

MIM Notes



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The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Bush rushes toward war on Iraq

DEMANDS U.N. RUBBER STAMP

Amerikan war will hasten, not delay, deployment of weapons of mass destruction

By MC206
14 September 2002

On September 12 U.S. President George Bush demanded the United Nations force Iraq to give up its alleged weapons of mass destruction—including its ability to build “nuclear” weapons as he calls them. He also called on Iraq to “end all support for terrorism and act to suppress it, cease persecution of its civilian population, release or account for all Gulf War personnel whose fate is still unknown, and end all illicit trade outside of the oil-for-food program.”(1) Although Amerika’s European allies expressed relief that Bush sought their blessing, the President made it clear Amerika would go ahead even if the United Nations opposed an attack on Iraq—and the sooner the better. “We’re talking days and weeks, not months and years,” said Bush.(2)

Bush’s speech was a ham-fisted attempt to justify the war he wants so badly. The demands he’s made of Iraq are so unrealistic and vague—not to mention hypocritical—that Iraq is bound to fail to meet them.

For example, former U.N. weapons inspector Scott Ritter said two years ago that, “Iraq has indeed been disarmed... The chemical, biological nuclear and long-range ballistic missile programs that were a real threat in 1991 had, by 1998, been destroyed or rendered harmless.” Even Richard Butler, another former weapons inspector who is now a hawk backing his calls for war with allegations about Iraq’s weapons program, said in 1998, “if Iraqi disarmament were a five-lap race, we would be three quarters of



the way around the fifth and final lap.”(3) Hard for Iraq to give up weapons that only exist in Bush’s speeches.

The claim that the United States needs to invade with or without a U.N. figleaf in order to dismantle Iraq’s nuclear weapons program is

also disingenuous. Sensational “news” reports quoting a study which concluded Iraq could develop nuclear weapons within months either fail to mention or bury a key point: *if* Iraq got a hold of a sufficient amount of weapons-grade radioactive material, then it could build a bomb in months or a few years. That’s a big *if*, however, and one of the reasons more countries don’t have nuclear weapons. Iraq is not the only country which could make a bomb if it were given enough plutonium. As the headline for an article in the *Frankfurter Rundschau*

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The day Amerika changed? Not really

Statement by the Maoist Internationalist Movement
8 Sep 2002

Just as we predicted one year ago,(1) the Amerikan bourgeoisie did not learn its lessons from the September 11 attacks it failed to prevent. Billionaire Warren Buffet and nutcase Secretary of “Defense” Donald Rumsfeld concede the use of weapons of mass destruction against the United States is inevitable, yet all they can offer is more of the draconian “security” policies that got Amerikans into this mess in the first place.(2) Amerikan bombs killed thousands of Afghan civilians and yet apparently Osama bin Laden and certainly al Qaeda survive.(3) The Amerikan government held thousands for months without charges, instituted secret military tribunals and stepped up spying on its own citizens yet charged only one persyn in connection with the September 11 attacks.(4)

Neither Buffet nor Rumsfeld nor Cheney nor any other capitalist leaders have the political courage to admit that a system falling apart by their own logic has to be replaced by a system built in which there is no such risk of aggressive motivation by anyone. This risk is accelerated by capitalism, reduced by socialism and eliminated under communism.

September 11 provided the Amerikan people with a great chance to come to grips with global violence-better late than never. Some have and have stepped up their activism against Amerikan militarism and imperialism. But one year later NakedNews.com is back online and “American Idol” draws huge television audiences. Apparently Amerikans consider it indecent for NakedNews to make money off the World Trade Center bombing, but it’s alright to make money off deaths of Afghans or Palestinians. Days after September 11, 49% of polled Amerikans approved of special ID cards for Arabs;(5) days before the first anniversary, 49% of polled Amerikans

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Letters

Mandela and Arafat: What Gives?

Dear MIM,

I need to hear your opinion about Nelson Mandela. Correct me what I may be wrong: Is he a puppet of the Afrikaans [the white settler minority], and the British and Amerikan empire?

The South African blacks did get their “independence” and they did have apartheid dismantled, and had a black president installed, but did they truly become independent? Or is it just a charade? Don’t the whites still control most of the resources (that includes the diamond mines) and much of the fertile land? In other words, nominally [it’s] the black man’s land but in actuality it’s still in the white man’s pocket? Another sleight of hand! What you see you really don’t see!

Comrade Mandela and subsequent ANC presidents are nothing but figureheads and really don’t run nothing

but their heads and press agents so they can look pretty for American cameras. And whatever little power and riches they may have is what these behind-the-scenes white rulers may give them as “lucre” under the table. So comrade Mandela has been purchased, a very expensive slave? And we thought slavery was over!

Instead of asking for slave reparations, shouldn’t we get unslaved first? Not just in Africa, but in the USA too? I remember reading a while back on how magnanimous comrade Mandela seemed to the press, for all the years he was incarcerated, he did not seem revengeful against his former white rulers. Very noble indeed! By God, a black Jesus Christ! Turn the other cheek. So comrade Mandela, he was not in a prison, he was in a monastery! Comrade Mandela was so magnanimous, he even won the Nobel Peace Prize!

Of course he did not want revenge. That’s because he “deal” was that once he got out of prison he was going to toe the line in the white man’s way and he better not rock the boat in any established ways. If he had done otherwise, like

confiscating all the land and resources of the white man and given it back to the black righteous owners a la President Mugabe of Zimbabwe, instead of a Nobel Prize he would have received a coup prize! And instead of being praised as magnanimous, he would have been demonized such as Mugabe is being demonized for breaking white man’s law. What a load of bullshit!

Poor comrade Mandela, instead of being shackled physically as he once was, he is now shackled mentally. You can’t win with these white folks! Comrade Mandela’s spirit was really broken, but I don’t condemn him. It is foolish to judge him as an armchair critic. If I was in his shoes, perhaps I would have done the same? Just think about it, either continue eating crappy food in a roach-infested cell or eat steak with your arm wrapped around a “winnie the pooh” in a penthouse? That should be a no brainer. I’ll tell you what, if you’re gonna sell your soul for a mess of pottage, comrade Mandela knows how to do it in style! He didn’t sell it for no crumbs! Pimp!

So comrade Mandela did not have to think too hard on this choice. It was best to live out one’s remaining days in a half-ass “freedom” acting in a charade with one’s face omnipresent all over he world while chuckling to himself of the absurdity of life and how grand the people think he is! Yes, one can be compelled to make such a decision. The mind is a motherfucker! It can conjure all kinds of tempting excuses such as might as well from the charade because you just can’t beat those blue-eyed devils!

I would also like your opinion on Yassir Arafat. This leader of the unfortunate Palestinians! I have heard that he has sold out, that he is working hand-in-hand with

the Americans and Israelis by letting them gradually grab up all the Palestinian land and resources and just gave the Palestinians a small part of the land here and there dottingly? If this is true, then why did Arafat do this?

Did the Amerikan and Israeli officials convince him that the Palestinians weren’t really going to get anything so they might as well just get what they could and call it a win? Better then nothing? So Arafat concluded that it would be best to go along with this deal and get whatever power and riches he could obtain, and for his underlings, than nothing at all?

So here he was for a while, eating steak and flying around the world, riding in a Mercedes and having a personal helicopter, until the Israelis decided to put a stop to it? With this aggressive move that the Israelis committed, killing Palestinians, bulldozing homes, and destroying the Palestinian infrastructure, why did they do it? Did Sharon see an opportunity to finally get all the land he wanted under the guise of this “terrorism” and conclude that he really didn’t need Arafat anymore—that’s why he tried to make him look “irrelevant,” and in this way could black-boat him out to exile? Or when Arafat was holed up in his office building, completely surrounded by the Israeli army, was it just a charade and Arafat was in on it? Did the Israelis really try to get him this time, since they thought that they no longer needed him? That’s why they were destroying his buildings and helicopters?

It does make sense that Arafat works hand-in-hand with the Americans and the Israelis because nothing ever got resolved in the continuing so-called “peace process.” All that got resolved was that

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MIM Notes

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If you know you have some good places distribute, we suggest starting at 200 and working your way up. If you are not willing to distribute, just send money. If you are not willing to pay, then request papers after somehow proving to the party that you are serious (words won’t count). You who will cough up/raise the money to distribute 900 papers each issue and then do the distribution -- you are what drives this party forward.

Make anonymous money orders payable to “MIM.” Send to MIM, attn: Camb. branch, PO Box 400559, Cambridge, MA 02140. Or write mim3@mim.org.

What is MIM?

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) is the collection of existing or emerging Maoist internationalist parties in the English-speaking imperialist countries and their English-speaking internal semi-colonies, as well as the existing or emerging Maoist Internationalist parties in Belgium, France and Quebec and the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist Internationalist parties of Aztlan, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.S. Empire. MIM Notes is the newspaper of MIM. Notas Rojas is the newspaper of the Spanish-speaking parties or emerging parties of MIM. MIM upholds the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and is an internationalist organization that works from the vantage point of the Third World proletariat. MIM struggles to end the oppression of all groups over other groups: classes, genders, nations. MIM knows this is only possibly by building public opinion to seize power through armed struggle. Revolution is a reality for North America as the military becomes over-extended in the government’s attempts to maintain world hegemony. MIM differs from other communist parties on three main questions: (1) MIM holds that after the proletariat seizes power in socialist revolution, the potential exists for capitalist restoration under the leadership of a new bourgeoisie within the communist party itself. In the case of the USSR, the bourgeoisie seized power after the death of Stalin in 1953; in China, it was after Mao’s death and the overthrow of the “Gang of Four” in 1976. (2) MIM upholds the Chinese Cultural Revolution as the farthest advance of communism in humyn history. (3) As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM has reiterated through materialist analysis, imperialism extracts super-profits from the Third World and in part uses this wealth to buy off whole populations of oppressor nation so-called workers. These so-called workers bought off by imperialism form a new petty-bourgeoisie called the labor aristocracy. These classes are not the principal vehicles to advance Maoism within those countries because their standards of living depend on imperialism. At this time, imperialist super-profits create this situation in the Canada, Quebec, the United States, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Israel, Sweden and Denmark. MIM accepts people as members who agree on these basic principles and accept democratic centralism, the system of majority rule, on other questions of party line.

“The theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin is universally applicable. We should regard it not as dogma, but as a guide to action. Studying it is not merely a matter of learning terms and phrases, but of learning Marxism-Leninism as the science of revolution.”

- Mao Zedong, Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 208.

Free Memik Horuz!

In June of this year the U.S.-backed Turkish government sentenced progressive journalist Memik Horuz to 15 years in prison. He was arrested in June 2001 shortly after he returned from the founding assembly of the International League of People's Struggle, of which he is the deputy chairperson. Police charged Horuz with conducting an interview with a Turkish guerilla leader, a charge he later proved false (another journalist in Germany took credit for the interview). The Turkish government then changed the charge to membership in a banned organization.(1) The key prosecution witness in Horuz' trial was an individual who testified in

return for leniency in his own trial.(2)

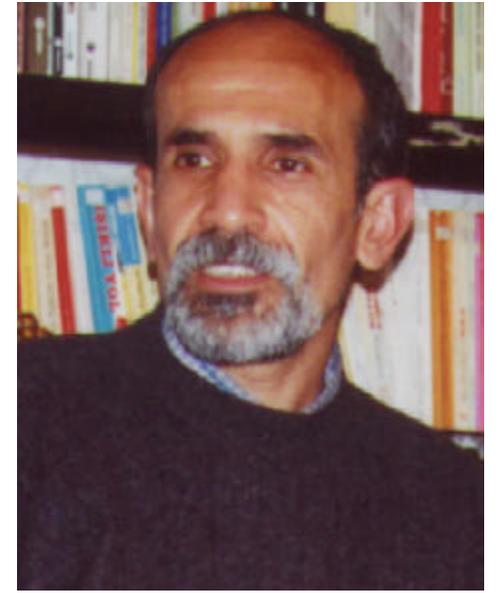
In a statement about the accusations against him Horuz said, "I will not abandon my ideas; I am proud of them. But I will never accept the conspiracy made against me."(3) This is not the first time Turkey has imprisoned Horuz. He spent several years in prison in the 1980s. He has endured torture tactics such as sleep deprivation, isolation and constant blindfolding. The reactionary Turkish government's prisons are notoriously brutal. Scores of prisoners have died resisting the "F-type" prisons designed to isolate prisoners and make them easier to "disappear."(7)

The Turkish Penal Code and the Anti-

terrorist law allow the arrest and imprisonment of journalists critical of the government. The Turkish government considers such journalists terrorists. Those arrested must prove their innocence; the government does not need to prove their guilt. In another well-known example, a Turkish publisher who printed essays by Noam Chomsky critical of U.S. support for Turkey's genocidal war against the Kurdish people was charged under the anti-terrorism law.

Horuz' lawyer Feliz Kalayci and 26 colleagues are due to appear in court to face charges stemming from their defense of the victims of the September 26

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San Francisco peace rally supports anti-imperialist work

San Francisco

MIM and RAIL attended the annual Power to the Peaceful rally in Golden Gate Park in September. Organized by Michael Franti, a popular local musician, and other performers and activists, the rally attracted a predominantly white crowd of thousands with the mission of "Unifying the Peace Community." The theme of the event was "Schools not Prisons, Humanism not Militarism" Overall, as a gathering place for people interested in opposing the Amerikan war

machine, and for activists to set up tables to sell and distribute information and products, the event had a positive impact. MIM unites with the overall message of opposition to the Amerikan militarism and criminal injustice system. Our main difference with the organizers is what we would call their "anarchist pacifism."

This was the fourth annual Power to the Peaceful event, scheduled to coincide with the date 9-11. According to Franti "911 began in 1999 as an international day of art and culture in support of

political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal. The eleventh day of the ninth month (911) was chosen to call attention to the emergency status of Mumia's impending execution. In 2000 the event was expanded to show support for all prisoners on death row, and to speak out against the exponential growth of the prison industrial complex. In 2001 the day of September eleventh took on a wider significance as a result of the tragic loss of life which took place on the attacks of the day. At our 4th annual 911 Power to the Peaceful Festival, we will create a compassionate space of healing for ALL those people killed or displaced by terrorism and by the war on terrorism."

This was an excellent opportunity to link the events of 9-11 last year to the ongoing terror perpetrated by imperialism. And several speakers made important points about U.S. policies, the criminal injustice system, and other aspects of imperialism. But as the mission statement and information from Franti makes clear, the goal of the event was not to oppose imperialism. Taking a stand against terrorism is only correct if the real terrorists, the imperialists, are clearly identified. Supporting peace without making it clear that the people waging revolutionary armed struggle are in the forefront of this fight for peace is deceptive and ends up playing into the hands of the imperialists.

Because of our disagreement with the political message, MIM and RAIL activists focused on collecting petition signatures, distributing revolutionary literature, and talking to people attending the event so we can't report in detail on the speakers or performers. As an opportunity to talk to a largely progressive audience the event was a success for MIM and RAIL organizers. Hundreds of people stopped at the MIM/RAIL table set up in front of prominent colorful anti-imperialist signs. Most people who stopped were eager to help with the

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San Fran homeless become political fodder

CARE NOT CASH PROVIDES NEITHER

The "Care Not Cash" campaign, led by San Francisco Superintendent Gavin Newsom, gathered enough signatures to put an initiative on the November ballot that would cut homeless people's monthly cash stipend. Posturing for an expected Mayoral campaign, Newsom spent \$10,000 on television ads and \$50,000 on billboards,(1) claiming that Proposition N will replace the cash with services, keeping people from abusing the city's homeless support. In reality the cut in cash assistance will not be replaced with any additional services and instead will put up one more barrier to homeless people getting off the streets.

Homelessness is a chronic problem of capitalism. Even in a wealthy imperialist country like the United States people are living on the streets because they don't have the money to pay for housing. In the city of San Francisco alone there are between 11,000 and 14,000 homeless people on the streets on any night. But there are only 1,400 shelter beds in the city.(2) A number of factors can lead to homelessness: unemployment, disability, lack of education, drug or alcohol addictions, family problems, sudden financial difficulties. But none of these *need* lead to homelessness. They wouldn't, if housing was not a commodity bought and sold for a profit. Capitalism fails to provide for every person's basic needs; under socialism shelter, like jobs, is guaranteed. Of course

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A call for MIM Notes sponsors and distributors!

MIM Notes has seen a big spike in circulation since the "war on terrorism" began. It's not surprising: MIM Notes is a free and independent newspaper. Yes, there are especially now knee-jerk patriots who believe everything Bush says and pass by a chance to read MIM Notes. There are other patriots and internationalists who realize that at this time papers like MIM Notes can undo the huge spectacle that Uncle Sam is creating for its own benefit.

Sure, you have seen MIM Notes around, but MIM Notes needs people to do two simple things: 1) Pay for it (postage and printing), 2) Distribute it!

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Plunder of Third World provides U\$. cushion

THE SECRET BEHIND U\$. WEALTH 'CREATION'

On September 12th, the Wall Street Journal reported that the second quarter 2002 was a record trade deficit for the United States, which at \$130 billion was even higher than expected and amounted to 5% of the whole U\$. economy's goods and services. In MIM Notes #266, we explained the basic problem with common views of trade deficits in the article titled "U\$. trade deficit expanded in June; so-called Marxists don't get it."

Further investigation into recently released economic statistics shows that those crying wolf for the past generation on U\$. trade did so inaccurately and in a chauvinist way. The proof is that we have now reached even more colossal deficits than ever before and no collapse of the u\$. economy has occurred—despite the expressed worries of so many authors.

"Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has said the trade gap eventually 'will have to be restrained.' But others, including Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, have said the growing gap isn't a cause for concern partly because it is unlikely foreigners will pull money out of the U.S.," the Wall Street Journal said.(1)

MIM advises readers that commonsense and bourgeois economic theory suggest that imports do not happen unless someone is making a profit from them. The multiple decisions of the importers to make a profit have not amounted to and do not add up to bankruptcy for the United States by any means. The economy generates enough paper money to buy the goods and the United States uses military force to keep other countries in check when they inevitably challenge the paper order.

Although the United States has had a trade deficit in goods and services in every quarter since 1976, the amount at stake was too small to mention relative to the wealth the United States was plundering. Only now at an estimated \$412 billion a year is the trade deficit really something to consider relative to wealth ownership. Those who believed the trade deficit was some kind of indication of crisis prior to recent years were simply wrong—whether they were mercantilists, social-democrats or even so-called Maoists. They were wrong because new wealth "creation" in the United States outpaced the trade deficit.

Since 1999 there has been a stock market crash. Foreign investors in the United States lost over \$500 billion in 2001 alone thanks to the stock market according to government statistics released in July. Thus, as measured by the market valuation of assets, in a sense, the foreign capitalists paid for more than the entire consumption of imports of goods and services by the u\$. public in

2001, and then some.(2) These investors bought dollars and brought them to the United States for investment while Amerikkans importing foreign goods and services bought foreign currencies.

It is also true that U\$. investors lost money abroad, and in fact, the U\$. investment position abroad has declined. In contrast, the foreign position in the United States increased in absolute terms, because although foreign investors lost over \$500 billion, they sent \$752.8 billion in 2001.(2)

From 1992 to 1995, the total of investments in the United States by foreigners in liquid assets increased over \$1 trillion. Prior to 1992, \$200 billion was the ceiling in annual investments, but by the end of the decade, new investments reached to the \$500 to \$800 billion range each year.(3) However, while the liquid assets of foreigners increased rapidly, in the same time period the expansion of tangible fixed reproducible wealth was even greater, more than \$1.3 trillion in real dollar terms between 1992 and 1995.(4) What that means is that foreign-owned wealth can increase while U\$.-owned wealth also increases. In fact, one may think of the trade deficit in the United States as being financed by the "creation" of new wealth. In actuality, what is happening in the United States is not creation of new wealth but accounting for new wealth already created in the Third World but not counted as wealth until it arrives in the United States.

New wealth arises in the United States through importing of manufacturing goods created by super-exploited workers kept in line by u\$.-backed death squads and military regimes. Salespeople in the United States take imported goods and mark them up sufficiently to pay their own salaries and give their bosses a profit. That is only possible partly because of the low prices of imported goods, but also, ironically, because so many such salespeople exist—enough people with high salaries to buy the goods. Of course, Third World salespeople could do the same thing, but the Third World has been plundered so long that there are no people with money to buy the goods that the Third World produces. Thus, the production happens in poor countries, but the goods go to the countries with the population doing everything but producing goods. As long as the Third World workers are exploited enough, there is no limit to the number of Amerikkans who can have sales jobs. The whole United States could be employed in sales and live more comfortably than the workers who actually produce goods.

Backward spokespeople of the U\$. labor aristocracy who should be called mercantilists or neo-mercantilists go so far as to call themselves "Marxist." They see only that other countries do not buy as many goods from the United States (or other similar imperialist countries) as they sell to the United States (or similar

imperialist country). What they are really doing is providing the thin veneer, the justifications for a fascist nationalization movement in the imperialist countries. By exciting the labor aristocracy with trade deficit figures and by issuing law suits like the one of the September 11th survivors seeking Saudi assets, the leaders of Amerikkkan economic nationalism seek to whip up their social base into a frenzy. In contrast, we point to the huge parasitism involved in economic relations between the imperialist countries and the Third World, thus explaining why disaster did not strike long ago in connection to the trade deficit and why the Third World finds itself so poor. This situation cannot end until U\$. puppet regimes in the Third

World fall to Maoist revolutions and the parasitism of the imperialist countries also comes to an end. Prior to that, at most, the portion of U\$. wealth owned by foreigners may increase, but there is no reason to believe that total wealth of Amerikkans and foreigners both cannot increase while the United States sustains huge trade deficits, the likes of which we see today.

Notes:

1. Wall Street Journal, 12 Sep 2002.
2. Elena Nguyen, "The International Investment Position of the United States at Yearend 2001."
3. www.epinet.org/webfeatures/snapshots/archive/101399/snapshots101399.html
4. www.bea.doc.gov/bea/an/0597niw/table15.htm

The day Amerika changed?

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said the American constitution went too far in protecting individual rights.(6)

When the American media aren't reheating anti-Arab "clash of cultures" explanations for September 11 they're dragging out griefsplotation pieces and cheesy sentimentality.

The best way to memorialize those who died in the World Trade Center—as well as the millions more who die every year from poverty due to imperialist misdevelopment and militarism—is to work toward a world with the causes of war removed. We cannot blame the oppressed for attacking the u\$. military and the institutions of American imperialism, any more than we can blame George Washington for attacking the British or Nat Turner for attacking slaveholders. The American people must act

ferociously as never before in history, because tolerating even a slight but constant cause of war may mean the end of the humyn species. The Middle East alone and its economic conflicts are reason enough for a revolution which puts the survival rights of the global majority ahead of a minority's "right" to profit.

Get informed! Get Angry! Get busy!

Notes:

1. MIM Notes Special Edition, 12 Sep 2001.
2. MIM Notes 260, 15 Jun 2002.
3. MIM Notes 262, 15 Jul 2002; MIM Notes 246, 15 Nov 2002.
4. MIM Notes 263, 1 Aug 2002; MIM Notes 252, 15 Feb 2002; MIM Notes 245, 1 Nov 2002.
5. MIM Notes 244, 15 Oct 2002.
6. San Francisco Chronicle, 31 Aug 2002.

What is militarism?

Militarism is war-mongering or the advocacy of war or actual carrying out of war or its preparations.

While true pacifists condemn all violence as equally repugnant, we Maoists do not consider self-defense or the violence of oppressed nations against imperialism to be militarism. Militarism is mostly caused by imperialism at this time. Imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism—seen in countries like the United States, England and France.

Under capitalism, capitalists often profit from war or its preparations. Yet, it is the proletariat that does the dying in the wars. The proletariat wants a system in which people do not have self-interest on the side of war-profiteering or war for imperialism.

Militarism is one of the most important reasons to overthrow capitalism. It even infects oppressed nations and causes them to fight each other.

It is important not to let capitalists risk our lives in their ideas about war and peace or the environment. They have already had two world wars admitted by themselves in the last 100 years and they are conducting a third right now against the Third World.

Even a one percent annual chance of nuclear war destruction caused by capitalist aggressiveness or "greed" as the people call it should not be tolerated by the proletariat. After playing Russian Roulette (in which the bullet chamber is different each time and not related at all to the one that came up in previous spins) with 100 chambers and one bullet, the chance of survival is only 60.5% after 50 turns. In other words, a seemingly small one percent annual chance of world war means eventual doom. After 100 years or turns of Russian Roulette, the chances of survival are only 36.6%. After 200 years, survival has only a 13.4% chance.

Bush rushes toward war on Iraq

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summing up the German spy agency's assessment of Iraq's nuclear capability put it: "Anybody can build atomic bombs."⁽⁴⁾

Which is MIM's point. If Iraq doesn't get the bomb, somebody else will. Pakistan, India and Israel did. In fact, by buying off critics and bullying Iraq the United States increases the appeal of nuclear weapons. Why engage in negotiations with the United States when you know it will take what it wants anyway, backed by the power of its own nuclear arsenal? Even former U.S. Secretary of Defense McNamara grasped the obvious conclusion, quoting an Indian politician, "Before one challenges the United States, one must first acquire nuclear weapons."⁽⁵⁾

If all those clamoring for war against Iraq were serious about eliminating the risk of nuclear war, they would be working to eliminate the tensions which drive countries to war—tensions built in to capitalism.

More obfuscation

Bush also claimed that Iraq had defied U.N. resolutions for years by not letting weapons inspectors into the country. Setting aside that the United States has ignored U.N. resolutions pertaining to Israel for decades, it was the United States which pulled its weapons inspectors out of Iraq in 1998. Iraq did not end weapons inspection.

As Voices in the Wilderness, an organization dedicated to lifting U.N. sanctions on Iraq, points out, "Richard Butler, the head of UNSCOM, pulled the inspectors out of Iraq in anticipation of the 1998 U.S. Desert Fox bombing campaign. It was only as a result of these bombings that the Iraqi government subsequently refused to allow inspectors to return to the country.

"The US is not really interested in weapons inspections. People forget that the Iraqi accusations that UNSCOM was spying on the Iraqi government turned out to be true. The U.S. infiltrated and subverted the mission of the international inspectors, and then used the Iraqi government's protests against that subversion as an excuse to bomb the country. The U.S. itself destroyed weapons inspections in Iraq, and used the expected dramatic standoff as a reason to unleash the deadly Desert Fox bombing."⁽³⁾

Immediately after September 11 officials in the U.S. state department linked Iraq to the attacks, with no evidence. Bush did not make any specific connections between Iraq and September 11, but then he didn't have to, as former Democratic Senator Bob Kerrey wrote, "there is credible evidence that Iraqi intelligence personnel met with one of the leaders of the attack." It is still not clear that this Prague meeting actually took place, but if it did, it was just that, a meeting which couldn't have lasted more than an afternoon. It is still no reason to

think Iraq had anything to do with September 11.

Unilateral multilateralism

Leaders from the U.N. and Amerika's European allies like France were glad that President Bush sought the endorsement of the United Nations. Frances's Foreign Minister said, "[if an attack takes place] without legitimacy there is a risk of increasing instability in the world. This legitimacy for France means of course the role of the Security Council."⁽⁶⁾ The Security Council is the supreme authority in the U.N.; France has a permanent seat.

However, considering that the substance of Bush's speech to the U.N. was "act on Iraq or the U.S. will" as a New York Times banner headline put it,⁽⁷⁾ it is the legitimacy of the U.N. that is on the line. If these leaders who up to now criticized Bush's war plans support the war through the U.N., they will be exposed as lackeys who simply wanted to save some face. A U.N. resolution against Iraq on the heels of Bush's speech will merely give Bush's war a veneer of "legitimacy;" the U.N. will play its familiar role as a fig leaf for aggressive Amerikan imperialism.

As MIM Notes reported on the eve of the first Gulf War, "instead of choosing between war and diplomacy, the United States is pursuing both with a vengeance. Consolidating power over allies, creating puppets and punishing defectors, the USA is laying the groundwork for a broader military victory in the war of expansion in the Middle East. The wide-ranging efforts undertaken by the USA around the world underscore the imperialist nature of the conflict, eliminating arguments that the war is caused by a single policy decision or an aggressive personality."⁽⁸⁾

This time, however, other capitalist powers—Russia, Saudi Arabia and most of the countries in the Middle East except Israel—oppose a renewed attack on Iraq. George Bush may be risking Amerikan hegemony by pushing forward in so many areas simultaneously: Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, south Asia, the Philippines, Korea, etc. If Russia were to stand up to the United States and pledge to defend Iraq, which it has large business deals with, ties with the United States might become politically and economically risky. Suddenly economic ties to Russia and the European Union would not look so bad to a host of Eastern European, Middle East and Central Asian countries. Those who have played Othello or the more complex Go game can see the risks that the above-average-but-overmatched Bush is playing with.⁽⁹⁾

German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder already declared German armed forces will not participate in any attack on Iraq. As MIM notes goes to press, the ruling SPD-Green coalition is debating whether or not to propose a parliamentary resolution supporting Schröder's decision. This is a response to pressure from the smaller social-democratic PDS,

the former East German ruling party, which was the first to suggest a resolution opposing "any form of German participation" in a war on Iraq.⁽¹⁰⁾ The SPD and Greens—both of which rabidly supported German participation in the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, by the way—want to make sure that the PDS can't pose as the party of peace in the upcoming elections. In any case, this shows how social-democratic parties in second-tier imperialist powers like the PDS might make promising allies when they come into conflict with the world's imperialist hegemon, the United States.

The real deal

So if Bush's war not a moral crusade against tyranny or against the threat of "nuclear" weapons, what is it?

Rami G. Khouri, an American-educated Jordanian journalist interviewed by the New York Times, summed it up well. "There is a sense by many ordinary people and politicians that the moves against Iraq are an effort to redraw the map for the strategic interests of the United States and Israel... Everyone I know wants Saddam Hussein removed. Nobody I know wants the Americans to do it—because we believe they are the last people in the world who will work on the behalf of Arab interests."

Another man interviewed in the same article said, "all this talk of democracy in the Middle East is baloney. The United States wants to do this against Iraq to spite Arabs and in spite of Arabs."⁽¹¹⁾ A talking head interviewed on National Public Radio agreed with this perspective, noting that pro-U.S. "stability" in the region would require local governments to become more, not less, repressive.⁽¹²⁾ As MIM and many others have repeated since September 11, Amerikan client states like Saudi Arabia or Egypt were not necessarily better than the Taliban regime when it came to wimmin's rights, the right to free speech and political association, economic exploitation, etc. The difference was the Taliban did not play along with U.S. designs—at least not as much as Washington wanted.

And of course for all his talk about Iraq flaunting U.N. resolutions, Bush said nothing about U.N.-resolution-flaunting Israel. Voices in the Wilderness make the interesting point that, "UN Security Council Resolution 687 calls for regional disarmament throughout the Middle East, not just in Iraq... The US can begin good-faith negotiations with the Iraqi government to return weapons inspectors to Iraq in the context of this regional call for disarmament. Ultimatums that are issued without any possibility of discussion, under the threat of massive war, and ignoring Iraq's own security concerns in the region, are not a useful form of international diplomacy. The US could examine its weapons sales to all of Iraq's surrounding neighbors over this period of eleven years that Iraq has been

sanctioned from international trade."⁽³⁾ Most notably on the question of "nuclear" weapons, it is an open secret that Israel has them *now*, not just the capability to produce them in a few years.

If the United States does attack, it is the common people of Iraq who will suffer even more. In the first Gulf War, the United States bombed civilian infrastructure—an internationally recognized war crime⁽¹³⁾—and this combined with U.N. sanctions has contributed to the deaths of 5,000 Iraqis a day. As a speaker at a teach-in in Iowa put it: The images of death and human suffering in Iraq, should evoke the same feeling of horror as the images of people leaping from the World Trade Center on September 11. "We need to be every bit as outraged."⁽¹⁴⁾

An Amerikan attack on Iraq will kill thousands but peace in the Middle East and the world will be further removed than ever. Far from achieving Pax Americana, war against Iraq will increase worldwide anger against the United States and send the message that the United States will only listen to the criticism of weapons.

If Shakespeare were to write a tragedy about Amerikan imperialism, he wouldn't have to come up with a new ending; he could just borrow these lines from Hamlet:

And let me speak to th' yet unknowing world

How these things came about: so shall you hear

Of carnal, bloody and unnatural acts;

Of accidental judgments and casual slaughters;

Of death put on by cunning and forced cause;

And, in this upshot, purposes mistook

Fall'n on the inventor's heads.

Notes:

1. Reuters, 12 Sep 2002.
2. Associated Press, 13 Sep 2002.
3. Voices in the Wilderness, www.nonviolence.org/vitw.
4. Frankfurter Rundschau, 13 Sep 2002.
5. MIM Notes 255, 1 Apr 2002.
6. Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 12 Sep 2002.
7. New York Times, 12 Sep 2002.
8. MIM Notes 48, Jan 1991.
9. MIM Notes 266, 15 Sep 2002.
10. Frankfurter Rundschau, 12 Sep 2002.
12. All Things Considered, 28 Aug 2002.
13. www.hrw.org/reports/1991/gulfwar/
14. Des Moines Register, 12 Sep 2002.



'Sunday' exposes British colonialism in Ireland

Sunday (2002)
Directed by Charles McDougall

MAOIST MOVIE REVIEW

"Sunday" is a docudrama about the events in the occupied six counties (so-called Northern Ireland) on January 30, 1972, known as Bloody Sunday, when British troops killed 14 unarmed civilians and wounded 15 more during a civil rights march in Derry. Produced to mark the 30th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, the film is carefully researched, drawing on British military documents and first-hand interviews with those involved in the events. The producers claim that the film is a factual representation of events with only small modifications for dramatic film effect. The film provides insight into why the oppressed in the occupied six counties took up arms against British imperialism.

The bulk of Ireland won its independence in 1920 after years of guerrilla warfare against British occupation. However, Britain kept control of the Six Counties as the largest contiguous piece of land where the majority of the population supported union with Britain. Such Unionists are mostly Protestant, while Irish nationalists are mostly Catholic; hence the usual superficial characterization of the colonial situation in the six counties as a "religious conflict." It is important to note that Britain settled these Protestants in Ireland in the 17th century to increase its control over Ireland.

The movie focuses on the lives of several Irish youth who attended the illegal but peaceful civil rights march on

January 30, 1972. The marchers were protesting laws which restricted voting rights based on property ownership—Irish Catholic families could not afford much property and so were frequently denied a vote—and a new interment camp near Derry city.

(The British Emergency Powers Act denies citizens their right to habeas corpus when they want an excuse for political repression. Britain has exercised this power in Ireland for 75 years. Special powers also exist under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, first passed in 1973 and renewed every year since. This act allows individuals suspected of terrorism to be detained and interrogated for up to seven days without charge.(1) When similar provisions were included in the USA Patriot act, MIM pointed out that British law has led to numerous abuses, without actually preventing any "terrorism." Perhaps most familiar to Americans are the events documented in the film "In the Name of the Father," where British police tortured a group of young people during the seven days they were held without charge to force them to confess to "crimes" they had not committed.)

"Sunday" first portrays the events of the massacre from the marchers' perspective. The main character, a man named Leo Young, searches for his brother after the shooting starts. He ends up helping another boy who was shot, taking him to the hospital. British troops stop their car at a roadblock and force them out at gunpoint. They then imprison

Leo and interrogate him. The troops don't take the boy in the car to a hospital. Instead they plant bombs in his pockets and photograph him as evidence that the IRA was behind the violence at the march.

The film then takes the audience through the first official Government Inquiry into Bloody Sunday, conducted by then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Widgery. The film revisits events of the day from the perspective of the soldiers. From the outset it is clear that they are deployed to Derry to attack the crowd. Their officers have encouraged them to expect violent confrontation; they are shown talking up the opportunity to kill Irish Catholics. Before the tribunal they are shown discussing the need to lie to cover for themselves. One soldier who submitted a report describing the events as he saw them was told his testimony would not be needed since his report made the soldiers look like they fired indiscriminately into the crowds. The Widgery Tribunal concluded that the soldiers were telling the truth and that it was likely those demonstrators killed were in fact IRA fighters and that the fault for the violence was with the marchers who staged the illegal protest.

The main character, who was released from detention to learn that his brother was killed at the march, goes from incredulity at the police questioning whether he is in the IRA to asking himself whether or not he should join. He promises his wife that he will not join if

the Government Inquiry delivers justice. When the results of the tribunal are reported he goes to an IRA recruiting meeting to join, over the protests of his wife who argues that he should not because they have kids.

Throughout the film wimmin are portrayed as trying to keep the men from joining the IRA because they will be killed. Leo's mother tells her daughter that she will not let her sons see her grief over the one who was killed because it would drive them to join the IRA and get killed themselves. Leo's wife says that she would join the IRA herself but they have kids and so neither of them should join.

This underlying message that responsibility to family overrides responsibility to society is the one negative element to this documentary. Support for armed struggle was built through the events around Bloody Sunday precisely because people understood that they would not win civil rights through non-violence. These rights were and are essential to the survival of the people living in the occupied six counties of Ireland. It was for the future of their families and children that people join the armed struggle.

BBC Channel 4 commissioned "Sunday" to mark the 20 year anniversary of the massacre. This film is fundamentally critical of the British government and military. But it carefully restricts its focus to the events of Bloody Sunday. What is missing is a connection to the on-going violent colonial occupation of Ireland.

Note: 1. MIM Notes #137, June 1997.

San Fran homeless

Continued from page 3...

capitalism also exacerbates factors that lead to homelessness like homelessness and drug abuse.

Currently everyone who receives cash aid from San Francisco must work for the city in return for their aid checks or prove they are disabled. The new "Care Not Cash" program would pay these workers in vouchers for services that are already free to other people (shelters and soup kitchens). The program is modeled after the failed homeless program of former Mayor Guiliani in New York City. In New York after Guiliani's version of the "Care Not Cash" plan the number of people staying in shelters rose rapidly, up to 32,850 people a day in 2002.(3)

The city of San Francisco spends \$104 million per year on direct homeless services.(4) Currently 8,674 adults in San Francisco receive a monthly cash stipend of up to \$395 from the city, also known as General Assistance.(5) Approximately 2,756 of these people are homeless single adults who will be affected by the initiative.(6) If this "Care Not Cash" program passes these homeless people

will have their monthly allowance cut to \$59 and the rest of the money. This will result in less than \$2 per day for necessities such as medicine, laundry and toothpaste and assumes that all the homeless can be accommodated in shelters and fed in soup kitchens. Nearly 60% of homeless people are disabled, but they too will have only \$2 per day to pay for medicine.(7)

According to the Department of Human Services 2002 report, for the 2,756 homeless adults on General Assistance in SF there are only 1,294 shelter beds available (and note that these beds also accommodate all the homeless adults not on GA).(5) From the outset the program can not succeed without significant investment in homeless services. Newsom argues that cutting cash aid will free up \$10 million a year, which could fund 1,000 new residential hotel rooms and 150 methadone treatment slots. But the ballot initiative doesn't include anything about using this money to help the homeless. Further, many methadone programs currently charge for services and homeless people

who lose their cash benefits will not be able to afford these services.

The "Care Not Cash" plan requires people to stay in shelter beds to receive even the \$59 per month. If someone loses their shelter, for any reason, they lose their benefits as well. This program will also perpetuate homelessness by reducing people's ability to pay rent in informal arrangements with family or friends or save money for permanent housing.

Most Bay Area counties have recently switched to services rather than cash for homeless programs, but there is no evidence these are an improvement over cash grants. In Alameda, a county near San Francisco where a similar program is in place, they found that most homeless people chose to go without General Assistance rather than be forced into shelters.(6)

Political posturing leads to new programs on the homeless every few years. Under capitalism the best we can hope for is more spending on food, housing, medicine and other services and rehabilitation for homeless people. But this is not a solution to homelessness. The only real solution to homelessness will come when capitalism is overthrown and people's basic needs become a priority.

Homelessness caused by capitalism is a far bigger problem than what we see in the United States. In Third World countries, where the U.S. props up puppet government with economic and military aid, literally millions of people are without adequate shelter, food, medicine and even water. For these people, access to a soup kitchen is not even a distant dream. This doesn't make homelessness in Amerika acceptable. But we do need to keep this problem in perspective. We should not just be fighting to end homelessness in Amerika. The denial of basic needs, putting profit before survival rights, anywhere in the world is a crime.

Notes:

1. National Lawyers Guild statement opposing "Care Not Cash".
2. Mayor's office on housing, quoted in <http://www.sf-homeless-coalition.org/basics.html>
3. New York City Department of Homeless Services and Human Resources Administration, shelter census reports. available at: <http://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/nyc/homelesscharts01.pdf>
4. San Francisco Chronicle, Aug 17, 2002.
5. Committee Against Increased Homelessness web site (<http://www.nomorehomelessness.org>)
6. San Francisco Bay Guardian, June 19, 2002.
7. Department of Human Services, March 2002.

R. Kelly and the dialectics of 'triple oppression'

On June 5th, police arrested Hip Hop star R. Kelly for child pornography. The prosecution claims that he had sex with a 14 year-old girl in a videotape. On August 28th, there was a report that the performer "Truth Hurts" nonetheless decided to release a single with Kelly, who continues to be wildly popular. For MIM, this case and others involving the treatment of Black wimmin raise important analytical questions.

Kelly's attorney says the womyn in the tape was not underage. Since then critics have turned to the act of a Black man urinating on a Black womyn in the tape as indicative of abuse.

Unfortunately MIM has to report that urinating is all the fashion in Western pornography and we find it difficult to pin much meaning on this particular act of the pornography, especially vis-a-vis Black-men-to-Black-wimmin relations. All we can say is that capitalism has to come up with new and novel ways to titillate the audience and keep sex fresh or the customer does not pay.

That is to say Black people are not sealed off from the rest of the Western culture, and it is not correct to think they will not demonstrate the decadence of imperialist culture before successful revolution. Ewuare Osayande of the San Francisco Bay View wrote at length on the right issues. We agree with him when he said, "Those who want to quash critique are often those who in some way profit from this problematic state. They reap profits by either making money from it or by keeping their own oppressive dirt from being exposed."(1)

Knowing Blacks are part of a profit-

making and decadent imperialist culture is a large part, maybe most of the story. Yet the question remains, why people buy the videos that Kelly is selling. From our scientific viewpoint, it is not enough to say the culture is rotten. Yes the culture is rotten. It is rotten in a particular way.

People have money and some free time. They could choose to do something else, but instead they buy the Kelly videotape, which is on every street corner according to Osayande.

The question comes up, why should Blacks oppose Black men making porno money, if white men make it that way. That's what Kelly's supporters are saying. Obviously within a capitalist context, there is no fair rebuttal to Kelly's supporters on this point. We have to be for socialism before we have the right to criticize Kelly or pornographers in general. Otherwise, our criticism of our artists like Kelly will be meaningless. Indeed, if we seek to win over a section of the Black bourgeoisie for revolution, there may need to be concessions to the Black bourgeoisie in particular, the Black pornographers at the expense of the white ones.

For a long time, the question of whether rap is more misogynist than other music forms has existed. Much rap refers to Black wimmin as "whores" and "bitches" by habit.

Considering that we are not in socialism yet, MIM is ambivalent about this point too, because though it may be different the white man's rock is also solidly misogynist. Rappers just have their distinctive way of making money.



One thing we can address however is the question of the psychology of Black wimmin. We have to get away from questions like why do Black wimmin put up with their Black men. It's not a self-esteem problem. There are a lot of feelings of betrayal and abandonment out there, but it would be wrong to leave the question at that level of psychology and culture, because psychology will never point to a solution. People getting caught up in their feelings are going to end up going for fascism.

The fact is that Black wimmin are now more likely to go through college than Black men. According to the New York Times in August, a "study found that in 2000 there were 791,600 black men in jail or prison and 603,032 enrolled in colleges or universities. By contrast, the study said that in 1980 there were 143,000 black men in jail or prison but 463,700 enrolled in colleges or universities."(2) The New York Times also reported that the rise in Black men's imprisonment between 1980 and 2000 was three times faster than the rise in Black men going to college.

MIM would say that in fact Black men in prison are more gender oppressed than Black wimmin outside the prisons. The white man is gender oppressing Black men. It is wrong to call this issue one of "triple oppression" (class, gender and race/nation) and then refer only to wimmin outside the prison walls. It's not that simple.

In response to the Black labor aristocracy and capitalists that say those Blacks should be in prison, this is where we say the Black labor aristocracy is too

liable to the white man's propaganda. Other countries manage to do without that rate of imprisonment. There is no reason for Black people to put up with it. No country in the world imprisons people at the rate that Amerikkans imprison Blacks, so Amerikkans better be learning something about other cultures and systems and stop making excuses for imprisonment rates not seen since Stalin in war time. This is how the Black people will benefit from the dictatorship of the proletariat of the oppressed nations' proletariat coming to the united States—actually addressing problems instead of putting everyone in prison.

In addition, Black men have a lower life expectancy than Black wimmin. This all adds up to one thing: a shortage of available Black men for heterosexual Black wimmin. As it stands, Black men are also more likely to seek white wimmin than white men are to seek Black wimmin, so at least in practice there is no balancing occurring in inter-racial gender relations either.

This shortage of Black men is a material fact affecting Black gender relations. It is part of the very definition of the gender relations. Cultural and psychological explanations will end up in self-blame. No matter how good the rap song lyrics or the revolutionary will of the people, there is going to be hurt until we address the underlying causes.

Notes:

1. <http://www.sfbayview.com/061902/sexist061902.html>

2. New York Times, 28 Aug. 02.

Media admits one in 32 Amerikkans in penal system

"The number of people in the U.S. correctional system hit a record 6.6 million—more than 3 in every 100 adults—last year, the Justice Department says," says the Associated Press. The figure counts 631,240 people in jails as distinguished from prisons, probation and parole.(1)

The Amerikkkan population is vacillating slightly in our favor at the current time as 64% of the public have moved to support a moratorium on the death penalty(2) and 61% of California passed Proposition 36 to require non-incarceration for non-violent drug offenders. The slight trend in our favor is not showing up in imprisonment rates yet, however. As MIM points out in every issue, the united States is the world's leading prison state.

An interesting tidbit from the

Associated Press is that "Whites accounted for 55% of those on probation, while blacks made up 31%. Among those behind bars, however, 46 % of those incarcerated were black and 36% were white."(1)

These kinds of numbers indict the whole system. Whether Amerikkans are the most criminally deranged in the world or whether the system merely frames more people than any system in the world, either way, the structure of society is to blame. When we Maoists get to power, all people will benefit from a reduction in crime, because we understand its causes and have reduced it before in other countries.

Notes:

1. http://usatoday.com/news/nation/2002-08-26-corrections-population_x.htm

2. Boston Globe 15 Sep 2000

Yahoo! censors Oakland peace group

INTERNET PORTAL LIVES UP TO ITS NAME ONCE AGAIN

Yahoo! suddenly canceled Lake Merritt Neighbors Organized for Peace (LMNOP) e-mail account, alleging LMNOP had violated "the terms of service agreement." LMNOP is an anti-war group in Oakland California. They learned of the cancellation when they could no longer access their email address. Mail sent to the address was returned as "undeliverable because the account has been discontinued or disabled."

Yahoo!'s service agreement states that Yahoo! can delete e-mail accounts on its system at any time. In response to LMNOP's questions Yahoo! representatives stated that they have a policy of not revealing the specific reason behind account termination. One customer representative did state that the decision to shut down the account was only made after complaints are filed, however. Yahoo! made it clear to LMNOP that there is no recourse once the account is shut down. There is no chance to prove the termination was unfounded and no chance to retrieve information stored on the account.

LMNOP organizers believe that

Yahoo! received a complaint about the group because of their stance on Palestine. [LMNOP raises the slogan "Israel out of the West Bank and Gaza - The Occupation is Killing Us All!"] There is no way to know for sure, but in a political climate like the United States where the majority enjoy parasitic benefits from imperialism, it is easy to make enemies and likely that some of those enemies enjoy the chance to "report" progressive groups to any and all authorities.

LMNOP lost their entire email list to this Yahoo! censorship, which should serve as a warning to other activist groups

taking advantage of free e-mail accounts offered by corporate groups like Yahoo!. We know that surveillance of political activists is commonplace. And corporations like Yahoo! are certainly cooperating with the government to provide any and all information they request about users. Activists should use these free tools cautiously. Be careful to back up your information, and never give out any information on those systems that you don't want the government to have.

Check out MIM's web page FAQ on security for more ways to protect yourself and your work: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/security.html>.

San Fran peace rally

Continued from page 3...

agitation campaigns we were promoting and also purchased copies of the latest MIM Notes and other literature.

Focusing on two issues at the table, activists drew people's attention to an important local campaign with international connections and an important international campaign with local relevance. The local campaign, demanding the University of California divest from Israel, garnered 131 petition signatures and overwhelming enthusiasm from the crowd. Younger people did not recognize the connection to the call to divest from South Africa in the 1980s which was an important and successful part of the anti-apartheid campaign. We took the opportunity to explain the historical lessons from that battle and the reasons behind our current campaign. Several people asked why we were focusing on the UC schools, rather than taking on a wider campaign of Amerikan divestment from Israel. We explained that we see this as a first step, and a winnable battle, in the divestment campaign which ultimately targets Amerikan imperialism to pull out entirely from Israel. And we encouraged people to research other corporate connections to Israel to add to the campaign.

The second campaign focused on at the table demanded freedom for Memik Horuz, deputy chairperson of the International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS), who has been in prison in Turkey since June of 2001. He was recently sentenced to 15 years in prison on trumped-up charges (see article in this issue of MIM Notes). We pointed out the U.S. government's support for brutal Turkish fascism. A number of people who stopped to sign the petition commented on the importance of Turkey to Amerikan imperialism in the Middle East. This drew important connections to the Amerikan war machine activities over the past year. Horuz is important to us in San Francisco as a part of the internationalist struggle that we are waging. For this campaign we collected 120 petition signatures, limited by the

number of petition sheets we brought to the event.

Our main regret is not having more comrades with us to walk through the crowd collecting more petition signatures. The Open the U.S. Border petition on the table drew about 20 signatures and the anti-censorship postcards on hand, protesting censorship of prisoner mail, attracted the attention of a number of people stopping by the table as well. We are confident we could have gathered many more petition signatures and postcards with greater forces. We will work to build awareness of the need for this anti-imperialist voice at rallies such as this one in the coming year.

Bush Did It rally

A more radical and march with a correct focus joined the Power to the Peaceful rally after marching through Golden Gate park. A RAIL contingent joined the Bush Did It demonstration which was organized by the All Peoples Coalition Against U.S. Terror and War. The overall message of the rally was that the Bush regime is responsible for the attacks on the u\$ on 9/11, whether they were actively involved or not. Organizers recognized the role of imperialism in breeding incidents like 9/11 from the majority of the world, which has not benefited from this system.

RAIL hopes that marching into the crowd chanting, "Hey Bush, you can't resist. We charge you as a terrorist." and carrying signs such as "Fighting Imperialism Is NOT Terrorism" brought a more revolutionary message to the broader audience. Contingent members followed with hours of outreach and discussion with individuals to better explain our differences with the more reformist and pacifist tendencies represented at the festival. Getting mostly positive responses, we hope those people looking to eliminate this system of war will help us to promote the most effective solution to war at the next peace rally: revolution.



Free Memik Horuz!

Continued from page 3...

massacre in Ulucanlar prison. The government has also charged her with membership in an illegal organization and with having slandered the Turkish government.(3)

The Amerikan government stepped up military aid to Turkey after martial law was declared in the early 80s, spending about \$500 million in military aid to Turkey each year from 1988 to 1993. Between 1980 and 1999, the U.S. Government gave the Turkish regime \$4.6 billion in military aid and \$2 billion in military loans. In fiscal year 1999, the Turkish regime imported \$1.56 billion in weapons from the United States.(4) The Turkish army uses Amerikan helicopters and other machinery in its genocidal war against the Kurdish people.

After September 11, 2001, the U.S. turned to Turkey for support in the so-called war on terrorism. In this terrorist war Turkey sent forces to join the U.S.-led massacre of Afghanistan.(5) In return Bush agreed to donate Turkey 25 helicopters and write off all or at least part of a \$5 billion loan for the purchase of arms.(6) Those of us living in Amerika's borders who oppose the brutal thuggery used to support the "New World Order" must speak up.

Please FAX or email your letters asking

that Horuz' bogus conviction be overturned to the Turkish Embassy and consulates in the united States:

* Washington D.C. Embassy Fax/
Email: 202-612-6744 info@turkey.org

* Washington D.C. Consulate Fax/
Email: 202-319-1639
tcwash.cons@erols.com

* Los Angeles Consulate Fax/Email:
323-932-0061 turkcgla@pacbell.net

* Chicago Consulate Fax/Email: 312-263-1499 chicago@trconsulate.org

* New York Consulate Fax/Email:
212-983-1293 tcbkny@worldnet.att.net

You can also send faxes to the following authorities in Turkey:

* Ankara Interior Ministry Fax:
01190 312 418 1795

* Ankara Justice Ministry Fax:
01190 312 417 3954

Send a copy of your letter to MIM.

Notes:

1. International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) press release, August 3, 2002, <http://ilps2001.com/edp/memik>
2. ILPS press release, June 30, 2002
3. ILPS press release, March 18, 2002
4. http://www.fas.org/asmp/profiles/turkey_fmchart.htm
5. CNN.com, 11/6/2001
6. http://www.clw.org/atop/911_list.html

Blood of Krishna Sen moves Nepali people

In June journalists in Nepal(1) and around the world condemned the torture-killing of a journalist who spoke for the People's War in Nepal named Krishna Sen. Other journalists continued into July to ask why the government did not even confirm Krishna Sen's death.(2) Two months after his death, the government in Nepal issued an investigative report and denied that the journalist Nepali Krishna Sen was ever in government custody and said it had no records of him anymore! Hundreds of journalists have protested in Nepal as a result of the government coverups.(3)

Thus it appears that the regime in Nepal has adopted the strategy of "disappearance," except that it was caught in the act. BBC reported that Sen was in custody since May 2002.(4) Sen had been in and out of detention the past few years.

The government's version of events held no credibility with Nepal's journalists, as much as they had backed the government against the People's War. The Federation of Nepalese Journalists

leading demonstrations of hundreds has said that over 100 journalists are in custody, not just Krishna Sen.(5) That number rose to over 140 journalists in detention with 22 still in custody as of our latest update.(6)

The Maoists in Nepal had spent quite some time in peace negotiations with the regime in Nepal. With the bizarre monarchy self-destruction, with supposed "communists" in the Parliament that do not oppose U.S. military aid to the semi-feudal government(7) and with a state of emergency under which the regime kills journalists, it is little wonder that peace negotiations failed.

Under any conditions it is impossible to get landlord-backed rulers to redistribute the land in land reform and bring an end to semi-feudalism and conditions of poverty affecting the world's peasantry. That's why land reform in Japan, Taiwan, China, southern Korea, northern Korea and elsewhere occurred through force, either communist force or U.S. troops (after war) or both.

That is a cruel reality for the world's starving people, as cruel as the fact that most of slavery did not come to an end through mutual good wishes.

A people facing widespread poverty and starvation cannot simply agree on nice-sounding words with a landlord government. The workers and peasants in a country as poor as Nepal must have the implementation of actual survival rights before they can peacefully coexist with anyone else. There can be nothing more stupid than the idea that the starving can negotiate away their right to survival—whether it be in elections or peace negotiations. For this reason, real communists in Nepal must be firm in their demands. Settling for nice-sound phrases effectively means death for many now and prolonged suffering for others in the future.

Another factor in the inability to conclude peace negotiations is that politicians in Nepal see their power rising from an increase in foreign aid to root out "terrorists." In June, a London meeting saw Great Powers promise \$128

million in economic and military aid for Nepal.(8) The most visible result was the split in the ruling Nepali Congress party with the prime minister playing the "terrorist" angle for as much aid as possible.

Notes:

1. http://www.kantipuronline.com/archive/kpost/2002-6-29/kp_editorial.htm is an example from the Kathmandu Post
2. <http://www.yomari.com/p-review/2002/07/04072002/how.html>; <http://www.ucc.uconn.edu/~ser00003/NS1.html> has a story on the government's calling Sen "a missing case" while it was conducting its investigation.
3. <http://www.yomari.com/p-review/2002/07/25072002/ontherecord.html>
4. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/2069303.stm
5. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/south_asia/2100944.stm
6. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/south_asia/2211646.stm
7. See cpnuml.org
8. http://goasiapacific.com/news/GoAsiaPacificBNA_590015.htm

Letters

Continued from page 2...

the Israelis were gradually grabbing land for the settlements. It looked very obvious that something tricky was going on—even Ray Charles could see it. I can remember back when I did not know if this charade would become utterly frustrated and would think that if I was in Arafat's shoes I would not have the "patience" that he manifested. I would have told the Israelis that I did not have time to play games, so when they got serious to negotiate, then call me. But now I know why Arafat had this gigantic "patience." It was a charade! But if this is true, then why haven't the Arabs and Palestinians figured it out yet? Does Hamas know that he's a charade? So they are the real representatives of the Palestinians? That's why the Israelis don't want to deal with them? Tell me your opinion.

In Solidarity,
—A Texas Prisoner

MIM responds: Your comments on Mandela and Arafat are very well taken. Fifteen years ago, the movements they



Mandela (left),
and Arafat

led—the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the African National Congress (ANC), along with their allied movements in Nicaragua and El Salvador and a few others—represented to some people the cutting edge of anti-imperialism and the future of socialist movements.

Those of us who disagreed at the time—including MIM—were clearly vindicated in the 1990s when all of these organizations gave up the revolutionary cause for good and went over into negotiated capitulation whole hog. To MIM, this history holds valuable lessons, including two major ones. First, national

liberation from imperialism without a socialist program and leadership leads to neocolonialism. This we already knew, but these cases underscored it. Second, national liberation movements tied too heavily to external great-power support—in this case the social-imperialist ex-USSR—are not independently sustainable. Whatever was revolutionary in the programs of these movements was quickly sacrificed when they could no longer leverage Soviet support against the U.S. empire. When the ex-USSR collapsed, they had no one to lean on, so they quickly cut the best deals they could with imperialism, and declared victory.

Before the collapse of the ex-USSR, Arafat and Mandela were more likely to end up in the Soviet camp. That was how they played their hands. Now, to MIM that is not as big a difference as it is to some others, because we understand that the Soviet Union had become social-imperialist after the development of state capitalism in the 1950s. So this was a choice between imperialist powers. It is not inherently wrong to play one imperialist power off another, but revolutionary movements need to maintain their independence and self-sufficiency in such situations (look at formerly-Soviet-dependent Cuba, too).

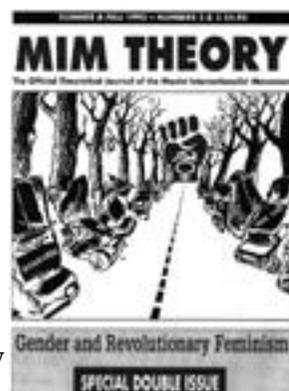
These guys were the two leaders supposedly representing the most visible unresolved colonial legacies post-WWII. These cases posed international political problems for imperialism in the neocolonial era, because they undermined the imperialist propaganda that the current era is "post-colonial," the "former" imperialists having given up their colonies out of their own largesse or political savvy. So maybe it is fitting (from the imperialist's perspective) that when these two guys finally gave it up, they got the Nobel Prize. The revolutionary aspirations of the people they represented were a major thorn in the side of imperialism.

Which brings us to your final question: why do the masses put up with this? On that we urge you to take a longer view. In the long run, the masses do not put up with this. Developing revolutionary organizations and leaders takes time and requires capitalizing on the historical moment. Already in both Palestine and Azania (South Africa) there are growing mass movements which see Arafat and Mandela/Mbeki for what they are: imperialist running dogs. You won't catch imperialist mouthpieces reporting on these movements though; the myths they've built up around Arafat and Mandela are important propaganda.

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What questions do YOU have?

Wasn't Mao a butcher? Why do you spell it "Amerika"? Shouldn't you try non-violence first? What is internationalism? Isn't hating white people reverse racism? Why don't you leftists work together? Why don't you tone it down? What is a cardinal principle? What is your program? What is necessary to join MIM? What concrete actions can I take? How do I write articles for MIM? What is your copyright policy?

Go to <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq> and get real answers to these and other questions.

Alabama censors MIM Theory

Greetings,

I guess you can add Limestone prison to your censorship list. I state the above assuming that MIM Theory 8 & 11 were returned to sender. If so, send me a letter notifying me so. I know that postage is hell but please send MIM Theory 8 back. I request this because I'm trying to see if it was MIM theory 11 that prompted these pigs to censor the package. I think that is so.

I'm working on this censorship because its not the first time. They, recently censored MIM Theory 6 a comrade received out in general population.

In June 2000, the Poverty Law Center settled a lawsuit on behalf of prisoners in Alabama concerning publications. The suit was titled Prison Legal News v. Haley. Out of the settlement came Admin. Reg. 303 which states that anytime a publication is denied the officials must notify the prisoner of its denial and give the prisoner the chance to protest this censorship. Also, the publisher must also be notified and given the chance to protest.

In the case of the censorship of MIM Theory 8 & 11, I was not notified and given the chance to protest. I'm sure that MIM was not notified as to why these publications were being censored.

I'm in contact with the SPLC on this. Plus, I've taken other independent action against this censorship. If it's not stopped by November I'm going on hunger strike to protest censorship. So, forward me MIM Theory 8 and I'll reimburse you on the cost soon.

— a prisoner in Alabama, August 2002

MIM responds: We are working with this prisoner to fight the censorship in Alabama. Any other prisoners experiencing similar problems there should contact us so we can coordinate our actions. Protest letters can be sent to:

Warden Billy Mitchem

P.O. Box 66

Capshaw, AL 35742-0066

Illinois DOC persecutes Rasta prisoner, censors MIM

After receiving your paper for the past two months here at Moline C. C. I am now being told that the paper is banned. They refuse to give me a good reason and continue to send me this [form to protest the censorship]. This corrupt system continues to violate my rights. My being denied the papers from MIM Notes is just the tip of my problems with these people. They are denying me all visits due to my religion (Rastafarian). Because I have no outside help they are basically railroading me.

I have 18 years in and now that I have gotten to the end of my bit all hell is breaking out. I can't get visits or your paper, and they're saying that if I should be transferred or go to segregation for

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

any reason, they will forcefully cut my hair. So their game is that if I should create any waves about getting my copies of MIM Notes then I will either be put in seg. or transferred so that the power that be can violate my religious rights.

The authorities also said that because of my martial arts skills the joint will be locked down so that they can use all available staff to assist them. So the bottom line is that I will soon be killed for what I believe in: my right to be a Rastafarian and to read MIM Notes. I may not be the only one in this position; I'm sure that I'm not. But because I am alone in this struggle I can easily be used by the system to show others: Look what happened to him. If you don't want it to happen to you, don't make any waves.

But as I've said, I am willing to go to the end for what I believe in. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated. ASAP!

The struggle continues,

—An Illinois prisoner, June 2002

Seize revolutionary science

In prison the struggle is on the street. We face oppression and victimization. Some people in here are more comfortable being victimized than actually standing up for themselves. I do spread around that we the oppressed need to drown our fears, get out of the fantasy of religion, and believe that were all considered equal by the people. We need to face the reality of our equal struggle against oppression, brutality and discrimination. The afterlife one can debate, but whatever we do in life affects the people and the world that remains. We must help and support other revolutionary people in their struggle and feed them knowledge. We can not fear the enemy and must care nothing of death if we have to battle.

With true salute,

—A California prisoner, July 2002

Georgia prisoner defends himself against pig attack

Around the latter part of May 2002, two guards attacked a prisoner here in the lockdown area (SMU) of [prison] in Georgia, forcing the prisoner to defend himself. It is not uncommon for guards to jump on prisoners in the Georgia prison system and definitely not at [this prison]; but what is uncommon is for a prisoner to stand up and defend himself from an attack. Prisoners usually submit to force, and the guards know this. But what the guards didn't know and could not have known at the time was that this

prisoner would defend his life from their vicious attack with such vehemence that he would leave a mark on the minds of any guards who even thought about attacking a prisoner. Yes, the prisoner came out on top. And today, two weeks later, the rest of the guards are walking around with a black strip of tape covering their badges (one of the pigs died and the other is out on medical leave.)

The warden claims that things will get tighter for prisoners around here. But with prisoners already being locked down 23 hours day and being divested of even the bare minimum privileges and rights required by the state and federal law, how on earth does he expect to "tighten things up?" What the warden apparently doesn't know is that the repression is what led the pig to his death. He needs to be trying to loosen things up because once these prisoners recognize the duplicity of this so-called program and the prisoners in population realize that they are subject to being snatched up at any time and forced into it, there's bound to be more killings in this prison.

—A Georgia prisoner, June 2002

Washington prisoners denied adequate hygiene

Washington State prisoners held in the intensive management unit are denied shower access four days a week because those who rule over them seek to be paid without working for their money. In order to cover for this the parasites justify repression by claiming rules were being broken in IMU and restrictions on the use of showers would deter similar acts which prisoners might commit anytime someone goes there.

Although this is said in an honest sincere way, prison officials know they're lying to your face any time they convey this information onto other people. What outsiders aren't privy to is the fact that these oppressors held meetings and made plans which would cause these or other necessities to be taken from the prisoners in IMU. Even before there was a rule violation which could justify it.

Anyone with a view inside the bourgeois mind knows there are predators like this who will deceive everyone in an effort to exploit other people. It hardly matters that little would be gained by it or that prisoners actually pay a portion of their funds towards incarceration and would be entitled to showers on a daily basis to keep clear of health problems associated with poor hygiene.

If it means a free ride on tax dollars

these people will take as much as possible in order to acquire easy money.

—a prisoner in WA, August 2002

Tennessee attacks politically conscious

Dear MIM,

I received your letters about appealing he returned magazines and the steps to take. I never received a notice. I'm thankful that you wrote a letter to the warden here. I've been catching hell, for the last 28 days I've been in the seg. unit pending investigation. They say I'm the ringleader. Here at WTSP there are 3 sites, all separate, and I'm at site #2 and 28 days ago at site #3 something went down and I didn't have any knowledge of it, but anyway while I was in the seg. unit Internal Affairs came to visit me. They asked me did I give the ORDER for the inmates at site #3 to go on a hunger strike. That was the first I heard of it. They put me on administrative lock up,

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

MIM seeks to build public opinion against Amerika's criminal injustice system, and to eventually replace the bourgeois injustice system with proletarian justice. The bourgeois injustice system imprisons and executes a disproportionately large and growing number of oppressed people while letting the biggest mass murderers — the imperialists and their lackeys — roam free. Imperialism is not opposed to murder or theft, it only insists that these crimes be committed in the interests of the bourgeoisie.

"All U.S. citizens are criminals—accomplices and accessories to the crimes of U.S. oppression globally until the day U.S. imperialism is overcome. All U.S. citizens should start from the point of view that they are reforming criminals."

MIM does not advocate that all prisoners go free today; we have a more effective program for fighting crime as was demonstrated in China prior to the restoration of capitalism there in 1976. We say that all prisoners are political prisoners because under the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, all imprisonment is substantively political. It is our responsibility to exert revolutionary leadership and conduct political agitation and organization among prisoners — whose material conditions make them an overwhelmingly revolutionary group. Some prisoners should and will work on self-criticism under a future dictatorship of the proletariat in those cases in which prisoners really did do something wrong by proletarian standards.

they say I pose a threat to staff and inmates and the good order of this institution. All this has been a decision by Warden Westbrook.

— a prisoner in TN, August 2002

Small victories but repression and censorship continue in Wisconsin

Dear MIM:

Greetings from the place where there is no darkness except in the minds of those around me and in the hearts of those who hold me captive. I haven't touched base in a while because I have been busy battling these beasts over some of the madness in these cages. For the first time MIM Notes made it through the censor's inspection here which really is surprising considering the extreme pettiness and determination to withhold knowledge that these screws practice. The first thing I noticed is that there's a whole lot of censorship going on throughout the Department of Correction. I feel the frustration that those imprisoned throughout the nation are experiencing. But here in Wisconsin censorship is at a level not seen since the gestapo ran rampant in Nazi Germany. Besides the obvious and widely addressed policy of denying books, magazines, papers, etc. these beasts read all incoming and outgoing mail. The only letters we can seal are ones addressed to the courts or lawyers. Recently I received 360 more days in seg for sending out a personal letter to my folks that I signed with my nickname. (Which makes me ineligible for promotion in this system till next May).

That's just the tip of the bullshit that goes on here. In April the class action against this present day concentration kamp was settled and even though it all looks decent on paper, no significant changes have yet been implemented. I still haven't seen the sun since I got here, our canteen is still ridiculous, food's still being used as punishment (I was denied a meal just last week for not bowing down to these pigs), our cells are still so hot and humid that our walls sweat and our sheets stick to us when we lay down, and medical staff here are still unqualified idiots.

Part of the settlement is that all prisoners here shall have at least the same

rights and privileges that prisoners in other maximum security prisons in Wisconsin have in program and administrative segregation. I must let you know admin seg is supposed to be non-punitive. Therefore we should be allowed everything prisoners in general population have. Call me crazy, but I don't see us getting anything anywhere near that. It's time for all of us to wizen up and realize these fools aren't trying to give us shit. The struggle is great here but that shouldn't take away from the significance of all the madness going on elsewhere. We're all in this together so a state's boundaries shouldn't stop us from collaborating and coming up with a course of action to push back the wave of oppression that threatens to pull each and every one of us under.

In related news, I saw on the news that some prisoners in CA (and the ACLU) are challenging a ban on internet access. Do you know if that's receiving printed internet material or do prisoners have computers out there? I ask because SMCI doesn't allow us to receive cutouts or pullouts from books, mags and newspaper articles, and internet material nor are we allowed photocopies of any of those either. Only SMCI (in WI) has this policy and I was wondering if you could keep me up to date on that Cali case and give me any suggestions on how to challenge this unnecessary censorship. I want to comment on that demonstration these Washington pigs tried to put down on that comrade, denying him his mail because the letter mentioned the goal of establishing leaders in the injustice system. They said it was a "cause for concern". Hell yeah them beasts need to be concerned. Cause when we become unified, educated and structured up things are gonna change and heads are gonna roll. Be concerned, fear the future and above all respect our young anti-imperialist leaders.

Arms up, fists high. The struggle continues relentlessly.

— a prisoner in WI, August 2002

MIM adds: This comrade's letter also included more detailed update information on the Class Action lawsuit against SMCI in Boscobel Wisconsin. MIM reported on this case in MIM Notes #253: "The state has conceded to many of the prisoners demands including no longer calling the prison a 'supermax' for 'the worst of the worst.' Other concessions include: keeping the exercise

room at room temperature, allowing outdoor exercise, allowing face-to-face visits on levels 4&5, not using food as punishment, allowing religious articles in cells, keeping lights at no greater than 5 watts at night, and regulation of cell temperature and extra blankets and sweaters in the winter."

While this clearly represented a significant victory against the criminal injustice system in Wisconsin, as this prisoner describes above, most of the agreements have not been implemented by the prison. The lawyer fighting for the prisoners rights described the conditions in the prison in a motion for an emergency hearing on cell temperature: "...the average/mean temperature at bed height in the test cells was 91.75 degrees F and the average/mean inflow temperature was 95.1 degrees F." The Court Approved Settlement mandated cell temperatures kept between 80-84 degrees in the summer. The excessive heat is a danger to the prisoner's health. On June 28, 2002 the counsel for the DOC explained their reason for not implementing the court's order on cell cooling: "The rationale was not that the Department of Corrections was unable to fulfill the terms [of the agreement], but rather that doing so would cause union problems, upset the public, and cause morale problems in other institutions."

MIM doesn't have any information on the California internet censorship challenge but we encourage our readers to send us information about this case.

New York SHU's repress oppressed nation orgs

I would like to advise MIM that my issues with NYS DOCS on keeping me in admin seg for being a leader of the New York State Latin King Chapter is now in the Albany Co, Supreme Court. The continued segregation and solitary confinement of minority Latinos and Blacks must come to an end. These Special Housing Units (SHU's) in New York State were built under the pretense of placing extremely violent prisoners within them. These new prisons have been built within the past 4 years and 12 new prisons have been built for these reasons. These prisons are not being used for the violent, they are being used for Security Risk Groups: Latin Kings,

Bloods, Crips, Rat Hunters & so on.

These new SHU's are filled with people who are here for dirty urine. To justify the money being spent for these prisons they must keep them full! New York State is the only state that gives 5 years solitary confinement on a dirty urine for smoking a stick of weed!(joint) This is their reform and rehabilitation for the drug users!

The article on U.S. prison officials use of torture and biological weapons in MIM Notes 256 is 100% true, because I live it every day of my life since 2000. I've been in the New York State SHU restricted diet (the "loaf") bread mixed with cabbage then baked into a solid gruel. The teargas, pepper spray and so on to an asthmatic is a deadly practice. The stunguns, and electric riot shield is a deadly practice for anyone with a heart problem. The United States Supreme Court abolished cruel and unusual punishment. If these practices aren't cruel and unusual then deadly force along with the governments dumbocracy has just stepped up onto a new plateau!

It's time to wake up and become a part of the resolution to fix the problem.

Peace almighty today, tomorrow and forever. King's love,

-a NY prisoner, May 2002



What is internationalism?

From the MIM "Frequently Asked Questions" page, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq>.

Internationalism is the ethical belief or scientific approach in which peoples of different nations are held to be or assumed to be equal. Internationalism is opposed to racism and national chauvinism.

We Maoists believe the nationalism of nations experiencing oppression of imperialism is "applied internationalism." We oppose nationalism of oppressed nations directed at other oppressed nations, because the economic content of such nationalism is intra-proletarian conflict. We seek a united front of oppressed nations led by the international proletariat against imperialism.

"I must argue, not from the point of view of 'my' country (for that is the argument of a wretched, stupid, petty-bourgeois nationalist who does not realize that he is only a plaything in the hands of the imperialist bourgeoisie), but from the point of view of my share in the preparation, in the propaganda, and in the acceleration of the world proletarian revolution. That is what internationalism means, and that is the duty of the internationalist, of the revolutionary worker, of the genuine Socialist."

V. I. Lenin, "What Is Internationalism?" *The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky* (Peking: Foreign Language Press, 1965), p. 80.

Facts on U\$ imprisonment

The facts about imprisonment in the United States are that the United States has been the world's leading prison-state per capita for the last 25 years, with a brief exception during Boris Yeltsin's declaration of a state of emergency.(1)

That means that while Reagan was talking about a Soviet "evil empire" he was the head of a state that imprisoned more people per capita. In supposedly "hard-line" Bulgaria of the Soviet bloc of the 1980s, the imprisonment rate was less than half that of the United States.(2,3)

To find a comparison with U.\$ imprisonment of Black people, there is no statistic in any country that compares including apartheid South Africa of the era before Mandela was president. The last situation remotely comparable to the situation today was under Stalin during war time. The majority of prisoners are non-violent offenders(4) and the U.S. Government now holds about a half million more prisoners than China; even though China is four times our population.(5)

The rednecks tell MIM that we live in a "free country." They live in an Orwellian 1984 situation where freedom is imprisonment.

Notes: 1. Marc Mauer, "Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration 1993," The Prison Sentencing Project, 918 F. St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 628-0871 Reference: SRI: R8965-2, 1994

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

3. United Nations Development Programme, "Human Development Report 1994,:" Oxford University Press, p. 186.

4. Figure of 51.2 percent for state prisoners there for non-violent offenses. Abstract of the United States 1993, p. 211.

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.

Notas Rojas



octubre 1, 2002, Nº 267 Fragmento del Periodico Oficial del Movimiento Internacionalista Maoista

Gratis

El Plan Colombia y la propaganda: la manipulación de la imagen de la guerra yanqui contra el terrorismo.

Para detallar el papel de EE.UU. en Colombia y para explicar porqué Bush decidió cazar organizaciones colombianas como parte de la "guerra contra el terrorismo" El MIM ha decidido imprimir el siguiente artículo. El MIM piensa que el pueblo colombiano debería tomar el camino preparado por el Camarada Gonzalo y el PCP. Y aunque tenemos diferencias con las FARC-EP también tenemos el deber de desenmascarar los propósitos del Tío Sam, sin importar en contra de quién los dirija.

Por Doug Stokes

Traducido por Células de Estudio para la Liberación de Aztlán y América Latina

Durante la década de los 80 tomaron un nuevo carácter las operaciones contrainsurgentes de EE.UU. y se convirtieron en lo que hoy se conoce como una Guerra de Baja Intensidad. Este cambio fue resultado de dos importantes lecciones que los directores estadounidenses sacaron de la experiencia de la guerra contra Vietnam.

En primer lugar, el público norteamericano no estaba preparado para aguantar grandes pérdidas en las guerras imperialistas en el mundo en desarrollo. Entre los estrategistas norteamericanos este fenómeno se denomina "Síndrome de Vietnam"; imágenes de fallecidos soldados norteamericanos llegando a casa en bolsas de cuerpo.

En segundo lugar, y aun más importante, los estrategistas reconocieron que el blanco principal de las campañas de baja intensidad no es la victoria militar. Ahora el objetivo es una manipulación de la opinión pública en el contexto doméstico e internacional y una difamación política del enemigo.

A consecuencia de esto la guerra psicológica

estadunidense se volvió importantísima y una manipulación de la opinión unánime se convirtió en el núcleo de la victoria en general. En pocas palabras, la victoria prosigue de la destrucción del apoyo popular del enemigo. Esta nueva guerra de baja intensidad se usa bastante hoy en Colombia. Las encuestas sobre la opinión pública en el año 1987 pusieron de relieve que el 76% de todos los americanos creían que el gobierno colombiano era un gobierno corrupto y el 80% buscaban sanciones para éste. Para el año 1991 la imagen del estado colombiano sufrió más daños cuando el gobierno colombiano se rehusó a entregar al infame narcotraficante Pablo Escobar. Como respuesta a todo esto el estado colombiano comenzó su propia guerra de baja intensidad para conquistar la mente y el corazón del público norteamericano.

Colombia contrató los servicios del grupo Sawyer y Miller, una compañía de relaciones públicas que ingresó casi un millón de dólares en derechos y gastos tan sólo durante la primera parte del 1991. La tarea de los especialistas fue transformar la imagen del estado colombiano y hacerlo parecer un aliado incondicional de EE.UU. en la llamada "guerra contra el narcotráfico" en vez de un régimen corrupto y atropellador de los derechos humanos.

El director a cargo del portafolio Colombia del grupo Sawyer y Miller explicó que "la misión principal es educar a los medios de comunicación estadounidenses sobre Colombia, conseguir buenas coberturas y fortalecer relaciones con periodistas, escritores y grupos de intelectuales especializados. Nuestro mensaje es que en Colombia hay personas 'malas' al igual que personas 'buenas'

y que el gobierno es el lado bueno."

Para popularizar esta imagen y asesorar la opinión pública, el grupo Sawyer y Miller realizó encuestas y juntas de grupos de enfoque. Tan sólo en 1991, Colombia pagó \$3.1 millones de dólares por una campaña de anuncios. Los anuncios se dirigían a los legisladores norteamericanos en Washington y se colocaron en los periódicos y en la televisión. Todos los anuncios compartían el mismo tema. Los anuncios buscaban cambiar la imagen de la relación entre Colombia como proveedor de droga a EE.UU. como el consumidor, y pedían al pueblo norteamericano que no se olvidara de la valentía de las fuerzas armadas colombianas en la guerra contra el narcotráfico.

Cada vez que algún noticiero norteamericano pedía entrevistas con oficiales del gobierno colombiano, la solicitud pasaba por las manos de Sawyer y Miller. Periodistas afines luego eran conducidos por Sawyer y Miller a los ministerios claves del gobierno mientras el grupo se aseguraba de que no se acercaran los periodistas que criticaban el espantoso historial de derechos humanos en Colombia. Hubo un caso en el cual después de un mitin con Warren Hodge, el jefe de redacción del periódico New York Times, este diario publicó una pieza larga e incorrecta en la cual se le endosaba al entonces presidente colombiano, César Trujillo, quien había realizado su campaña electoral con dinero del narcotráfico. El gobierno colombiano adquirió el derecho de imprenta de la pieza y prosiguió a enviar miles de copias a periodistas norteamericanos y embajadas.

Por lo regular, el grupo Sawyer y Miller usa a la prensa norteamericana para distribuir propaganda pro-gobierno de Colombia y sus operaciones comunes incluyen imprimir folletos, mandar cartas a la redacción con firmas de oficiales colombianos y colocar anuncios en los periódicos New York Times y el Washington Post.

Sin embar, lo que ha tenido más consecuencia es la transformación de los protagonistas armados en el conflicto en Colombia. Según documentos que acaban de ser clasificados, Myle Frechette, el embajador estadounidense a Colombia durante el año 1996, confiesa que la imagen de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) como narcoguerrilleros "fue creada por las fuerzas armadas del estado colombiano, que lo consideraban un modo de ganar ayuda norteamericana en la guerra de contrainsurgencia."

Parece que el trabajo de relaciones públicas ha funcionado. Hoy Colombia se ha convertido en el tercer receptor más grande de ayuda militar norteamericana en el mundo. Se supone que esta ayuda sirve para la ofensiva en contra de las FARC que han sido calificadas como los principales narcoterroristas.

En el año 2000 el senador demócrata Joseph Biden dijo que "en la historia contemporánea nunca ha habido semejante oportunidad para dar un golpe contra el origen de todas las dimensiones del narcotráfico. Es importantísima para los intereses nacionales de EE.UU. la ayuda a Colombia, pues es la fuente de muchas de las drogas que envenenan a nuestra gente." Peter F. Romero, ayudante al Secretario de Estado de la Oficina de Asuntos

del Hemisferio Occidental bajo la administración de Clinton, dijo que "Colombia debe restaurar la autoridad sobre los 'santuarios' de la producción de narcóticos. Una solución completa para los problemas de Colombia debe contener la restauración de la autoridad estatal en estas áreas sin ley. Para lograr el objetivo sugerimos prestarle al gobierno de Colombia la potencia aérea para poder penetrar profundamente en las regiones sin ley y establecer ahí la seguridad para sus oficiales."

La elección de Bush y los ataques del 11 de septiembre han resultado en una nueva orientación "antiterrorista" en la política norteamericana en relación a Colombia. Colombia es parte del plan de la administración de Bush y John Ashcroft, el Fiscal General de EE.UU. quien dice que "El Departamento de Estado ha declarado que las FARC es el grupo internacional terrorista más peligroso en todo el hemisferio occidental" que ha "llevado a cabo una campaña terrorista en contra de ciudadanos colombianos y estadounidenses."

Al principio presentaban la política norteamericana como una campaña contra el narcotráfico pero ahora se justifica como una campaña antiterrorista. Las guerras norteamericanas en Colombia contra el narcotráfico y contra el terrorismo.

Entre los años 2000 y 2001, Washington envió \$1.3 mil millones de dólares a Colombia para llevar a cabo las guerras norteamericanas contra el narcotráfico y el terrorismo y ya se han preparado \$700 millones más para el 2003. Estas sumas llegan a parar en los cofres del estado y las fuerzas armadas de Colombia. Las instrucciones de EE.UU. indican que las fuerzas armadas de Colombia deben enfocar la guerra contra los insurgentes rebeldes izquierdistas de las FARC en el sur del país (lo que EE.UU. llaman 'un empujón al sur'). Éstos "narcoguerrilleros" y "narcoterroristas" deberán ser el blanco porque se supone que ellos son los principales "terroristas" y narcotraficantes.

James Milford, el ex-Administrador Sustituto con la principal organización norteamericana para la eliminación de drogas, la DEA, dijo en 1997 que el jefe de la organización paramilitar AUC es "en sí un principal traficante de cocaína" y que está muy relacionado con el sindicato narcotraficante Valle del Norte el cual es "uno de los grupos narcotraficantes más potentes de Colombia." Añadió también que "hay pocas pruebas que indiquen que las organizaciones insurgentes trafican la cocaína por medio de producción, venta a los sindicatos mexicanos o sus propias redes de distribución en EE.UU."

Donnie Marshal, el actual Administrador Sustituto de la DEA, dijo en el 2001 ante la Cámara Menor de la Justicia Criminal, Política de Drogas y Recursos Humanos que las "FARC controlan algunas regiones de Colombia y estas regiones generan ingresos por medio de impuestos sobre actividades relacionadas al narcotráfico." Luego añadió categóricamente que "presentemente no se ha confirmado ninguna información que vincule a las FARC con la exportación de drogas colombianas destinadas al mercado internacional."

Continúa en la edición siguiente.

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El Movimiento Internacionalista Maoísta (MIM) es un partido revolucionario comunista que ejerce el Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoísmo. El MIM es una organización internacionalista que trabaja desde el punto de vista del proletariado del Tercer Mundo; es por esto que sus miembros no son americanos sino ciudadanos del mundo.

El MIM lucha para acabar con la opresión de todos los grupos sobre cualquier otro, naciones por naciones, clases por clases, y géneros por géneros. La revolución es una realidad para los Estados Unidos mientras su ejército continúa extendiéndose en su esfuerzo por asegurar la hegemonía mundial.

El MIM difiere de otros partidos en tres puntos básicos: (1) El MIM sostiene que después que el proletariado conquiste el poder estatal, existirá aún el potencial para una restauración de tipo capitalista, bajo la dirección de una burguesía nueva dentro del mismo partido comunista. En el caso de la Unión Soviética, la burguesía se apoderó del gobierno después de la muerte de Stalin, en 1953; y en China después de la muerte de Mao y del derrocamiento de la llamada "banda de los cuatro" en 1976. (2) El MIM sostiene que la Revolución Cultural en China es la fase más avanzada a la que llegó el comunismo en la historia. (3) El MIM afirma que la clase trabajadora blanca de los EE.UU. es primordialmente, una élite trabajadora no revolucionaria en el presente. Es por esto que no es el principal vehículo para avanzar el Maoísmo en este país.

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