against executing people with reduced mental abilities.

According to Amnesty International, the United States has executed 35 mentally disabled people since the death penalty was restored in 1976.

Right-wing stalwarts Antonin Scalia, William H. Rehnquist and Clarence Thomas opposed the decision. Two other conservative justices, however—Sandra Day O'Connor and David H. Souter—joined the four liberals in the decision.

The ruling involved the case of Daryl R. Atkins, an African American man who faced execution in Virginia. Former State Department officials and all 15 members of the European Union had submitted briefs on his behalf. The U.S. diplomats argued that the execution of mentally impaired people created problems for this country's relations with the rest of the world.

Judge-imposed death sentences struck down

The second Supreme Court ruling on death penalty cases came June 24. The court ruled seven to two in Ring vs. Arizona that judges cannot impose capital punishment; only juries can.

If applied retroactively, this decision would immediately invalidate death sentences for 168 people held in five states—Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana and Nebraska—where judges have put them on death row. An-

other 529 people in four other states—Alabama, Delaware, Florida and Indiana—may also be affected, because juries there are limited to "advising" judges on sentences.

Juries are less likely to impose capital punishment than judges.

In this ruling, three of the five more conservative justices voted with the majority.

The movement against the death penalty will be analyzing these decisions to determine whether they are a step in the direction of abolishing or strengthening capital punishment as a whole.

The fact that several very conservative justices voted for them shows the dilemma the capitalist state finds itself in. Capital punishment has been abolished in most of the industrialized countries of the world. The United States and Japan are the only two governments to have executed mentally disabled people in recent years, according to Amnesty International. Many countries refuse to extradite accused persons to the United States because of the large number of executions here.

All over the world, there is growing apprehension over the arrogant doctrine of the Bush administration and the Pentagon that says they have the right to intervene wherever and whenever they choose around the globe, in the name of an endless war against terrorism. When U.S. citizens travel abroad, they are bombarded with questions about what is happening in this country.

How can Washington unilaterally abrogate agreements, from global warming to limits on nuclear weapons?

How can it ignore the sentiment of the vast majority of the world on racism, on land mines, on hunger, on AIDS—and on the death penalty?

How can it imprison thousands of people without any due process of law, as it has done in the military prison camp at Guantanamo and in Immigration and Naturalization Service detention centers around the country?

These criticisms come from bourgeois elements as well as from mass movements of the workers and oppressed. That's why those representing the United States internationally feel its image needs a makeover.

Inside the United States, monopoly control of the media gives the impression that the public welcomes the lurch toward dictatorial powers by the Bush administration. But

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NEW YORK CITY

WW editor speaks at Pride rally

Speakers at this year's New York City Pride rally included Dr. Carolyn Goodman, a social justice activist whose son Andrew was one of three civil rights workers murdered by the Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi in 1964, and a gay firefighter who pointed out that if he were killed in the line of duty his partner would not receive spousal benefits. The following excerpts from the talk given by Leslie Feinberg, a managing editor of Workers World newspaper, were well received by the Pride audience.

WW managing editor Leslie Feinberg, left, with sign language interpreter.



WW PHOTO: MATTHEW SCHWARTZ

I want to thank Pride rally organizers for inviting me to this stage, not just as a transgender lesbian, but as a socialist, as a revolutionary. It was a brave decision for them to make during a reactionary climate in this country, and an important decision.

Whenever our movement finds itself in a new political period, we have to discuss: Which way forward? So a rally like this one is really a giant town meeting. What demands do we put forward? Who is blocking our path and menacing us; who are our allies?

We are a mass movement now, with many currents. We embrace a vast segment of the population, including many nationalities, economic classes, sexes, genders and desires; many religions as well as non-believers. So, divergent political beliefs march under the lesbian, gay, bi and trans movement banners.

I don't think anyone would disagree that we are in a changed political period following Sept. 11. Perhaps nowhere is that felt more acutely than here in New York. President Bush says the solution to the Sept. 11 attacks is his "endless war." And secret roundups of unknown numbers of Arab, South Asian and Muslim people in the U.S., being held indefinitely without charges—in many cases, incommunicado. And, John Ashcroft and the FBI tell us, expect that all of

our civil liberties may be trampled for the sake of "safety."

But are bombs and racist repression the answer? Or will they just make the situation worse? And is "peace" really what this endless war is all about?

We won't all agree on how to respond to this new political situation. But at a time when Bush has declared that anyone who dissents and speaks up is a "terrorist," the health and vitality of our struggle depends on every current in our movement defending our left wing and its right to speak out.

We have to put war, racism and attacks on civil liberties on our movement agenda.

When World War I broke out, leaders of the German gay and trans movement backed their own rulers in that bloody inter-imperialist war and it derailed their struggle. Why? Because it emboldened the most conservative, reactionary currents; demoralized and isolated the most progressive. The movement gave its proxy to the same reactionary rulers who oppressed its ranks.

In the U.S., the 1950s anti-communist witch-hunts generated an overall climate of fear and deepened anti-gay witch-hunts. Eventually, this iron-fisted repression provoked a left-wing upsurge that led to the Stonewall Rebellion.

After police violence ignited the

1969 uprising, the left wing of the gay liberation movement stood up for the Vietnamese against the Pentagon war. We fought Cointelpro—movement sabotage by the FBI—of which we were a target. We defended the Black Panthers, Young Lords, Chicano and American Indian Movement and women's liberation movement from murderous state attacks.

This expression of unity won tremendous respect and solidarity with our movement from struggling peoples here and around the world.

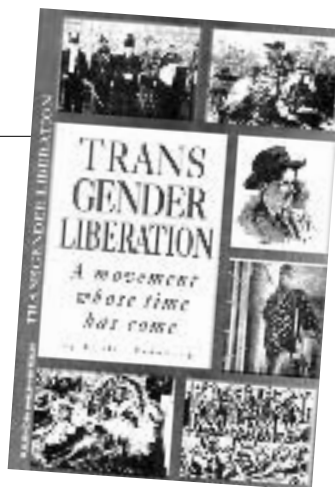
That is why today I am so proud to see growing ranks of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans activists help lead the anti-Pentagon war movement, struggling to stop the racist mass detentions of Arab, South Asian and Muslim people, and demonstrating solidarity with Palestinian liberation.

Join me and many others when we protest at FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C., on June 29 to say: "Hell no, we don't want your Cointelpro!"

When we stand up and fight state repression, racism and war, we are the spirit of the Stonewall Uprising.

Long live the spirit of Stonewall combatants Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson!

Long live the spirit of Stonewall!



Transgender Liberation

A movement whose time has come
By Leslie Feinberg

A Marxist view of when and why transgender oppression arose. It asks why there is so much bigotry and violence against transvestites and transsexuals, who decides the 'norms' of gender expression, and why some people are punished for their self-expression.

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WW CALENDAR

CHICAGO

Thu., July 11
Eyewitness Palestine.
Featuring Richard Becker,
International Action Center;
Mahmud Ahmad, Free
Palestine Alliance; and new
video "Palestine Fights for
Freedom." 7 p.m. At Room
161-Schmitt Academic
Center, DePaul University-
Lincoln Park Campus. For
info (773) 878-0166 or email
billbeth@rcnchicago.com.

tingent at Dolores Park (19th
and Dolores Sts.) 3 p.m.;
march begins at 7:30 p.m.
For info (415) 821-6545.

Sun., June 30
Pride Parade: Join No Pride
in Occupation/Free Palestine
contingent in San Francisco's
Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Transgender
Pride Parade. Call Workers
World for info about gather-
ing site at (415) 826-4828.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sat., June 29
March on the FBI and Justice
Department headquarters.
Noon. Pennsylvania Ave.
between 9th and 10th St.
NW. For info New York (212)
633-6646, Washington (202)
332-5757, Chicago (773)
583-7728, San Francisco
(415) 821-6545, Boston
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SAN FRANCISCO

Sat., June 29
Dyke March: Join
International ANSWER con-

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DETROIT

Unions slam Colombian death squads

Fifty angry workers, led by the textile union UNITE, marched outside the Metropolitan Uniform store across from Police Headquarters in downtown Detroit June 20. Detroit's City Council recently approved a contract for Metropolitan to supply uniforms for 5,000 police officers. What the council didn't know was that the uniforms are to be manufactured in Colombia.

Speakers from many unions exposed that union activists in Colombia face execution by death squads, often hired by corporate management. They explained that the United Steelworkers filed suit last year against Coca Cola for the death squad killings of two union organizers in one of its bottling plants there. Leaders of miners and oil workers have also been targets of U.S.-financed killers.

Hundreds of Colombian unionists

QUEENS, N.Y.

Don't get on the bus!

As of June 24, Transportation Workers Union Local 100—representing drivers, mechanics, cleaners and inspectors—had been on strike for a week against three privately owned but publicly subsidized bus companies in Queens, N.Y.

While New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg claims it's a private dispute between the companies and their unionized employees, the city gives these companies over \$100 million per year in subsidies. The city government is also deeply involved in contract negotiations with the

union.

The city owns many of the buses and some of the facilities. It holds the franchise to the routes the companies run—which it doles out every two years. The union and many of the 116,000 affected commuters, who currently have to use alternatives to get to work, feel that these companies are just a fig leaf for the city to pay substandard wages and benefits.

While the city has demanded that the union accept the same wage package offered to the main municipal

union, AFSCME District Council 37, it won't contribute money to bring Local 100's medical benefits up to par.

The total amount in dispute is less than \$1 million, but the union feels it can't submit to a loss of parity with other city workers.

"This is a Bloomberg bus strike. This is a billionaire's bus strike. We have to turn up the pressure on City Hall," Ed Watt, secretary-treasurer of Local 100, told 500 workers at a rally June 21.

-G. Dunkel

Capitalism and global warming

Bush fiddles as Arizona burns

By Heather Cottin

Is global warming causing wildfires to ravage the forests of Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico? That's what at least one columnist, Bob Herbert of the New York Times, has suggested, pointing to the extremely hot, dry and windy conditions that are stoking these raging fires.

Environmentalists despair over reports of melting permafrost in Alaska and Siberia. Scientists argue that pollution from fossil fuels is the cause of the recent and dramatic worldwide increase in asthma and pulmonary diseases.

Global warming is becoming deadlier daily. Yet the Bush administration is calling for loosening the already weak rules that are supposed to control the proliferation of dangerous greenhouse gases.

Although the White House, in a June 7 report to the United Nations, finally acknowledged that "human activity is probably the cause of global warming," the Environmental Protection Agency has proposed relaxing air pollution rules to make it easier for utilities to upgrade and expand their coal-burning power plants.

White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer said clean air regulation "often discourages companies from investing in new pollution reduction projects and other new investment." He claimed that fewer regulations will lead to "less pollution, not more."

Environmentalists reacted swiftly. "It's going to cost thousands of ... lives," said Buck Parker, executive director of Earthjustice, an environmental law firm based in Oakland, Calif.

Even the wealthy Pew Trust was alarmed. "The Bush administration is increasingly out of step with other industri-

alized powers," wrote Pew's Eileen Claussen in the June 7 New York Times. But her solution was to "look to the marketplace."

It was the "marketplace"—a codename for capitalism—that caused global warming in the first place.

The powerful oil, gas and coal companies have enforced world reliance on fossil fuels for heating, transportation and industrial production. Alternate sources of free, clean energy, like the sun, the wind and the waves, have not been developed because they aren't considered profitable enough. They don't adapt well to monopoly capitalism.

But the Pew Trust, for one, calls for a "transition to a low-carbon economy [which] will require a new industrial revolution." So venture capitalists and their paid pundits are thinking ahead to the post-fossil-fuel economy, and they want the capitalists to control that too.

'Clean Skies' and dirty deals

When President George W. Bush spoke last February about his new "Clean Skies" legislation, he railed against "a confusing, ineffective maze of regulations for power plants that has created an endless cycle of litigation."

He was either echoing or working in tandem with the energy companies. According to Dan Reidinger, spokesperson for Edison Electric Institute, a trade group for the investor-owned facility, "At the end of the day, power plant operators need to be able to run their facilities without the perpetual threat of litigation." (AP, June 13)

The Bush administration rejected the Kyoto treaty, ratified by 178 other countries, which was to have helped control the level of greenhouse gases worldwide. At that time, Bush actually expressed doubts

Motown to Colombia: An injury to one is an injury to all

were killed last year, and up to 4,000 have been murdered in the past 15 years.

The U.S. government supplies billions of dollars in aid to the Colombian military, which has close ties to the paramilitary death squads.

-David Sole



ATTY. LYNNE STEWART: 'Protest FBI on June 29'

"I will be at the June 29th demonstration in Washington, and not just because I'm facing 40 years in prison," attorney Lynne Stewart told a press conference in New York called to announce a march on the FBI in defense of civil liberties. "I hope everyone joins us to stand up for civil rights."

Stewart has been accused by Attorney General John Ashcroft of helping one of her clients direct terrorist activities from his jail cell—a charge she vigorously denies. Dozens of lawyers attended her arraignment and quickly raised half a million dollars bail in a strong repudiation of Ashcroft's outrageous efforts to intimidate the legal profession from defending the thousands of immigrants now held behind bars in this country.

Representatives of the Arab and Muslim community joined former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and other members of the International ANSWER coalition at the press conference June 20 in New York.

—Story and photo by D. Griswold

California wildfires

Jimmy McKinney, 14, holds some of his "show goats" during a sunrise evacuation of Alpine, in eastern San Diego County. The fire, fed by extremely dry conditions, consumed luxury homes and trailers and forced the evacuation of more than 300 residents in the rural area.



about the existence

of global warming—despite the fact that the National Academy of Sciences had reported to the White House that global warming was a real problem and getting worse.

The White House claimed that adherence to the Kyoto treaty would "damage the U.S. economy." Bush's environmental policy favored the interests of the energy companies openly, claiming that U.S. industry would be weakened "by forcing power companies and manufacturers to use expensive fuels or adopt costly technologies," according to the Feb. 13 New York Times.

Bush said his approach enjoys "widespread support, with both Democrats and Republicans." He was right, because the anti-environmental, pro-big-business policies of his administration have for the most part gone unchallenged by congressional Democrats.

Little wonder. Both parties' representatives are funded by the energy monopolies. They're beholden to them for their jobs.

Vice President Dick Cheney has emboldened the utility industry with his flagrant defense of its interests. When his En-

ergy Task Force began re-examining air pollution regulations 15 months ago, the companies exulted. They had their crony Cheney, a former Big Oil executive, legitimizing their claim that global warming regulations inhibit their expansion.

The Bush administration, Congress and the energy companies are directly responsible for the global warming that is endangering life on this planet. The United States is the leading producer of environmental pollution.

The monopoly capitalists and their political parties can't create an environmental policy based on people's needs. They produce pollution for profit. They cannot be entrusted with responsibility for the future of the earth.

Dependency on fossil fuel creates global warming, environmental destruction and war. The capitalists' dedication to the aggregation of profits is toxic to the environment. The Bush administration is heedless of the consequences. It seeks only to dismantle the mild regulations that environmentalists have won since the 1970s.

But a people's movement, dedicated to human needs and the preservation of nature, can save the earth.

Gov't. case against Bensouda collapses

By Bill Massey
Chicago

"Who says protest doesn't work?" declared Dick Reilly, a leader of the Chicago Palestine Solidarity Network, as he announced that Arab student activist and Palestine supporter Ahmed Bensouda would be released on bail.

The announcement drew loud applause from over 50 people who were demonstrating in front of the Immigration and Naturalization Service building in Chicago's Loop, where Bensouda's hearing had taken place.

Bensouda had been detained since the FBI arrested him May 30. His June 21 release meant that the University of Illinois student had stood up to nearly a month of INS and FBI harassment and intimidation.

Bensouda was arrested on the pretext of a visa violation. But the authorities quickly turned it into a "national security" case complete with "secret evidence" that they claimed would show why he should not be freed on bail.

The student activist had been taken from the Champaign-Urbana campus to an INS detention center in Dupage County. His first hearing on June 12 was closed to the public. It was there that the government raised its claims of "national security" and "secret evidence."

In contrast, the June 21 hearing before Judge O. John Brahms was open—and filled with Bensouda's supporters. Federal prosecutors announced that the case was no longer a "special inquiry."

The government's case had collapsed, because it had no case beyond the visa charge. The rest was smoke and mirrors.

Bensouda was released on \$10,000 bail. He still faces visa violation charges.

Defense attorney Jim Fennerty said it was another case of the government overreaching itself. Fennerty has been at the forefront of the fight for civil rights and civil liberties in the Chicago area.

He cautioned that the FBI and INS will continue their attacks on basic rights as part of the government's policy to stifle protest against U.S. actions in the Middle East.

In the 24 hours before Bensouda's hearing, several students in his support network received calls from FBI snoopers.

The victory that ended Bensouda's incarceration owes much to the two demonstrations that took place on his behalf in the prior week, the 100 protest letters received from overseas, and the growing support network that sprang up.

Several speakers at the June 21 protest raised the cases of Palestinian activists Jaoudat Abouazza of Boston and Faruk Abdel-Muhte of New York. Rabih Haddad, who has been in prison for six months without charges, was recently moved from Chicago back to a prison in Monroe, Mich., while Enaam Arnout of the Benevolent International Foundation is still jailed at Chicago's Metropolitan Correctional Center.

Demonstrators said that until the thousands of victims of the Bush-Ashcroft witch hunt are free, no one is free.

Boston torture victim

Support urged for jailed Palestinian

By Frank Neisser
Boston

Palestinian activist Jaoudat Abouazza was detained in Boston May 30 on the pretext of minor traffic violations. He was held and interrogated at least seven times in one weekend by the FBI. During this time Abouazza wasn't given access to a lawyer. He was moved to Immigration and Naturalization Service custody on June 4.

Why was Abouazza detained over traffic matters routinely handled with minor fines? His captors cited leaflets in his car promoting a legally permitted pro-Palestinian protest scheduled to take place at the June 9 Israeli Independence Day Festival in Boston.

Abouazza is a leader in the local Palestinian community. He has been at the forefront of marches for Palestinian rights and demonstrations in front of the Israeli Consulate.

While in INS custody at the Bristol County House of Correction in North Dartmouth, Abouazza has been grossly abused. Four of his teeth were forcibly extracted. Guards removed him from his cell and held him down in a chair while his teeth were pulled.

This occurred at 10 a.m. on June 15. The effects were visible to visitors from the Jaoudat Abouazza Defense Committee at 6 p.m. that evening.

Abouazza has also been beaten, arbitrarily thrown into isolation, and left on a

cold floor without furniture or socks.

The INS didn't permit Abouazza to appear at his district court hearing on the original charges, despite a habeas order from the court that he be produced. Over the objections of his lawyer, the judge found Abouazza in default for failing to appear and issued a warrant for his arrest.

On June 27 Abouazza will have a hearing before INS Judge Shapiro at the JFK Federal Building in Boston. The Jaoudat Abouazza Defense Committee is mobilizing a demonstration at noon in front of the building to demand that Abouazza be freed immediately and that those responsible for the brutal abuse against him be brought to account.

Supporters are urged to send letters demanding his immediate release to: INS District Director Steve J. Farquharson, Room 1700, JFK Federal Building, Boston, MA 02203. Send copies to: Commissioner James W. Ziglar, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 I Street NW, Washington, DC 20536, and to the Jaoudat Abouazza Defense Committee, c/o International ANSWER, 31 Germania St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

Copies of these protests and letters of solidarity can also be sent to: Jaoudat Abouazza, Bristol County Jail and House of Correction (N. Dartmouth), 400 Faunce Road, North Dartmouth, MA 02747, GB Unit, ID#120541 (put unit and ID on lower left corner of the envelope).



Yoomi Jeong of the Korea Truth Commission.

End U.S. division of Korea

From Seoul to Tokyo to New York and Washington, activities in many cities around the world on June 22 spotlighted U.S. war crimes during the Korean War and called for an end to the Pentagon's more than half-a-century-long military occupation of south Korea. Thousands rallied in the south Korean capital and then merged with millions of soccer fans in the streets.

In New York, Yoomi Jeong and Sharon Ayling, recently returned from a fact-finding delegation that visited massacre sites in the south and interviewed survivors, told a forum June 23 organized by the Korea Truth Commission and the International Action Center that the south Korean media is finally acknowledging the issue of U.S. war crimes. The audience saw a powerful BBC video that contained interviews with survivors of the

Nogun-ri massacre and with U.S. soldiers who had been ordered to kill civilian refugees during the war.

Brian Becker, co-director of the IAC, warned that the Bush administration's verbal attacks on north Korea are leading to war. He showed how Washington's strategy is to deny the energy-starved socialist state the means of building a light-water nuclear reactor agreed to by the Clinton administration. This could force the Koreans to resume building an earlier model reactor that produces some plutonium as a byproduct. The Bush administration would then charge north Korea with planning to build "weapons of mass destruction." It's a "gotcha" situation that could become the pretext for a U.S. attack.

—Story and photo by Deirdre Griswold

Behind Supreme Court rulings

Continued from page 1

that is like saying the people of the United States wanted the Vietnam War, when in reality it was presented to them as a fait accompli by the capitalist establishment.

Workers in the United States don't want a police state or an endless and costly state of war. But they are being barraged with propaganda that if they complain, they're soft on terrorism.

Bush threatened every potential dissenter with his statement, "You're either with us or with the terrorists."

It takes courage to go against the weight of the government and the all-pervasive mass media. But when conditions become unbearable, individual resistance grows into a militant movement against the establishment.

That is a lesson of history that the ruling class understands and is always preparing for.

Of all the branches of government, the Supreme Court is supposed to be most detached from immediate politics and most capable of thinking of the long-term interests of the system. That's why its members are appointed for life. They are expected to be able to take some flak if a change of course is deemed necessary.

From 1953 until 1969, the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren earned a liberal reputation because of decisions like *Brown vs. Board of Education* (1954), which struck down segregation in the public schools. This decision anticipated the massive civil rights movement that was already beginning to shake the South.

Warren had not been considered a liberal when President Dwight D. Eisenhower nominated him to the court. On the contrary, as the governor of California he had been personally responsible for the racist internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. But he recognized the great danger to U.S. imperialism inherent in the continuation of segregation at a time when national liberation movements were sweeping the Third World.

Warren retired in 1969, right after

Richard M. Nixon became president. By 1973, when the court legalized abortion in *Roe vs. Wade*, six of the nine justices had been appointed by Republican presidents. There were four Nixon appointees.

Yet five of the six—Potter Stewart, Harry Blackmun, William Brennan, Warren Burger and Lewis Powell—voted to legalize abortion, along with Democratic appointees Thurgood Marshall and William O. Douglas.

This is not to suggest in any way that the Supreme Court can be relied on as a liberal force in society. Rather, the point is that whether the court is dominated by Republican or Democratic appointees, it has to consider the rise of mass movements—like the movements for civil rights and for women's rights.

What happens in the streets is decisive. The current court would like the movement against the death penalty to go away once the death penalty's most egregious features have been removed. But the whole "justice" system is weighted against the poor and the nationally oppressed. As long as there are death rows under capitalism, they will be stuffed with workers, especially people of color, and not with CEOs or Pentagon war criminals.

Recently released figures for 2001 show that serious crimes, including murder, are once again on the rise, after dropping for about a decade. This blows out of the water the view that more prisons and heavier sentences reduce crime.

All the "law and order" politicians who tried to claim credit for a lower crime rate were merely capitalizing on the economic boom. Crimes go up in periods of economic recession and uncertainty, as many people's lives go into chaos.

Where there is greater economic security for the people, there is much less crime. That is a fact borne out by the statistics in socialist countries—and even in capitalist countries where the working class has won better job and income guarantees than in the United States. The answer to crime is jobs, not jails; housing, not jails; education, not jails—and an end to the death penalty.

Pa. Supreme Court rejects motion

Mumia confronts new legal challenges

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Supporters of African American political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal held a news conference June 21 outside the office of gubernatorial candidate Ed Rendell. They gathered to protest a recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling.

On June 14, the court rejected Abu-Jamal's legal motion to question former Philadelphia District Attorney Ronald D. Castille in court. Castille is currently a justice on the state Supreme Court.

Rendell's office was chosen because he has publicly stated that he will sign a death warrant for Abu-Jamal if elected governor. As an assistant DA, he was also involved in the 1981 frame-up of Abu-Jamal for killing Daniel Faulkner, a white Philadelphia cop.

The danger of a new death warrant increased June 17 when the U.S. Supreme Court threw out a lower court ruling that overturned the death sentence of another Pennsylvania death row inmate and ordered the case re-examined. Last December's federal court decision overturning Abu-Jamal's death sentence could also be in jeopardy.

The news conference was organized by International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Exclusion of Black jurors

Abu-Jamal's motion called for questioning Judge Castille about an infamous training tape developed by Jack McMahon, a prosecutor in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. The tape coached assistant DAs on how to exclude African American

people from juries and then conceal their efforts.

The 1987 video explained how to evade and violate a 1986 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Batson vs. Kentucky*, that forbade using race as a reason to eliminate potential jurors in the selection process.

As Philadelphia DA from 1986 to 1991, Castille was McMahon's supervisor. The first things to appear on the videotape are Castille's name and the official seal of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office.

Although the DA's office claimed the tape reflected only McMahon's views, supporters of Abu-Jamal are convinced Castille knew about the production, distribution and use of the tape. They say the notion that McMahon did it on his own, without the approval and knowledge of his boss, is preposterous.

Exclusion of potential African American jurors was one of 29 constitutional violations during Abu-Jamal's trial, sentencing and post-conviction proceedings, according to a brief filed in federal court in 1999. Although Castille was not district attorney at the time of Abu-Jamal's 1982 conviction, the illegal policy of excluding jurors based on race clearly continued during his term.

Bias against Black jurors was also part of Abu-Jamal's state appeal for post-conviction relief. When the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, including Castille, ruled against that appeal in 1998, the former prosecutor never disclosed his conflict of interest or the McMahon tape that bears his name.

Castille also refused calls to recuse himself because of his connection with the Philadelphia DA's office and his

honorary membership in the Fraternal Order of Police.

This marks the third time Castille was allowed to rule on matters concerning his own actions—in violation of state law.

Abu-Jamal's attorneys have formally requested a reconsideration of the court's decision.

"[Castille's] presence on the court denies both justice and the appearance of justice," said Pam Africa, spokesperson for ICFFMAJ.

She noted, "The more people learn of what's going on and speak up about it, the harder it will be for this court to continue the injustice."

New danger for Abu-Jamal

The danger of a new death warrant was underscored by the June 17 U.S. Supreme Court decision that threw out a ruling made by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last November. That lower court decision had overturned the death sentence of Pennsylvania death row inmate George Banks.

The lower court overturned Banks' sentence based on improper instructions to the jurors in the sentencing phase of the trial that violated Supreme Court standards for jury instructions set in 1988.

In an unsigned decision, the U.S. Supreme Court questioned whether those rulings could be applied retroactively, and instructed the lower court to re-examine what jurors were told before they sentenced Banks for multiple murders in 1982.

The earlier appeals court ruling in the Banks case had prompted courts to throw out the death sentences of several of Penn-



sylvania's 245 death row inmates, including Abu-Jamal.

Last December, federal Judge William H. Yohn ordered prosecutors to either hold a new sentencing hearing for Abu-Jamal or reduce his sentence to life imprisonment. At the same time, Yohn refused to hear Abu-Jamal's habeas petition to overturn his conviction.

In mid-June a federal court refused to hear Abu-Jamal's appeal of Yohn's decision, opting to wait until the Pennsylvania Supreme Court again takes up the case. State prosecutors have also appealed in an effort to restore the original death sentence.

Pointing to the numerous violations of Abu-Jamal's civil rights, conflicting testimony of witnesses, racism in jury selection, and the taped confession of Arnold Beverly that he killed Faulkner, supporters are calling for his release.

A protest calling for Abu-Jamal's freedom is planned for July 4 in Philadelphia. For more information, visit the Web site www.millions4mumia.org.

State repression and the Black struggle

By Imani Henry

In 1966, Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale created the Black Panther Party for Self Defense in their hometown of Oakland, Calif., to wage a struggle against police brutality in their community. By 1968, the Panthers had chapters in more than 20 cities, about 5,000 members on the books and thousands of sympathizers.

In 1969 the U.S. government opened a full-scale assault against the Black Panthers through the Counter Intelligence Program—COINTELPRO. By 1971, due to infiltration, frame-ups, dissemination of false information, and outright violence against the BPP, the organization had begun to dissolve.

To this day, former members of the Black Panther Party, including Mumia Abu-Jamal, remain in U.S. jails for their political activism.

I had the honor of interviewing Safiya Bukhari, a former Black Panther and Black Liberation Army leader who spent close to nine years in prison. Now the co-chair of the New York City Free Mumia Coalition and an international organizer of the Jericho Movement, she continues to struggle to free hundreds of political prisoners of war and to fight for the liberation of her people. The following excerpts are the first installment of the interview with this courageous freedom fighter.

IH: I wanted to ask you about your childhood and what influenced you and brought you into the political struggle?

SB: I was born in 1950 in Harlem Hospital. When I was 9 years old my grandfather took me to South Carolina. So I had a

lot of experience in the South on the farm, but we moved back and forth from the South to New York several times. And the whole community where I grew up in the South and even in the North were relatives, so I never had the experience of racism, because I never came in contact with people of other races until I went to college.

I left home the summer of '67 and went to college. And it was the second year of college, in 1968, that the Black Power Movement was really going strong and everybody was changing their names and getting involved. But I was very one-track and I was going to be a doctor. So I never had time for the clubs at school.

But on a dare, I pledged a sorority and it was then that I learned about racism—because it was the first year that Black people were even allowed in that sorority and so we elected a Black president.

One of the things we were talking about at a sorority meeting was about foster care and sending monies to foreign countries to feed hungry children.

And the president that year (her name was Beatrice) said at the meeting, "Why should be sending monies somewhere else to feed hungry children when there are hungry children right here to be fed in New York."

And nobody believed her. This was the "land of plenty."

Because there was no such thing as starving children in the United States, right?

So we were sent out, myself and two other women, on a fact-finding mission in New York to determine whether there were hungry children that needed to be fed.

So we got on the train and went to

Harlem. The first people we met coming off the train were some Panthers.

We told them what we were there for and they took us around and showed us the breakfast program, and things like that.

The rhetoric they were talking about and everything else that at the time, I didn't believe it, I didn't adhere to that, but I did get up in the morning and go to the breakfast program and cook and feed the kids. And then we noticed that the children weren't coming to the breakfast program, even though we were doing everything we were supposed to do. We found that the police were lying and telling the kids and parents that we were feeding the kids "poison food." Now, we were eating the same food right alongside the kids, but the parents believed this—that is, the idea that the police wouldn't help but they would try to keep kids from getting fed.

That to me ... you know, why would you do this? It was inconceivable. That was the first thing that got me thinking.

The second things was, my sorority sister Wanda and myself were downtown on 42nd Street, and we noticed that there was a Panther selling papers and the police were harassing him.

So we asked what was going on and the police said to me that my asking the question was obstructing a governmental process and then I said that he had a constitutional to right to disseminate political literature.



WW PHOTO: IMANI HENRY

WW Interviews Safiya Bukhari

The cop said I was inciting a riot and said that if I didn't shut up that he was going to arrest the both of us. So quite naturally I didn't shut up because we had rights. So he ended up arresting me, Wanda, and the Panther, putting us in handcuffs and throwing us in the back of the car.

By this time, I've shut up because I am still thinking, this is totally not right, and then Wanda was mouthing off, selling wool tickets and everything.

This was the very first arrest and I am being arrested for following the Constitution. And they told Wanda if she didn't shut up they were gonna ram a nightstick up her _____.

And she quite naturally didn't stop. Once we got to the 14th Precinct, they put us in cell and called for a matron to strip-search us. Because according to them we could be carrying anything. When the matron came, the cops told her that she should put on some gloves because there is no telling what we might have. Then they strip us. We went through that whole process and then they gave us that one phone call.

When I called home I told my mother that I had made a decision about what I wanted to do and I decided that was to join the Black Panther Party.

Next week—Part 2

Ohio State cracks down on anti-Bush protest

By Martha Grevatt

"Disruptions, including obstructing the view or hearing of others, will not be permitted. Persons who fail to follow the directions of university and law-enforcement officials will be removed from the stadium and subject to arrest," warned Richard Hollingsworth, associate vice president for student affairs at Ohio State University.

The occasion was the graduation ceremony. President George W. Bush was the commencement speaker.

Despite the threats, a small number of students did risk arrest by turning their backs when Bush spoke.

"There would have been more people protesting if it hadn't been for that remark," said Yoshie Furuhashi, an OSU graduate student who organized a protest of 100 outside the ceremony. The protest targeted the Bush administration's war policies.

While no one was actually arrested for turning their backs, the threats against free speech have sparked outrage across the United States.

More than 1,000 groups and individuals have sent e-mails to university officials protesting the suppression of dissent at the country's biggest university. Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting organized people to send 27,000 e-mails condemning the biased media coverage of the Bush speech.

"To me, that sounds like the beginning of a police state when you can't turn your back on the president," asserted Mikael Elsilä, a Brooklyn, N.Y., musician.

Pentagon poison with MTV flavor

Army markets free 'war game' to youths

By Matthew L. Schwartz

According to a recent exclusive article in the June issue of P.C. Gamer, a magazine directed at computer game fans, the United States Army has begun to fund a game called "America's Army" until 2007.

"America's Army" promises to have life-like simulation—boot-camp training as well as proper weapon functioning.

"The goal of the game," according to writer Daniel Morris, is to "realistically model the weapons, tactics, and experiences of the modern army."

This includes using weapons as they are used in real life, as well as planning attacks.

"Weapons are all painstakingly modeled from the Army's cache of real-world weaponry. You can expect the M16 to jam at a realistic rate (and you can expect the AK-47 to never jam) . . . The M209 grenade launcher fires its projectile in a lifelike arc, with a lifelike kill radius . . . the SAW machine gun, while a lethally precise killing instrument when set up on a supported tripod, must be defended by riflemen when deployed in such an exposed manner . . . Night vision will be modeled so accurately that greasy thumbprints will mar the goggle lenses."

According to the three-page spread, the Army is not only employing its own computer scientists with doctorates but is also employing Interplay and, most important, Maxis to help them develop the program. Maxis has been creating simulator games for the past 10 years. Its most recent release was "The Sims," in which you can create your own people. It has also done farming simulations, as well as city simulations.

The game promises to update users every "18 to 24 months" with new missions and plans to "follow real-world headlines 'as closely as appropriate.'"

The system would also allow the user to receive specialized training, such as preparation to be a sniper. After the training the user would receive a badge and be considered a "more valuable" player.

With all of these advanced features some think that the Army stands to make a fortune in the "shoot 'em up" game market that has increased in profit over the last few years.

Pentagon war is not a game

However, the Army has something much more valuable than money in mind: It wants recruits. They, unlike the video game figures, may very well die.

This violent simulation game is available free of charge to anyone who asks, although the Army hopes to market the simulation to the "key recruitment demographic of 18-to-25-year-old males."

"We're keeping it an action game," says Mike Capps, the civilian contractor who heads up the development of 'America's Army.'"

It is clear that with this game's frightening accuracy, the Army is "virtually training" its new recruits: a massive army of children to fight Bush's endless war.

This game is not the only form of propaganda that the United States Army is using to win over teenagers. Recently, the military began its "Army of One" program. Adam Kranzel of California told Workers World: "The Army of One program appeals to many of the students I know, because it allows them to still think of themselves as non-conformists."

Also noteworthy is the Army's version of MTV's hit series "The Real World," creating its own webcast where viewers can "follow a recruit" and "see if they make it."

The Army has also done mass mailings to teenage males over the last few years, with "giveaways" such as free phone cards and T-shirts and caps to those who called for more information.

It is obvious that Bush's Army plans to continue this ongoing and racist war. And it is using advanced marketing ploys such as highly addictive personal computer games all the way down to merchandising for an organization that was formed with the intent to kill and suppress workers and oppressed people around the world, while training an army of children to do its killing.

Bush demands veto on Palestine leader

Continued from page 1

Palestinian people to elect new leaders, leaders not compromised by terror."

"I call upon them [the Palestinians] to build a practicing democracy based on tolerance and liberty."

"Reform must be more than cosmetic change or a veiled attempt to preserve the status quo. True reform will require entirely new political and economic institutions based on democracy, market economics and action against terrorism."

"Today, the elected Palestinian legislature has no authority, and power is concentrated in the hands of an unaccountable few. A Palestinian state can only serve its citizens with a new constitution which separates the powers of government."

"The United States, along with the European Union and Arab states, will work with Palestinian leaders to create a new constitutional framework and a working democracy for the Palestinian people. And the United States, along with others in the international community, will help the Palestinians organize and monitor fair, multi-party local elections by the end of the year, with national elections to follow."

"Today, the Palestinian people lack effective courts of law and have no means to defend and vindicate their rights. The United States and members of the international community stand ready to work with Palestinian leaders to establish, finance and monitor a truly independent judiciary."

"Today, the Palestinian people live in economic stagnation, made worse by official corruption. A Palestinian state will require a vibrant economy, where honest enterprise is encouraged by honest government."

"The United States, the international donor community

and the World Bank stand ready to work with Palestinians on a major project of economic reform and development. The United States, the EU, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are willing to oversee reforms in Palestinian finances, encouraging transparency and independent auditing."

"Today, Palestinian authorities are encouraging, not opposing terrorism. This is unacceptable. And the United States will not support the establishment of a Palestinian state until its leaders engage in a sustained fight against the terrorists and dismantle their infrastructure. This will require an externally supervised effort to rebuild and reform the Palestinian security services. The security system must have clear lines of authority and accountability and a unified chain of command."

"When the Palestinian people have new leaders, new institutions and new security arrangements with their neighbors, the United States of America will support the creation of a Palestinian state, whose borders and certain aspects of its sovereignty will be provisional until resolved as part of a final settlement in the Middle East. . . . As new Palestinian institutions and new leaders emerge, demonstrating real performance on security and reform, I expect Israel to respond and work toward a final status agreement. With intensive effort by all of us, agreement could be reached within three years from now. And I and my country will actively lead toward that goal."

In other words: Get rid of your elected leader, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat (this from a leader who was himself appointed by an appointed body, the Supreme Court). Let us write you a new constitution, set up your courts and police force, and reorganize your economy, and then maybe, in three years or so, we'll support you having some kind of undefined "provisional state." There never has been, by the way, a "provisional

state" before, nor is such an entity recognized under international law.

Bush stated in very general terms that Israel should end the 35-year occupation—but only after the Palestinians had met his many demands. There was no call to stop the relentless repression of the Palestinians. Only statements like, "As we make progress towards security, Israeli forces need to withdraw fully to positions they held prior to Sept. 28, 2000."

While Bush insisted that the Palestinians must reform their legislature, cabinet and other governmental institutions under conditions of military occupation, no similar demands were made on the royal monarchies and police dictatorships of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates or Egypt, which are U.S. "friends" in the region.

On the other hand, Bush made menacing new references to three states in the region not under U.S. control—Iraq, Iran and Syria.

"I've said in the past that nations are either with us or against us in the war on terror. To be counted on the side of peace, nations must act.

"Every leader actually committed to peace will end incitement to violence in official media and publicly denounce homicide bombings. Every nation actually committed to peace will stop the flow of money, equipment and recruits to terrorist groups seeking the destruction of Israel, including Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hizbollah.

"Every nation actually committed to peace must block the shipment of Iranian supplies to these groups and oppose regimes that promote terror, like Iraq. And Syria must choose the right side in the war on terror by closing terrorist camps and expelling terrorist organizations."

By "terrorist organizations" Bush was clearly referring to all the Palestinian resistance organizations that have offices in Syria.

Israelis & Palestinians respond

No wonder that the head of Israel's Shinui party,

Big Oil gov't installed in Kabul as

Film exposes U.S. war crimes in Afghanistan

By Greg Butterfield

While the U.S. corporate media celebrated the selection of Washington's handpicked candidate to lead Afghanistan, the rest of the world focused its attention on dramatic new evidence of U.S. war crimes.

On June 13, Hamid Karzai was selected as Afghanistan's president for a term of 18 months by the 1,500-member loya jirga, or grand council, in Kabul. Karzai had also headed the six-month interim government established last January under U.S. and German auspices following the overthrow of the Taliban.

Karzai is a former consultant for the U.S. oil company Unocal. He helped Unocal plan a proposed 1,500-kilometer gas pipeline starting in Turkmenistan, stretching across Afghanistan, and ending in Pakistan.

While still acting as interim leader, Karzai and the presidents of Pakistan and Turkmenistan signed an agreement May 30 to move ahead with the pipeline. Unocal was said to be the frontrunner to head the multi-billion-dollar project.

Zalmay Khalilzad, the U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan, is also a Unocal alumnus.

The Bush administration hailed Karzai's selection by the loya jirga delegates as proof of democracy's return to occupied Afghanistan, even as U.S. military actions continue.

But most delegates believed the council was "rigged to install a government headed by Karzai and dominated by the Northern Alliance," the Financial Times of London reported June 14.

Without warning, the loya jirga was delayed for a day, reportedly to give extra time to pressure the former king to back Karzai.

Karzai even told the press he'd been elected before the vote took place.

Both the Northern Alliance and the Taliban got arms,

money and political support from the United States during their long counter-revolutionary war against the progressive People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and its Soviet allies. The PDPA was finally overthrown in 1992.

The Northern Alliance ruled Kabul from 1992 to 1996. For the next four years, massacre, rape and pillage were commonplace. When the Taliban drove the Northern Alliance from Kabul in 1996, they left 50,000 dead civilians behind.

Last year, when the Bush administration decided to make this impoverished country the first victim of its "war on terrorism," the Northern Alliance made a suitable local cat's paw for Western consumption.

But for many delegates, the Northern Alliance's role in the new government was a bitter pill to swallow.

Sima Samar, who headed the interim government's Women's Affairs Ministry, said, "This is not democracy, it is a rubber stamp—everything has already been decided." She was removed from Karzai's new cabinet and replaced by a woman living outside the country.

Filmmaker: protect evidence of U.S. crimes

Also in mid-June, Irish filmmaker Jamie Doran urged European members of parliament and human rights groups to prevent the destruction of evidence of U.S. war crimes in Afghanistan.

In was Doran who first provided footage of the massacre of Taliban prisoners at Mazar-i-Sharif last year. In that assault, U.S. and Northern Alliance troops put down an uprising against brutal conditions by bombing the prison.

A rough-cut of Doran's latest documentary, "Massacre at Mazar," was shown to the German Reichstag June 12 and the European Union Parliament June 13. The German Party of Democratic Socialism and the EU's United Left caucus organized the showings.

The 20 minutes of footage—much of it shot secretly—presents testimony from eyewitnesses to the tor-

ture and killing of prisoners of war by the U.S. and Northern Alliance.

An Afghan soldier said he'd seen a U.S. soldier break a prisoner's neck, then pour acid on others. "The Americans did whatever they wanted. We had no power to stop them," he said.

Doran reports that 5,000 of the 8,000 Taliban prisoners taken after the fall of Kunduz last November have disappeared. In the film, eyewitnesses report that many prisoners suffocated in the metal containers used to transport them and that U.S. officers ordered Afghan troops to fire into the containers.

Other witnesses said that a U.S. officer ordered the bodies dumped in the desert of Dasht-I-Leili. Live prisoners were reportedly taken there and executed as well, while U.S. soldiers stood by and watched.

Doran's film shows the site of this mass grave where up to 3,000 prisoners were reportedly buried.

The Pentagon and State Department issued terse denials of the film's charges. But while news of the film has made headlines around the globe, no major U.S. newspaper or TV network had picked up the story by June 24.

Those who testified in the film did so at great risk to their lives, Doran said, but all have agreed to testify before an international war crimes tribunal if one is convened.

The film won't be ready for public release until later this summer. But Doran said there is great danger that the evidence of U.S./Northern Alliance crimes will be tampered with or destroyed—especially the mass grave at Dasht-I-Leili.

This prompted calls from some parliament members for an independent inquiry or a Red Cross-led investigation.

Andrew McEntee, a former head of Amnesty International and leading British human rights lawyer, told the South African Independent that he "believes there is prima facie evidence of serious war crimes having been committed by American soldiers in Afghanistan."

Section of Palestinian town where homes were completely razed by Israeli tanks and bulldozers.

Yosef Lapid, said, "Bush's speech is the most favorable to Israel ever delivered by an American president addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

Israeli cabinet minister Dan Naveh, speaking on behalf of the government, said that the speech represents "the end of the Arafat era and the victory of Israel's position."

"Tonight, the president announced the official political death of Yasser Arafat," said an unnamed "senior Israeli official," according to the New York Times.

Many Palestinian officials denounced Bush's statement. Saeb Erekat, chief Palestinian negotiator during the Oslo negotiations and considered a "moderate," said: "I cannot find President Bush's statement acceptable. ... The problem is the Israeli occupation, which represents the highest form of terrorism.

"Palestinian leaders don't come from parachutes from Washington or anywhere else. Palestinian leaders are elected directly by the Palestinian people. President Yasser Arafat was directly elected in a free and fair election. ... The world and President Bush must respect the democratic choice of the Palestinian people."

Mostafa Bakri, editor-in-chief of the weekly El Osboa, said that in the speech the Palestinian state "is just a temporary promise, an illusion without borders, without identity." Bush's speech "means giving Sharon the green light to get rid of Arafat. Arab countries, especially Egypt and Jordan, have a major role to play in implementing this initiative, including working on expelling the Palestinian leader."

Ismail Abu Shanab, a leader of Hamas-Islamic Resistance Movement in Gaza City, responded: "I hope the Palestinian Authority will now understand that it should support resistance and not chase after the West." President Arafat, he said, "has lost the support of the American administration."

How disastrously this loss of support is viewed by the



WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS

PA president may explain the official statement from Arafat's office, which said in part: "President Arafat and the Palestinian leadership have welcomed the ideas presented by President Bush. The president [Arafat] and the cabinet view the ideas as a serious contribution to pushing the peace process forward."

The statement from Arafat's office eased the way for the Egyptian and Jordanian governments—both highly dependent on the U.S.—to praise the Bush speech as "balanced."

How could the PA president praise a speech that called for his own ouster?

Since the start of what came to be called the "Oslo peace process" a decade ago, the Arafat leadership had pinned its hopes for the emergence of a Palestinian state on the intervention of the U.S. Only the U.S., this line of reasoning went, had sufficient influence to force an Israeli withdrawal from all or most of the West Bank and Gaza.

In the early 1990s, following the collapse of the Soviet Union—the Palestine Liberation Organization's key ally—the idea that "the American train was passing through the region and it was the only one to catch" gained support among leaders of Arafat's Fatah party.

But now the "engineer" is throwing not only President Arafat, but all the PLO leaders, off the U.S. train. It comes

at a time when Arafat's standing in Palestinian opinion has sharply declined due to a number of recent concessions extracted from him by the U.S.-Israeli team.

The turnover of the widely respected leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Ahmed Saadat, to the custody of U.S. and British jailers as part of a deal to release President Arafat from Israeli captivity in April caused widespread Palestinian anger toward the PA president.

The U.S. and Israel have worked together to weaken Arafat's position as a prelude to attempting to destroy him altogether.

On June 25, Arafat, speaking at a press conference in Ramallah, did not criticize Bush's speech but said that is up to the Palestinians to decide who their leaders will be. "This is what my people will decide. They are the only ones who can determine this."

The attitude of many Palestinians was captured in the words of Mohammed Hussein, a computer engineer living in Gaza. "I am for reform. But I'm against change and reform imposed by an external force."

Referring to the new puppet Afghan leader, Hamid Karzai, Hussein continued, "We don't have a Karzai here, like America imposed on Afghanistan. We would refuse such a thing."

Behind the Bush-Ashcroft makeover of the state

'Homeland Security' and capitalist instability

By Fred Goldstein

The attempted restructuring of the state apparatus under the label of "homeland security" and the granting of more repressive powers to the FBI once again have to be viewed in light of the problems of U.S. imperialism at home and abroad. These encompass both the present and the future—including the long-term outlook for capitalist economic instability and crisis.

With the stock market sinking, the so-called economic recovery sputtering, and the world capitalist economy suffering from global overproduction, it is a natural step for the government to open up repression. The movement should know that when the Bush administration talks about "homeland security," it is aimed against working-class resistance to the hardships brought about by an economic crisis of the profit system.

The new "homeland security" proposal to bring together 22 agencies—including the Coast Guard, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Border Patrol, the Customs Service and others—is being hailed as the greatest overhaul of the government since President Harry S. Truman created the CIA in 1946.

Whether or not the Bush plan is approved in its present form or in some modified version—or is defeated by bureaucratic opponents—the fact is that this is an attempt by the capitalist government to partially reshape its repressive apparatus. It is meant to deal with vulnerability in a new world situation it has created. This major reshaping of the state is in response to the class struggle at home and abroad.

The first dramatic transformation of the imperialist state in the 20th century took place when the FBI was empowered to open up a wave of repression after World War I.

Birth of FBI, CIA

The FBI had been set up in 1908, but was not a highly functional repressive force until the ruling class took alarm at the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 and the upsurge of the class struggle in the post-war period. Major strikes in the steel industry, meatpacking, textile and the coal mines, plus a general strike in Seattle in 1919, showed a radicalization of the working class. It was met with a wave of repression.

Attorney General Mitchell Palmer led what became known as the Palmer Raids. They were directed at the socialist and newly founded communist movements and the rebellious labor movement. Thousands were arrested in a series of coordinated raids; hundreds were deported. This temporarily set back the movement, but it regrouped and reemerged by the end of the 1920s and was a major force in the anti-racist and class struggles of the 1930s.

The FBI took on extraordinary powers during the witch-hunt against the Communist Party in the 1950s as part of the Cold War. COINTELPRO was set up to cut down the Black, Latino and Native liberation, civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s.

The next major restructuring was based upon the rapid and dramatic emergence of U.S. imperialism as a supreme world power after World War II. Having taken over the global empire of the weakened and exhausted British ruling class, as well as many outposts of the French, Dutch, Belgian and Japanese imperialists, Wash-

ington was now a global power. It was locked in struggle—with the Soviet Union, which had defeated the Nazis; with the Chinese Revolution, which had liberated one fourth of the human race; and with the national liberation struggles in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

The military-industrial complex, the basis of the Pentagon's power, had already taken shape during the war. But in 1946 Truman converted a wartime spy agency, the Office of Strategic Services, into a permanent instrument of counter-revolution, assassination and subversion: the Central Intelligence Agency.

The CIA went right to work in Europe trying to undermine the surging influence of communist parties and communist-led trade unions. It overthrew the popular nationalist government of Muhammed Mossadegh in Iran in 1953 and the popular land reform government of Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala in 1954.

It carried out the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, first head of state of the newly independent Congo. It turned over Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, to the apartheid government in Johannesburg. It organized the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba and, of course, spent untold billions of dollars trying to destroy socialism in the USSR and the People's Republic of China. This is only the tip of the iceberg of CIA activities, which was created as U.S. imperialism's answer to the new world challenges.

U.S. imperialism universally hated

Viewed in that light, the Bush administration's latest moves are an attempt to deal with the new situation of U.S. imperialism first demonstrated by the World Trade Center bombing of 1993.

The combined forces of world imperialism, led by Washington, had overthrown the USSR and dealt a grave blow to the socialist camp. As part of its struggle against world socialism and the movement for national independence by the oppressed countries of the world, Washington waged a war of extermination against all progressive forces, particularly in the Middle East, Central and Southeast Asia as well as the areas surrounding the USSR and China. It orchestrated the anti-communist coup in Indonesia in 1965 that killed at least a million people. It supported every reactionary regime in the region, from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia to the Philippines.

In the course of this struggle, progressive and revolutionary leaders have been pushed back. Most importantly, the mass struggles against imperialism have temporarily receded. U.S. imperialism is now the dominant oppressor of countries and peoples everywhere—and is universally hated.

In the absence of progressive bourgeois nationalist movements and especially socialist and communist movements that organize the mass struggle and genuinely challenge imperialism and its clients, the more conservative forces that are removed from the mass struggle and rely on conspiratorial methods alone have come forward to fill the vacuum. By carrying out dramatic strikes against targets either in the U.S. or at U.S. installations abroad, they hope that the masses will somehow spontaneously rise up or that the attacks will provoke repression which will, in turn, evoke a mass uprising.

Any strengthening of the repressive forces will be aimed at those fighting for social justice. But resistance is inevitable

This is the new situation that the Bush administration is attempting to deal with. The U.S. has removed the organizations and political forces that historically organized the anti-imperialist and socialist struggles which limited the super-exploitation of imperialism. By so doing it has been able to intensify its plunder—thereby deepening and widening hatred of the U.S. government.

For the last decade the think tanks and strategists of imperialism have been trying to figure out how to shield Washington from underground retaliation. This is the new situation that has confronted the state and is behind the reorganization.

The cruelty of the war against Iraq and the sanctions war that followed; the backing of a murderous Zionist occupation regime in Israel; the terror bombing of Afghanistan and the spread of the Pentagon all over the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean; exploitation by Wall Street and the transnational corporations; and now the cultural imperialism that these institutions bring with them—all this has provoked a widespread hatred for Washington.

But there is no force right now that can organize an effective struggle of the masses to drive the imperialists out, so the U.S. government is attempting to shield itself against attacks.

Of course, the responsibility for the attacks lies squarely on the shoulders of the oppressors in Washington.

This so-called "homeland security" restructuring is being done in the most racist, repressive and chauvinist way to dovetail with the U.S. drive to scapegoat and stir up antagonism against the people of the Middle East. This is to provide ideological justification for violating legal and constitutional rights on a mass scale, including arbitrary detentions and torture, and to prepare the population for war and intervention against Iraq, Iran or any other regime in the arc from Morocco to Indonesia where 1.3 billion Muslims live under the neocolonial rule of clients of imperialism.

The only way to get "homeland security" for the people of the U.S. is for the Pentagon, the CIA, and all the corporate profiteers they defend to pull out of the entire region and let the people there determine their own destinies, free of interference by imperialism.

But it would be foolhardy to regard the reorganization of the capitalist state from a strictly international point of view. The Bush administration is using Sept. 11 to broaden the powers of the FBI and to give new powers to the CIA in the domestic arena.

Where's the recovery?

While these moves are perhaps precipitated by and explained in terms of the phony "war on terrorism," any strength-

ening of the repressive forces, whether in some new super-agency or by giving additional powers to the traditional police agencies, will be aimed at the forces fighting for social justice.

The more sober elements in the ruling class don't take all the hype about an economic rebound and recovery very seriously. They find nothing to boost their spirits in the latest monthly numbers on home sales or inventory liquidation.

Consider the mournful commentary of an authoritative analyst, Stephen Roach, from one of the most powerful institutions of U.S. finance capital, the Morgan Stanley investment banking house.

Roach's subject is the decline of the dollar. It reflects the fact that the capitalist economy in the U.S. is no longer a guaranteed source of profits, either from the formerly booming stock market or from the profits of production based on an expanding economy.

Roach writes, "I'll leave the short-term calls to the traders. My macro lens continues to see the movie of the 1990s running in reverse. America was the world's bubble and now it has popped. Equities led on the upside and were the first to go on the downside. And the real economy has followed with predictable lags. The first shoe to fall was the capacity overhang of earnings-battered businesses. Next to come should be the spending excesses of savings-short and overextended consumers."

The weak dollar, says Roach "unmasks new fault lines in the global economy. This puts the rapidly spreading Latin American currency crisis in a very different light. This, of course, was the contagion that was never supposed to happen again. The tragedy of Argentina [the four-year recession that is still deepening—F.G.] was widely thought to be a country-specific problem that had little or no bearing on the rest of the region. But now Brazil, the largest economy in the region, has seen a wholesale markdown of its currency and bonds that is every bit as bad as that which occurred in the depths of the crisis three and a half years ago. Nor are other Latin economies spared this contagion. From Uruguay to Mexico, virtually all of the region's currencies are now lurching to the downside."

As for the U.S. economy, Roach says, "In my opinion, earnings-battered Corporate America remains very much focused on cost cutting, likely to take further actions that would continue to restrain capital spending and hiring."

His main commentary on all the positive reports of a recovery is that "the forest has never looked more different than the trees."

This is the voice of an expert speaking dire warnings to policy makers and to the summits of the ruling class. And he is speaking in their language. But the way to put it more properly is that U.S. capitalism was on an orgy of profit expansion for 10 years, from the spring of 1991 to the summer of 2001. This orgy was fueled by brutal corporate globalization, with its sweatshops and plundering of resources, holding down wages, speeding up workers, wild speculation, swindling, excessive corporate and consumer credit, tax cuts for big business and Federal Reserve Board welfare for Wall Street.

All these measures to extend profits could not overcome the inherent problem of world capitalist overproduction. It is a

law of capitalism that because production takes place for profit, it always expands production at a rate that outstrips the ability of the masses of people to buy the products. In the race against each other to pile up profits, the capitalists struggle to get market share. Sooner or later this fight for market share results in too many commodities to be sold at a profit, no matter how much the masses need the products. That is the point of capitalist overproduction.

Two principal underlying conditions formed the basis of the expansion, aside from credit and monetary manipulations. On the one hand, the collapse of the USSR opened up a worldwide corporate expansion for the predators of Wall Street and all its junior partners. On the other, the scientific technological revolution made possible the building of a massive infrastructure for the new communications system.

Neither of these conditions is reproducible. The worldwide expansion of production has already glutted the markets. Over a million miles of fiber-optic cable were laid in recent years. A dozen giant monopolies, including AT&T, Worldcom and Global Crossing, were competing with each other to lay international and nationwide cable. Hundreds of companies were building local networks. With overproduction, the present estimate is that 95 percent of the cable will not be used!

Overproduction has afflicted all industries, including the production of steel, laptop computers, automobiles, semi-conductors, commercial aircraft, movie theaters, retail stores and many service industries. This is not just a U.S. phenomenon but is global.

The Labor Department admits that in the downturn from March 2001 to March 2002, 1.8 million jobs were lost. Despite all the optimistic talk about the economy, the bosses are so heavily in debt and the masses so overextended on their credit cards and other borrowing that the long-term prospects for U.S. capitalism point toward crisis, with increased hardship for the workers as the capitalists try to unload their crisis on the backs of the people.

Under these conditions, resistance and an awakening of the struggle at home and abroad are inevitable. Understanding that the problem is capitalism will come more sharply into focus. Right now everything is being reduced to the greed of the corporate executives, who have grown filthy rich through stock swindles, insider trading and speculation. In the future it will become patently clear that it is the profit system itself that produces these swindlers and is to blame. Then the FBI, homeland security and all the repressive organs of the bosses will not be able to stop the movement.

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Muhajir frame-up hides real terrorists

Washington's depleted uranium 'dirty bombs'

By Sara Flounders

The writer was co-editor of the book "Metal of Dishonor: How the Pentagon Radiates Soldiers and Civilians with DU Weapons" (International Action Center, 1997). Much of the information in this article is drawn from "Metal of Dishonor."

In a dangerous legal precedent and complete violation of constitutional rights, a U.S. citizen is being held without the rights of due process or freedom from unreasonable seizure.

Abdullah al Muhajir, a Puerto Rican Muslim from Chicago formerly known as Jose Padilla, is being accused of planning to build a radioactive "dirty bomb" to attack a U.S. city. According to news reports, Muhajir had no accomplices, no materials, no access to materials and no training in making such a bomb.

The prosecution's "secret" evidence is so flimsy that the government acknowledges it is not likely to obtain an indictment from a grand jury. In the current political climate, U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft would likely have no trouble getting an indictment if there was any evidence at all.

Muhajir is being held without charges under the legal category of "enemy combatant," despite the fact that Congress has not declared war. He was brought to New York, moved to a South Carolina naval brig and then to Department of Defense custody. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Muhajir may never get a trial.

But the very charge that Muhajir may have discussed the idea of unleashing a radioactive bomb is so ominous that it has silenced the U.S. corporate media and many civil rights organizations.

Using the charge that an "unfolding terrorist plot to attack the United States with a radioactive 'dirty bomb' had been disrupted," U.S. government attacks on civil rights and civil liberties have reached an ominous new level.

While in Moscow on June 10, Ashcroft called a dramatic press conference to announce Muhajir's arrest. Ashcroft announced that the FBI and the CIA, working together, had uncovered this nefarious plot. Ashcroft assured the media that such a bomb would have caused "mass death and injury."

Muhajir had been held incommunicado since his arrest on May 8 at O'Hare International Airport. Ashcroft's grand announcement in Moscow—five weeks after Muhajir's arrest—conveniently coincided with President George Bush's unveiling of a new Homeland Security Department.

Who are real 'dirty bombers'?

A quick search on the Internet reveals hundreds of news stories debating the possible problems of evacuating major U.S. cities if a terrorist group set off a radioactive "dirty bomb."

What is a "dirty bomb"? Has such a dangerous radioactive weapon ever been used? Who would dream of unleashing radioactive materials, especially on unprotected and defenseless civilian targets?

Reports in the U.S. corporate media have described in great detail that a "dirty bomb" combines conventional explosives—even dynamite—with radioactive material. An explosion can spew radiation over a large area.

However, not one of the hundreds of news reports dares to state the truth: The United States is the only country that has

extensively used radioactive dirty bombs all over the world.

The Pentagon's "dirty bombs" are made with a core of highly toxic and radioactive depleted uranium (DU) packed in a conventional explosive.

By their own admission, the U.S. government has used thousands of these radioactive bombs in Iraq and Yugoslavia.

Angry mass movements have forced the U.S. government to acknowledge that it has test-fired these radioactive weapons at U.S. bases in Okinawa, Japan, Vieques, Puerto Rico, and south Korea. The army has also tested these weapons at more than 25 domestic sites, including Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, according to a 1995 Army Environmental Policy Institute report.

Why the Pentagon uses DU

Radioactive waste is not difficult to obtain. It's given away free to U.S. weapons manufacturers. So it is an enormously profitable weapon for military contractors.

Uranium is a heavy metal—twice as heavy as lead. Weapons made with DU have greater range and higher accuracy than conventional weapons.

The problem is that DU is both toxic and radioactive. It is also pyrophoric, meaning that it burns fiercely on impact and is transformed into a fine uranium oxide powder or dust. The dust particles measure less than 1.5 microns—small enough to lodge in the lungs and other internal organs. This radioactive dust can be carried on the wind. It enters the ground water and food chain.

The U.S. government's own studies have again and again warned of the health risks of DU exposure. A 1990 report warned, "Short term effects of high doses can result in death, while long term effects of low doses have been implicated in cancer."

The study added, "Aerosol DU exposures to soldiers on the battlefield could be significant with potential radiological and toxicological effects." The book "Metal of Dishonor," published by the International Action Center, reproduces several of these government reports.

Nevertheless, during the 1991 U.S. war against Iraq, the Pentagon reportedly fired more than 940,000 uranium-tipped 30-millimeter bullets and more than 14,000 large 120-mm DU rounds, according to the 1995 U.S. Army Environmental Policy report. This left behind more than 600,000 pounds of radioactive waste that will continue to contaminate the soil, water and air in Iraq.

Of the 600,000 U.S. troops stationed in the Gulf during that bombing, more than 100,000 became chronically ill with the wasting malady known as Gulf War Syndrome. Radioactive poisoning is widely suspected as a primary cause.

In Iraq there has been a shocking 5- to 16-fold increase in cancers. The children of Iraqi and U.S. Gulf War veterans have significantly higher rates of congenital birth defects.

On October 3, 2001, the BBC reported that the Department of Veteran Affairs found that children of Gulf War vets are twice as likely to be born with birth defects as children of other soldiers. Female Gulf War vets are three times more likely to have children with birth defects. The U.S. government has callously ignored these shocking statistics.

During the 1999 U.S./NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, thousands of rounds of ra-

The U.S. government has used thousands of these radioactive dirty bombs extensively in Iraq, Yugoslavia and recently in Afghanistan

dioactive depleted uranium were again fired. A year later, reports of a strange increase in cancers among young European NATO soldiers stationed in Kosovo and Bosnia caused a political uproar in Europe and demands for an investigation into the U.S. use of depleted uranium weapons. This was a top story in Europe for months.

A major article by Robert James Parsons in *Le Monde Diplomatique* on March 3, entitled "America's Big Dirty Secret," charged that depleted uranium is the heavy metal used in the enormous bunker bombs that burrow through mountains of rock or many feet of reinforced concrete to destroy cave complexes.

Le Monde Diplomatique cited a widely distributed report by Dai Williams, a medical researcher, warning medical professionals, employees of aid organizations and soldiers stationed in Afghanistan about the threat of DU contamination.

The article cites Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's Jan. 16 admission that the U.S. had found radiation in Afghanistan. But Rumsfeld claimed it was from DU warheads belonging to Al Qaeda. He did not explain how Al Qaeda could have launched these weapons without planes.

Le Monde further compared the Pentagon's DU weapons of 10 years ago with today's. The amount of DU used has dramatically increased.

A Gulf War-era T 120-mm anti-tank round has a maximum weight of 5 kilograms. Today's Raytheon Bunker Buster-GBU-28 can weigh up to one-and-a-half metric tons.

It is important to remember that during the Cold War the Pentagon deliberately exposed more than 250,000 U.S. military personnel to radiation during nuclear tests from 1945 to 1963 in order to study the impact on humans.

According to U.S. Department of Energy reports, thousands of Marshal Islanders were also callously exposed to radiation and secretly studied.

All of this was hushed up in the name of "national security." Any soldier who spoke out was threatened with court martial and imprisonment.

Finally, after the veterans and their families mobilized and demanded treatment, a special Congressional bill passed in 1984 acknowledged this crime and promised compensation to the surviving "Atomic Veterans."

However, according to the National Association of Atomic Survivors, fewer than 500 veterans ever received any compensation. The civilians of the Marshal Islands were never compensated.

Today's soldiers are just as disposable to the Pentagon generals' genocidal policies.

The Bush administration is cynically trying to use genuine concern about radiation to whip up a climate of fear and hatred to justify continuing war and repression. The best way to combat this propaganda is to expose the Pentagon's own criminal record.

Kananaskis bunker

It used to be the style among the leaders of wealthy, industrialized capitalist nations to ride in limousines with the top down so they could wave and smile to supposedly adoring crowds.

No more.

When the heads of state of the G8 countries—homes to the world's most affluent and predatory capitalists—meet in Canada at the end of June, they will be guarded by over 10,000 police and troops.

What kind of situation surrounds them that they require such amazing security measures? Are they meeting in the middle of a chaotic war zone?

No, they will be ensconced in a brand-new resort for the very, very rich in the middle of the breath-taking wilderness of the Canadian Rockies. This magnificent area was inaccessible to all but the most daring adventurers until just a few years ago, when the region's first road was bulldozed across a mountain pass and down steep pine-clad slopes into a vast, pristine valley ringed with rugged, snow-capped peaks. The area is called Kananaskis, and could have been the setting for the majestic mountain scenes in "Lord of the Rings." It is about as remote as a luxury resort with two golf courses can get.

Protesters trying to get there wouldn't be able to take the one road, which will be swarming with police and soldiers. They would have to slog for about 50 miles over mountains and around icy lakes, through muskeg swamps littered with fallen trees, across rushing torrents, and through trackless forests abounding in wolves, cougars and grizzly bears.

But you know something? These leaders of what used to be called the "free world" are now so hated that it's not hard to imagine some intrepid young people, armed with the spirit of adventure and belief in their cause, attempting the seemingly impossible and showing up one morning at the doorstep of the high and mighty.

And because there is a remote possibility that protesters will make it to the hotel, 10,000 cops and soldiers have been mobilized—at a cost of more than \$200 million??

Of course they will say all this is neces-

sary because of the new threat of "terrorism." But the kinds of protesters who have been dogging the representatives of the transnational banks and their corporate and political brethren have never used anything more lethal than a battering ram and rocks and bottles in their confrontations with the armor-plated police forces employed all over the capitalist world today.

Who can deny that these leaders must view themselves as the most hated group of people in world history? The extraordinary measures they take for their security make Hitler's bunker look like Swiss cheese.

But then, think of their average day. They turn on the morning news and hear that tens of thousands are being laid off by the corporations that paid to put these politicians in office. That's a lot of angry people right there. Then they look at the morning papers and read about enraged stockholders who were swindled by more of their corporate buddies. Photographs show the smoldering fire in the eyes of tens of thousands of refugees living in utter squalor because of wars they started.

The weather channel is no respite for them. All over the world, drastic climate change caused by reliance on fossil fuels—yes, their friends again—is snuffing out species, threatening tens of millions with starvation from drought, drowning others in flash floods.

The world is in so many kinds of turmoil, and it's all connected to the unrestrained greed of the global capitalist system that allows a few rich slobs to own and control more wealth than all the poorest countries put together. And at the pinnacle of this system, of course, are the mega-billionaires behind the Bush administration in the United States.

The aristocrats toppled by the French Revolution were notorious for being oblivious to the suffering of the masses. But the present rulers and their political representatives can't claim they didn't know. They surely do know, and that's why they are barricading themselves away. It didn't work for Louis and Marie Antoinette, and it won't work for today's exploiters and oppressors either.

WORKERS

PERU

Privatizations spark nationwide protests

Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo's attempt to privatize two state-owned electricity companies provoked nationwide demonstrations beginning June 14. The government mobilized the army against the residents of Arequipa, Peru's second largest city, but outrage had already spread to cities across the country.

Six days after Toledo announced the sale he was forced to suspend it.

Toledo was elected in 2001 on a platform that opposed privatizations. So when his government announced June 14 that it would sell the Egasa and Egesur power plants to Tractebel—a Belgian-based subsidiary of a French conglomerate—people's anger erupted. Unions and local mayors had been staging demonstrations for weeks against the sales.

Protests began immediately in Arequipa. When police responded with tear gas and 20 protesters were wounded, popular organizations led by the Broad Defense Front barricaded streets. They shut down the city with a general strike. Demonstrators occupied the local airport. On June 16, Toledo declared a state of emergency and martial law over the department of Arequipa.

Thirty regional mayors declared a hunger strike to support the Arequipa demonstrations and oppose the privatizations. In Tacna, on the Chilean border, protesters attempted to take over the local airport in solidarity with the Arequipa movement.

Strikes and protests also spread to the capital city of Lima, and to Cuzco, Juliaca, Puno and other cities.

The government sent a team to negotiate with what organizers were calling the "uprising" on June 18. Bottles and stones pelted its bus.

In the face of the mass mobilization, Toledo backed down. On June 19, he suspended the sale of the electric companies pending review by the courts. As part of the settlement, he issued a public apology to the people of Arequipa.

Police had killed one student and wounded hundreds of people during the uprising. Days later, on June 22, Toledo

lifted the state of emergency.

Right-wing business leaders criticized the deal. Julio Favre, president of a national business organization, told the Associated Press on June 23 that the suspension of the sale was a "political error."

"A government needs to put clear rules in place and act with firmness," he warned.

Interior Minister Fernando Rospigliosi resigned rather than apologize as part of the settlement.

Economist Augusto Alvaro Rodrich commented, "You can mark the hour and the date when the privatization and concession process ended in Peru."

The retreat by the Toledo government did not succeed in quelling all the protests. On June 21, members of a coalition called the Patriotic Front declared continued protests in Tacna until the government addresses a wide range of social needs in the southern province.

The Spanish news agency EFE reported on June 20 that "a large number of local army reservists entrenched themselves along stretches of the Pan American Highway leading into Chile in order to impede government security forces from quelling the protests."

VENEZUELA

New destabilization threats

Opponents of the revolutionary process under way in Venezuela are again openly mobilizing. Threats of a new military coup are being circulated at the same time that pro-business elements are again taking to the streets against the government of President Hugo Chávez.

A June 16 article in the Miami Herald featured an interview with four Venezuelan military officers threatening a new coup attempt. "The conditions for a social explosion exist," they said. "And if a social explosion happens, the armed forces will intervene."

The Herald was careful to note that the claims of the four to represent a majority current within the Venezuelan armed forces could not be verified. In April, elements of the top brass colluded with business leaders to attempt a coup against Chávez—an attempt that was defeated by a mass mobilization of

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Workers World Party contingent at Gay Pride in 1987.

AROUND THE WORLD

By Andy McInerney

Venezuela's poor and working people.

The four echoed complaints against Chávez from the propertied elements in Venezuela: his support for Cuba and the Colombian insurgencies, the creation of the Bolivarian Circles and other mass organizations, and the "many signs that tell us that the tendency of this government is Marxist-Leninist."

The interview coincided with demonstrations by anti-Chávez forces demanding the president's resignation. The head of the CTV union federation, whose leadership has aligned itself with the bosses against Chávez, threatened more strikes.

Pro-Chávez forces responded by mobilizing more than a million people in three cities in a massive show of support.

Many sources, including the officers interviewed by the Miami Herald, identified July 5 as a possible date for a military coup. That day, marked as Venezuela's Independence Day, is traditionally when the president awards promotions and raises in the armed forces.

In an interview with the Brazilian Hora do Povo, National Assembly Deputy Marelis Perez described the upcoming promotions: "Next July 5, important changes are going to take place in the national Armed Forces. There are going to be significant military promotions. This fact makes the pro-coup elements pretty nervous because a new, authentically democratic leadership will certainly be born."

Pro-Chávez forces have announced plans for mass demonstrations to take place on July 5.

Media workers' union: 'No more manipulation'

The Executive Council of SITRANAC—the union representing

workers at El Nacional, one of Venezuela's main bourgeois newspapers—issued a statement opposing union leaders' participation in the anti-Chávez destabilization campaign. The statement was translated and reproduced in the June 11 edition of Vheadline.com, a pro-Chávez Internet news source.

"The El Nacional newspaper company has censored this communiqué, and its workers have taken it upon themselves to let people know where the union stands," the statement begins. "We want to make it clear that we do not agree nor will we agree with aggressive political marches, work stoppages, and strikes for political purposes" aimed at the government.

"We do not approve of distorted and intolerant news slants and are not prepared to accept misnamed leaders that allegedly represent, guide and manipulate us with their stoppages and strikes when on repeated occasions they have denied workers the legitimate right to strike for labor benefits," the statement continued.

The workers call on the bosses to take part in the dialog Chávez has offered and to refrain from confrontation. "No more manipulation," the union states. "We workers say firmly and responsibly that we will not accept such behavior again."

IRELAND

Exposé on Finucane assassination

Fresh evidence of a long-alleged conspiracy between British secret police and right-wing, pro-British death squads in northern Ireland was aired in a BBC documentary June 18. The BBC "Panorama" program featured an interview with for-

mer loyalist paramilitary member Ken Barrett about his role in the assassination of lawyer Pat Finucane.

Finucane was shot 14 times in 1989 while he was eating dinner with his family. The British ruling class hated him for his effective legal defense of members of the Irish Republican Army, which at that time was waging an armed struggle against British rule in northern Ireland.

Barrett detailed the roles of the Royal Ulster Constabulary's Special Branch—Britain's secret police in the occupied territory—and the British Army's Force Research Unit in planning, carrying out and covering up the murder.

"I think the lid has now come off the can of worms, and the worms are crawling out," said Sinn Fein leader Martin McGuinness. He called for an independent investigation of the murder, a demand that nationalist Irish have championed since the assassination.

BASQUE COUNTRY

Thousands protest outlawing Batasuna party

Up to 80,000 people took to the streets of Bilbao in Spanish-occupied Basque country on June 16. The demonstration was to protest Spanish government plans to ban the Batasuna party. Batasuna is the most militant of the leftist parties advocating Basque independence from Spain and France. It is being targeted on charges that it maintains links to the ETA—Basque Homeland and Freedom—which is waging an armed national-liberation struggle.

The slogan of the demonstration was:

"No to outlawing. All projects, all ideas, all people." Wide layers of Basque society joined the solidarity demonstration. They included deputies from the more moderate Basque Nationalist Party PNV. Members of Spain's United Left also attended the demonstration.

Meanwhile, members of the Batasuna national leadership were holding meetings throughout the Basque Country with their supporters to discuss strategies in the event the party is outlawed.

ZIMBABWE

Cuban CP: 'Full support' for land reform

A delegation from the Cuban Communist Party traveled to Zimbabwe to meet with the ZANU-PF, President Robert Mugabe's political party. Notably, the Cuban delegation expressed support for Mugabe's land redistribution policy, "because it was fundamental for the national resources to be in the hands of the majority," according to the Harare Herald.

The Zimbabwean government has embarked on a wide-reaching effort to redistribute lands owned by the former white ruling class to tens of thousands of landless Black veterans of the liberation struggle.

Mugabe greeted the delegation on June 19, saying, "We have admired Cuba in many ways, for its revolutionary stand not only against capitalism, but also against the spirit of dominance by the United States."

General strikes hit Spain & Greece

By G. Dunkel

Millions of workers participated in a general strike in Spain June 20. They struck to protest a government plan that would end unemployment insurance for any worker who refuses a job offer and make it easier to fire workers.

The government also wants to stop aid to agricultural workers that allows them and their families to survive during the slack seasons.

The prime ministers of the 15 European Union countries met in the southern Spanish city of Seville June 20-21 to discuss immigration and economic policy. During the week of this meeting, workers and their unions throughout Europe, particu-

larly in Greece, France and Spain, held major strikes. They protested government attacks on workers' rights including pensions, layoff protections and unemployment insurance.

The general strike in Spain affected almost every area, except the Basque area in the northeast, where a general strike was held June 19.

Southern Spain, once one of the poorest areas of Europe, has experienced a booming economy since it started providing almost all of Europe's winter fruits and vegetables using cheap immigrant labor from northern and western Africa.

Because several new right-wing European governments ran on anti-immigrant

platforms, and because Spanish agricultural workers are organizing against racist treatment and for better working conditions, many workers believe the Spanish government wants to force unemployed Spanish workers into the fields.

A hundred thousand workers marched in Seville. Jose Maria Fidalgo, leader of the Comisiones Obreras labor union confederation, led the protest. It shut down the city so thoroughly that Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar had to delay the start of the EU meeting.

There were a few skirmishes and 100 arrests were reported.

Hundreds of residents from North Africa, demanding work permits, held a hunger strike in Seville during the EU meeting.

The strike hit transportation especially hard. There was no high-speed train service between Madrid and Seville. Only one ferry crossed the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco, instead of the usual 15. And the ports of Algeciras, Barcelona and A Coruna were shut down.

Car manufacturing plants in Spain, including Citroen, Renault, Nissan and Ford, were idled.

The government claimed that only 6 to 14 percent of workers observed the strike. The unions said 85 to 90 percent followed their call.

Most independent observers supported the unions' assessment.

Greek workers storm gov't office

On June 18, workers in Greece held a general strike to protest the government's plan to slash pension benefits. The country's two main unions, together representing about 800,000 workers, joined in the action.

Workers stopped airline flights, trains, ferries and buses across Greece. All schools, government offices and public services were closed. Hospitals ran with skeleton staffs.

Hundreds of protesters stormed the National Economy Ministry to hang a five-story-long banner demanding that the government alter its pension reform bill, while thousands of protesters marched on parliament.

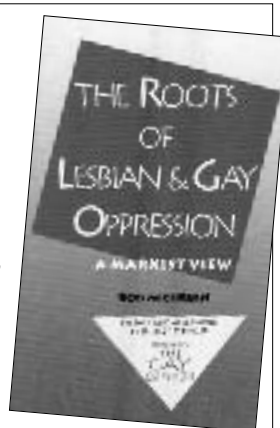
Thousands of tourists were stranded at Athens' main port of Piraeus as marine workers walked out. They were still out on June 23 and the government threatened to arrest them if they didn't return to work.

The Greek government offered to soften its pension cuts for marine workers, but not enough for the union to go back to work. It instructed its members to anchor their ships offshore rather than moor them at a dock to make it harder for the cops to force them back.

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IPROLETARIOS Y OPRIMIDOS DE TODOS LOS PAÍSES, UNÍOS!

MUNDO OBRERO

Respuesta a las amenazas de Bush

Millones de cubanos dicen: El socialismo está aquí para quedarse

Por Gloria La Riva

Otra trama de George W. Bush contra Cuba se derrumbó el 12 de junio cuando más de 9 millones de cubanos marcharon para proclamar que el sistema socialista de Cuba es "intocable".

La gente llegaron de todas partes en más de 200 marchas y 2.230 mítines a pesar de las lluvias. La movilización sin precedente—la más grande en la historia de Cuba—se dio en respuesta al discurso pronunciado por Bush el 20 de mayo en Miami. El, rodeado por inmigrantes ultraderechistas y cubanos terroristas anti Cuba, arrogantemente declaró de que Cuba debe tener cambios en las elecciones nacionales del año 2003 y virtualmente regresar al capitalismo antes de los Estados Unidos pueden suspender el bloqueo.

Bush también exigió se implementara una petición que presenta 20 propuestas de cambios totales en Cuba, incluyendo "la iniciativa libre". Esa petición, a la que se refiere aquí en los Estados Unidos como el proyecto "Varela", fue circulada en Cuba por un pequeño grupo de contra revolucionarios y se supone que colectaron 11.000 firmas.

El ex Presidente Jimmy Carter también mencionó la petición en su discurso en la televisión nacional cubana. Esta tiene todas las señas de una campaña suplidada por los Estados Unidos fabricación—una artimaña imperialista dirigida a desacreditar a la Revolución Cubana.

Campañas de peticiones populares enviadas directamente a los presidentes estadounidenses—como la petición de la libertad del prisionero político Leonard Peltier—son rutinariamente ignoradas por Washington. Las amenazas de Bush en Miami encendió una respuesta abrumadora y sonora por parte del pueblo cubano. Ellos decían: a Cuba no se le va a dictar—especialmente por el imperialismo estadounidense.

Reformando la Constitución

Junto con los nueve millones de participantes en las manifestaciones, una campaña grandísima fue lanzada el 10 de junio por las organizaciones en masas por una reforma a la constitucional afirmando que el sistema económico, político y social del socialismo de Cuba es intocable.

Redactado por representantes de organizaciones de mujeres, obreras, juveniles, estudiantiles, militares, jubilados y campesinos, presentaron la petición ante la Asamblea Nacional de Cuba para reformar la Constitución.

La constitución de Cuba fue ratificada en 1976 por un referéndum de voto popular un más del 97 por ciento. No es una promesa abstracta para la "vida, libertad y la búsqueda de la felicidad," sino un documento revolucionario que garantiza los derechos básicos a la vivienda, empleo, educación y cultura, y que garantiza que el poder del estado yace con el pueblo.

La iniciativa para este nuevo cambio constitucional dice en parte:

"Consciente de que la Revolución Socialista, logró rescatar a Cuba del humillante dominio imperialista y convertirla en una nación libre e independiente que se fundamenta en la estrecha unidad, la cooperación y el consenso de un pueblo culto, rebelde, de hombres y mujeres valientes y heroicos, que es la fuerza, el gobierno y el poder mismo de la nación cubana y que con su valor, su inteligencia y sus ideas ha sabido enfrentar y defenderse de las agresiones del más poderoso imperio que haya conocido la historia de la humanidad;

"Consciente de que pese al férreo bloqueo y a la guerra económica impuesta por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América para pretender asfixiar y humillar a nuestro pueblo, la nación cubana se ha crecido en estos gloriosos años de Revolución hasta lograr alcanzar altos índices educacionales, culturales y sociales, con una tasa de analfabetismo del 0,2%, una tasa de escolarización de la enseñanza primaria del 100%, una tasa de escolarización de la enseñanza secundaria del 99,7%, una mortalidad infantil de 6,2 por mil nacidos vivos, con 590 médicos, 743 enfermeras y 630,6 camas hospitalarias por cada cien mil habitantes;

"Por tanto todos los ciudadanos [cubanos] en ejercicio de su poder soberano y del derecho que le consagra el artículo 3 de la Constitución de defender el orden político, social y económico establecido y haciendo uso del derecho fundamental que asiste a de dirigir peticiones a las autoridades, solicita de la Asamblea Nacional del



Gloria La Riva habla al Primero de Mayo en la Habana.

MUNDO OBRERO FOTO

Poder Popular, órgano supremo del poder del Estado, que representa y expresa la voluntad soberana de todo el pueblo:

"Primero, ratificar la identificación de nuestro pueblo con todos y cada uno de los principios que sustentan a la Constitución de la República, específicamente con los Fundamentos Políticos, Sociales y Económicos que se consagran en su Capítulo I, destacando especialmente que: 'Cuba es un Estado socialista de trabajadores, independiente y soberano, organizado con todos y para el bien de todos, como República unitaria y democrática, para el disfrute de la libertad política, la justicia social, el bienestar individual y colectivo y la solidaridad humana.'

"Segundo, consignar expresamente la voluntad del pueblo de que el régimen económico, político y social consagrado en la Constitución de la República es intocable.

"Tercero, ratificar que las relaciones económicas, diplomáticas y políticas con cualquier otro Estado no podrán ser jamás negociadas bajo agresión, amenaza o presión de una potencia extranjera."

Campaña de firmas afirma el socialismo

Una campaña para recoger firmas de votantes cubanos elegibles fue lanzada que demostró su apoyo por la iniciativa constitucional. El 14 de junio, en el programa televisa cubano de debate entre un panel de participantes, el proceso así como la hora, el lugar y la fecha por el coleccionar de firmas fue explicado en detalla.

Después de un mitin por la mañana del 15 de junio fuera de la Habana en el monumento conmemorativo donde está enterrado el héroe de la independencia cubana Antonio Maceo, el firmar de endoso comenzó a las 10 de la mañana.

En 129.523 lugares de votar a través de Cuba, el pueblo se congregó para demostrar su apoyo inquebrantable por la Revolución. Todos los votantes elegibles con 16 años de edad o mayores podía firmar. Por mediodía del 16 de junio, escasamente 26 horas después de que comenzara los endosos, 7.412.721 ciudadanos cubanos había agregado sus

nombres en apoyo. Por mediodía del 18 de junio, la fecha y la hora límite, 8.165.320 firmaron la iniciativa constitucional, aproximadamente un 98,7 por ciento de la población votante. El sumo de la población cubana alcanza como 11 millones de personas.

Tomando en cuenta la gente que no tiene la edad para votar o que no puede votar por otras razones, las cifras son extraordinarias.

Revolución popular

La "guerra sin fin" declarado por el imperialismo de los Estados Unidos después del 11 de septiembre demuestra como los militaristas en la Casa Blanca y el Pentágono se consideran omnipotentes. En sus aseveraciones que países oprimidos como Siria, Irán, Iraq, Libia, la República Democrática Popular de Corea y Cuba son países "terroristas", a si mismos otorgan el derecho de utilizar cualquier medida para desestabilizar o tumbar esos gobiernos.

La capacidad de Cuba de sobrevivir la agresión de los Estados Unidos y defender su soberanía siempre ha dependido en el vasto apoyo popular que disfruta la revolución. El pueblo cubano es supremamente consciente de que han logrado todos sus alcances debido al socialismo.

Esto se debe en gran parte al líder cubano por más de 43 años, el Presidente Fidel Castro, que ha demostrado la valentía más grande y la resolución política frente al poder militar más mortífero en la historia del mundo.

Como dijo el Presidente Castro el 8 de junio, contestando a las amenazas de Bush: "No debió lanzar desafíos políticos a la dirección revolucionaria cubana porque no está en condiciones de responder a los desafíos políticos que Cuba puede hacerle. Sería como navegar en un gran barco de papel, el de la mentira y la demagogia, que no resiste olas ni vientos.

"No debió plantear exigencias sobre cuestiones que tienen que ver exclusivamente con nuestra soberanía, ni lanzar amenazas contra Cuba, porque jamás el pueblo cubano ha sido ni podrá ser doblegado."

El apoyo casi unánime por el socialismo cubano en unos pocos días de movilización es el mejor ejemplo hasta hoy de que la revolución es permanente.

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