

MIM Notes



November 1, 2002, N° 269

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Oppose war on Iraq

Stand with the global majority against aggressive militarism

In response to the House of Representatives vote to grant President Bush's War Powers to invade Iraq activists in San Francisco held a demonstration to oppose the war. The protest, which marched through downtown, ended at the Federal Building where organizers declared an outbreak of democracy. Of the hundreds who marched, dozens stayed the night camped out in front of the federal building in protest of the war resolution. In response to protestors declared intention to take over the federal building at 7am police came out in force to protect the capitalist



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Throng of protestors in San Francisco showed their opposition to the war after the Congress's vote for Bush.

Defend Jose Maria Sison's democratic rights!

Following the U.S. government's lead, the government of the Netherlands issued its "Sanctions ruling on terrorism 2002 III" on 13 August, criminalizing Philippine political refugee Prof. Jose Maria Sison without benefit of due process. This ruling freezes Prof. Sison's bank account and removes all state subsidies for food, housing, health insurance and other basic necessities which he received as a recognized political refugee.(1)

Prof. Sison has lived in exile since the Aquino regime cancelled his passport in 1988 on the basis of false charges. Before that the U.S.-backed Marcos dictatorship imprisoned and tortured him for nine years, starting in 1977. Dutch courts previously upheld his refugee status and granted his wife and son political asylum.

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Congress greenlights war on Iraq

by MC45

Both houses of the U.S. Congress voted their overwhelming approval for war on Iraq early Friday, 11 October. The House of Representatives also passed a \$355 billion war spending bill for good measure. Bush is supposed to report to Congress within 48 of going to war and every 60 days thereafter. He is supposed to tell the legislators that diplomacy has failed to resolve the conflict with Iraq, and that attacking Iraq serves the so-called War on Terrorism.(1)

The debates and President Bush's speeches leading up to the votes were classic war-mongering in action as Amerika's representatives trotted out a succession of old, false and irrelevant charges against Saddam Hussein to justify the coming war.

The accusations go:

* "Iraq used biological and chemical weapons against the Kurds only to test the weapons' effects; now Iraq is getting ready to use these weapons on Amerika." The Americans gave Iraq its chemical and germ weaponry in the first place, but

the "debates" ignored that.(3) On the possibility of Iraq deploying such weapons today, a retired American navy admiral who assesses

It was classic war-mongering in action.

the Iraqi military threat for a living said "it doesn't make any sense to me if [Bush] meant United States territory."(4) The CIA reports that Iraq has stocks of "at least 100 metric tons and possibly as much as 500 metric tons of [chemicals]."

A u.s. government chemical and biological weapons consultant says that's nowhere near enough for an attack and that "in the 1980s planners 'routinely talked about throwing 10,000 ton quantities' of nerve agents against a single massed division."(5)

* "Iraq could develop usable nuclear weapons within a year; Iraq has been importing the tools to manufacture a nuclear arsenal." A Department of Energy specialist said "there is not much

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Jewish Student Union Maligns Israel Divestment Campaign

'Anti-Semitism' charge is baseless slander

LOS ANGELES, October 14, 2002
by a MIM Comrade

The Jewish Student Union at UCLA has joined a coordinated campaign—whose leaders include Harvard President Lawrence Summers, former chief economist for the World Bank—to discredit the growing movement to get universities to divest their holdings in companies that support Israel's oppressive policies against the people of Palestine.

This tactic is a common one when Israel falls under criticism for its blatant disregard of every standard of civilized

conduct in its occupation of the Palestinian nation. Calling the critics of Israel "Anti-Semitic"—as if their criticism were against Jews in general instead of against an oppressive state regime—is a transparent attempt to divert attention from the real issues, which include:

* More than half of Palestinian families are living on less food than usual; Israeli border closures prevent them from working and military curfews make it impossible to shop for food without fear of being shot.

* 53 percent of households in the Occupied Territories have had to borrow money to buy food, and 17 percent have had to sell their possessions or assets.

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Letters

GA prisoner reminds why Amerikkkan flag symbolizes murder

I was born and raised in this country and I was taught at an early age that the Amerikkkan flag represented the “land of the free” and that this flag represents freedom, justice and equality. Until I met brother Jahti Jackson [George Jackson’s cousin —RAIL] and the Malcolm X family when I was 12 and they told me and showed me what the Amerikkkan flag represented for Black folks, Native American, Mexicans, Sudanese, Koreans, and Vietnamese. It was the flag of the U\$ that killed entire villages of Native Amerikkkan men, women and children, who ran down and murder, beat, and rape like an animal. Do you remember Sand Creek and Wounded Knee? This is a flag of barbarism. It is a flag of imperialism. It is a flag of oppression, the same flag that flew over the Philippines and Hawaii, murdering

and maiming countless natives and usurping their sovereignty. Isn’t that the flag of oppression? What about the U\$ flag that hangs over the beastly fire bombing of cities like Dresden. Is this a flag of destruction or the flag of liberty? Wasn’t this the same Amerikkkan flag that flew over the bombing of an aspirin factory in Sudan? Is this the flag of deception or justice? Wasn’t this the same flag that flew over the gathering up and subsequent murder of civilians in Korea and Vietnam? Wasn’t it the Amerikkkan flag that hung over this? Was this righteousness or wickedness? Wasn’t the Amerikkkan flag over the military base in the 1940s a place called camp van dorn, which was in Mississippi, where 1,200 Black soldiers were literally slaughtered by an all-white military police force, then they had a nerve to tell them folks’ family they died in the line of duty. And now the so-called politically correct are crying about the confederate flag. I think we need to review our history and investigate this raping, murdering, heartache, destruction, and aggression that has been caused under the flag

people love to wave in this country.
—A Georgia prisoner, July 2002

Empires rot

Empires and war leaders are exalted everywhere: on TV, movies, textbooks, holidays and celebrations with speeches and what not; names of battles and generals fascinate us, appear in places in cities and wild areas to no end. We are not allowed to ignore them or to forget them. They are obviously overwhelmingly venerated, glorified, aggrandized. We end up taking it all in, convinced they are truly great.

We are unaware of it, but exactly the same happens with the American Empire, which is now comparably as big as the biggest in the past. In fact there is hardly any country in the world today, which, by mostly violence and coercion, has not been taken over by the United States.

In fact, by trampling over noble principles of truth and justice and ramming through those who dare rise against its unspeakable acts, the U.S. shines as the master dictator of mankind at this point in history, but shines even brighter as the best of the best countries in history, by means of deceit everywhere, control of information and of the mind at home, and brutal and at times massive inexorable aggressions against the weakest and most defenseless in the globe.

The question with this and the other empires is: where is doing the right thing in all this? And if the “right thing” is nowhere to be found, why the big hoopla? Even the Greeks, who laid the foundations of our supposedly great Western Culture, but especially so many other “great” empires: are they justified as they wiped out entire cultures, cities,

villages, neighborhoods, friendships, romances, families, babies, grannys and grampas, homes, trees, gardens, youth accomplishments, pieces of art, whole systems of belief and philosophy, along with related dear objects and buildings, humble or spectacular, of great significance to them, and which would have revealed their spiritual depth, enriched man’s anthropological capital and the world wealth of knowledge?

All this was destroyed. All was destroyed by these supposedly great empires: hundreds, thousands of times over. My God! This is never mentioned, or at least emphasized in the textbooks, celebrations, etc. These moral and cultural considerations never come across these honorable depositories of knowledge and guardians of learning. And war is the most obscene and cowardly gesture of these empires, too often celebrated!

It must stop! It’s just got to stop!

Those of us who still have some sense of pride and honor in our human race must stand against this accepted norm of barbarism mostly against the defenseless 3/4 of mankind, and propose a degree of well being, a necessary base for peace. that’s real civilization.

—a reader in California, September 2002

MIM responds: We wholeheartedly agree: we need to stand up for real civilization and oppose the barbarism that is imperialism. This is the name of our enemy which is the empire of the United \$nakes. We need to know our enemy, but we also know what we are fighting for. We are fighting for a system where all people are equal and no groups of people have power over other groups of people. Many who oppose imperialism are not

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MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement

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A call for MIM Notes sponsors and distributors!

MIM is looking for distributors and sponsors to step forward. Sponsors pay for papers; distributors get them onto the streets and officers do both distribution and financial support:

Distribute	Cost per year
12 (Priority Mail)	\$120
25 (Priority Mail)	\$150
50 (Priority Mail)	\$280
100	\$380
200	\$750
900 (Express Mail!)	\$3,840
900 (8-10 days)	\$2,200

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.

Thousands protest Israeli, U.S. militarism

SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL
28 September 2002

Several thousand protestors marched through the streets of San Francisco today to commemorate the second anniversary of the Al Aqsa intifadah, the latest Palestinian uprising. They also denounced Amerika's war plans on Iraq.

MIM and RAIL comrades collected 231 signatures on a petition asking the University of California to divest in Israel. The UC invests more than \$1 billion in companies doing business in Israel, the largest of which are military contractors.(1)

A comrade also collected 140 signatures on a petition asking the Turkish government to free journalist Memik Horoz.(2) S/he faxed the signatures to the Turkish Consulate in Los Angeles and the Turkish Embassy in Washington D.C., along with the following note.

"We believe [Memik Horoz] was falsely convicted. Furthermore, we believe the 'crime' with which he was originally charged—conducting interviews with a Maoist guerrilla leader—is no crime, but an application of the duties and rights of a free press. We ask that the Turkish government take any and all necessary measures to acquit Mr. Horoz and censure those responsible for this injustice."

The comrade pointed out that this petition was one way Amerikan residents could support the local resistance to U.S. war machinations. Turks who speak out against their government's role in Uncle Sam's war plans face brutal repression; Memik Horoz' case is just one example of that.

Most people in the crowd gladly signed either petition, and there were far more people there than the small MIM and RAIL contingent could reach before the rally dispersed. If you like the work MIM and RAIL are doing, don't stand on the sidelines! Grab a clipboard, design a poster, write us a check! Contact us (addresses on page two) or check out <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/witbd.html>.

Notes:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/cal/DivestIsrael.htm>
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/horoz.html>

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!

MIM is looking for sponsors, distributors and officers. Sponsors pay for papers; distributors get them onto the streets and officers do both distribution and financial support.

Make anonymous money orders payable to "MIM." Send to MIM, attn: Camb. branch, PO Box 400559, Cambridge, MA 02140. Contact MIM in regards to this campaign by writing mim3@mim.org

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Tens of thousands: 'No war on Iraq'

WESTWOOD FEDERAL BUILDING
Los Angeles, 6 October 2002

Three thousand people gathered here and marched to the nearby ROTC recruiting center to say "NO!" to the pending Amerikan war on Iraq. The atmosphere was boisterous, despite the scores of riot police who restricted protestors to a small piece of lawn. The rally was one of dozens held on the day to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Amerikan bombing of Afghanistan.

Organizers said 20,000 people attended the rally in New York City.

Protestors denounced President Bush's reasons for war on Iraq as "fabricated," even as Bush prepared to give a speech declaring war "inevitable." Already the demands Bush made of Iraq in his speech before the United Nations in September were so unrealistic and vague—not to mention hypocritical—that Iraq was bound to fail to meet them.(1)

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State fears political speech: CalTrans bans all banners on highway overpasses

On September 23 the California Department of Transportation issued a policy statement that all banners and flags will be banned from highway overpasses. This reversed a decision they made a week earlier to allow all banners to hang from highway overpasses.(1) On January 29th a federal judge ruled that the CalTrans policy of allowing only Amerikan flags to hang from highway overpasses is unconstitutional. The Judge stated that CalTrans' policy on this was impermissibly biased to one viewpoint.(2) Their change in policy brings CalTrans into compliance with the federal court's ruling and is a statement about the fear the imperialist state has about free speech. The Amerikan system, which only guarantees free speech for the imperialists and their supporters, is willing to limit even that if necessary in order to cut off the speech of anti-imperialist activists.

On September 11, 2001 local residents hung an American flag on a Santa Cruz overpass. In November two residents hung a banner reading "At What Cost?" which was removed by police, while an American flag as well as a banner reading "SC [heart] NY" were left up. The women who hung the banner sued CalTrans for violating their First Amendment rights.(2)

CalTrans is appealing to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals insisting that Amerikan flags should be the only permissible form of speech on overpasses.(3)

Of course it is not only the state that threatens the free speech of anti-imperialists: even if CalTrans enacted an official policy that would keep police from taking down banners (at least officially), activists know well that other Amerikan citizens relish random acts of censorship of views they do not like. Posters advertising bands will stay up on poles for months while posters protesting Amerikan imperialism will be torn down in a day. This is no surprise as the majority of Amerikans have a material interest in imperialism and will protect that interest.

MIM activists witnessing people taking down anti-imperialist posters have tried to struggle with those people. Frequently the responses by these Amerikans are patriotic jingoistic statements about protecting their country. When confronted with questions about their belief in free speech these people will disagree that anti-imperialists deserve free speech.

In September of this year The Freedom Forum conducted its annual State of the

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Jewish Student Union Maligns Israel Divestment Campaign

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* 22.5 percent of Palestinian children under 5 are acutely or chronically malnourished; Palestinian children are starving at rates equal to those in Chad and Nigeria and at higher rates than in Bangladesh and Somalia.(1)

These recent atrocities represent only the latest culmination of the increasing dispossession of the Palestinians, which has accelerated since the "Peace Process" was ratified at Oslo in 1993. Since that time, when Israel agreed to halt settlements in the Occupied Territories, settlement activity has increased dramatically.

This continues the Israel policy of aggression and expansion, which includes multiple wars, invasion and incursions since the 1970s.(2) But the Palestinian people cannot absorb an infinite amount of Israeli violence. The world's people cannot contain their rage at Israeli disregard for Palestinian humanity forever.

All Americans should understand that they share responsibility for the oppression of Palestinians and at the same time are in a unique position to help stop it. The United States is the number one political, military and economic supporter of Israel. Indeed, many of Israel's military adventures (such as its invasion of Lebanon in the 80s) likely principally served U.S. interests.

Nor are Americans without immediate stake in the conflict: American and/or Israeli recklessness could spark nuclear or world war. Self-interest in species survival makes Middle East peace a priority for everyone. Furthermore, if Americans don't speak out for peace in the Middle East, they are only helping Israel decimate its own chance for living safely in the international community.

The call for the University of California to divest from Israel is just one direct action Americans can take. People of all religions and ethnicities should be appalled by the fact that children are going hungry as a direct result of U.S.-supported Israeli policy.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and other lobbying groups that claim to represent Jews are running a propaganda campaign to oppose the Divest from Israel movement, with the support of mouthpieces like Summers. They are directly threatening our rights to organize on campus. ADL chief Abe Foxman says, "student governments need to closely scrutinize what they choose to fund from activities fees levied on students" so as not to let student funds support "anti-Israel speakers and vehement anti-Zionist rhetoric."(4) Foxman is leading the charge of bigots like the University of Michigan student group that went to court trying to stop a conference on the Palestinian Solidarity Movement.

Of course, anti-Semitism is a problem, and some anti-Semites advocate

Yesh Gvul, the organization of Israeli soldiers who refuse service in the occupied territories explain the commonplace injustices of Israeli apartheid:

When you take part in extrajudicial killings ("liquidation" in the army's terms);

When you take part in demolishing residential homes;

When you open fire at unarmed civilian population or residential homes;

When you uproot orchards;

When you interdict food supplies or medical treatment

-- You are taking part in actions defined in international conventions (such as the fourth Geneva convention) and in Israeli law, as war crimes.(3)

divestment from Israel. Most of this is garden-variety bigotry and should be exposed as such. However, some anti-Semitic statements may have been falsely attributed to peace activists, Palestinian rights advocates and anti-imperialists—to discredit legitimate criticism of Israel and U.S. policies.(5)

In September, students and faculty at the University of Michigan received anti-Semitic email messages packaged as invitations to the Palestinian Solidarity Movement conference. The emails were not sent from the University campus, or from the group organizing the conference. Faking hate mail is an old and ugly trick for sowing enmity among progressive organizations and individuals. Whether it's done by police, or by those who do police work for kicks, the intended result is to split and wreck the targets' political work.

Don't be fooled by reactionary propaganda! Activists can defeat these schemes by finding out the facts for themselves. We can defeat the reactionaries by doing our own work in a principled way.

Notes:

1. Study funded by the US Agency for International Development and CARE International, reported in the Washington Post 6 August 2002.

2. See Noam Chomsky's book, *The Fateful Triangle: The United States, Israel, and the Palestinians* (South End Press, 1999) for a review of this history.

3. <http://www.yesh-gvul.org/english.html#leaflet>

4. "Jews target of hate [on] college campuses," *National Law Journal* 30 September, 2002.

5. While MIM has always opposed the U.S.-backed Israeli occupation, we also have taken principled stands against anti-Semitism many times.

Tens of thousands: 'No war on Iraq'

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MIM and RAIL set up a table at the Los Angeles rally with posters, anti-militarist flyers, newspapers and books for sale. Many people stopped by. Some simply signed the petition demanding the University of California divest from Israel (we collected another 150 signatures).(2) Some asked for the latest MIM Notes (with a cover story debunking Bush's sorry-ass arguments for war) or bought books. Others asked us honest questions about Maoism. We answered these questions as best we could in the short time available, then directed them to MIM's website. They all agreed to check it out; several mentioned they were glad such a resource exists.

The only bad incident on the day that MIM and RAIL saw involved the Spartacist League. A Spart butted in to a conversation a RAIL comrade (RC) was having about the UC Divest petition and attacked the RC on MIM's white working class line. Neither the RC or the persyn s/he was talking to paid the Spart any mind, but this is indicative of the Spart's split-and-wreck tactics.

When we do agitation work we at MIM are clear that we are building partial unity around a pressing proletarian demand. Certainly many of the signatories on the UC Divest petition do not agree with MIM that the American "working-class" is a bought off labor aristocracy. But they agree with the basic anti-militarist and anti-imperialist position that the U.S.-supported Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza strip should end.

By making such an issue out of the white working class line, the Spart was trying to scare away potential signatories. MIM's published criticisms of the Spartacist League's line over a decade ago; the Sparts have yet to reply to these criticisms in print. Instead they butt in on RAIL comrade's conversations on the street, where they cannot be held accountable for what they say.

SAN FRANCISCO
October 6, 2002

Thousands of people gathered in San Francisco to listen to stand in opposition to American militarism, listen to speeches and music, and collect information and literature about struggles around the world. This crowd was very receptive to MIM's revolutionary literature and our campaigns to free Memik Horuz and for the University of California to divest from Israel.

Memik Horuz, a Turkish journalist who was recently sentenced to 15 years in prison on false charges because of his political activism. Meanwhile the United States continues to send millions of dollars of military aid to the brutal Turkish regime which persecuted journalists, activists and the Kurdish people. Over the past few months that MIM has been collecting signatures for this campaign in San Francisco we have noticed an increase in the number of people who have heard of Memik's case. According to a few people who stopped at our table, Pacifica radio ran a story about it. Even those who had not heard about Memik Horuz were eager to support him as a part of our internationalist duty to fight American militarism around the world. At our table we collected 138 signatures.

Opposition to the American-Israeli terrorist war on Palestine was an obvious connection to the rally attendees and we collected 120 signatures on the divestment petition.

Notes:

1. MIM Notes 267, 1 Oct 2002.

2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/cal/DivestIsrael.htm>

UNITED FRONT

Get the new issue of MIM Theory, #14, and read the latest theory on building the movement to overthrow imperialism once and for all, in 174 pages. Articles include MIM congress resolutions, history from the Spanish Civil War to Puerto Rico, Kenya, and Stalin -- plus international documents, reviews, and much more. Send \$7.50 to the address on page 2.

Oppose war on Iraq

Stand with the global majority against aggressive militarism

institution but let the protesters stay undisturbed through the night. In the morning, hundreds of protestors blocked the entrance to the Federal Building until police arrested several dozen and cleared the crowds away.

The thirst for a revolutionary analysis of the war on Iraq was strong the eve of the House's vote. In addition to much interest among those opposed to the war and participating in the demonstration, many people on the street were eager to get a copy of MIM Notes. Times of overt aggressive war provide anti-imperialists with an opening to win more people over to the side of the majority of the world's people.

Unlike the first war on Iraq waged by Bush Senior, this latest proposed invasion does not enjoy as much public support. Polls still suggest that more than 50% of the population supports an invasion of Iraq. But that leaves a lot of people not convinced of the war. Whether they realize that Amerika is killing tens of thousands of people in Iraq for oil and

geopolitical positioning, or if they just think Bush isn't coming clean with the real reasons for the war, these people are correct. It is up to anti-imperialists to take advantage of this interest in the war, and doubt of the government, to infuse anti-imperialist politics into the discussion.

At the same time, we should not mislead the people. At the San Francisco rally a Workers World Party activist (posing under the International ANSWER front group) declared that the overwhelming majority of Americans are opposed to this war. His evidence was from the numbers calling in to their congresspeople opposing the war resolution. But this is only evidence of the views of activists. In fact most people who support invading Iraq should not see any need to call their congresspersyn, knowing that their country stands firmly in favor of imperialism.

While it can certainly be said that polls understate the number of people opposed to the war, missing people without phones and those not home during typical



polling hours, these polls do tend to represent white Amerika pretty well. And we know that the white nation supports Amerikan imperialism because it is in their economic interests to do so. We need to make clear to them that global destruction is in no-one's interest, but we don't need to lie to them to do this.

Among the signs at the San Francisco demonstration were a few that read "Our lives are not worth more than their lives" and "American children are not more valuable than Iraqi children." This is the correct message to take to the people in Amerika. We need to make clear that people in this country do not deserve more than people around the world, just because they were lucky enough to be born in the richest, most militaristic country in the world. At the same time, we appeal to Americans to fight against their own demise, which will surely come from global nuclear destruction of the growing global militarism, lead by the imperialists, is not stopped.

Congress greenlights war on Iraq

support for that theory around here."(4) Bush claimed on the 8th that Iraq had attempted to import high-strength aluminum tubes "for gas centrifuges, which are used to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons." British intelligence denies there is any evidence for this.(10)

Certainly Iraq or any other country with a certain amount of technical infrastructure could build a bomb— if it could get weapons-grade uranium, and if a great many other things. Provoking a war is no solution to this problem. The only hope is working to remove the causes underlying wars: working towards communism.

* "Iraq is a rogue state that supports terrorism." Try as it may, the FBI has been unable to manufacture the proof President Bush wants that the Iraqi state was connected to the 9/11 attacks. The war-mongering Rumsfeld bragged in September that Amerika had "bulletproof" evidence of the Al Qaeda-Iraq connection, then changed his story to say that "they're not photographs. They're not beyond a reasonable doubt." The British MI5 and MI6 spy agencies have explicitly refuted the idea of an Al Qaeda-Iraq link, arguing that Saddam Hussein's government has made every effort to distance itself from Al Qaeda. (7)

During the Congressional debate on authorizing the war in Iraq, CIA chief George Tenet exposed President Bush as a big fat liar. The administration had been working double-time to portray Iraq an

anti-u.\$ bomb that is tick-tick-ticking. But a CIA report testified that the chances of Iraq initiating a nuclear, chemical or biological attack are "very low." If the u.\$ attacks Iraq, however, those chances could grow "very high."(9)

According to the CIA's former counter-intelligence head, "basically, cooked information is working its way into high-level pronouncements."(4) An anonymous "intelligence official" claimed "the guys at the Pentagon shriek on issues such as the link between Iraq and Al Qaeda. There has been a lot of pressure to write on this constantly and to not let it drop." And a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace nonproliferation expert said "the politics are driving our intelligence assessments at this point."(10)

Bush also lied about the supposed futility of inspections. He claimed that the United Snakes only found out about the Iraqi biological weapons program when Iraq's military industries chief defected in 1995. But former UN inspections chief Rolf Ekeus says his group had already reported on the program to the Security Council.(5)

This entire situation is an inescapable part of living in the most militarist country on earth in a time of ongoing war. The u.\$ leaders lie to the people, and more than two-thirds of the people support the war even though they think it will cause terrorist attacks against the u.\$.(11) When both weapons of mass destruction and profit-seeking exist, there

will be espionage and leaks and enmity between states and a non-ignorable chance of Armageddon. This is what MIM means when it says Amerika is playing Russian roulette with the international nuclear arsenal. The imperialists have no one but themselves to blame if they are now threatened by the weapons of their own creation.

Meanwhile, the united snakes and Britain trade shots with Iraqi forces nearly every day in Iraq's no-fly zones as they have since the Gulf War supposedly ended in 1991. On 10 October, planes from both countries attacked the international airport at Basra for the third time in two weeks.(8)

At the end of September, 69% of Americans supported sending troops if Congress approved, and another 10% supported the war if the United Nations is also behind it. The longer the discussion went on, the more people supported war. Those are hideous numbers, given that a substantial majority believe an Amerikan war against Iraq will spur "terrorist" attacks on the United Snakes. More than half of Americans think the war would be a long one, and 68% think it would a hard war to fight. Less than half of Americans think either that Iraq and its leader are the primary threat to the united snakes or that Iraq and Al Qaeda are equally threatening.(2)

The glimmer of hope in all of this is that 21% of Americans continue to oppose the war even with Congressional

and United Nations approval. Among these, there is a significant contingent that questions or opposes U.\$ wars of aggression in general and can be won over to anti-imperialism. To reach these people, MIM and its allies must redouble our efforts to expose the reactionaries' bellicose propaganda. We must explain again and again the need to disarm the Amerikan militarists before it is too late.

Notes:

1. "Bush gains free hand in dealing with Iraq," Baltimore Sun, 12 Oct 2002.
2. "Majority support war against Saddam," USA Today, 24 Sep 2002.
3. For that matter, the Pentagon admits to testing chemical and biological weapons on Amerikan, Kanadian and British soil during the cold war. ("U.S. Troops Were Subjected to a Wider Toxic Testing" New York Times, 9 October 2002.)
4. "US intelligence questions Bush claims on Iraq," The Guardian (London), 9 Oct 2002.
5. "CIA Reports Dispute Bush Pattern of exaggeration on Iraq," New York Newsday 10 Oct 2002.
6. MIM Notes 123, 1 Oct 1996.
7. "UK Spies reject al-Qaida link" The Guardian (London), 10 Oct 2002.
8. "Red face for Bush over CIA chief's Iraq letter," The Herald (Glasgow), 11 Oct 2002.
9. "CIA report on Iraq opens Congress talks," The Baltimore Sun 9 Oct 2002.
10. "CIA Feels Heat on Iraq Debate," Los Angeles Times, 11 Oct 2002.
11. "Iraq War Supported, Poll Says," 15 Sep 2002.

Defend Jose Maria Sison's democratic rights!

Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines have conspired to kill him while he has been in the Netherlands.(2)

Prof. Sison is currently the chief political consultant of the revolutionary National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) in peace negotiations with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP). He founded the Maoist Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in 1968. Philippine and American spy services and their media mouthpieces claim without evidence that Sison still heads the CPP. However, as the CPP puts it in a statement reprinted on page six, "the Party's collective leadership effectively operates in the consolidated revolutionary guerilla bases in the Philippines, safely out of the immediate reach and mischief by the US and local reactionary armed forces."

The U.S. State Department recently listed the CPP and the New People's Army (NPA) as "foreign terrorist organizations" and encouraged other governments "to take action to isolate these terrorist organizations, to choke off their sources of financial support, and to prevent their movement across international borders."(1) On 12 August 2002 the U.S. Treasury Department listed

Prof. Sison as a "terrorist" whose assets must be frozen. The Dutch government passed the "Sanctions ruling on terrorism 2002 III" the next day.

There is no substance to U.S. charges that the CPP and Prof. Sison are "terrorists." They are a crass attempt to meddle in internal Philippine affairs and silence Prof. Sison, who is a vocal critic of American imperialism.

The Philippine Justice Secretary has certified that no criminal charge whatsoever exists against Prof. Sison in the Philippines. The NPA has pledged to abide by the Geneva convention. The CPP-led NDFP prioritized ratification of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law in its talks with the GRP. Since both parties signed the agreement, the Philippine army has repeatedly tortured and killed captured NPA members, while the NPA has released several high-ranking Philippine officers who afterwards spoke highly of their treatment.(4)

Twenty-two members of the European Parliament signed a letter asking the Netherlands to withdraw its classification of Prof. Sison and the CPP/NPA as "terrorists." "We make this request in accordance with European Parliament

Resolutions in 1997 and 1999, which have strongly supported and endorsed the peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines."(1) Even some GRP senators condemned the U.S. ruling as meddling in an "internal matter."(3)

Prof. Sison is not the only person affected by these charges—they also restrict the speech rights of residents of the United States or its European allies. Even those who defend publication of Prof. Sison writings or those of the CPP on the grounds that this is necessary for fully informed public debate may face harassment or deportation under the "USA Patriot Act." Standing up for Prof. Sison is also standing up for our own ability to speak and organize freely.

To defend Prof. Sison's democratic rights we call on readers to demand the following demands of the Dutch

government: the full respect for the protection of Jose Maria Sison as a recognized refugee under the relevant international conventions; the grant of his residence permit in the Netherlands; the immediate de-listing of his name and the unconditional and complete withdrawal of the "Sanctieregeling terrorisme 2002 III;" the immediate, unconditional and complete restoration of all the social benefits to which he is entitled as a political refugee (monthly allowance, insurance and housing benefits); the refusal of any possible demand for his extradition.

For further information, addresses and fax numbers and organizing materials see pages six and seven.

Notes:

1. <http://www.defendsison.be>
2. <https://anon.ssl.anonymizer.com/http://www.inps-sison.freewebspace.com/Estrada%20is%20Mastermind.htm>
3. MIM Notes 266, 15 Sep 2002.
4. See e.g. MIM Notes 189, 15 Mar 1999; MIM Notes 194, 15 Sep 1999; MIM Notes 249, 1 Jan 2002.

DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF PROF. JOSE MARIA SISON

Philippine Prof. Jose Maria Sison is living in the Netherlands as a recognized political refugee under the protection of the Refugee Convention and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Prof. Sison is the chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) in peace negotiations with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP). These negotiations have been facilitated by the Norwegian, Dutch and Belgian governments.

On 9 August 2002, the US State Department listed the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) as "foreign terrorist organizations," encouraging other governments "to take action to isolate these terrorist organizations, to choke off their sources of financial support, and to prevent their movement across international borders." Since 12 August 2002, the US Treasury Department has listed Jose Maria Sison as a "terrorist" whose assets must be frozen.

Subsequently, the Dutch government has followed the bidding of the US by issuing the "Sanctions ruling on terrorism 2002 III" on 13 August 2002,

criminalizing Jose Maria Sison as a "terrorist" without benefit of due process and subjecting him to punishment such as:

- * The freezing of his Postbank current account through which he receives social welfare payment to pay his bills.

- * The removal of all state subsidies for food, housing, health insurance and other basic necessities under a directive dated 10 September 2002 from the social welfare agency of Utrecht's municipal government.

We, the undersigned, vow to help defend the rights of Prof. Jose Maria Sison.

We demand from the Dutch authorities:

- * the full respect for the protection of Jose Maria Sison as a recognized refugee under the relevant international conventions;

- * the grant of his residence permit in the Netherlands;

- * the immediate de-listing of his name and the unconditional and complete withdrawal of the "Sanctieregeling terrorisme 2002 III;"

- * the immediate, unconditional and complete restoration of all the social benefits to which he is entitled as a political refugee (monthly allowance, insurance and housing benefits);

- * the refusal of any possible demand for his extradition.

Dumbocracy vs. democracy

Regular readers of MIM Notes know MIM often criticizes American democracy in the sense of majority rule. The American majority has made it clear that it would support racial profiling and much more extensive repressive measures. A substantial section also supports dropping nuclear weapons and rounding up all Arab or "Arab-American" people for concentration camps. It is not a case of a majority holding out against a ruling elite.

Such a situation leaves the worker-activist with a choice, to support "democracy" as it exists or stand for the absolute and non-negotiable "rights" of the international proletariat that are not subject to majority rule. American unions since September 11th have supported the U.S. terrorist war and the rank-and-file movement has not desired to overturn its leaders. This leaves the so-called workers' movement a choice in America: either the activists can "represent" the "workers" and carry out their wishes and bow to the "democracy" of majority rule of Americans and support Bush's "war on terror" or the activists can point to the world's majority and say it trumps the American majority attempting to rule the world. MIM says fine, the war-mongering trade union leaders can represent the American "workers." They really do represent those "workers." We will stand for the international proletariat.

There is nothing in the U.S. Constitution that guarantees that majority rule in the rest of the world is not trumped by majority rule in the United States. Hence, when the "democratic socialists" in America say there is a framework for "democracy" that needs to be used, we say we are getting off their racist-white nationalist boat. It is not consistent with socialist principles to allow a

majority of exploiters to rule the exploited. Nor is it tactically smart to find concessions that win over a majority of exploiters. By definition those concessions will have to be contrary to socialist principles and against the interests of the world's majority of people.

In Hitler Germany, the task was not to find another Nazi with majority support to replace Hitler: the task was to defeat the German majority in war and force them to give up their views. That defeat was the best thing that could be done to advance the German people themselves. Nothing else was "tactically" smarter.

At the same time, MIM would like to stress the necessity to draw a sharp line of distinction between bourgeois democracy in the imperialist countries in the sense of majority rule, on the one hand, and bourgeois-democratic rights and liberties, on the other. The latter must be defended by Communists to the last iota. Today, as never before, the words of Joseph Stalin acquire a paramount significance: "Formerly, the bourgeoisie could afford to play the liberal, to uphold the bourgeois-democratic liberties, and thus gain popularity with the people. Now not a trace remains of this liberalism. The so-called "liberty of the individual" no longer exists—the rights of the individual are now extended only to those who possess capital, while all other citizens are regarded as human raw material, fit only to be exploited. The principle of equal rights for men and nations has been trampled in the mud [...] The banner of bourgeois-democratic liberties has been thrown overboard. I think that it is you, the representatives of the communist and democratic parties, who will have to raise this banner and carry it forward, if you want to gather around you the majority of the people. There is nobody else to raise it."

Statement from the Community Party of the Philippines

The Communist Party of the Philippines condemns US machinations to criminalize and persecute as “terrorists” the CPP-NPA, Comrade Sison and other legitimate revolutionaries and progressives!

Central Committee
Communist Party of the Philippines
September 21, 2002

As the world’s rogue superpower and biggest terrorist, the US has arrogated to itself the power to unilaterally unleash war and rain death and devastation on other countries and peoples. It shamelessly bullies the international

community, destabilizes other states and whole regions, and threatens world peace. US imperialism is the biggest terrorist force that has ever afflicted the Filipino people. It has yet to answer for the brutal war of aggression against the Filipino people from 1899 to 1914. Its war crimes include killing, torture, forced mass evacuations and other repressive measures which claimed the lives of more than a million Filipinos, mostly unarmed civilians. Its bloody conquest of the Philippines has since paved the way for its daily violence of exploitation and oppression of the Filipino nation, in league with local lackeys.

[...] [T]he US is promoting wholesale

state terrorism and fascism in the world to suppress rising social turmoil and revolutionary resurgence. Stricken with paranoia, it is increasing repression in the US itself and is pushing other countries, including its neocolonies, to adopt even more repressive measures against the people, especially migrants. US insistence that the Macapagal-Arroyo regime take on more and more repressive and bellicose measures in the name of “anti-terrorism” is again bringing the Philippines as close as ever to martial law.

The US has grown more and more wary of the revolutionary movement in the Philippines that is today at the forefront

of the world anti-imperialist struggle and is gaining ground and threatening the existence of its client state. It is now increasingly intervening directly in the counter-revolutionary war in the country. To justify this, it has ridiculously designated as “foreign terrorist organizations” the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People’s Army.

The US is the world’s biggest terrorist and yet it has the gall to label as “terrorist” and sully the fine record of a legitimate and principled revolutionary force that is arousing, organizing and mobilizing the Filipino people in a

Continued on next page...

The U.S. wants to close the dragnet around Sison

The Netherlands has closed his bank account and taken away his housing. What’s next: extradition?

With a single stroke, Jose Maria (Joma) Sison, a Philippine political refugee in the Netherlands, is penniless and homeless. When he wanted to pay his bill in the Albert Hein supermarket or for his dentist, he noted that his bank account was blocked. On the 12th of September, he got a letter from the municipal government of Utrecht. It was a shock: the letter announced that his social benefits, including housing, had been stopped. These are all consequences of the latest “anti-terrorist” measures of the Dutch government, issued on the request of the United States. Rumors have it that the US may soon demand for the extradition of Sison. This combines with an international smear campaign in the mass media against him and against the entire Philippine revolutionary movement.

Phase 1: Demonizing the target

On August 20, the Dutch TV’s news program 2Vandaag (“TV2 Today”) brought an interview with Jose Maria Sison, as the US had just placed the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)—of which Sison is the

founding chairman—and the New People’s Army (NPA) on its list of “terrorist organizations,” and the Netherlands had just blocked Sison’s bank account. The opening remark of journalist Jan Peters Lohper: “Your hands are stained with blood!” While the voice off told the audience about the NPA, images were shown of men in military uniform spraying bullets on a poor farmer’s hut, and of dangerous looking, heavily armed and hooded men. A stark manipulation, as anybody who knows the Philippines could immediately tell that these were images of the government’s Armed Forces of the Philippines and the paramilitary CAFGU’s!

Next you see the cover of Amnesty International’s Report 2002. 2Vandaag goes on to show a ‘quote,’ complete with quotation marks, as if the NPA would have a hit list of 345 people to be executed. A check on AI’s website and with the Asia Department of AI’s London headquarters learned that this ‘quote’ was a pure fabrication!

Last month, a picture made the tour of the world’s newspapers. It showed a girl in Manila, holding a poster saying “Two faces of terror: Osama Bin Laden and Jose Maria Sison.” The Belgian conservative paper La

Libre Belgique, for one, published the picture prominently (1). The message is clear: Sison equals Bin Laden, so it’s open season against him, no holds barred. On September 16, the Manila weekly Newsbreak carried a long article against the CPP, the NPA and Sison (2). The magazine uses the words of certain ‘dissidents’ who have turned their back on the revolutionary movement to suggest that the United States could ask for Sison’s extradition. Because “the CPP-NPA has repeatedly threatened Americans with harm” and “the NPA has kidnapped foreigners.” The article concludes: “Nothing precludes [the Netherlands] from extraditing him to the US - should the Americans ask for him.”

Phase 2: Tightening the noose

On August 13, the Dutch government issued the “Sanctions ruling terrorism 2002 III” (3), directed at the New People’s Army/ Communist Party of the Philippines and at Jose Maria Sison. The objective: to make Sison’s life financially and materially unbearable.

“All means belonging to [Sison] will be frozen. It is prohibited to undertake financial services for or in favor of [him],” according

to Article 2. A couple of days later, Sison’s personal bank account is already frozen. Jose Maria Sison has been an asylum seeker in the Netherlands for quite some time. As a result of the Ruling on the Reception of Asylum Seekers, he gets a monthly allowance for personal expenses, a social benefit for housing and a health insurance. But in a letter dated September 10, the municipal government of Utrecht ended all this abruptly, in application of the “Sanctions ruling terrorism 2002 III.”

“That means that you shall no longer receive an allowance for personal expenses and you are no longer insured against illness and the financial consequences of legal liability,” the letter explains dryly, and “you may therefore no longer make use of the apartment on [XXX].” That’s where Joma Sison is living with his wife Julie and his son Jasm. “We still have no solution for the accommodation of the members of your family,” the letter continues. In the meantime, “we allow them to stay in the house that we had made available to you.” So Joma is being expelled from his home, while his wife and son can continue to live there, but only as an

Continued on next page...

Amerika slanders the CPP/NPA as ‘terrorist organizations’

THE HEIGHT OF HYPOCRISY

In his announcement declaring the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and New People’s Army (NPA) to be “foreign terrorist organizations” U.S. Secretary of State Powell claimed that the NPA “has killed U.S. citizens [in the Philippines].” This was apparently a reference to the alleged NPA assassination of Col. James Rowe of the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group (JUSMAG) more than a decade ago. The JUSMAG trains Filipino officers in counter-insurgency tactics.

Powell should take a cue from the Bible and take the log from his own eye before removing the supposed speck from his neighbor’s. The United States has a long history of killing Filipinos, from the

millions killed during the Filipino-American war at the turn of the last century to the tens of thousands killed and tortured under the U.S.-backed Marcos dictatorship and its so-called democratic successors. The Philippine military’s abuses of combatants and non-combatants in its recent campaigns against the Abu Sayaaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front caused even the New York Times to question whether the United States was supporting the real terrorists by committing to “train” Philippine soldiers.

Thus, according to the most proper definition of “terrorism”—the killing of civilians to spread fear with the purpose of achieving a political goal, in this case the preservation of a corrupt government favorable to U.S. business interests—the United States is the biggest supporter of terrorism in the Philippines.

The CPP and NPA are working to overthrow the corrupt semi-feudal and semi-colonial system in the Philippines using the strategy of protracted people’s war. People’s war is targeted at police and military forces, not the general civilian population; hence, people’s war should not be counted as “terrorism.”

In a Maoist people’s war, whether it is in Peru, Nepal, the Philippines or anywhere else, the use of force does not have the design to produce fear and hence a change of policy. Rather the strategy of people’s war is to wear down an imperialist invader or overthrow a regime that is opposed to the toiling workers and peasants. Quite the contrary to producing fear, a People’s War only succeeds if it garners popular support, not fear, because the governments People’s Wars oppose historically—in China, Peru, the

Philippines etc.—all have technologically superior weapons and financial backing from U.S. imperialism. Without popular support, the People’s War would have a severe disadvantage against any invader or lackey regime of imperialism.

We laugh in the faces of Attorney General Ashcroft, President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell when they accuse Maoists of having a “philosophy of violence.” Ashcroft, Bush and Powell also have “philosophies of violence” as proved by their actual use of violence.

All the hype about “terrorism” merely serves to cover the United States true interests in sending troops to the Philippines: preserving an important military base and neo-colony.

Note: MIM Notes 266, 15 Sep 2002.

Statement from the Community Party of the Philippines

resolute struggle for national liberation and democracy against US imperialism, domestic feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism.

In cahoots with the Macapagal-Arroyo puppet regime, the US is making preparations for and legitimizing its outright aggression in the country with such schemes as the Mutual Logistics and Support Agreement and endless new versions of Balikatan—this time directed at CPP-NPA territories.

To make way for its aggression in the Philippines, the US is prejudicing the peace process and generating a climate of fear against the members, consultants and staffers and supporters of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace panel. The US has centered its attack on Comrade Jose Ma. Sison, the senior political consultant of the panel. In a US Treasury Department attachment to Executive Order no. 13224 issued on August 12, 2002, US President Bush has specifically included Comrade Sison in the list of “foreign terrorists”.

Single-minded in its vehement hatred of revolutionaries, US imperialism is hell bent on suppressing them. US imperialism and its local lackeys know best who are their most resolute and most effective adversaries, unleashing the vilest of propaganda, the dirtiest tricks and the most brutal attacks against them. Among the prime targets today of US imperialism and its puppets are the parties and revolutionaries who are guided by Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, particularly those carrying out and promoting people’s war.

Because of his leading influence and significance to the political and social revolutionary movement in the Philippines as well as internationally, the US is concentrating its most vicious attack on Comrade Sison with the vain hope of decapitating the revolutionary

movement in the Philippines and impeding the resurgence of the anti-imperialist and proletarian revolutionary movement to a new and higher level.

Being singled out for exemplary attack by the world superpower serves as an unintended tribute to Comrade Sison’s sharpness and resoluteness in exposing US imperialism and its successive puppet regimes, in serving as a beacon to the national democratic and proletarian revolutionary movement in the Philippines, in reinvigorating the international proletarian revolutionary movement, as well as in supporting the peace process.

The Communist Party of the Philippines greatly values the contributions that Comrade Sison has given and continues to render the Philippine revolutionary movement. The Party recognizes his outstanding revolutionary role and devotion to the proletariat and people, and refutes the US’ baseless charge of “terrorist” against him as well as against the Party itself, and the people’s army and revolutionary movement led by the Party.

Riding on the US “anti-terrorist” mantra and on antidemocratic and anti-immigrant trends in the Netherlands and Europe, the Dutch government is doing the dirty work in behalf of the US government against Comrade Sison. It has done so in utter disregard of due process and with disgusting cruelty. Last month it made a cheap device at oppression by freezing his and his wife Juliet’s personal accounts which has come from no source other than the Dutch state welfare agency Sociale Zaken. The highest Dutch administrative court, the Raad van State, since 1992 has considered him a political refugee. Guilty thus of double talk, this September 16 the Dutch government downgraded his political refugee status. Immediately, this has deprived him of housing, subsistence

and medical support. Moreover, this has threatened his protection by the Refugee Treaty of Geneva and the European Convention from extradition to any country on the pretext of a criminal charge.

Some prominent Philippine government officials themselves have spilled the beans that the US is set to trump up a criminal complaint against Comrade Sison and on this basis seek his extradition to the US. The Philippine Justice Secretary has certified as far back as 1998 that no criminal charge whatsoever exists against Comrade Sison in the Philippines. The Macapagal-Arroyo regime is still in the process of forging a law specifically against “terrorism” that would target revolutionaries and their supporters much more than bandits and real terrorists. To make up for this lack, it is working to file a charge of rebellion against Comrade Sison in order to prop up the prospective criminal complaint and request of the US for his extradition.

The US and the puppet Macapagal-Arroyo regime are bent on working out more sinister designs and plots—including the resort to outright violence and other fascist methods—in an effort to suppress the revolutionary movement, Comrade Sison and other revolutionaries and progressives. The European Union has also adopted its own “anti-terrorist” measure. On July 15, 2002, Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the European Union promulgated “anti-terrorist” guidelines which severely curtail civil liberties in much the same way as the US Patriot Act. The Party is much concerned about the dangers to Comrade Sison resulting from the devious machinations and work of the US and its allies.

The Party vehemently condemns the US and the puppet Macapagal-Arroyo regime for the blatant designs and

machinations at interventionist and fascist schemes directed at the Party, the New People’s Army and Comrade Sison, as well as against the sovereign rights and fundamental interests of the Filipino nation and people.

The Party calls on all Filipino patriots and on all freedom-loving people around the world to protest and fight these designs and schemes, which are specifically aimed to clear the way for increased outright US aggression against the revolutionary movement and people of the Philippines. The Dutch government should listen to reason and reverse its unjust and cruel acts against Comrade Sison.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the revolutionary movement it leads shall never be intimidated by US military intervention, threat of aggression and dirty tricks. The revolutionary movement in the Philippines has been tempered in life-and-death struggle over so many years and against great adversities. It is resolute as ever in its self-reliant armed revolutionary struggle to attain national liberation and democracy and gain ground for the world proletarian revolution.

The Party’s collective leadership effectively operates in the consolidated revolutionary guerilla bases in the Philippines, safely out of the immediate reach and mischief by the US and local reactionary armed forces. Filipino revolutionaries know full well that the rotten semifeudal and semicolonial system in the country is in terminal crisis and that the US itself has become mired in ever deeper crisis. The Party and the revolutionary movement are rapidly advancing and are taking advantage of increasingly favourable national and international conditions for the further advance of the revolutionary struggle.

Dragnet around Sison

exceptional and temporary ‘goodwill’ measure!

With the same generosity, the municipal government of Utrecht suggests that Sison can challenge this decision before the minister of Finance on humanitarian grounds, as provided for in the “Sanctions ruling terrorism 2002 III.” Joma says on this matter: “Of course, there is the hypocritical provision that I can get these on ‘humanitarian grounds’ if I beg for mercy. If I were to ‘beg’ for the basic necessities of life on ‘humanitarian grounds’ under the terms of the ‘Sanctions ruling terrorism 2002 III,’ will I not be moving into the trap of accepting the unjust premises and terms of the said ‘sanctions ruling’? Are not the Dutch authorities violating my rights as a recognized political refugee by trying to deprive me of the basic necessities of life, humiliating and degrading me by compelling me to beg for these?”

Phase 3: Mounting a case

The (very limited) protection that Sison enjoys in the Netherlands as a political refugee may be blown away completely if and when the United States would demand his extradition. Currently, there is no criminal case against him in the US, on the basis of which extradition would become a possibility. But things may change. Coincidentally, the murder of US colonel James ‘Nick’ Rowe has been rekindled lately.

On April 21, 1989 - yes, more than 13 years ago! - an urban guerrilla squad of the NPA shot Rowe in Manila. The man, a decorated Vietnam veteran, was the chief of the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group (JUSMAG) in Manila. This group trained the Philippine armed forces in counterinsurgency and worked with the CIA on a strategy to infiltrate the CPP and the NPA. Rowe appears to have been the control officer of those infiltrators.(4)

Rowe is the highest US military officer to

have been killed in the Philippines, a feat that the United States can hardly stomach. With each negotiation on the release of political prisoners in the Philippines, the US embassy intervenes to demand that the suspected perpetrators of the Rowe killing, Donato Contiente en Juanito Itaas, would certainly not be set free. The Rowe case may become the pretext for the US to demand the extradition of Sison - although it remains a mystery how a jobless professor and asylum seeker in the Netherlands could ever be held accountable for that act. But of course, the ultimate objective of the US is to finish a man who continues to play an important role as chief political consultant to the National Democratic Front of the Philippines - the alliance of the Philippine revolutionary organizations - and as the ‘great old man’ of the revolutionary movement. Indeed, the US has a deep disgust for any struggle for liberation, for this means, according to Joma Sison, “the liberation of their imperialist exploitation.”

The Netherlands as a US puppet

On August 9, the US State Department designated the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People’s Army as “foreign terrorist organizations” and implored other governments to do the same. On August 12, the US Treasury Department listed the CPP, the NPA and Jose Maria Sison as “terrorists” whose assets must be frozen. On August 13 already, the Dutch authorities issued the “Sanctions ruling terrorism 2002 III”.(5) The Dutch government claims “the necessity to take prompt measures” as a reason not to wait for “conclusions that will follow at the European level.” But by acting so fast, the governmental ruling contained several factual errors. On August 23, the government already had to publish corrections regarding the place and date of birth of Sison! (6)

In the “Sanctions ruling terrorism 2002 III” not a single word of motivation can be found. Why to list the NPA, the CPP and Sison as “terrorists”? Why freeze their assets? No single reason is being given. Or is it just

Continued on next page...

First 10 days September 2002 monthly website report

by Web Minister
September 11, 2002

I'm running this report on the first 10 days of September, because I'm not sure what to think about traffic for September 11th onwards. One year ago, MIM's website gained in international exposure from the September 11th events—as did most political websites, because the public turned toward “serious matters” and away from the usual NakedNews programming. It's questionable if MIM can expect to beat the traffic from September 11th to September 30th last year, so here we present a snapshot of what MIM has done prior to September 11th.

Mostly we are unhappy with these figures, because we want to break 100% annual growth in number of computers served. I hope our comrades abroad can now answer their questions about what MIM is doing since September 11th. We have seen that in some months since

September 11th, MIM has surpassed the 100% growth mark in number of readers of our website. I take the blame for not reaching 100% in the first 10 days of September 2002.

Summary statistics comparing first 10 days of September 2001 and September 2002*

Sept 01	Sept 02	% change
<i>Avg. MIM pages served per day</i>		
1,025	1,749	+70.6%
<i>Different computers MIM served</i>		
3,354	6,167	+83.9%
<i>Different MIM files chosen</i>		
1,974	2,948	+49.3%
<i>Data transferred average per day</i>		
42.7 Mb	89.1 Mb	+108.7%

*As in past reports of this format, these statistics exclude most graphics.

On the bright side, secondary indicators are higher than expected. With the theory that the “hard-core” political

readers already know about MIM's website, and have for some years, we are surprised to see that even one year after September 11th, we still see more than 100% growth in a time period's megabytes transferred from MIM to readers. Also, quite frankly, I would assume that we would not see 70% growth in non-graphics pages served as we do in this report. It seems much more intuitive that as MIM's exposure to the public expands, the number of new readers would expand faster than the pages and megabytes served, as we reached more and more into the relatively apolitical public.

Standard disclaimers:

1. The numbers in these reports are conservative estimates for a number of reasons.

a. The number of computer users refers to number of computers. The number of users could be higher or lower, because

some computers serve pages to more than one individual, because individuals share computers and because conversely individuals use computers in more than one place.

b. The number of pages served should be thought of as a minimum, because statistics do not count re-readings or re-servings from local computer memory. Nor do they count sharing of pages once downloaded.

c. Most but not all graphics served are excluded from the figures to cut back on increasing “page” averages just by calling up various graphics.

2. Tracking where computers are from is bound to have some error as many wise users intentionally surf the web and leave a false trail. On the other hand, we doubt that such error means that non-U.\$ readership is lower than reported, given that we do not count .com, .net and .edu readership.

LETTERS: Continued from page 2...

clear on what is an alternative. This is why MIM stresses the need to study of history. We have examples of the defeat of imperialism to learn from.

After the revolution the people of the Soviet Union not only provided for their own basic needs but were able to gear up for a war to defeat fascism with virtually no support from the imperialist world. After the revolution in China huge advances were made in life expectancy, infant mortality, literacy, access to education, sanitation and housing, just to name a few concrete measures. All of this happened because the oppressed people in China stood up and took over running their country. The people everywhere were involved in constantly improving all aspects of society and criticizing their leaders. (You can find some excellent books on China here: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/mythsofmao.html>)

To whom it may concern

Unfortunately, the truth will never be told. Because organizations such as these do not help but, exploit the people that they are supposed to be helping. I don't believe that targeting Forever21 is the answer to the problem. It's actually making it worse for them. The truth is that “sweatshops” are and have been in existence for a while. And, targeting retailers in this manner will only cause them to look elsewhere to produce their products. Therefore taking much needed jobs. I say help target the key issues and stop targeting store associates. They are not the problem, they are just trying to make their quotas as is everyone else.

Lobby for immigration laws to be a bit more flexible so to allow immigrant workers permits to legally work and report their earnings to the IRS and therefore limiting under-paid workers. It's not right to target store employees

because they are not the problem, but society that dictates and allows this “sweatshops” to exist.

When will it end!!!!

MIM responds: Thanks for your e-mail. You are talking about the campaign against Forever 21 stores which refused to pay immigrant workers back wages and overtime pay, or to comply with their demand for decent working conditions.

You are right that targeting Forever21 is not the answer to the problem. The problem is the system of imperialism where one nation gets rich by exploiting other nations. This is why the border is kept sealed tight and immigration restrictions are strict on people from Third World countries while it is much easier to get into the U.\$ from first world countries. It is important not to let in too many of the workers who can be exploited in their home country because in the U.\$ legally they could get jobs that paid much higher wages in much better conditions and the profit of exploiting them would be lost.

Neither MIM nor RAIL nor any other activist groups we know of targets store associates at Forever 21; we're not sure what that criticism is addressing. We are targeting the stores as one manifestation of capitalist exploitation. And we consider this a winnable battle: if these stores give in and pay their immigrant workers and/or improve conditions for the workers that will be a victory. Of course, as you pointed out, it will not end the problem. And that is why we wage this battle in the context of fighting to overthrow imperialism.

We agree with you that we need to target the problem in society more generally. This is why we have a campaign to abolish illegitimate borders, focusing on the U.\$-Mexico border. This would go a long way to eliminating the problem of sweatshops within U.\$ borders as the Latino immigrants would be free to seek out better jobs.

You can find more information on our

Forever21 work here: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/mn251/forever21.html>

And information on our Abolish Borders campaign here: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/gatekeeper.html>

CALTRANS

Continued from page 3...

First Amendment survey. Findings suggest that the September 11, 2001 attacks on the U.\$ have led increasing numbers of Americans to support restrictions on freedom of speech. This year 49% of those surveyed said that the First Amendment gives Americans too much freedom, up from 39% last year and 22% in 2000. Additionally of interest is the 42% of respondents who said the press in Amerika has too much freedom to do what it wants (unchanged from last year).(4)

Those anti-imperialists who still believe they can win over the majority of the American public need to take a hard serious look at the material interests of the people in this country. While we can't expect to win over the majority, we can fight to educate those who will listen and give up their class privileges to stand on the side of the international proletariat. To do this we must take advantage of every opportunity for anti-imperialist speech. We need to publish our own press and distribute it widely, and we must take up legal battles like the Santa Cruz wimmin who took CalTrans to court.

Notes:

1. KTVU News, September 23, 2002
2. Free Expression Network: http://www.freeexpression.org/newswire/0129_2002.htm
3. <http://sf.indymedia.org/news/2002/09/149935.php>
4. A copy of the report can be found here: http://www.freedomforum.org/publications/first/sofa/2002/SOFA-2002_report.pdf

Continued from previous page...

because the US has asked so? In an explanation to the ruling the Dutch Foreign Minister de Hoop Scheffer admits as much: Europe has to work “in close collaboration with the United States,” and the names referred to for the freezing of assets “are also on an ‘executive order’ issued by US president Bush on August 12, 2002.” Apparently, this suffices as a reason...

Philippine Senator Loren Legarda praises Jose Maria Sison

“For more than three decades now, Jose Maria Sison and a very special breed of Filipinos have pursued an extraordinary course that has shaped post-war Philippine politics and society in a fundamental way. One may not necessarily agree with their alternative vision of Philippine society, but no one can doubt the integrity of their patriotism or the depth of their commitment to help bring about a more just and a more humane society.” (7)

—Bert De Belder, **Solidaire, Workers' Party of Belgium**

MIM has important disagreements with the Workers' Party of Belgium or PTB, which we consider a petit-bourgeois organization masquerading as a proletarian party. Interested readers can check learn more at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/wyl>. We reprint this article because it details the harassment Jose Maria Sison faces at behest of the U.\$ government.

Notes:

1. August 17, p.9
2. http://www.inq7.net/newsbrk/2002/sep/05/nbk_5-1.htm
3. Staatscourant nr.153, August 13
4. James Neilson, in U.S. Veteran News and Report
5. Staatscourant nr.153, August 13
6. Staatscourant nr.161, August 23
7. August 25, 2002 Gathering of ‘Friends of Prof. Jose Maria Sison et al’, Executive House, UP Diliman, Metro Manila, Philippines

Repression in Washington state prisons

I have been trapped in the belly of the beast most of my life. And I know from first hand experience the terrible conditions people face while in these concentration camps. I will tell you now that Washington is the worst of the worst.

We here in Washington are suffering badly from lack of education in these concentration camps, lack of medical and legal assistance, and we're not allowed to support ourselves. If we don't have a high school diploma or GED we're confined to our cages from 8:00 am til 4:00 pm because this administration says if you don't go to school you're not allowed to get a job nor are you allowed to go outside to the "graveyard" which many call the "big yard" to use the phone and call your family. A lot of guys in here are illiterate because they don't have an education.

Many of the prisoners here in Washington are "mentally dead." They've been down so long, looking up never crossed their minds. This concentration camp is located in the mountains, miles away from civilization, most of the prisoners here live either in Seattle or Tacoma which is about 350 miles away and there is no way their family can drive that far. The phone calls are \$20 for 18 minutes. So their family has a block on the phones.

It's hard here in Washington, we're being fed the same food every week and most times leftovers from the day or week before. WSP is the big "pimps" of Washington. This camp takes 35% of every money order we get in from our family, friends and associates. And to put restrictions on us they make it hard for anybody to get money. The person that sends you money must be on your visiting list, which must be approved by them, and they discriminate on who gets put on your visit list. They will disapprove of your own mama and kids being put on your list.

This camp is a "slave plantation." They don't want you to have any outside support. they want you to work for them and get in debt to them. And if you refuse to work they put you on 8 til 4 restriction. Except for meals. You may go to the kitchen to eat and see rats running around in the eating area. You might crack your tooth on rocks or metal while eating. I had two cases last year and one a month and half ago. When you grieve them they usually answer back asking you the same questions you already answered on the first grievance and that's to discourage you not to pursue the case, these pigs are dirty.

I am currently being confined in segregation for being a leader of a group demonstration. For so-called leading 9 other guys to war against them and their administration. I was threatened by a correctional unit supervisor for waking up the mentally dead. I refuse to accept the sick conditions that these pimps force

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

upon our physical being. They have called me a threat to security, anti-government, a racist, anti-semitic, but they never have called me a liar. It is my duty as a conscious and aware brother of the struggle to fight against oppression, suppression and depression. By all means necessary! No matter the consequence I will speak, protest and fight against these unjust conditions, if I'm on the mainline or if I'm in one of the cages used to house the troubled ones.

I see our president so-called fighting terrorism in other countries, while millions of Americans are in terror in this country because of the condition amerika is in. That's why it's important for you, myself, and others to speak-out against oppression. I will continue to uplift the oppressed in these concentration camps here in Washington State.

—a prisoner in Washington, September 2002

MIM censored completely in Alabama

On July 27, 2002 MIM forwarded me MT8 an MT11 upon my request. After not receiving either I wrote to you notifying you so. and asking had they been returned. You notified me in a letter dated September 5, 2002 that MT8 and 11 had not been returned to you, and to inquire at the mailroom about it. Also, you notified me that you were forwarding another copy of MT8 to me by placing it in the mail on September 6, 2002.

On Sept 9 I received a rejection notice stating that "correspondence from MIM is being rejected," "for security." No other reason was given, nor was the correspondence specified.

I eventually got a guard to let me see what was in the envelope. He pulled MT11 partially out. I'm assuming that MT8 was also inside the envelope.

I filed my protest on September 9, I received it back the 16th of September. It stated that correspondence from MIM is denied and that no mail from MIM will be allowed! It was signed by a Sgt. Richard Frasier on 9-13-02. I haven't received the second copy of MT8 or a rejection notice for it.

I'm enclosing a written copy of pertinent parts of the prison regulation covering publications. As you can see prison officials are in violation of C., D., E., G., and H of their own regulation.

To protest this censorship please contact:

Warden David Wise
PO Box 66
Capshaw, AL 35742-0066

—a prisoner in Alabama, August 2002

Better yourself, fight censorship: read MIM

I read over your letter to me and I do feel where you're coming from. When it comes to politics I don't rate high in the "I understand" bracket. I've been doing this pen shit for over 12 years now and I've spent the last 10 on some gang bang (I'm tuffer than you) shit. Right now one of my little comrades and myself are in the hole here for attempted murder on an officer and some other assaults. Since I'm here I decided to look into some other avenues to find a better direction: something to better myself so I can pass something on to my lil homies (something with purpose and direction). I'm really looking forward to bettering myself and maybe those around me!

— a California prisoner, September 2002

MIM responds: 25 states — from California to New York, from Florida to Washington — censored MIM Notes from November, 2001 through April, 2002. Another 11 states had censored our press in the year leading up to November, 2001. Censorship at SCI Greene in Pennsylvania (where Mumia Abu Jamal and other Pennsylvania death row prisoners are held) has been so severe that MIM has stopped sending its newspapers there.

Prisoncrats slander MIM as promoting violence and hatred among prisoners, yet many prisoners seek us out just as this comrade has and tell us that MIM helps them to funnel their energies into progressive work. In fact MIM encourages prisoners to seek out political education, and to use their time to organize around winnable battles. We do not expect to dismantle the U.S. prisons system in 2002, but we do expect to be able to get MIM Notes and other political literature into the hands of more prisoners. We have won battles against censorship in Wisconsin, Washington and Tennessee and expect to win in more states!

Prisoners can help by informing MIM of all censorship, and by helping us to understand the policies on prisoner mail in their state or federal facility. Prisoners can file grievances to protest censorship, while MIM lodges protest with prison and DOC administrations.

Many outside the walls still believe that this country stands for freedom and democracy. Yet the prisoncrats squash the speech of everyone who writes for, pays for and produces MIM Notes every time they censor a copy. We call on all who believe in the right to free speech to join us in fighting prison censorship.

Library/work catch 22 in Texas

I received a disciplinary case for not turning out for my slave-labor assignment. However, I, like many others, had lay-ins for the law library. These were early-morning lay-ins, which scheduled us for sessions that conflicted with our work hours. By TDCJ standards we were wrong for exercising our right to have access to the courts. It seems there is a little-known TDCJ policy which states that law library lay-ins do not override work/slave responsibilities.

For the previous 10 months since our lay-in times were shifted to mornings, no one had ever received any disciplinary cases, so the policy was not being enforced. Secondly, no one was aware of the policy and the field officers had never brought up the subject, so we could never attempt to correct the problem.

It also seems that, besides the field officers, the only other person who knew

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.

about the policy was the law library supervisor herself — and she was the only who scheduled the conflicting times. By doing so, she placed us in a catch-22: either go to the law library to satisfy our access to the courts (a right under law), and by doing so be subject to disciplinary action, or waive our access to the courts by working/slaving for free. Most of us are fighting our cases, or working on lawsuits, or writing the officers up according to policy, and these people know that, so here is a concerted effort to keep the prison masses guessing and stressing.

Of course, I am appealing the guilty finding and will pursue the matter until it's taken off my record. This woman purposely scheduled prisoners for times which would present a conflict. I did not make my own lay-ins.

We are required by these people to work in the fields, even if you have suffered an injury prior to turning out. If you report the injury to anyone the officers will write you a case for getting hurt! As ridiculous as this sounds, they are getting away with these bogus cases because prisoners do nothing to counter TDCJ actions.

A shout out to Texas: Has anyone heard of the Private Sector Prison Industries Oversight Authority? Supposedly they can help. If anyone's got some info on this, get it in print on these pages so we can move on it.

By the way, I would also like to obtain a copy of any petitions that MIM has so that I can mobilize the effort here as well. I ain't much, but it's a start.

Power to the People!

Sincerely in struggle,

—A Texas prisoner

MIM responds: the prisoner is referring to MIM's petition to stop the practice of forcing sick and injured prisoners to work — or docking their good time if they can't work. Download a copy of the petition here: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/mn253/txpetition.html> or write to MIM for a copy and start collecting signatures!

Mail procedures violated at WCC

On any given day in America the rights of prisoners are violated by someone working for the bourgeois state. In Washington prison officials recently proved they were no exception to the rule

by telling [a prisoner] they would not store his publications as required by DOC mail policy, under the rule, implemented throughout the prison system in 2000, books, magazines and newspapers sent to prisoners in the intensive management unit (IMU) must be held for 90 days during which time prisoners are allowed to have these once they reach the required levels.

When [the prisoner] threatened legal action over the mail policy violations. Officials at the correction center in Shelton claimed they would review the procedure and store his incoming magazines until this was done. On July 18, 2002 [the prisoner] asked for the magazines supposedly stored. He received one and was told the other four were never stored. Staff claim they haven't lost or stole anything. But no one else has any access to these in IMU so there's little merit to those claims.

Even more damning for the oppressors is they've been doing this for two years now. Until [this prisoner] showed up storage procedures weren't being followed and prison officials admitted to this in discussions with him over it.

Although legal action is being pursued there's no sign that prison officials plan to obey their own rules or follow the law when it comes to the first amendment and a prisoners rights under it to ensure this is done and the oppressors in our prison system don't go on thinking they're a law units their self. Prisoners should organize in order to force the powers that be to respect their rights.

—a prisoner in WA, August 2002

Suicide Rate Increases at WCC

Intensive management units (IMU) around Washington house prisoners who suffer serious mental health problems. As recently as May 2002 one of these was found dead in his cell at the Correction Center in Shelton. As did two others, he chose to hang himself, but was the only one who succeeded in doing so.

Seven prisoners with psychiatric disabilities have made suicide attempts at the correction center in the last three months. Two opted for overdose using prescribed medications. One used razor blades and the other cut his throat.

Despite what must be viewed as a disturbing trend. Administrators have done little to prevent this. And they

The Question (?)

Some come here tough
and filled full of anger.
Others come here meek
and fear all the danger.
The tears in their eyes,
the pain in their minds,
most people can't see;
to their thoughts they are blind.
I see all their lives,
even in my dreams.
I feel all their pain
and hear all their screams.

Teachers, doctors and lawyers,
some could have been.
Instead of being "Pillars,"
we're sent to the "Pen."

Politicians have the answer,
they say "throw away the key."
"Lock them all up
and just let them be."

Some have done wrong
while others have not.
But, still in the end,
it's jail we all got.

If the Question is: "Should we
lock them all up and keep them in
jail,
deny some their rights or give them
no bail?
Most have no education
and our futures are in doubt.
"What will you have wrought,
when you finally let us out?"

"The ?"

— a Federal prisoner in
Illinois, 27 July, 2002

contribute to such acts by dismissing reports that hired goons in IMU abuse these people to get their kicks.

With no fear of reprisal from above, this makes those suffering a mental illness twice as likely to be gassed, beat, thrown in strip cells or denied food, showers and recreation. Whenever their oppressors decide to liven up an otherwise boring job by tormenting someone who appears abnormal.

IMU is often used by doctors or prison officials as a dumping ground for anyone who exhibits severe psychological disturbance. Psychiatric personnel at hospitals like the special offenders center employ this policy whenever prisoners become hard to handle. And the tradition carried over to a new facility situated close to it which opened and declared right off that close and maximum custody prisoners weren't being received. In this new facility beds were available and staff were better trained and equipped to provide psychiatric care which prisoners were not getting in IMU.

A bit of irony can be added to this picture of abuse and indifference: mental health workers staged a protest over budget cuts in Olympia. At issue was closure of 6 wards over the next two years at eastern and western state hospital. Not

only would jobs be lost were this to happen, but hundreds of beds would stand unused and empty while prisoners who could use both professional care and hospital beds are denied it.

In doing this the ruling class has shown it cares little about the need for either. And that if weighed against the need for almighty dollars. Prisoners can go on committing suicide for lack of available psychiatric care in our state.

—a prisoner in WA, august 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.



El foro californiano sobre las Filipinas moviliza al pueblo estadounidense bajo el lema “¡Fuera ahora!”

El 13 de febrero, la Liga Antiimperialista Revolucionara organizó un foro en la Universidad de Berkeley al que asistieron por lo menos 60 personas. El evento se inició con una impactante obra oral instigando a que la gente se incorporara a la lucha por la humanidad.

Los discursos presentados por el Movimiento Maoísta Internacionalista (MIM), el Comité de los Derechos Humanos de Filipinas (CDHF) y el BAYAN de la bahía de San Francisco fueron intercalados por presentaciones musicales de la banda activista filipina Diskarte Namin. Este foro importante desencadenó en la universidad un creciente movimiento de oposición al imperialismo estadounidense en las Filipinas. Los estudiantes expresaron su intención de movilizar a la gente de la Universidad de Berkeley mediante campañas educativas y una actividad política en solidaridad con la lucha del pueblo filipino por su autodeterminación. El orador del MIM inició el foro mencionando que las 600 tropas estadounidenses que habían sido mandadas a las Filipinas mas 100 millones de dólares en ayuda militar prometidos en enero, son las últimas pruebas del dominio de EE.UU sobre las Filipinas.

[La presencia de las tropas estadounidenses en el territorio filipino supuestamente se debe a la necesidad de entrenar a las fuerzas militares filipinas

en su lucha contra la pandilla Aby Syyaf que, según EE.UU., tiene conexiones a Osama bin Laden. Sin embargo, según un orador del CFHF, el mismo gobierno filipino no piensa que los restantes 60 bandidos sean significantes. El periodista Nicholas Kristof del periódico yaqui New York Times que apenas podría considerarse un antiimperialista radical, sostiene que la presidenta filipina Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo “aprovechó el contexto del 11 de septiembre para hacer pasar a Abu Syyaf por terroristas internacionales con fin de obtener más ayuda militar de EE.UU.” (1) La llamada “guerra contra el terrorismo” sirve de pretexto para la actual invasión; sin embargo, los mismos EE.UU. es una organización terrorista, sin mencionar a los gobiernos clientes de las Filipinas e Israel. Según el Departamento de Estado de EE.UU., la definición de terrorismo incluye “el uso de agentes biológicos, químicos o armas nucleares, armas de fuego o explosivos con la intención de poner en peligro, de una forma directa o indirecta, la seguridad de una o más personas o causar daño de carácter considerable a la propiedad”. (2)

Dentro de un contexto más global, el orador del MIM además abordó varias formas de participación de EE.UU en asuntos interiores de otros países, lo cual incluye tanto el colonialismo directo como indirecto o neocolonialismo. Los ejemplos dados variaban desde golpes de

estado contra gobiernos elegidos democráticamente hasta apoyos financieros y militares con fin de minar a gobiernos populares y llevar a cabo agresiones militares así como respaldar a gobiernos títeres. Esta participación militar y económica en asuntos interiores de otros países es lo que llamamos imperialismo- una etapa del capitalismo que se caracteriza por un colonialismo, un monopolio de corporaciones y una exportación del capital al extranjero con fines lucrativos. El ser una corporación capitalista ejemplar significa importar muchas ganancias mediante la fundación de maquiladoras en países con un fácil acceso a recursos naturales, donde las tasas de salario son mínimas, donde no existen leyes laborales ni tampoco regulaciones sobre medio ambiente. El orador del MIM señaló que el estándar de vida en EE.UU. sobrepasa el del tercer mundo de una forma significativa a causa de todas esas ganancias importadas. Sin embargo, el MIM cree que ninguna nación del mundo debería enriquecerse a costo de otras naciones. Eso es lo que se llama internacionalismo. El internacionalismo se opone al racismo y el chovinismo nacional. El internacionalismo implica que los ciudadanos de este país que se benefician de la explotación y opresión de los pueblos del mundo, tienen la responsabilidad de respaldar las luchas justas de los pueblos oprimidos por su autodeterminación. El orador del MIM rogó que el público pensara en cómo podría manifestar su internacionalismo mientras que escuchaba las presentaciones sobre la situación en las Filipinas. Los oradores del CDHF esbozaron las causas de la intervención yanqui en las Filipinas. Un orador habló sobre la riqueza de recursos naturales y la posición estratégica que convierten las Filipinas en un blanco deseable. [Las Filipinas están situadas en la parte sureste del Océano Pacífico. Las islas fueron utilizadas como un escenario estratégico durante la guerra en Vietnam, lo cual podría repetirse en el caso de que EE.UU. lancen una guerra en contra de Corea, China o el Sureste de Asia.] Además se abordó la larga historia de gobiernos lacayos que habían firmado tratados cediendo a EE.UU. el derecho de ocupar el territorio filipino con fin de promocionar los intereses estadounidenses, lo cual ha resultado en una tremenda pobreza del pueblo filipino. El orador del CDHF discutió el movimiento nacional democrático de las Filipinas que lucha por reformas agrarias, una industrialización nacional, una liberación del dominio extranjero así como cambios en el liderazgo del

gobierno. [El clandestino Partido Comunista de las Filipinas que encabeza esta lucha está llevando a cabo una guerra popular con fin de derrocar al gobierno reaccionario de la República de las Filipinas y establecer una base para la construcción del socialismo.]

Ha habido una respuesta fuerte a la reciente invasión de las tropas estadounidenses en las Filipinas. El 18 de enero, unos grupos democráticos nacionales organizaron en Manila un rally impresionante oponiéndose a la presencia de las tropas estadounidenses en el territorio filipino. [A finales de enero, el Partido Comunista de las Filipinas divulgó un comunicado condenando tanto “la descarada intervención de tropas americanas en las Filipinas como el carácter sinvergüenza del régimen servil Macapagal-Arroyo”. “El Partido entero está determinado por frustrar semejantes pasos y está listo para encabezar la resistencia popular a la intervención militar de EE.UU. en todas las direcciones y mediante cualquier recurso”, dice el comunicado. “Está listo para hacer que el régimen Macapagal-Arroyo pague caro por su transparente y absoluto papel de títere y su traición a la patria”.]

Todos los oradores señalaron que la presente situación en las Filipinas es una de emergencia. La gente muere por causa del imperialismo yanqui. Esta última invasión podría convertirse en una guerra de agresión- una guerra contra el pueblo filipino que está reclamando sus derechos a la paz, comida, vivienda, medicamentos, educación, cultura nacional, independencia territorial y autodeterminación. La gente debería tener un derecho a la lucha armada para la autodefensa, y eso es lo que han hecho muchos. El movimiento revolucionario de las Filipinas que representa los intereses de más de 90% de la población ha tenido éxito y sigue creciendo. La gente de EE.UU. tenemos la responsabilidad de exigir que EE.UU. aparte sus garras imperialistas de las Filipinas.

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Bibliografía:

1. New York Times, 8 de febrero 2002.
2. www.state.gov/www/global/terrorism/fto_info_1999.html.

¿Que es el MIM?

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 basicos: (1) El MIM sostiene que después que el proletariado conquiste el poder estatal, existira 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 ms 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.

El MIM acepta como miembro a cualquier individuo que esté de acuerdo con estos tres puntos basicos, y que acepte al centralismo democrático, el método de gobierno por la mayoría en lo que se refiere a cuestiones de línea del partido. El MIM es un partido clandestino que no publica los nombres de sus miembros para evitar la represión estatal dirigida históricamente contra los movimientos revolucionarios comunistas, y anti-imperialistas. Si Ud. desea una suscripción para cualquiera de nuestros periódicos o libros teóricos, en español o en inglés, por favor mandar dinero en efectivo o un cheque al nombre de MIM a esta dirección:

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