

MOBILIZING TO STOP WAR ON IRAQ:

■ 'Terror' charges on bus driver
foiled in Boston

6



WW PHOTO: PAT CHIN

A Nov. 21 meeting at Rev. Herbert Daughtry's House of the Lord Church in Brooklyn showed that the African American community vanguard is battling Bush's war plans.

■ Historic Black church rallies
in Brooklyn

7

■ Buildup toward Jan. 18

7

■ Soldier says no to Iraq duty

6

Safety failures kill two NYC transit
workers in 24 hours

4

Visit to Colombia in solidarity
with Coca Cola workers

8

NATO expansion in Prague
draws protests

11

Worst oil slick threatens
Galician coast

9

SUBSCRIBE
to **Workers World**
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Special trial subscription:
\$2 for 8 weeks \$25 for one year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PHONE NUMBER

WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER

55 W. 17 St. NY, NY 10011

(212) 627-2994

www.workers.org read it online

Behind the fog of war

Corporate crimes multiply

By Deirdre Griswold

The intense focus of the Bush administration and the media on preparations for a massive assault on Iraq has cast into obscurity what else is going on in this country.

More raw sewage has been leaking out recently about the crooked deals of the billionaire class than at any time in memory. As the capitalist economy continues to flounder, taking the jobs and lives of untold millions with it, it has become more difficult for the owners and executives of the huge corporations to conceal their dirty bookkeeping and illegal deals. But don't expect the huge media conglomerates to spotlight it.

Every day that headlines scream about "terrorism" and "Saddam," the corporate criminals thank the war makers in Washington for shielding them from the public's wrath.

Here's a quick rundown on some of the more odious deals that have been ferreted out recently. Don't expect to find them on the nightly news, except in some hard-to-read crawler. The headlines are reserved for shock items trying to instill in the public intense fear of Arabs and Muslims—one day it's Afghans, the next it's Iraqis, then it's Yemenis.

➤ \$10 million worth of collusion

The energy-trading company Williams and its partner AES colluded to drive up power prices in 2000 during California's energy crisis, reported the Nov. 15 Wall Street Journal. The newspaper had obtained a report from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission containing excerpts from "damaging telephone conversations" between executives of the two companies. Company officials had discussed deliberately keeping generating equipment shut down for "maintenance," which helped drive electricity

prices from \$63 to \$750 per megawatt hour. As a result, these two companies raked in an extra \$10 million in profits over a 15-day period. California's consumers are still paying for this fraud with sharply higher utility bills.

Enron was another company that profited even more handsomely off the deregulation of California's utilities. Its chief executive, Kenneth Lay, was a big contributor to George W. Bush's presidential campaign and a special adviser to the president on energy policy. He later bailed out of the company with hundreds of millions while workers were left without jobs and pensions.

➤ FBI, CIA, SEC: Foxes guard the chickens

Bush appointee Harvey Pitt was forced to resign as head of the Securities & Exchange Commission on Nov. 5. The SEC has the difficult task of reassuring investors that it's safe to go back in the market again. The story is that Pitt had chosen William Webster to head a new accounting industry oversight board but hadn't informed the White House or his fellow commissioners at the SEC that Webster was himself under scrutiny in the area of corporate accounting. In other words, Pitt had chosen a fox to guard the chickens. The SEC is in the biggest crisis of its history, at a time when investors are pulling out of U.S. markets because they don't trust the corporations or the government agencies here to give honest information about their true financial situation.

Webster, by the way, is a former head of both the CIA and FBI. He also was part of a three-person oversight board set up by the government supposedly to "clean up" the Teamsters union, but really to try to break its militancy. No wonder the politicians and their corporate bosses would rather see Pitt leave and Webster withdraw than go

Continued on page 4



Ona Move! In the Spirit of Crazy Horse

Hundreds of Native people and their supporters, led by United American Indians of New England, gather in Plymouth, Mass., each "Thanksgiving Day" to hear Native people present the truth about their history and the conditions faced by Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas. The event began in 1970, when Native people seized the Mayflower replica in Plymouth Harbor and buried Plymouth Rock.

The call for last year's event, sponsored by the United American Indians of New England (UAIANE), explained: "Since 1970, Native Americans have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. 'thanksgiving' holiday. . . . To them, 'thanksgiving' day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of their people, the theft of their lands, and the relentless assault on their culture."

One renowned prisoner in this war of capitalist conquest is American Indian Movement warrior Leonard Peltier. He is serving two consecutive life sentences for the killing of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation despite the fact that government officials admit they don't know who shot the agents.

In acts of solidarity over the years, Peltier from his prison cell has taken up his pen in defense of African American death row prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, and Abu-Jamal has written to rally support for this Native political prisoner.



Message of thanks to Leonard Peltier & the LPDC

Mumia Abu-Jamal sent the following message to Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier and his defense committee on Jan. 21, 1999.

Ona Move!

We, all of us, give solid thanks to Leonard Peltier and his numerous supporters worldwide, for the principled assistance in France recently. I deeply appreciate it—we ALL do.

Many years ago, when I was doing radio commentary for several Philadelphia college stations, I frequently received taped reports from communications people from AIM (American Indian Movement) and promptly reported such information to my audience. What I learned was that the U.S. government was waging a vicious and unrelenting war against

Native people. It was a phase in that war that an innocent Lakota activist, Leonard Peltier, was dogged by this government and framed for murder.

For almost a quarter of a century this kind and gentle warrior, this artist, this son of his people, has withstood the brutal assaults of the U.S. government, against its own "law," its own Constitution, its own precedent.

On Feb. 6, 1999, the calendar will strike 23 long and lonely years in U.S. gulags for Leonard Peltier. Twenty-three years since an overtly illegal extradition from Canada to the U.S. Twenty-three years in a Yankee Iron Cage for the "crime" of resisting American repression.

As we enter a new century, it is past time for us to correct this vile injustice against Leonard Peltier. Let a new century begin with an act of justice for the Oglala people.

Free Leonard Peltier!

Free the MOVE 9!

Long Live John Africa!

In the Spirit of Nat Turner and Crazy Horse!

Ona Move!

Leonard Peltier: Solidarity with Mumia

Peltier sent the following statement this year to a Nov. 2 demonstration in Philadelphia that demanded freedom for death row prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Greetings, Brothers & Sisters:

I stand in solidarity with you today in support of my brother Mumia Abu-Jamal's immediate release. The price that Mumia & I & other political prisoners are paying is the result of the colonial & racist policies of the U.S. government & multinational corporations.



They target & prosecute those who would dare speak out against their oppressive & genocidal policies. We are well aware of the hypocrisy of a society that claims liberty & justice for all, yet

disregards its own laws & ideals to consolidate power in the hands of a few.

The death penalty does not serve any purpose other than that of taking another life. Far too many have already been put to death who were not guilty of anything. The death penalty is not a deterrent & does not stop crime. That the death penalty is racist is also well known. Murder is murder whether committed by the state or an individual.

We must stand together & learn to work alongside one another, against the oppression forced on us by our government. The struggle for justice & freedom must go on. The struggle to save Mumia's life & to expose the plight of all political prisoners must continue. Do not let them take Mumia's life!

Again, I stand in solidarity with this struggle.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse, Leonard Peltier

JOIN US. Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples—Black and white, Latino, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

National Office
55 W. 17 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10011
(212) 627-2994;
Fax (212) 675-7869
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta P.O. Box 424,
Atlanta, Ga. 30301
(404) 235-5704

Baltimore 426 E. 31 St.,
Baltimore, Md. 21218
(410) 235-7040
baltimore@workers.org

Boston 31 Germania St.,
Boston, Mass. 02130
(Enter at 284 Amory St.)
(617) 983-3835;
Fax (617) 983-3836
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
P.O. Box 1204
Buffalo NY 14213
(716) 857-2112
buffalo@workers.org

Chicago P.O. Box 06178,
Wacker Drive Station,
Chicago, Ill. 60606
(773) 381-5839;
Fax (773) 761-9330;
chicago@workers.org

Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
phone (216) 531-4004
cleveland@workers.org

Detroit
5920 Second Ave.,
Detroit, Mich. 48202
(313) 831-0750;
detroit@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 130322,
Houston, Texas
77219 (713) 861-5965
houston@workers.org

Los Angeles
422 S. Western Ave.,
Room 114,
Los Angeles, Calif. 90020
(213) 487-2368
fax (213) 387-9355
la@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 9202,
Philadelphia, Pa. 19139
(610) 352-3625;
phila@workers.org

Richmond, Va.
P.O. Box 14602,
Richmond, Va. 23221
richmond@workers.org

Rochester, N.Y.
2117 Buffalo Rd., PMB.
303, Rochester, N.Y. 14624
(716) 436-6458;
San Diego, Calif.
3930 Oregon St., Suite 230
San Diego, Calif. 92104
(619) 692-4496

San Francisco
2489 Mission St.
Rm. 28,
San Francisco,
Calif. 94110
(415) 826-4828;
fax (415) 821-5782;
sf@workers.org

Seattle
1218 E. Cherry #201,
Seattle, Wash. 98122
(206) 325-0085;
seattle@workers.org

State College, Pa.
100 Grandview Rd.,
State College,
Pa. 16801
(814) 237-8695

Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300,
Washington, DC 20037,
(202) 347-9300
dc@workers.org

This week ...



★ National

- Corporate crimes multiply 1
- Ona Move! In the Spirit of Crazy Horse 2
- New York subway workers killed 3
- State budgets in crisis 3
- Ashcroft picks state to try serial suspects 3
- Palestinian activist wins release. 4
- UMass Amherst fight back 4
- The racial profiling of Alan Iverson 5
- Philadelphia anti-war protest 5
- Boston frame-up foiled 6
- Pentagon insists schools turn over student names . . . 6
- Soldier refuses Iraq duty 6
- Anti-war mobilizing continues 7
- Brooklyn's Black community says no to Iraq war 7

★ International

- Symbol of Vieques struggle dies 8
- Colombia solidarity trip 8
- Koreans protest acquittal of U.S. soldiers 9
- Worst oil disaster ravages Galician coast 9
- Palestine repression breeds resistance 10
- Europeans protest NATO's eastward march 11
- Belgrade protest demands release of Milosevic 11

★ Editorial

- Budget bombshell 10

★ Noticias En Español

- Ministro De Relaciones Exteriores De Cuba 12

WW CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Sat., Dec. 7
Bedford-Stuyvesant War is Not the Answer Walk for Peace. Speakers include Larry Holmes of the ANSWER coalition, and others. Noon to 4 p.m. At Restoration Plaza, Fulton Street (between Brooklyn and New York Aves., Brooklyn. For info (718) 907-0578.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat., Dec. 14
Anti-War Teach-In. Stop the war against Iraq. Featuring speakers and topics from a diverse group of presenters. Sponsored by International ANSWER Coalition. 7 p.m. At Horace Mann Middle School, 3351 23rd St., near Valencia. For info (415) 821-6545.

WESTERN MASS.

Wed., Dec. 4
Larry Holmes, co-director of the International Action Center, on "U.S. war on Iraq, racism and repression at home and how the people's movement can stop it." 7 p.m. At UMass Amherst Room 163CC. For info IAC/ANSWER (413) 538-8537 or wmassiac@hotmail.com.

Workers World

55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994 • Fax: (212) 675-7869
E-mail: editor@workers.org
Web: http://www.workers.org/
Vol. 44, No. 48 • Dec. 5, 2002
Closing date: Nov. 26, 2002

Editor: Deirdre Griswold;
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk; Managing Editors: Greg Butterfield, John Catalinotto, Leslie Feinberg, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson; West Coast Editors: Richard Becker, Gloria La Riva; Contributing Editors: Joyce Chediak, Pat Chin, Naomi Cohen, Shelley Ettinger, Teresa Gutierrez; Technical Staff: Rebecca Finkel, Elena J. Peckham, Hank Sambach; Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Carlos Vargas; Internet: Janet Mayes

Workers World-WW (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$25; foreign and institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106.

Selected articles are available via e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail message to info@workers.org for details.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World-WW, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011.

NEW YORK

Subway slip-ups kill two workers

By G. Dunkel
New York

Signal maintainer Joy Antony was crushed to death on the New York City subway tracks Nov. 22. Less than 24 hours later, Kurien Baby was killed by a subway train while he was setting out warning lights.

Both workers were part of small teams that maintain and inspect the signals that keep New York's subways running 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These teams don't have a "flagger" to warn them about oncoming trains and warn the train operators that people are working on the tracks.

TransportWorkers Local 100 President Roger Toussaint told reporters: "Our members are sent out to essentially dodge trains, dodge rails, and hope they come home at the end of the day. What we want to come out of this is that we want no more deaths."

The union organized buses to take its members to Antony's funeral on Nov. 25. Officials of the Metropolitan Transit Authority announced Nov. 23 that for the next 24 hours only emergency track work would be done. The MTA would review its safety procedures during that period.

The union and the MTA are in bitter contract negotiations. Safety, wages and management respect for the workers are the main issues.

Safety costs money. Along with recklessly endangering workers to save this money, the MTA is proposing to seriously slash bus and subway service. That's one choice, they say.

A second option being floated is to slash service a little less severely, mainly on the weekends, and to raise the fare from \$1.50 to \$1.75 for a single ride.

A third possibility, according to the MTA management, is to keep service as it is now and raise the fare to \$2 a ride.

For weekly and monthly tickets, the MTA's proposal would increase the costs by approximately the same percentage. These tickets offer a better rate to steady commuters than the single-ride rates.

The poorest people in New York, who have no alternative to public transportation, cannot afford the current commuter tickets. They won't be able to afford the higher prices the MTA is proposing.

Local 100 has been an active participant in the "Save the Fare Campaign." The union has taken out ads and participated in the rallies on the issue.

The MTA bosses claim they are concerned about safety. On website and posters, they exhort passengers not to run down steps or lean against doors or hold doors open. But if the MTA fails to ensure the safety of its workers, how can it ensure the safety of its passengers? □

State budgets in crisis as war looms

By Sharon Black
Baltimore

If the recent elections were not an utter sham, there would have been an honest and open debate about the devastating genocidal war about to be launched against Iraq and the growing layoffs of U.S. workers as capitalist recession continues.

The crisis of state budgets and what it means for communities and workers would have also been at the top of the list of issues to consider.

Forty-five states have already begun to feel the impact of budget deficits. Many analysts say that the past and coming year are the worst in history. The \$40 billion shortage in state budgets this year is expected to rise to \$50 billion next year, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

These are rather dry statistics. What they will mean in human terms is that tens of thousands of workers who are already paid too little and worked too hard will lose their jobs. Others will lose pensions and health benefits.

Communities will feel the pain of cuts to already-too-meager programs. Health care, education, housing, drug rehabilitation and food programs will all be on the chopping block.

The planned Pentagon war against Iraq could pay for the state budget crisis. Conservative estimates from the Wall Street Journal have placed the cost of the war at \$200 billion.

This does not include the cost of any kind of prolonged military occupation. Yale economist William Nordhaus estimates that the total cost of the Iraq war could climb as high as \$1.9 trillion if all factors are included in the calculations. Not a penny will come from the pockets of the oil companies.

Where are the headlines about this, or about the consequences to the vast majority of workers whose programs such as Social Security and Medicare will surely be looted?

The Pentagon budget—which will top \$500 billion in the year 2007 if trends continue—makes these sums look paltry. This is a form of robbery. It is a transfer of wealth from the working class to maintain an imperialist empire on behalf of the banks, oil companies and big business.

There is a direct link between the state budget cuts and misery here at home and the imperialist war.

Union, community and political leaders will be joining other anti-war activists in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 18 for a grassroots peace congress to demand money for jobs, health care, housing and education, not for military aggression against Iraq.

'Fight back!'

On Nov. 21, several hundred state workers from AFSCME Council 92 joined with members of the Coalition to Overturn the Budget Cuts and Alliance to Invest in Maryland to pack a state legislative hearing and testify against cuts to services, jobs and



WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

Baltimore hearings.

benefits.

Maryland's budget deficit is \$1.8 billion. The state's share of the cost of the Iraq war would be more than double its deficit.

Gov. Parris Glendening has announced a plan to balance an immediate shortage of \$600 million. He is proposing 4.9-percent cuts to most services, wages and health-care plans of workers. Programs such as mental health and drug rehabilitation would see their budgets cut sharply along with many others.

These cuts are just the first wave. What will follow will be more like a tidal

wave when the entire deficit has to be addressed in the early part of 2003.

Workers and community activists are preparing. In 1991, the Coalition to Overturn the Budget Cuts and AFSCME began a protracted fight, first by occupying the governor's office where leaders of the group were arrested, and later culminating in a march of 10,000 workers in Annapolis.

Activists are going back to the drawing board to make plans for this year—not only to fight the budget cuts but also to stop the war. □

Virginia kills quicker

Ashcroft picks state to try serial suspects

By Phil Wilayto
Richmond, Va.

It came as no great surprise when U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft announced that Virginia would be the first jurisdiction to try sniper suspects John Allen Muhammad and John Lee Malvo.

The two are charged or suspected in a string of shootings across the country that left 14 people dead and seven wounded. Where they would be tried first was Ashcroft's call, because the suspects were in federal custody. Ashcroft made no bones about his criteria: whichever jurisdiction could execute them the fastest.

Virginia won, hands down.

"Virginia, of all the jurisdictions, is the place where we have a death penalty statute that has stood the test of time," argued Fairfax County's Commonwealth's Attorney

Robert F. Horan Jr., who was hand-picked by Ashcroft to prosecute Muhammad.

Horan knows his statutes. Virginia has the shortest delay between sentencing and execution, the most insurmountable appeal process and is quite willing to put minors to death—an important consideration in this case, since Malvo is only 17.

In fact, after Texas, Virginia has executed more people than any other state. When considered on a per capita basis, it has executed more than Texas.

Then again, Virginia has had more death penalty experience than any other state.

According to Michael H. Reggio's "History of the Death Penalty" (PBS Web site), the first legal execution of a convicted criminal in the English North American colonies took place in 1622 in Virginia.

And, as befitting the state that developed the modern-day system of chattel slavery,

the vast majority of Virginia's death penalty victims have been of African descent—more than 85 percent of the 236 people executed here before the U.S. Supreme Court declared the death penalty unconstitutional in 1972. This, in a state where today only one in five residents is Black.

In April of 2000, the American Civil Liberties Union released a 40-page report examining the death penalty in Virginia since the ban on executions was lifted in 1977. Among its findings:

- Race remains "a controlling factor" in the way the death penalty is administered. For example, Black people convicted of killing whites are "significantly more likely to be sentenced to death" than whites who kill Blacks.

- Virginia "still has no enforceable means of ensuring that competent lawyers are appointed to represent indigent capital de-

fendants." That's important, since 97 percent of those sentenced to death could not afford their own lawyers.

- The Virginia Supreme Court has reversed fewer death sentences than any other state supreme court, and has never granted a petition for habeas corpus in a capital case.

- In recent years, the state has "repeatedly set national records for speedy executions."

Southern Christian Leadership Conference President Dr. Joseph E. Lowery once noted that, "By reserving the death penalty for Black defendants, or for the poor, or for those convicted of killing white persons, we perpetuate the ugly legacy of slavery—teaching our children that some lives are inherently less precious than others."

That pretty much sums up the use of the death penalty in Virginia. □

MASSACHUSETTS

Palestinian activist Jubran wins release

By Elijah Crane
Boston

After 17 days of illegal detention at the prison ACI Cranston in Rhode Island, a federal immigration judge ordered Amer Jubran freed on bond on Nov. 21. Judge Leonard Shapiro said there were no grounds for the illegal detention of Jubran, a leader in the Palestinian and anti-war movements.

In releasing Jubran on bond, the judge acknowledged the dozens of letters he had received from Jubran's supporters attesting to his character and community involvement fighting for justice for all. His supporters packed the courtroom and the entire lobby and corridor outside.

But the INS's effort to deport Jubran on baseless allegations of violating INS technicalities continues. The judge set the next hearing date in the case for Feb. 20, 2003. Supporters are continuing to send letters to the INS and the judge demanding the charges be dropped.

Immediately following the hearing, Jubran's supporters—including the Amer

Jubran Defense Committee, the New England Committee to Defend Palestine, the ANSWER coalition and others—held a spirited picket line outside the building, demanding freedom for Palestine and an immediate end to the frame-up against Jubran.

These committees see the hand of 'homeland security' behind the illegal detention and proceedings against Jubran. On Nov. 4, INS and FBI agents illegally raided his home. He was told he would be home by noon if he cooperated with the FBI, or else he would "rot for 50 years."

The INS told his lawyer it was their intention to detain him indefinitely, but gave no justification or grounds for doing so.

A strong people's movement immediately went into action, sending letters, holding pickets at the INS, and protesting this illegal frame-up. The INS is attempting to use a smokescreen of baseless allegations of INS technicalities to try to deny Jubran his right to stay in the country. But the real issue is his refusal to cooperate with the FBI in attacking the anti-war movement and his outspoken activism in defense of the rights of the Palestinian nation.

Just two days before the raid on his home and Jubran's arrest, he had led a march through the streets of Boston past the Israeli consulate in defense of Palestinian rights. The march was sponsored by the New England Committee to Defend Palestine, which Jubran co-founded. His detention was an attempt to chill and intimidate the growing anti-war movement and movement in defense of Palestine.

This is not the first time the state has tried to silence him. In June 2001, Jubran was targeted by Brookline police and arrested for leading a demonstration against the Israeli Independence Day celebration. A defense committee was quickly formed out of the offices of the International Action Center, and after many months of struggle, he finally won justice.

Jubran has worked with the ANSWER coalition on numerous protests against the brutal and genocidal Israeli occupation of Palestine, including a march of 2,500 on April 6 in Boston, and a march June 9 to protest the Israeli Day festival.

Jubran's release was forced by the struggle in the streets. Countless, nameless oth-

ers are being illegally detained on racist, frame-up charges in prisons across the U.S. because they do not have the benefit of organized defense committees. Working to free Jubran is also working to free others like him.

This attack on Amer Jubran is part of a broader attack on the anti-war movement as a whole. But a united movement can resist the Bush administration's three-prong strategy of incarceration, intimidation and disinformation. It can win Amer Jubran's unconditional freedom.

Demands that the charges be dropped immediately can be sent to USINS District Director Steven J Farquharson, Room 1700, JFK Federal Building, Boston, MA 02203. A copy should be sent to USINS Commissioner James W. Ziglar, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 I Street, NW, Washington, D.C., and to the Amer Jubran Defense Committee, P.O. Box 755, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

To sign an online email letter to the INS District Director and for updated information on how to support the case, go to www.iacoboston.org/amerjubran. □

UMASS AMHERST

Fightback greets gov't harassment of professors

By Bryan G. Pfeifer
Amherst, Mass.

The USA Patriot Act and "Homeland Security" have found a home at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst—at least temporarily.

On Oct. 24 Associate Professor M.J. Alhabeeb of the Department of Resource Economics, who is a naturalized U.S. citizen from Iraq, was questioned by UMass police detective Barry Flanders and an FBI agent from the Joint Terrorism Task Force office in Springfield, Mass.

The interrogation came after the Boston FBI office supposedly received a "tip" that Alhabeeb was "anti-American" and opposed to U.S. policy toward Iraq. Flanders, who is paid by the university, has been assigned as a "liaison" to the task force and works two days a week in Springfield.

At Alhabeeb's office, the officers told him the tip came from someone linked to Amherst Community Television where Alhabeeb is on the board of directors. If in fact this is true, Alhabeeb surmises that the informant may be someone disgruntled with his votes against budget cuts at the station.

Alhabeeb told Workers World that since arriving in the United States from Iraq in 1982 he has never publicly aired his political views. He said conversations at ACTV were "all internal, budgetary and administrative talk. I can't recall once that I talked politics at ACTV."

Alhabeeb initially asked that his name not be publicized for safety reasons—he is married and has two children—but three local newspapers used his name in articles and the UMass Amherst Daily Collegian published his picture on the front page.

Besides sitting on ACTV's board of directors, Alhabeeb is a former executive board member of the Massachusetts Society of Professionals — the UMass faculty union. He is also one of a few original Ara-

bic calligraphers in the West. In fact, four days after he was interviewed, the art exhibition "Islamic Art: Peace & Beauty, Islamic Calligraphy by M.J. Alhabeeb," began a month-long run in the Augusta Savage Gallery housed in the New Africa house where the Afro American studies department is located.

People on campus first learned of the attack on Alhabeeb the week of Nov. 10. Longtime U-Mass Sociology Professor Dan Clawson circulated an email after Alhabeeb told him about the "interview."

Calling for a meeting on Nov. 18 to address the issue, Clawson said, "We need to organize to stop FBI interrogation of UMass faculty (or students or staff), and UMass cooperation with and assistance to that process.

"Police and FBI investigation of those with dissenting views threatens the integrity of the university," added Clawson. "In an all-too-typical pattern, such investigations are targeted first at people of the 'wrong' race or ethnicity."

At the Nov. 18 meeting over 75 faculty, staff and students packed a meeting room in Machmer Hall. They agreed to draft a statement opposing "investigations" on campus and take other actions to expose "investigations."

Alhabeeb has not been the only one under attack. At the meeting Sri Lankan-born Yaju Dharmarajah, an organizer with Service Employees Local 509 on campus, said his wife Pilar Schiavo was visited at their home in Hadley, Mass., by Hadley police and an FBI agent from UMass in September while Dharmarajah was out of town. "They wanted to know if we were terrorists," said Dharmarajah. He said they asked Schiavo about his activities, his membership in various groups and his political views.

By speaking out Dharmarajah showed great courage. Under the Patriot Act he could be detained indefinitely as a for-

eign national.

"It is very scary to be put in that situation, especially when your husband is not a citizen yet," Schiavo told the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

In the racist and terrorist climate fostered by the Bush administration since Sept. 11, 2002, hundreds, if not thousands, of faculty, staff and students have been "in-

terviewed" by the FBI and other U.S. agencies. This is according to information posted by the American Association of University Professors on its website.

The fight-back campaign being waged at UMass Amherst against racist, terrorist state repression is one of many at higher-education institutions nationwide. This movement is growing. □

Corporate crimes multiply

Continued from page 1

through an open fight that could give the millions of working people in this country a clearer view of the corruption that is endemic to capitalism.

➤ Autism and homeland insecurity

The Homeland Security Act now passed by Congress is without a doubt meant to strengthen government repression on behalf of big business, which is behind the war moves in the Middle East. But the act also has lots of fine print that helps particular corporations—especially those that gave big bucks to the Bush campaign. Case in point: Eli Lilly & Co. is shielded against lawsuits by the act.

Why is this company worried about being sued? Because it has long produced a preservative, thimerosal, that may be implicated in the startling rise of autism among children in this country. Bob Herbert, in a column in the Nov. 25 New York Times, writes that thimerosal "contains mercury and was used for many years as an additive in some routinely administered children's vaccines."

Parents and doctors have noticed for some time that previously healthy children developed autism, a devastating neurological disorder, around the same time that

they received multiple inoculations for various childhood diseases. Nothing has been proven—or ruled out—but "in the summer of 1999 the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Public Health Service urged vaccine manufacturers to stop using thimerosal as quickly as possible."

Now comes the Homeland Security Act. It contains a provision, says Herbert, "that — incredibly — will protect Eli Lilly and a few other big pharmaceutical outfits from lawsuits by parents who believe their children were harmed by thimerosal."

Who put this provision into the act? No one is admitting to it, but "Mitch Daniels, the White House budget director, is a former Eli Lilly big shot." And "just last June President Bush appointed Eli Lilly's chairman, president and CEO, Sidney Taurel, to a coveted seat on the president's Homeland Security Advisory Council."

What is one of the greatest causes for insecurity in this homeland? The fact that health care, including medicines, has become unavailable to over 40 million uninsured people and barely affordable to millions more. At the same time, the drug companies as a group are one of the most lucrative investments on Wall Street, right up there with the military-industrial complex.

The racial profiling of Alan Iverson

By Monica Moorehead

"I want to be in Philadelphia, but I'm scared now to be in Philadelphia. I've heard about police officers toasting to Allen Iverson's next felony conviction... It scares me because I know that if there's any crooked cops out there, they can do anything... Allen Iverson can end up dead tomorrow if a crooked cop wants him dead. It's as simple as that.

"I have news cameras following me everywhere, following my wife, following my kids, following my friends, just to see what type of activity is going on. It really scares me, man." (philly.com, Nov. 19, 2002)

These quotes are taken from a recent interview with Allen Iverson, the 27-year-old brilliant basketball player with the National Basketball Association's Philadelphia 76ers. Iverson has been heavily scrutinized by the big business media, the Philadelphia police and courts ever since he was drafted by the 76ers in 1996.

Iverson was charged with several felonies this past July by the Philadelphia criminal justice system over alleged domestic abuse. All the charges were dropped. His wife, Tawanna Iverson, said in the same interview that they did argue, but denied that her husband had hit her.

The charge of domestic violence is very serious. But there is a racist double standard in how the media portray a Black athlete who stands accused of spousal abuse. The media soft-pedaled their treatment of a legendary white football coach like Joe Paterno at Penn State, who publicly bragged about how he systematically beat his wife.

Racism on and off the courts

Even though the NBA players are over 80 percent African American, no player has been demonized more than Iverson. He is

young, heavily tattooed and wears braids. More than any other player, he is identified with the African American-inspired hip-hop culture that has reached over the racial divide and affected diverse social strata, especially among young people.

The press has called Iverson a "thug" on more than one occasion because of his anti-establishment image among Black and white youth.

Who is Allen Iverson?

Iverson grew up poor in Hampton, Va., where he became a basketball star at Bethel High School. He then played basketball at prestigious Georgetown University until his talent drew the attention of the 76ers.

What has made Iverson such an outstanding basketball player is not only his talent but his tenacity and fearlessness. He is a six-foot guard playing in a game where being seven feet tall has become the norm. In 2001, he won the "Most Valuable Player" award as he led his team to the NBA finals, where they lost to the Los Angeles Lakers.

Professional basketball, like most sports under capitalism, is viewed as blood and guts entertainment. On the court, the players are looked upon by those who can afford the best seats as gladiators who are handsomely paid to run up and down the court to make spectacular dunks and cause a skirmish or two.

Basketball arenas are usually located in the white and wealth-dominated suburbs while the players originate from oppressed, working class neighborhoods.

Off the court, this social relationship can change dramatically. Black basketball players, notwithstanding their multi-million-dollar salaries, are just as likely to be targets of racial profiling as Black people in general. This is especially true of Iverson, who dresses in the tradition of hip-hop youth.

Recently, Iverson's hip-hop CD came

under fire for its anti-woman and anti-gay message. Iverson made a public apology, stating that he did not mean to offend anyone and reportedly met with the NAACP and representatives of the gay

and lesbian movement. This meeting got far less air time and press coverage.

Once again, the media took advantage of an unfortunate situation in an attempt to paint a broad, reactionary brush against all hip-hop music. Where is the coverage of the politically conscious hip-hop artists who use their music to demand no blood for oil and an end to police misconduct, or call for the freedom of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a political prisoner and victim of a police frame-up?

From 1986 until 1991, 580 complaints of abuse were made against off-duty offi-



cers. Out of the cases brought to court, only two were found guilty. Until the Los Angeles police scandals erupted a few years ago, only the Philadelphia police department had come under investigation by the federal government—because of its heinous record of police brutality during the tenure of Mayor Frank Rizzo.

Philadelphia has seen the police murders of Erin Forbes, Charles Matthews, Moises DeJesus, Donta Dawson, Kenneth Griffin and Phillip McCall. The police involved in these killings have never been brought to justice.

The press is either denouncing or dismissing the fear Iverson feels for himself and his family regarding the police. Reviewing the record of the Philadelphia police over the decades shows that Iverson's fear is more than justified. □

PHILADELPHIA

3,000 denounce war on Iraq



WW PHOTOS: BERTA JOUBERT

Over 3,000 protesters gathered at Philadelphia's City Hall Nov. 23. They marched down Market Street to the Liberty Bell and back to say, "No U.S. war on Iraq!"

Organized by the newly formed Philadelphia Regional Anti-War Network and endorsed by over 40 groups, the demonstration reflected the growing anti-war movement's diversity. During the march on Market Street demonstrators stopped several times to hold street rallies. Led by a group of Veterans Against the War, protesters walked down one lane of Market Street with frequent honks of support from passing motorists providing a soundtrack for their chants of "No blood for oil!"

—Philadelphia WW bureau

➤ 30 million acres ready to go kaboom

Here's a final bombshell that is unlikely to get more than a passing reference on prime time—sandwiched in between police reports that rarely mention corporate criminals and feel-good stories about Elvis sightings: "Unexploded munitions at 16,000 inactive military ranges, including chemical and biological weapons, pose 'imminent and substantial' public health risks and could require the largest environmental cleanup program ever implemented by the U.S. government, according to newly released Environmental Protection Agency documents." (Washington Post, Nov. 25)

The documents were made available by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. "Jeff Ruch, PEER's executive director, said his organization obtained the documents confidentially from an EPA whistle-blower who believes the EPA and the Defense Department are failing to adequately address groundwater and soil contamination caused by unexploded munitions on inactive ranges across 30 million to 40 million acres, an area roughly the size of the state of Florida."

These sites are in large cities like Washington, D.C., as well as less populated areas. Even Raymond F. DuBois, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, admits that "this is a

long-term, large problem" and that cleaning up unexploded ordnance could cost anywhere from \$14 billion to "several times" that much, depending on the eventual use of the land.

And now this country is headed into another war, which will only add to this gigantic problem.

So why haven't UN weapons inspectors been told to look for "weapons of mass destruction" in the United States? There are so many that some are literally rotting away on abandoned military facilities.

Well, in fact, a coalition of Canadian peace groups plans to do just that. Rooting Out Evil says that, according to President Bush's own guidelines, "the current U.S. administration poses a great threat to global security." Says spokesperson David Langille, "We're following Bush's lead and demanding that the U.S. grant our inspectors immediate and unfettered access to any site in the country—including all presidential compounds—so that we can identify the weapons of mass destruction in this rogue state."

A common thread runs through all these stories. They are breathtaking examples of how far the corporations and the government serving them have gone in dumping any pretense of respect for the rights of the people. And they all are getting minimal attention as the corporate media beats the drums trying to line up support for the administration's criminal war plans. □

Boston frame-up foiled:

Anti-war, labor unity wins victory for Marcus Jean

By Steve Kirschbaum,
Boston Labor's ANSWER, member
Steel Workers Local 8751

On Nov. 14, after less than 30 minutes of deliberation, a West Roxbury Court jury returned its verdict of "not guilty" in the case of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts vs. Boston school bus driver Marcus Jean.

This brought to a successful conclusion a critical phase in the struggle to win justice for Jean, an activist member of Steel Workers Local 8751. It was also an important victory in building unity between the anti-war movement and the movement to defend labor's rights.

In his closing remarks to the jury, people's lawyer Barry Wilson explained that this case represented Laidlaw Corp.'s cynical use of the governments' post-Sept. 11 pro-war frenzy to fire a union activist.

Wilson's remarks were reported in a front-page article headlined "Bus Driver Cleared of Terror Threat Charges" in the Boston Banner, the newspaper of Boston's African American community.

Laidlaw, which is in Chapter 11 bankruptcy, had targeted Jean as part of its policy to weed out unionists who resist the firm's plans to downsize, cut wages and tighten its grip on the work force.

On Jan. 30, Jean was involved in a minor disagreement with another driver concerning a bus parking spot. Jean and his union steward met with Readville Assistant Manager Diane Kelly and resolved the matter. No warning or discipline of any kind was issued.

The next morning Readville Terminal Manger Rick McLaughlin, in a provocative and threatening manner, tried to interrogate Jean about this same incident. Jean recognized that this was a gross violation of his union rights. He called McLaughlin on his racist discrimination and refused to submit to management harassment.

The dispute came in the context of dozens of union cases against McLaughlin for harassment, intimidation and threats against union drivers. That afternoon McLaughlin went to the police. He claimed that Jean had repeatedly threatened to blow up the building and posed a serious "terrorist" threat.

The Boston Police Report cites Laidlaw Corp. as the "victim." McLaughlin subsequently used this false charge to fire Jean.

Laidlaw, govt conspire in 'Homeland Security' frame-up

Government attacks on the labor movement are nothing new. The Teamsters, AF-SCME, Service Employees and Steel Workers are just a few of the recent targets. Injunctions during strikes, false charges under the RICO statutes, and fraudulent prosecution by the Labor Department have become routine.

Bush's "enduring war" has upped the ante in the attacks on labor. The Bush/Ashcroft "Homeland Security" machine clearly has the unions in its sights. The White House has given the green light to Corporate America to use the "enduring war" to declare war on union rights.

In a recent West Coast labor conflict, Homeland Security boss Tom Ridge used a "national security" cover to threaten the president of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union dock workers in California. Bush invoked the notorious anti-union Taft-Hartly Act against the longshore union.

The March 2002 issue of Local 8751's rank-and-file newsletter the Unity Bulletin explained that Marcus Jean's case was part of "a national wave of government-directed anti-immigrant hysteria sweeping the country." This wave includes racist profiling, government detention of Arab people without charges and racist violence against immigrant communities.

It is in this context that the district attorney for Massachusetts embarked on a



Supporters of Marcus Jean, center holding sign, celebrate victory on courthouse steps Nov. 14.

PHOTO: YAWU MILLER, BOSTON BANNER

10-month prosecution of an innocent Haitian-born union activist based on the uncorroborated story of a racist Laidlaw boss.

Boston Labor's ANSWER leads struggle

Much of the union leadership on the local and national level has been unable to respond to the corporate/government attacks on the unions in the current war climate. This was the case with Marcus Jean. The rank-and-file members, however, showed they are ready to fight back.

Boston Labor's ANSWER, made up of activists from the coalition Act Now to Stop War and End Racism, established the Marcus Jean Defense Committee. The committee secured the top criminal attorney in the region, people's lawyer Barry Wilson, knowing that he would bring the struggle of the street into the courtroom.

ANSWER activists launched a full-scale, all-out defense campaign to mobilize support. This included packing every court ap-

pearance, getting endorsers, holding picket lines and news conferences, speaking at churches and community meetings, and spreading the word through the Internet. The committee also conducted a massive letter campaign to the district attorney demanding that the charges be dropped.

Marcus Jean spoke at and marched in many ANSWER protests against war on Iraq and in defense of Palestine. He was a featured speaker at the June 29 rally against the Patriot Act, at FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C.

This campaign to defend Marcus Jean was a concrete expression of ANSWER's view that Bush's war has a domestic front. Fighting on this front can help build unity with the labor movement, which is vital to the anti-war movement.

The Marcus Jean Defense Committee will continue the struggle to demand that Laidlaw reinstate him to his job with full back pay and benefits. □

Soldier refuses Iraq duty, gets discharge

By John Catalinotto

There are times when a vast movement of millions of people that can change history begins with the actions of a few individuals or even of only one person. Those trying to stop the murderous war that the Bush administration is poised to launch on Iraq can hope that Pvt. Wilfredo Torres is one of the individuals whose action opens the flood gates.

Pvt. Torres has decided to refuse service in the Gulf. Tod Ensign's Citizen Soldier group supported and defended his stand.

Pvt. Torres took part in a meeting of veterans in New York the day before Veterans Day, Nov. 10. He spoke at a news conference in Washington the next day. There he explained that he had joined the Army to "serve my country and because I was promised college aid and skill training as a cook."

After describing various problems he had with his drill instructors, he said he had left the Army a year before. He then announced that out of disagreement with

U.S. foreign policy, he would refuse to be sent to the Gulf. He also noted that "from what I've been hearing lately, our government has done a poor job of caring for Gulf and Vietnam vets who are sick because they served."

WW asked Tod Ensign, the director of Citizen Soldier, what happened to Pvt. Torres. It seems he returned to the military. He was at Ft. Knox with about 60 other GIs who were long-term AWOLs. While Pvt. Torres was there, the base received a call from Rolling Stone newspaper asking to interview the GI.

The base command apparently thought it would be best to remove the problem quickly, and the next morning issued Pvt. Torres an "other than honorable" discharge.

For people in the anti-war movement, Pvt. Torres has taken a more than honorable step, a courageous step. His history is common to many now in the armed forces, and if this latest chapter is spread far and wide throughout the U.S. military before the invasion of Iraq begins, his response may become a common one. □

Pentagon insists schools turn over student names

By Matthew L. Schwartz
Buffalo, N.Y.

The U.S. armed forces have kicked up their recruitment tactics recently.

With the passage of the new education bill—"No Child Left Behind"—the Bush administration is threatening to revoke schools' their federal funding unless the schools make student demographics available to the Pentagon. This information includes students' home address and telephone numbers, generally held to be privileged information.

U.S. officials complain that 15 percent of the schools are "problems." In other words, the school administrators won't hand over information to the Army, even if this means risking desperately needed federal funding.

High school administrators are providing these names to the armed forces and military recruiters are setting up near high school campuses.

Student rights are being trampled under the guise of offering students a chance to "tour the world" and "pay for college." What the Army doesn't tell these students is that they will receive low pay for the privilege of going halfway around the world and killing children their own age. Meanwhile Wall Street will reap the benefits.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Education Secretary Rod Paige Army sent a letter last month saying they are "presenting military opportunities to our young people for their consideration." In fact,

these soldiers may be commanded, just as the troops were in Afghanistan, to violate international laws and treaties and expose themselves to indictments for war crimes.

The Army tells young people that they will be there to introduce "democracy" and "remove weapons of mass destruction" from the countries they invade. Democracy—this from an administration that stole the last election by disenfranchising so many Black voters. This from an imperial military power with the biggest arsenal of weapons of mass destruction on the planet.

Recently, a Blackhawk helicopter made a guest appearance, circling low during homecoming at the John F. Kennedy High School in Plainview, Long Island, N.Y.

High school senior Ben Mayer told Workers World: "I didn't see the need for it. It wasn't really doing any damage, but it didn't need to be there as part of the procession for the football game."

How much power does a school principal or student council wield to call the Army and ask the brass to send over a military gunship? Isn't it more likely that the Army contacted the school?

What is clear is that if the sheer number of students who attended the historic Oct. 26 anti-war protests means anything, high-school and college-age students are coming out against this Pentagon war despite the Army's invasive recruiting tactics.

Even greater numbers can be expected to come out if the United States attacks Iraq or if the brass enact a draft. □

Brooklyn meeting

Black community says no to Iraq war

By Deirdre Griswold
Brooklyn, N.Y.

A rally against the Bush administration's planned war on Iraq held at a famous Black church here on Nov. 21 showed convincingly that the leading edge of the African American community is militantly against this war.

The House of the Lord church on Brooklyn's Atlantic Avenue is known for the involvement of its congregation and pastor, the Rev. Herbert Daughtry, in support of many freedom struggles, at home and abroad. A banner from the 1986 campaign to free Nelson Mandela hangs proudly in the church's basement community room.

On this rainy night, all three levels of the church—the nave, the large balcony and the basement, where the program was viewed on closed-circuit television—were each packed with hundreds of people, a majority from the African American community.

They had come at the call of the Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Now Committee and the New York chapter of Act Now to Stop War & End Racism. International ANSWER had organized the massive Oct. 26 rallies in Washington and San Francisco.

From the opening remarks by Larry Holmes of ANSWER to Daughtry's closing oration nearly three hours later, the audience responded to every speaker with standing ovations. They also participated in the program by calling out encouraging comments again and again.

Holmes addressed the question of terrorism, showing how Bush's war and occupation of the Middle East would only increase the risks for the people here. He reviewed the wars and economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. on the region over many bloody decades—from Iran to Iraq to Libya and Afghanistan.

If the oppressed peoples of this exploited region feel that no one in the U.S. cares about what has been done to them, he said, then the possibility of terrorist attacks will



Rev. Herbert Daughtry

grow. "We need to revive international solidarity," said Holmes. "People around the world need to know that there is a movement here that is fighting for justice and against the criminal policies of the government and the oil corporations."

There was also sustained applause for Holmes' announcement that ANSWER had called for anti-war actions in Washington on Jan. 18 to coincide with commemorations of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who had come out forcefully against the Vietnam War before he was assassinated in 1968.

"I believe we've reached a new level of unity," Rev. Daughtry told the crowd. "People have never come together this way. Our next stop is Washington, D.C. on January 18. Together we can win. We can stop this war." Daughtry also reminisced about his own experience as a young soldier being barred from using a public restroom while in basic training in the South. "I said to myself then, why should I go to some other country to fight when I should be fighting for justice right here?"

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark described the U.S. as a "plutocracy," and said, "We must stand up and



Charles Barron

make the government represent the will of the people. And that means no more war."

Viola Plummer of the December 12th Movement drew the crowd's attention to the ominous moves made by the Bush administration against the government of Zimbabwe, which is carrying out land reform.

City Council member Charles Barron also demolished the Bush administration's "war on terrorism." "Want to talk about terrorism?" he said. "Terrorism is the police firing 41 shots at an unarmed African man and hitting him 19 times," referring to the murder of Guinean immigrant Amadou Diallo in 1999. Barron had just returned from a fact-finding trip to Zimbabwe.

Rev. Paul Mayer of the NYC Forum of Concerned Religious Leaders pointed to the dangerous assaults on civil liberties now allowed under the USA Patriot Act. Himself a refugee from Nazi Germany, he



Viola Plummer

called for unity in the struggle against reaction, and recalled that in the 1930s resistance to the Nazis was led by "communists, trade unionists and others." Mayer also announced that religious organizations would be mobilizing against the war on Dec. 10.

Besides these veterans of many struggles, younger people were prominent in the program, from ANSWER student organizer Jasmin Cruz to the church's youth choir, who rocked the house with their powerful and heartfelt singing. □



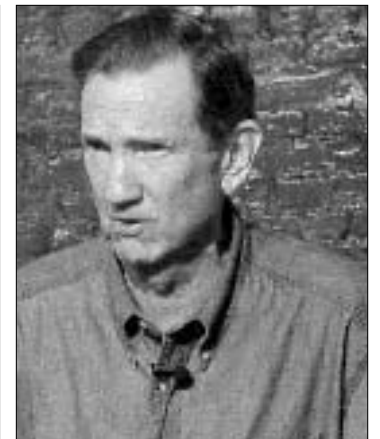
Larry Holmes



Rev. Paul Mayer



Jasmin Cruz



Ramsey Clark

WW PHOTOS: PAT CHIN AND DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Mobilizing continues

Anti-war forces step up activities

By Leslie Feinberg

As Washington's warlords move ominously closer to a full-scale Pentagon onslaught against the people of Iraq, anti-war activists here in the United States are working hard to stop the tank treads in their tracks.

Anti-war mobilizing is ratcheting up for a national march, rally and people's peace conference in Washington, D.C., the weekend of Jan. 18, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. A mass rally and march will also take place in San Francisco.

The call for the January protests was issued by the International ANSWER coalition—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism—at the Oct. 26 mass rallies in Washington and San Francisco.

More than 2,000 organizations and prominent individuals have endorsed the actions. Recent endorsers include the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., War Times newspaper and Not In Our Name.

More than 100 organizing centers in 29 states are already in full swing to bring busloads.

ANSWER organizer Sarah Sloan told Workers World, "People who came to Oct. 26 are working hard to bring two or three times the number that came from their towns, cities and campuses."

One Florida organizer filled a bus for Oct. 26. She already anticipates needing four buses for Jan. 18. A City Council member in Geneva, N.Y., who helped bring two buses to Oct. 26 is also scouring for more buses this time around. From far away Colorado, activists are working to bring people to D.C. the weekend of Jan. 18.

There are already four organizing centers dotting the state of Kansas. Activists in Kansas City are taking out a full-page ad in the City Star newspaper to advertise transportation to D.C.

Hundreds of thousands of people have cast a vote against the impending war in the People's Anti-War Referendum first an-

nounced at that rally.

Many have gone to VoteNoWar.org to cast their cyberballots. Others have added the anti-war web site as a signature on their e-mail or on their web sites.

Sloan said that in the mobilizing center in Washington, D.C., paper ballots are flooding in. "We get big stacks of manila envelopes every day filled with between 20 to 200 ballots each. We even get individuals who are getting so many ballots signed that they send us cartons packed with votes against the war."

Since both sides of the aisles of Congress were unmoved by the popular sentiment when they voted to give Bush and the generals full military power to wage war against the Iraqi people, ANSWER organizers will bring this mountain of anti-war opposition to the convening of the People's Peace Congress in D.C.

ANSWER explains on its web page, "The grassroots Peace Congress will be comprised of delegations from all communities

who are coming together in the streets to forge the opposition necessary to stop the Bush administration's war drive: labor, students and youth, fighters for civil rights and women's rights, the lesbian/gay/bi/trans community and people of faith.

"Join with others around the country by bringing a diverse delegation from your community to participate in the Jan. 18 mass march in DC or SF and Jan. 19 People's Congress. Please contact (202) 544-3389, dc@internationalANSWER.org, endorse."

Other activities are also in motion against the looming outbreak of large-scale Pentagon warfare. United for Peace is planning a day of local demonstrations on Dec. 10—International Human Rights Day. (www.unitedforpeace.org) And in New York, Uptown Youth for Peace and Justice is organizing a march through Harlem on Dec. 14. For more information call Karim at (347) 203-6157 or Claudia at (212) 237-8748. □

Symbol of Vieques struggle

5-year-old Milivy dies far from home

By Berta Joubert-Ceci
Philadelphia

After battling cancer most of her short life, 5-year-old Milivy Adams Calderon died in Philadelphia Children's Hospital Nov. 17. She was far from her home in Vieques, Puerto Rico, where people young and old were mourning the little girl who has become a symbol of victims of U.S. military aggression.

During her first years of life, Milivy underwent two bone marrow transplants and intense chemotherapy treatments. In her last week, doctors concluded her tiny body could not stand any more treatments.

When she left Vieques to receive medical treatment in Philadelphia, activists established a peace encampment in front of the entrance of the Garcia base, the site of military exercises in Vieques. This encampment's activities are directed toward children; people collected funds to send Milivy's family to cover medical expenses.

One of these fundraising activities was the Penny Campaign. The people from Vieques, where there is 50-percent unemployment, have few material resources. But everyone had the opportunity to contribute toward Milivy's treatment. The whole of Vieques and Puerto Rico felt like they were part of her support system.

The suffering of this little girl and her family is the suffering of the residents of Vieques living under the constant threat of U.S. military bombing exercises.

In a message from the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, spokesperson Ismael Guadalupe says: "Milivy became a symbol in the Vieques

struggle. We have seen this demonstrated during these days of suffering when people have energetically expressed their rejection of the U. S. Navy on Vieques.

"The people are convinced that the environmental contamination created by the U.S. Navy is responsible for the high incidence of cancer and the high death rate. Both have been especially highlighted in this moment of pain and loss caused by Milivy's death. She is the girl symbol of Vieques.

"Today we feel a heightened obligation to carry out the demands of our people in their struggle against the U.S. Navy. Today we understand with much more clarity the urgency for the clean-up. Not only a toxic and military waste clean-up of the Vieques firing zone, but of the whole island.

"Milivy, like many who have died of cancer in Vieques, never visited the firing zone. Never touched the land on the eastern tip of Vieques. Never worked with the heavy metals that are now abundant in that area.

"Only the food chain, the predominantly east-to-west movement of the air that takes the contaminated particles into civilian areas, can account for the fact that our backyards are now contaminated. It is this contamination that has affected the health of our people.

"Milivy's death sends a clear message, and that is to stop the deaths caused by this contamination.

"Milivy's death leads us to reflect on our own future. We must not allow the Navy to leave Vieques without first cleaning up the lands it has contaminated.

"Milivy has not died today, she continues to live in our hearts as the example of



Milivy Adams

our unequal struggle, like David and Goliath, against the U.S. Navy. We must remember that others could die if we do not demand from those who have contaminated our soil to clean it up.

"Our slogan should be: 'Clean up and leave!'" said Guadalupe.

The cancer rate in Vieques is 27 percent higher than in the rest of Puerto Rico. Rates of diabetes, high blood pressure and many other major illnesses are also higher.

It has been shown that the loud noise of the bombings causes a cardiovascular illness called "Vibroacoustic Disease." In a comparative study, performed under strict scientific guidelines by the Ponce Medical School on 53 fishers from Vieques and 42 fishers from Ponce, it was found that 79 percent of the Viequeses had thickened pericardium, the membrane that covers

the heart, and 75 percent had a wider aortic valve. These are indicators of future heart ailments.

However, the U.S. government and the Navy refuse to validate these findings or take any responsibility. In fact, the United States has only responded with lies, contempt and more threats of bombing.

Many health studies are being conducted in Puerto Rico and in the United States about the effect of the bombings on the islanders' health. The military practices were supposed to temporarily stop until all results were evaluated.

In order to go around this study's results, the Navy paid John Hopkins University Hospital \$46,000 to evaluate not the study by the Ponce school, but of data provided by the U.S. Navy itself. As a consequence, John Hopkins officials stated that there is no health danger from the bombings. The U.S. Navy used this statement to justify restarting bombing practice.

Milivy's death comes at a crucial time in the struggle against the Navy's presence in Vieques. In October the U.S. Department of Defense admitted that it had conducted chemical and biological warfare in Vieques, Alaska, Hawaii, Florida, Canada, the Marshall Islands and Britain.

The chemical triethyl phosphate was sprayed on troops at the firing range in Vieques in May 1969. The CRDV says that this substance could damage skin, eyes and respiratory system, and is known to cause cancer in animals.

The CRDV has demanded from the United States, under the Freedom of Information Act, a full disclosure of the use in Vieques of chemical weapons and an immediate cessation of bombing. □

COLOMBIA

Solidarity trip planned on Coca Cola's crimes

By Natalie Alsop

Delegations of 30 people, including U.S. union activists, are going to Bogota, Colombia, Dec. 4-8 to participate in public hearings on the Coca Cola Corp.'s crimes against Colombian trade unionists. This is an important step in building international solidarity and support for Colombian workers.

In the last year, the U.S. government has expanded and officially reshaped its intervention in Colombia. The old pretext of fighting a drug war has conveniently been superseded by the war on terrorism. This allows Washington to allocate all aid to the counter-insurgency war, increase the number of U.S. troops in Colombia, and increase aid to Colombia's corrupt military apparatus.

In the past four years, the United States has given more than \$2 billion, mostly military aid, to the Colombian government. This aid is directly connected to the expansion of the civil war and the increased repression of social movements by the Colombian state and its paramilitary allies. The Colombian military is notorious for its connection to these paramilitary forces.

Union organizers and members in Colombia have been under particular attack. In the year 2000 alone, 129 unionists were murdered. Sinaltrainal (Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Industria de Alimentos—the National Union of Food Industry Workers), the United Steel Workers and the International Labor Fund have filed a case in U.S. courts accusing Coca Cola of using paramilitaries to intimidate and assassinate union organizers.

The lawsuit focuses on the murder of Isidro Segundo Gil and the intimidation of five of his co-workers from a bottling plant in Carepa.

This case is not an isolated incident. It is representative of the struggle that union organizers must wage every day in Colombia. Sinaltrainal leaders say Coca Cola uses paramilitary violence as a systematic strategy to intimidate workers and keep enlarging already excessive profits.

Coca Cola not the only criminal

Although notorious, Coca Cola is not alone in this practice. Drummond Coal has also been sued for hiring paramilitaries to kill two union leaders in 1998.

U.S. companies and other foreign multi-

nationals dominate the Colombian economy, exploiting the people and resources.

To build international solidarity and expose the multinational corporations' crimes in Colombia, Sinaltrainal has organized three public hearings. The first was in Atlanta in July; the second in Brussels, Belgium, in October; and the third is scheduled for Dec. 5-7 in Bogotá.

The International Action Center and the Committee for a New Colombia have organized a delegation of 24 people, including 13 trade unionists, two lawyers, three students and a journalist, who will be traveling to Bogotá Dec. 4-8 to participate in these public meetings. The Committee for Social Justice in Colombia has also organized a delegation of six people.

It is important that such a large group is coming from the United States to support these workers. Solidarity delegations are also coming from across Latin America. They will all be protesting at the Coca Cola plant there on Dec. 5.

Some will also take part in three days of hearings and forums on human rights and union organizing in Colombia.

It is clear that the United States continues to expand intervention in Colombia to

Colombian and U.S. unions have filed a case accusing Coca Cola of using paramilitaries to kill union organizers

protect these companies and contain the threat that the Colombian social movements, armed and unarmed, pose to U.S. interests within Colombia and the region. This is evident in the \$6 million the U.S. government recently handed to Oxy Petroleum to protect its pipeline from attack by the guerillas.

In response to this increased intervention, it is important to build a strong solidarity movement in this country to work with the movement in Colombia to end U.S. intervention and defend the Colombian people's right to self determination. The delegations of 30 people coming from all over the United States to stand in solidarity with Sinaltrainal and other workers in Colombia are an important step in building this solidarity movement. □

Want end to occupation

Koreans protest acquittal of U.S. soldiers

By Sharon Ayling

Thousands of outraged Koreans mounted daily protests outside U.S. military bases in south Korea after the late November acquittal of two U.S. soldiers in the deaths of two Korean schoolgirls.

In two separate trials that Korean activists called a sham, a U.S. military court cleared the Army sergeants of negligent homicide. The soldiers ran over the 13-year-old girls with their 50-ton tank-track vehicle on June 13 while on their way to military training exercises.

Shim Mi-Son and Shin Hyon-Sun had been walking on a country road in their village north of Seoul to get to a birthday party.

Anger over the tragedy has fueled the biggest demonstrations in years against the U.S. military, which occupies south Korea with 37,000 troops.

On Nov. 22, the day of the second acquittal, egg-throwing demonstrators in front of U.S. Army Camp Casey demanded that all the U.S. troops leave the country, and that the soldiers be handed over for trial in a south Korean court.

The next day in Seoul, young protesters burned a U.S. flag and shook their fists in front of the Korean War Museum as they chanted, "Let's drive out American troops." On Nov. 25, dozens of activists hurled fire-bombs into Camp Gray, a U.S. military base in Seoul.

"This is so outrageous I can hardly speak," the Rev. Moon Jung-Hyun, a leader

of the Pan-Korean Committee, said of the acquittal. "This clearly indicates that we are not a sovereign nation. If these soldiers are not guilty, then we say that the entire U.S. military is guilty."

The Pan-Korean Committee, which is leading the struggle, is composed of 150 civic groups from all sectors of Korean society.

The trials' outcome confirmed the widespread view that U.S. military courts unfairly favor U.S. military personnel accused of crimes against Koreans. The military accord that governs U.S. troops in Korea—the Status of Forces Agreement—gives the United States jurisdiction over its soldiers in all cases.

In a letter to U.S. President George W. Bush, the Pan-Korean Committee wrote that SOFA is "a clear violation of the spirit of international law, which states that the host country has the right to punish crimes committed in the host country's territory."

The letter also referred to Korean Ministry of Justice reports that document 7,381 crimes committed by U.S. troops between 1990 and 2001, noting that "in the majority of cases, those who committed the crimes were given very light punishment."

In a period of four months, over 1 million Koreans signed petitions demanding that Bush apologize, turn over jurisdiction to the Korean government and revise SOFA. In July, mass anger pushed the usually subservient Korean government into requesting jurisdiction, which Washington



Koreans collected 1 million signatures in four months demanding justice for U.S. occupation troops.

ignored. Even the right-wing candidate running in Korea's presidential elections was forced to call for revision of SOFA.

Taking the protest to the White House

After the U.S. Embassy refused to accept the million petitions, the Pan-Korean Committee formed a delegation to take its demands and petitions directly to the White House.

The delegation will be in the United States Dec. 2-9, traveling first to New York for a protest march and solidarity meetings, then to Washington for four days of picketing outside the White House, and then to Los Angeles for a final day of sol-

idarity meetings.

On Dec. 3 in New York, Korean-American groups and the International Action Center will co-host a solidarity forum for the Korean leaders. Earlier that afternoon, the delegation and supporters will hold a protest march from the United Nations to Times Square. On Dec. 7, a bus will take solidarity activists to Washington, D.C., to join the delegation on their final day of picketing the White House.

For more information about the delegation's itinerary, readers can call the IAC at 212-633-6646 or go online to www.iacenter.org and select the Korea link. □

Capitalist anarchy

Worst oil disaster ravages Galicia

By Heather Cottin

The thick sludge rolls in with every tide. Black, viscous oil coats golden beaches and 90 beautiful harbors of the Galician coast in northwest Spain. The Nov. 19 sinking of the oil tanker Prestige has created an environmental and human disaster.

According to the Nov. 22 Environmental News, this disaster dwarfs the ecological devastation created when the Exxon Valdez sank off the Alaskan coast in 1989.

The river valleys of Galicia's spectacular Rias Bajas host a fishing industry employing tens of thousands of people. The area is famous for its high-quality lobster, mussels, octopus, crab and shrimp. Fish and shellfish are the basis of the local economy. Tourism runs a close second. One fisher told the Los Angeles Times: "Our people live out of the sea. What will happen in the summer? The tourists won't come. No seafood, no tourists." (Nov. 24)

The livelihoods of 80 percent of Galicia's people are linked to the ocean. Those fishers put out more boats than the rest of the European Union fleet put together. The catch in December makes or breaks Galician fishers.

There will be no December catch.

The Spanish government has promised compensation that would amount to one-third of what the fishers would have made this holiday season. Ten years ago, when the tanker Aegean Sea leaked oil in the same area, Madrid also promised to pay. The money never came.

Poverty and a prolonged fishing crisis

has already depopulated Galicia's coast. The outlook today is as grim as the muck washing up on the 250-mile long shoreline.

Fishing along the Galician coast has been suspended indefinitely. The devastation is almost complete.

"We've seen many dead fish and birds and many others in agony when we rescue them," said Ezequiel Navio of the World Wildlife Fund.

In the hardest-hit areas, lines of somber fishers and their unhappy spouses shovel reeking globs of oil from the shellfish beds. Then the next tide oozes in, covering the shoals again.

Propelled by winds blowing up to 70 miles per hour, the oil spill will befoul the coasts of Spain, Portugal, France, and possibly even Britain.

Denials and destruction

The Prestige was a 26-year-old single-hull vessel built in Japan. According to its Danish pilot, Jens Jorgen Thuesen, the tanker was "not seaworthy. ... The ship should not have been allowed to sail. It was [only] good for ... the scrapyards." (Reuters, Nov. 22)

Last year the 158 member states of the International Maritime Organization, a United Nations body, agreed to phase out most single-hull oil tankers by 2015. But there are dozens of old single-hull tankers plying the oceans like floating time bombs.

There was time—and the conditions—to transfer the cargo to another ship and avoid this problem, says Luis Suarez of the Worldwide Fund for Nature. But the Spanish government elected to tow the

ship out into the stormy Atlantic Ocean, thus contributing to the breakup and sinking of the elderly vessel. The Spanish government arrested the captain of the Prestige after the ship sank.

The Prestige, now two miles underwater and 150 miles off the coast, had 18 million gallons of oil on board. About 1 million gallons have already leaked out.

Spanish authorities falsely claim that the remaining "oil inside the ship would solidify in the frigid ocean depths."

Behind the disaster: the drive for profits

The Prestige, a Liberian vessel, was registered in the Bahamas. Why? "The operations and income associated with Bahaman vessels are entirely tax-free." (Observer, Nov. 24) According to the Observer, Crown Resources, a British company headquartered in Switzerland, owned the oil and chartered the ship to carry it.

Moscow business owner Mikhail Fridman, one of the richest people in the world according to Forbes Magazine, owned the Prestige. According to the Observer, Fridman runs one of Russia's biggest conglomerates, which takes in oil exploration, banking, telecommunications, food, vodka and supermarkets.

Oil industry apologists—reluctant to pay for a costly cleanup that would involve sucking the remaining oil out of the leaking tanker—minimize the impact of the disaster. "The strategy would likely be to leave the oil where it is but monitor it," said Malcolm L. Spaulding, professor of ocean engineering at the University of Rhode Is-

land and chair of a 1999 National Research Council study on "Spills of Non-Floating Oils." Spaulding claimed the oil remaining in the vessel poses "little or no threat to the environment." (Washington Post, Nov. 21)

But scientists of the Portuguese Hydrographic Institute spotted four new oil slicks above the tanker's resting place. Experts say the oil is leaking, raising fears that the hull is in danger of bursting under the pressure of more than 1,000 feet of water. If it bursts, it could release a cargo twice as big as that exuded by the Exxon Valdez.

Even if the cargo stays on the seabed, compressed and turned into a heavy waxy substance by the cold and extreme pressures, experts warn that heavy metals will still leach into the water. "[Toxins will] accumulate, and man is at the end of the food chain," said Thilo Maack of Greenpeace.

The anarchy of capitalism and the absence of state planning for human needs caused this catastrophe. Protected by state apparatus and international law, the capitalists have poisoned the earth again. The Prestige oil spill was caused by the profit-hungry oil corporations—the very forces slithering toward a war in Iraq.

Angered by the Spanish government's inaction and oil industry indifference, a thousand Galician fishers formed a barrier across one river valley with their boats Nov. 21. They were trying to keep the sludge out of an estuary that provides their sustenance. They show that the only way to confront the political and economic forces that are destroying the earth is to organize. □



Budget bombshell

The National Governors Association has dropped a bombshell with the magnitude of Hiroshima. They say that the states now face their worst fiscal crisis since World War II. They blame it on declining tax revenues and rising costs. What this means for workers is unprecedented budget cuts and massive layoffs from state jobs.

The social pain will be enormous. On the chopping block will be schools and teachers, libraries, senior centers, parks, health care and many other state-run agencies and programs that provide services people need to get through their daily lives. At the same time, the price to the public for these services will rise sharply—like tuition to state colleges and universities.

We're not just talking about inconvenience. We're talking about people's lives. Said Raymond C. Scheppach, executive director of the governors association, "You will see huge cuts in Medicaid" next year, beyond those already enacted.

What is happening is not some natural disaster. It is the unnatural result of the capitalist economic downturn, which began two and a half years ago, and the domination of big business over the political system. Didn't the governors know this disaster was going to happen? They certainly did, both Democrats and Republicans, but they waited until after the election to drop the bomb. They didn't want it to become an issue.

This confirms once again that the only political arena workers can turn to in a crisis is the streets. The elections have become a farce where the big corporations pull all the strings while candidates discuss everything except the issues most important to the people.

If everyone who is about to lose an important service or a job connected to the state registered their opposition visibly and militantly, they would shake up the status quo and create a new political climate in this country.

At the same time that this is happening on a state level, remember that the Bush administration has announced it will privatize 850,000 jobs of federal workers by turning them over to profit-seeking businesses. This can only compound the crisis.

A time of unprecedented cuts calls for unprecedented organizing and fightback. The unions of public employees in particular are challenged to get out and defend workers' jobs. What is needed is a broad coalition of all progressive forces—every group that is threatened by loss of services together with the workers and their unions—to confront the political stooges of big business and demand that the trillions of dollars sucked up by Corporate America over the last decade of economic boom be made available to the people so that not one job or one state program is sacrificed. □

SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD

SPECIAL TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION
\$2 FOR EIGHT WEEKS (NEW SUBSCRIPTION)

\$25 for one year

Name _____

Phone number _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Workers World Newspaper

55 West 17 St. NY, NY 10011 (212) 627-2994

As Gulf war nears

Repression breeds Palestinian resistance

By Richard Becker

Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation, both in street actions and military operations, intensified in November. At the same time, Israeli military forces made new incursions into Gaza, and completely re-occupied Bethlehem and Hebron.

With the exception of isolated Jericho, all West Bank cities are patrolled by Israeli tanks and heavily armed troops.

A looming question is what the Israeli government plans in the event of a U.S. invasion of Iraq. Many Palestinians believe that the Israeli authorities, under cover of a new U.S. war, may move to expel the Palestinian population from key areas and launch a major offensive in Gaza.

Palestinian children and youths have responded to the presence of Israeli troops and tanks in Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jenin and other West Bank cities and towns with a resurgence of street demonstrations. Although armor protects them from the stones thrown by Palestinian demonstrators, the Israeli troops have fired live ammunition.

Between Nov. 15 and Nov. 24, Israeli bullets killed at least 21 Palestinians and wounded scores more.

On Nov. 19, Israeli tanks and troops invaded Tulkarem, killing five Palestinians and wounding 11 others. Two of the dead and five of the wounded were under 18.

It would be hard to know this from the U.S. corporate media. Their focus is almost exclusively on Israeli casualties. And Israeli casualties have also been heavy. Twelve Israeli soldiers and security, including a colonel, were killed in a Nov. 15 firefight in Hebron. On Nov. 21, a bus bomb in West Jerusalem killed 12 people and wounded more than 40.

The latest developments highlight the failure of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's policy of seeking to crush the Palestinian resistance through extreme force, mass arrests and economic strangulation. Because of this failure, Sharon, who is infamous for his long career as a racist and war criminal, faces a serious challenge in the upcoming primary election of his Likud bloc.

The challenge—not surprisingly in today's Israeli politics—is coming from an even more right-wing candidate, former Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu. The winner will be the Likud candidate in the general election, not yet scheduled but expected to take place some time between late January and March of next year.

New Palestinian military tactics

The Bush administration and most U.S. media misrepresented and condemned the Palestinian attack in Hebron as a "massacre

of Jewish worshippers." The Israeli casualties, however, belied this characterization: four Israeli soldiers, five border police, and three armed settler security forces.

Hebron is well known as home to the most extreme of the fascist settlers, many of whom are from the United States. The settlers, who demand that all Palestinians be expelled from Palestine, are armed with automatic weapons provided by the Israeli army.

About 400 Israeli settlers live in the center of Hebron, a Palestinian city of 160,000. Despite their tiny numbers (less than one-quarter of 1 percent), the settlers have 20 percent of Hebron. Outside Hebron there is the large Israeli settlement of Kiryat Arba, made up of like-minded racists.

When Hebron is locked down under curfew—which it has been for most of the past year—the settlers are allowed to roam free to attack Palestinian civilians, homes and shops.

On the evening of Nov. 15, a Palestinian militia unit lured Israeli military forces escorting a group of settlers into a trap, according to a report on the DEBKAfile website. DEBKAfile is a right-wing military and intelligence affairs website that focuses on the Middle East.

When Israeli reinforcements rushed to the scene, they, too, were ambushed. The Israeli casualties included Col. Dror Weinberg, the highest-ranking Israeli officer killed during 26 months of the second Intifada (Uprising). Three Palestinians were killed in the fight.

"It wasn't a massacre, it was battle," said Matan Vilnai, a retired Israeli general and a leading member of the opposition Labor Party. (Quoted in the National Post of Canada, Nov. 18, 2002)

Responsibility for the operation was claimed by the Islamic Jihad operation, which said it was carried out to avenge the assassination of one of its leaders the previous week.

The same organization also claimed a Nov. 22 attack on an Israeli gunship off the coast of Gaza. Two Palestinians aboard a small fishing boat were killed when it blew up close to the Israeli ship. Four Israeli soldiers were wounded and the gunboat damaged, in what was believed to be the first such attack.

Israelis kill head of UN team to rebuild Jenin

On Nov. 22, an Israeli soldier shot and killed Ian Hook, 53, manager of the Jenin camp rehabilitation project for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

Much of the Jenin refugee camp, home to 13,000 expelled Palestinians and their families, was destroyed by Israeli army tanks and bulldozers in April. That rampage left at least 92 dead and more than 5,000 peo-

ple homeless.

UNRWA is charged with providing health care, education and food to Jenin and the other 58 Palestinian refugee camps. After much of Jenin camp was destroyed, the U.S. government blocked the UN from carrying out an investigation of Israel's actions. Rebuilding efforts are just getting started.

The Israeli army tried at first to cover up the killing of Hook, claiming that he was "caught in a cross-fire" between Palestinians and Israeli troops. The army went so far as to allege that Palestinian fighters were firing from inside the UN compound in the camp.

But UN officials and other witnesses on the scene angrily denied the official Israeli story. UN spokesperson Paul McCann said, "From our inquiry so far, this report of firing from the compound is totally incredible."

Hook was shot twice in the abdomen. He bled to death after the Israeli army prevented an ambulance from transporting him to a nearby hospital.

Three days earlier, the Israeli Army had attacked and occupied the Medical Relief Center in Jenin. On Nov. 19, the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees sent out an urgent appeal saying that "much of our equipment was intentionally destroyed. Our doctors and nurses were threatened at gun-point and prevented from accessing the center, which is currently used as an operational base for the Israeli occupying army."

Palestinian leader defies Israeli court

On Nov. 21 in Tel Aviv, Marwan Barghouti, a leading member of Fatah, the largest Palestinian political party, and a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, was brought once again before an Israeli court.

Barghouti was abducted from Ramallah and taken illegally to Israel in May. He was charged with murder in the deaths of 26 Israelis who have died during the Intifada. Barghouti defiantly rejected the charges against him.

"This court is a joke," shouted Barghouti. "This court represents Israel's occupation, which has committed crimes against the Palestinian people.

"I am not the one who should be in the dock, but the Israeli occupation which settles on our lands, destroys our houses, assassinates our activists.

"The war criminals are on the Israeli side," said Barghouti. "The Intifada will be victorious," he chanted until silenced by the court.

Gisele Halimi, a French lawyer assisting Barghouti's defense, said the case is "a political trial which should never have taken place. ... From the point of view of international law, Israel's position is not defensible." □

Europeans protest NATO's eastward march

By Bill Cecil
Prague, Czech Republic

"The frontier of freedom has expanded." That's what U.S. President George W. Bush told 50 heads of government assembled here for the Nov. 20-22 summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The meeting expanded the U.S.-dominated military bloc to include Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

This brings NATO deep into Eastern Europe and onto the soil of the former Soviet Union. The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland joined two years ago.

At Bush's bidding the gathering formally changed NATO's "mission" from "combating Communism" to acting as an appendage to Washington's "war on terror"—which can be better described as Bush's scheme to pump up oil company profits with mass murder in the Middle East.

The U.S. president failed to mention the decades when the people of East Europe lived in terror of obliteration by NATO nuclear missiles aimed at Prague, Bratislava, Warsaw, Budapest, Bucharest, Sofia, Riga, Vilnius, Tallinn and other cities of the region.

To partake in Bush's war, the NATO leaders voted to set up a European Rapid Reaction Force. For the recently impoverished East European countries, joining NATO will mean arms purchases from such U.S. firms as Boeing and Northrup Grumman, both financial sponsors of the Prague meeting.

Unemployment in the Czech Republic is officially 18.8 percent. Homeless people now live on the streets in once prosperous Prague. Yet the NATO big shots were wined and dined on endangered species of fish in luxury hotels behind walls of police.

What 'freedom'?

Bush's remarks notwithstanding, this 1,100-year-old city of castles and cobblestones did not feel particularly free last week. It was more like a city

under occupation.

The Czech government had ceded responsibility for the country's security to the Pentagon for the duration of the summit. U.S. Air Force F16s circled over the city while Czech Army helicopters hovered above and armies of police patrolled its streets.

Whole areas of Prague were declared off limits to its people. Police snipers were visible on rooftops. A Kazakh civilian jetliner was forced to land by the U.S. Air Force.

These measures were ostensibly taken to "prevent terrorist attacks," but many felt they were meant to stifle political protest. Many Europeans, east and west, don't feel that NATO's growth will bring any kind of freedom.

Dozens of political activists were detained at the Czech border to prevent their participating in anti-NATO rallies. The "Czech" media, now mostly owned by U.S. and German companies, created an atmosphere of fear with constant reports that anti-NATO protesters were planning violence.

In spite of state and media intimidation, chants of "NATO, no pasaran" and "Drop Bush, not bombs" rang through Prague's streets Nov. 20. Some 2,000 workers, students and retirees took part in a protest rally and marches called by the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM). The day before 150 delegates from around Europe had attended an anti-NATO counter-summit the KSCM organized.

Also on Nov. 19, over 1,000 mostly young people joined an anti-NATO march called by the Czechoslovak Federation of Anarchists, the Feminist Organization of March 8 and the Organization of Revolutionary Anarchists.

At a Nov. 20 news conference, Russian activists pelted NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson with eggs, shouting, "NATO is worse than Gestapo."

'Free Milosevic, don't attack Iraq'

Most of the marchers on Nov. 20 were Czech. But activists came from Italy,

Greece, Cyprus, Germany, Belgium, Slovakia and Poland. Marchers carried portraits of Yugoslav children murdered by NATO bombs and signs demanding the liberation of kidnapped and imprisoned Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

Other signs denounced U.S. plans to attack Iraq, a major topic at the "North Atlantic" meeting. A banner called NATO the "North Atlantic Terrorist Organization."

Peter Shuster, a student, came from the Czech city of Brno to march against NATO. "We are free people," he said, "and we don't want to be cannon fodder for the U.S. power elite that wants to take over the world."

Edo Bango, an 18-year-old Roma man, came to the protest from Slovakia. He wore a shirt with a picture of Che Guevara. His brother, Mario Bango, is in prison for defending himself against a racist attack in which the attacker died. There has been an epidemic of violence against Roma people in Eastern Europe since capitalism was restored there.

Edo Bango scoffed at the idea that NATO is bringing freedom. "Capitalism has made everything worse, especially for the Roma people."

Marcin Adam, a student from Poland, did not take part in the demonstrations. He and a group of friends were detained at the border and did not get to Prague until after the protests. He said: "NATO is a pact to unite all the richest countries so they can control the world resources. We know the U.S. and Great Britain have more weapons of mass destruction than any other country, and they used chemical weapons against Vietnam and Iraq."

Adam said the return of capitalism to Poland is a "success story only for the capitalists, but most workers think it was a catastrophe. Now we have a really high unemployment rate in Poland, and most workers and peasants live in appalling conditions."

KSCM General Secretary Miroslav Grebenicek opened the rally. He said,

"Prague has become a meeting place for people who are responsible for war crimes and crimes against peace." He denounced NATO's expansion as part of Washington's drive to conquer the "heartland of Eurasia" with its vast energy resources, as outlined in former U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski's book "The Grand Chessboard." He said, "Our citizens must have housing, schools and hospitals, not tanks, warplanes and cannons."

Communist Youth Union leader Zdenek Stefek denounced NATO as the "world's largest terrorist organization, which it proved with its aggression against Yugoslavia and now by its preparations to attack Iraq." He said that "reforming NATO is not possible" and called for the pact to be abolished and its leaders put on trial.

The rally and the Nov. 19 counter-summit were also addressed by leaders of Communist and workers' parties from Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Britain, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Slovakia, Sweden, Turkey and Yugoslavia as well as the European Peace Forum and the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

Workers Party of Belgium General Secretary Nadine Rosso Rosso called for solidarity with Colombian, Filipino and Palestinian freedom fighters. She reported that the Belgian port of Antwerp was now under U.S. military occupation but that Belgian activists would try to block arms for the attack on Iraq from being shipped through the city.

The counter-summit adopted a declaration called the Prague Appeal that denounced the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, the Anglo-U.S. attack on Afghanistan and the U.S. war against Iraq. It called the Bush regime's planned invasion of Iraq an "attempt to solve U.S. economic problems at the expense of other nations" and called on people of the world to mobilize against war. □

Belgrade protest demands release Milosevic

By John Catalinotto

Efforts to win the release of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic from his prison in The Hague have increased since early November, when dangers to his health became apparent. They include a demonstration of thousands in Belgrade on Nov. 19.

Milosevic faces charges for alleged war crimes during NATO's wars on the Balkans. Defending himself since the trial opened last February, the former Yugoslav leader has often been able to turn the tables on NATO. What began as a show trial against Milosevic has been virtually ignored by the establishment media since his self-defense has been so convincing.

Milosevic, who has heart and high blood pressure problems, has endured life in a small cell with little chance for exercise or decent food as he prepares for daylong court sessions with the minimum of legal assistance. On top of this

constant threat to his health, doctors of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia gave him improper medicine earlier in November, according to the Nov. 22 NRC Handelsblad, a Dutch newspaper.

Called on only a few days' notice, the Nov. 19 protest was on the occasion of a meeting of United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan with representatives of the current Yugoslav government. According to spokespeople for SLOBODA (Freedom), the group calling the action with the support of the Socialist Party of Serbia, the nationalists and other patriotic parties, more than 10,000 people took part.

Protesters in this "Liberty for Slobo" rally included the Serbian nationalist Vojislav Seselj, who is running in the election for the Serbian presidency against Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica. Milosevic's wife, Mira Markovic, and others from his family were also present. Other speakers included a famous basketball



PHOTO: FREEDOM

Free Slobo!

player, a bishop, a professor of medicine and several well-known writers.

Supporters of Milosevic also demonstrated against NATO in Prague with others protesting the eastward expansion of the aggressive military pact.

The committee asks that messages de-

manding proper medical care for Milosevic and his release from prison be sent to: Sergio Vieira de Mello, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR-UNOG, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax 4122 917 9022; or e-mail tb-petitions@ohchr.org. □

Ministro De Relaciones Exteriores De Cuba Ante La ONU

Discurso pronunciado por el Excmo. Sr. Felipe Pérez Roque, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de la República de Cuba, en el debate general del 57 período de sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, Nueva York, 14 de Septiembre del 2002.

Señor Presidente:

Hace un año, la celebración de esta Asamblea General debió ser postergada por el crimen brutal perpetrado el 11 de septiembre. Hubo entonces en todo el mundo una ola de solidaridad con el pueblo estadounidense y, especialmente, con las familias de las casi 3 mil víctimas inocentes de aquel injustificable acto terrorista.

Se crearon las condiciones para que se gestara una genuina alianza internacional bajo los auspicios y la dirección de la Organización de Naciones Unidas, con respeto absoluto a los propósitos y principios consagrados en su Carta. Prácticamente todos los países, más allá de diferencias ideológicas, políticas, culturales y religiosas, manifestamos nuestra disposición a colaborar de manera activa en este propósito de inobjetable interés común.

Se impuso, sin embargo, otra visión. Se proclamó insólitamente que quien no secundara la guerra decidida por un solo país estaría entonces junto al terrorismo. Se anunció incluso al Consejo de Seguridad que ese país se reservaba el derecho de decidir por su cuenta atacar en el futuro a otras naciones.

Se desató entonces una guerra unilateral, cuyo número de víctimas aún desconocemos y cuya consecuencia más tangible probablemente sea la de haber propinado un contundente golpe a la credibilidad de la Organización de Naciones Unidas y al multilateralismo como vía para el enfrentamiento de los complejos retos que hoy tenemos ante nosotros.

¿Cuál es hoy el balance? Son mayores los sentimientos de odio, venganza e inseguridad, que no ayudan a la lucha contra el terrorismo. Peligrosas corrientes xenófobas y discriminatorias amenazan la existencia de un mundo plural y democrático. Se ha retrocedido en el terreno de las libertades públicas y los derechos civiles.

Mientras tanto, falta la voluntad política por parte de algunas potencias para aplicar con rigor, sin selectividad y sin dobles raseros, los doce instrumentos jurídicos internacionales existentes. No hemos avanzado tampoco en la definición, hoy imprescindible, del terrorismo de Estado.

Cuba, por su parte, víctima durante más de cuatro décadas de actos terroristas, que expresó en esta Asamblea sus opiniones con serenidad y firmeza, y que condenó sin vacilaciones el crimen del 11 de septiembre y el terrorismo, pero que se opuso también a la guerra sobre la base de consideraciones éticas y de respeto al derecho internacional, firmó y ratificó los doce convenios

internacionales relativos a la lucha contra el terrorismo, aprobó una ley nacional de lucha contra este flagelo, ha cooperado plenamente con las labores del comité creado al efecto por el Consejo de Seguridad y, en el plano bilateral, propuso al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos la adopción de un programa de lucha contra el terrorismo que, incomprensiblemente, dicho gobierno rechazó.

Hasta hoy, y pese a no haber desarrollado ni tener la intención de desarrollar jamás armas nucleares, Cuba no ha sido Estado parte del Tratado de No Proliferación Nuclear, en tanto se trata de un instrumento que resulta insuficiente y discriminatorio, pues permite que se establezca un club de potencias nucleares sin compromisos concretos de desarme. Sin embargo, como señal de la clara voluntad política del Gobierno cubano y su compromiso con un proceso efectivo de desarme que garantice la paz mundial, nuestro país ha decidido adherirse al Tratado de No Proliferación de Armas Nucleares, lo que hacemos reafirmando nuestra aspiración a que finalmente pueda concretarse la eliminación total y bajo estricta verificación internacional de todas las armas nucleares.

En adición, y pese a que la única potencia nuclear en las Américas mantiene una política de hostilidad contra Cuba que no excluye el uso de la fuerza, Cuba también ratificará el Tratado para la Proscripción de las Armas Nucleares en América Latina y el Caribe, conocido como Tratado de Tlatelolco, que nuestro país había firmado en 1995.

En un día como hoy, repito las palabras expresadas por Cuba en la pasada Asamblea General: "Sólo bajo el liderazgo de las Naciones Unidas podremos derrotar al terrorismo. La cooperación y no la guerra es el camino. La coordinación de acciones y no la imposición es el método. [...] Cuba reitera su condena al terrorismo en todas sus formas y manifestaciones. Cuba reitera que no permitirá que su territorio sea utilizado jamás en acciones terroristas contra el pueblo de los Estados Unidos o de cualquier otro país."

Señor Presidente:

Parece ya inevitable una nueva guerra contra Iraq, una escalada de la situación de permanente agresión que ese pueblo ha vivido durante los últimos diez años. Se habla ahora de "guerra preventiva", en franca violación del espíritu y la letra de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas.

Cuba defiende principios, no conveniencias, y, por tanto, aunque ello disguste a sus patrocinadores, se opone de modo categórico a esta guerra. A Cuba no la anima un espíritu antinorteamericano, aún cuando su gobierno mantiene y endurece un bloqueo de más de cuarenta años contra nuestro pueblo.

Pero no decir la verdad por cobardía o cálculo político no es lo que caracteriza a los revolucionarios cubanos. Por tanto, Cuba proclama aquí que se opone a una nueva acción militar contra Iraq. Lo hace al tiempo que recuerda que en

su momento apoyó en el Consejo de Seguridad la resolución que pedía al Gobierno de Iraq cesar la ocupación de Kuwait.

Sostenemos que sería una locura el desarrollo hoy de armamentos de exterminio en masa, pues vemos como único camino posible a la paz mundial el desarme general y completo, incluido el desarme nuclear, y la reorientación del dinero que hoy se gasta en armas a enfrentar los gravísimos problemas económicos y sociales de la humanidad.

Los países árabes han sido categóricos en su rechazo a esta guerra; la mayoría de los países europeos no la secundan; la comunidad internacional ve con preocupación creciente cómo se anuncia una nueva guerra sobre la base de acusaciones que no han sido probadas, e incluso ignorando la realidad evidente de que Iraq no puede ser un peligro para Estados Unidos.

Si el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos desata una nueva guerra contra Iraq, imponiéndosela al Consejo de Seguridad o decidiéndola unilateralmente en contra de la opinión pública internacional, se habrá consagrado el nacimiento del siglo del unilateralismo y de la jubilación forzosa de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas.

Parecerá entonces que los años de la Guerra Fría, con su lejano recuerdo de bipolarismo, errores y contradicciones, no fueron tan estériles y peligrosos como la etapa que hoy se está abriendo de modo inexorable ante el mundo.

Señor Presidente:

Hay que salvar a la Organización de Naciones Unidas. Cuba defiende tanto la necesidad de su preservación como la de su más profunda reforma y democratización. Pero hay que hacerlo respetando su Carta, y no reescribiéndola o tergiversando sus propósitos y principios. Hay, por fin, que darle a la Asamblea General el papel establecido por la Carta. Hay que rescatar al Consejo de Seguridad del descrédito y las dudas que hoy justificadamente lo lastran, y transformarlo en un órgano verdaderamente representativo —y hablo de la presencia del Tercer Mundo y no del poderío militar como justificación de la membresía—, en un órgano democrático —y hablo de eliminar el veto y otras prácticas antidemocráticas—, en un órgano transparente —y hablo del cese de los conciliábulos secretos y las decisiones reales tomadas a escondidas por unos pocos e impuestas después al resto.

Hoy, cuando está más amenazado que nunca, Cuba defiende con más fuerza la necesidad de preservar el multilateralismo en las relaciones internacionales. Por eso hemos visto con frustración el decepcionante desenlace de las negociaciones para el establecimiento de una Corte Penal Internacional, que Cuba apoyó entendiéndola como un órgano realmente imparcial, no selectivo, eficaz, complementario a los sistemas nacionales de justicia y verdaderamente independiente. Enmendar de facto el tratado internacional que dio vida a la

Corte valiéndose del Consejo de Seguridad, o imponer a otros países humillantes acuerdos bilaterales que obligan a aquellos a incumplir sus obligaciones internacionales derivadas de ese tratado, resulta no sólo arrogante sino, además, irresponsable.

La Corte Penal Internacional que hoy se proclama no es el órgano que necesitamos y por el que hemos luchado, subordinada a intereses políticos hegemónicos y víctima ya de la posibilidad de ser manipulada, atada desde su nacimiento a las decisiones de algún miembro permanente del Consejo de Seguridad. ¿Qué justicia internacional verdadera podrá esperarse de un órgano que carece de una definición del delito de agresión, o que podrá recibir instrucciones del Consejo de Seguridad para suspender o prorrogar indefinidamente un juicio a solicitud de uno de sus miembros permanentes? ¿Quién garantiza que la Corte no termine convirtiéndose en un instrumento al servicio del intervencionismo y de la dominación por parte de los países más poderosos?

Cuba reitera hoy aquí lo que ya expresó en la recién concluida Cumbre de Johannesburgo: se impone una refundación de las instituciones financieras internacionales. Se impone crear un sustituto legítimo para el Fondo Monetario Internacional. Se requiere orientar el trabajo del Banco Mundial al apoyo del ejercicio real por parte de más de 130 países del Tercer Mundo de su derecho al desarrollo. Se requiere poner en manos del sistema de Naciones Unidas nuevos recursos financieros para combatir la pobreza, el subdesarrollo, las enfermedades y el hambre. Se requiere rescatar a la Organización Mundial del Comercio de los intereses de un pequeño número de países ricos y poderosos, y convertirla en un instrumento al servicio de un sistema de comercio internacional justo y equitativo.

Los escasos resultados de las Cumbres de Monterrey y Johannesburgo, Señor Presidente, y la justa ola de indignación y cuestionamiento que han levantado, ponen otra vez sobre la mesa el tema de la falta de voluntad política de las principales potencias industrializadas a renunciar a una parte de sus privilegios para permitir un cambio real en el injusto e insostenible orden mundial que sume hoy en la pobreza y la desesperanza a las dos terceras partes de la población del planeta.

Reconozco, Señor Presidente, que las palabras de Cuba puedan ser no comparadas por algunos en esta sala. Entiendo, incluso, que puedan ser tomadas como un ataque hacia algún país en particular. Sin embargo, no es esa la razón. La palabra ha de ser usada para defender la verdad, y eso es lo que Cuba ha hecho y hará siempre. Somos un pueblo pequeño y noble que proclamó hace ya mucho tiempo que para nosotros, los cubanos, "Patria es humanidad".

Muchas gracias.