

# MIM Notes



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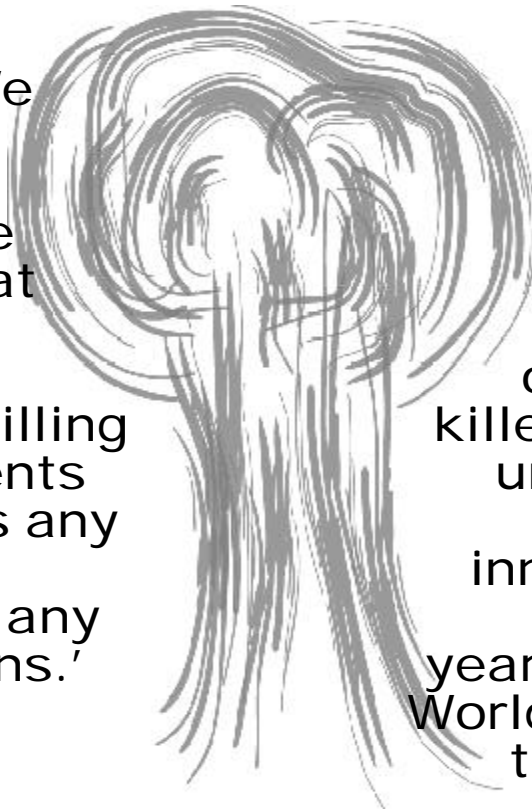
## Glass houses and throwing stones *Who has the right to condemn terrorism?*

On October 13th, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemned the bombing in Bali that killed at least 180 people, mostly young Australian tourists out partying in two nightclubs. Annan expressed his “utter condemnation” of all indiscriminate attacks on civilians, saying they “cannot be justified by any cause or ideology.”(1)

Kofi Annan is a good example of a persyn in political limbo—the head of the United Nations, notable but without military power of his own. The United Nations has served as a figleaf for terrorism and has attacked it at other times, but it does not have its own forces. Hence, for Kofi Annan to condemn terrorism, there is at least a case to be made that he is not a hypocrite or that if he is a hypocrite, he is so from ignorance or by mistake.

When it comes to the united States, however, hypocrisy abounds. President George Bush said, “We must together

**BUSH: ‘We must together challenge and defeat the idea that the wanton killing of innocents advances any cause or supports any aspirations.’**



**MIM: ‘No one has killed more unarmed civilian innocents in the years since World War II than the U.S.A.’**

challenge and defeat the idea that the wanton killing of innocents advances any cause or supports any aspirations.”(2)

No organization has killed more unarmed civilian innocents in the last year, the last decade or the years since World War II than the U.S. government. Ask the surviving civilians of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and re-read that sentence from Bush above. Ask the “Secretary of Defense” Robert McNamara who admitted that the united States killed 3.8 million Vietnamese in the Vietnam War, including the aerial bombing of civilians.(3) That’s why at MIM, where our members come mostly from imperialist countries carrying out massive terrorism, we do not believe we have the right to condemn other people’s “terrorism.” If MIM had succeeded in wiping out Amerikkkan and other major imperialist terrorism, MIM could set

*Continued on page 4...*

## MIM builds momentum for UC Divestment from Israel

**HUMYN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST PALESTINIANS ARE STAGGERING**

By mid-October, MIM, SLALA and RAIL comrades had collected more than 830 signatures supporting our demands that the University of California divest from apartheid Israel. In Los Angeles, SLALA and RAIL have made a strong start to the school year. They have made our demands known and generated some controversy on the UCLA campus(1)

with regular tabling and literature distribution, and collecting more signatures week by week. The University of California has at least \$1.4 billion invested in companies that provide arms and military technology to Israel.

MIM is not the only organization raising the demand that U.S. universities withdraw their investments in Israel. At the University of Texas, students have collected between 500 and 700 signatures asking their school to divest from Israel and Wayne State University students in Detroit have 50 to 70 signatures on a similar petition. Harvard students are targeting their university’s \$615 million in investments, and students at the

Universities of Michigan and Texas have learned that their schools invest at least \$155 million and \$90 million

*Continued on page 9...*

## Interview with Prof. Jose Maria Sison

October 23, 2002

Philippine Professor Jose Maria Sison has a long history of activism on behalf of the exploited and oppressed and against U.S. imperialism. He helped found the Kabataan Makabayan (Patriotic Youth) in 1964 and led some of the first protests against Amerikan intervention in Vietnam—of particular relevance as the United States used the Philippines as a staging area for aggression in Southeast Asia.

Sison went on to found the Communist Party of the Philippines on December 26, 1968, the New People’s Army on March 29, 1969 and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines on April 24, 1973. He was captured by the Marcos fascist regime on November 10, 1977 and stayed in prison until he was released on March 5, 1986 soon after the fall of Marcos. He rejoined the faculty of the University of the Philippines. Then, he left for abroad for a global university lecture tour from September 1, 1986 to



1988. He applied for political asylum in The Netherlands on October 18, 1988 after the Aquino regime canceled his Philippine passport.

**QUESTION:** The U.S. government declared you to be a “terrorist” on August 12 and asked other governments to freeze

*Continued on page 6...*

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## Students denounce 'Gatekeeper'

Support campaign in support of Prof. Joma Sison's democratic rights

San Ysidro, California  
19 October

A crowd of several hundred, mostly young members of MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlan), gathered on the U.S.-Mexico border today to say "No!" to Operation Gatekeeper. Operation Gatekeeper is the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service's brutal military blockade along the border between California and Mexico. This program and others like it in other southwestern states have killed over 3,000 people since 1993. Most died of dehydration and exposure as they tried to avoid border agents by crossing through remote desert regions.

MIM and SLALA (Studies for the Liberation of Aztlan and Latin America) members attended the rally. They collected several score signatures on a petition to the INS to end Operation Gatekeeper and passed out MIM Notes. They also collected signatures on a peti-

tion asking the Dutch government to remove Philippine Prof. Jose Maria Sison from its list of "terrorists" and restore the social benefits guaranteed him as a political refugee.

Although the issue of democratic rights for political refugees was only tangentially related to the focus of the rally, most people readily signed the Sison petition. A few even finished our pitch for us. "Right, sure, if he gets deported as threatened, he could be tried by one of these military tribunals. I hate those things, man. Of course I'll sign."

A few however refused to sign. At least one admitted he would not sign because MIM was circulating the petition. The only way this could not be considered sectarianism would be if this person or his organization (if any) were also struggling on behalf of Prof. Sison. This particular individual did not show much interest in the content of the petition or Prof. Sison's case.

Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

### 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 to 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.

## Boston march against war on Iraq draws hundreds

October 6, 2002

MIM and RAIL joined several hundred people in protest of Bush's push for war against Iraq. The rally started in Copley Square and marched through fancy shopping districts and tourist areas. The protest was organized by "Justice with Peace" and was in solidarity with the actions in other major cities like New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Many of the marchers were older (very few were young students) peace activists who've undoubtedly protested many wars over the years.

In contrast to other protests which also demanded an end to detentions and roundups of immigrants, the war on Iraq was the sole focus of the Boston protest. Some of the signs said things like: "We gave Saddam his toys and now we want to take them back" and "George Bush is a Ridiculous Embarrassment". The marchers alternated between chanting "Drop Bush, Not Bombs" and "No Attack on Iraq". A few of the marchers held American flags and held signs that said that a preemptive strike against Iraq would be "un-American". We say that it would be totally in line with American imperialism and Bush's war-mongering agenda.

The crowd grew along the two-mile walk, and many onlookers flashed peace signs, honked their horns in agreement, cheered and clapped, and thanked the marchers for being a voice against the war. Most people at the rally took a copy of MIM Notes. The majority of onlookers watched in silence. RAIL and MIM were surprised more passersby didn't

express hostility toward the marchers. One man screamed from the open window of his SUV to "get the fuck out of here!" Another woman near the touristy Granary Burying Ground, where Paul Revere and signers of the Declaration of Independence are buried, complained that the march was interfering with her sightseeing.

The latter complaint is typical of Americans, who, along the same line of reasoning, might say something such as, "I'm for peace and justice, as long as attaining them doesn't inconvenience me." Many Americans do not object to the murder and torture perpetrated by their government precisely because these government actions ensure Americans can continue living their lives of convenience.

MIM and RAIL ask all those who are willing to sacrifice comfort and convenience to work for revolutionary justice to contact us. Oppose the unjust imperialist war against Iraq!

**We constantly update MIM's coverage of the U.S. war on our web site, with news and opinion, agitation materials, articles in English, Spanish, French, Chinese and Russian!**  
**Read and distribute the newspaper -- and get the latest:**  
**[www.etext.org/ Politics/MIM](http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM)**

### 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 human 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.

# Hundreds of thousands attend anti-war rallies around the world

Washington DC,  
6 October 2002

Well over 100,000 people converged here to denounce the U.S. drive for war on Iraq. Another 80,000 marched in San Francisco. These rallies drew numbers rarely seen in recent years for an objectively anti-imperialist demand. There were similar actions in Rome, Berlin, Copenhagen, Tokyo, and Mexico City.

Speakers at the Washington rally hit many of the same points MIM Notes has been making in opposition to this war. Veterans for Peace had a particularly clear perspective on the issues. One veteran acknowledged that war on Iraq would only bring more attacks on U.S. soil and citizens. He also mentioned the effects on the estimated 200,000 to 500,000 Americans who would fight the war, pointing to the 150,000 Gulf War veterans who are now on disability.

Bush's proposed war is not in the interests of the American people in the sense that it will only heighten the risk for future wars, including more September 11-style attacks and possibly nuclear war touched off by Middle East tensions. As MIM Notes goes to press it is still not clear whether the United States can win Russia's support for a war on Iraq, or whether Russia will back Iraq militarily. Russia has business contracts with Iraq worth tens of billions of dollars and wor-

ries that a post-war regime would flood the oil market, driving down prices for Russia's oil exports.

However, in another sense, "the American way of life" needs this war exactly because it needs that cheap oil. Most people at the rally recognized this. To claim otherwise—for example, to opportunistically claim that the war "is a Trojan Horse to attack the labor movement"—is a slap in the face to the thousands of Iraqis who die as a result of sanctions every year, and the many thousands more who will suffer the loss of their own life, their mother's, brother's, friend's etc. if there is a war.

While the Washington rally remained tame, police repression was evident. Freedom of speech was limited to the "protestor pen" as is so common in rallies in this country where a permit must be obtained to speak one's mind. A RAIL comrade was prevented from walking in certain areas around the Vietnam War memorial merely for having a stack of fliers in hand. Meanwhile a law barring people from covering their faces in protest areas makes surveillance easier for the pigs and keeps protestors from making their points creatively via masks etc.

At the rally in San Francisco the crowd cheered Senator Barbara Boxer the loudest, with chants of "Barbara, Barbara..." A democrat, Boxer voted against the



The Boston rally.

resolution to give Bush war powers in October. She was introduced with a call for people to ensure she is re-elected. Boxer spoke about the significance of the senators and representatives who voted against the resolution to give Bush war powers and she called for people to enact a change in Washington, apparently by electing more Democrats.

Her popularity as a speaker demonstrates the general political position of the majority of the crowd opposing the war on Iraq. The call to elect more democrats to office is far from anti-imperialist and naïve even from a bourgeois vote-counting perspective. The majority of democrats approved Bush's war powers. The Democratic party just represents a different brand of imperialism where it is OK to murder thousands of Iraqis every month through sanctions, or even to at-

tack Iraq in pretend defense of Kuwait—as long as these attacks are couched in prettier words.

MIM supports allying with opponents to the war in Iraq. But the mass support for Boxer demonstrates the need for a revolutionary voice at these rallies. MIM activists, along with RAIL, distributed hundreds of copies of MIM Notes and talked to many people about the real problem behind the war on Iraq: American imperialism. We drew connections to the war on Palestine with our petition for the University of California schools to divest from Palestine. And we struggled with those trying to opportunistically tie the rally to demands of American workers, pointing out that the labor aristocracy in this country enjoys such high wages at the expense of the Iraqi people, among others.

## 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](mailto:mim3@mim.org)**

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## California queers protest Davis' prison state

7 October 2002

Activists protested Governor Gray Davis' prison policies outside his fund raiser dinner at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center tonight. California prisons are notorious for their brutality and lack of needed services. Rather than addressing this problem, Davis budgeted a 34% raise for California state prison guards, receiving in return \$251,000 from the prison guard union for his campaign. He also authorized a 25% pay raise for the California Highway Patrol in exchange for \$100,000 from the cops.(1)

In addition Davis habitually reverses parole for lifers. Since January of 1999 140 people convicted of murder were recommended for parole and sent to Davis for review. He approved only 2, reversing parole for 127 and sending 11 to the Board of Prison Terms for review.(2) This is just one more way of keeping more people locked up longer.

Attempting to play the friend of the queer community, Davis obviously wants to win the liberal vote. But even the Center where he spoke, a recently opened multi-million dollar facility, issued a written statement expressing "extreme dismay" at Davis' veto of a foster care bill that would have prohibited discrimination against gay foster youth and parents.

The demonstration included a number of Green party supporters carrying signs

promoting their candidate, Peter Camejo, for governor. For MIM this is not just a question of having a better candidate in the position of governor. It is a problem with the entire criminal justice system, and even larger, with imperialism as a whole. MIM does not want to mislead people in battles that cannot be won, to get a candidate who truly opposes imperialism into positions of power within imperialism. But while we are stuck within this system we do fight for winnable reforms. A MIM activist attending the rally collected postcard signatures to oppose censorship of political literature in prison. The 30 postcards collected will all be sent to Limestone Correctional Facility in Alabama where they recently issued a prison-wide ban on any literature sent by MIM.

We unite with the organizers of the protest in demanding an end to the death penalty in California, overturning of the three strikes law, parole for lifers, an end to prison construction, healthcare, and money for education not prison guard salaries. MIM is fighting for these rights and more with prisoners across the country. To get involved in these campaigns check out: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>.

Notes:

1. Green Party flyer.
2. California Coalition for Battered Women in Prison flyer ([www.freebatteredwomen.org](http://www.freebatteredwomen.org))

# Who has the right to condemn terrorism?

Continued from page 1...

about judging Al-Qaeda or any organization that is or is not allegedly independent of the U.S. government.

Instead, from what we can see, Al-Qaeda is composed of people from nations suffering civilian deaths especially at the hands of the United States and its Israeli puppet regime. We cannot be surprised that predominantly Islamic nations of the Third World strike back in kind: Osama Bin Laden learned everything he knows from the CIA and obtained weapons from the same place while fighting for the CIA against the social-imperialist Soviet Union in Afghanistan in the 1980s. There is no chance for world peace with any ideology that does not take this scientific fact into account: the oppressed strike back. What goes around comes around.

MIM does not include the president of the United States amongst its members as people will tell us, so why should we take responsibility for Uncle Sam's terrorism? Precisely because the battle against terrorism is every civilian's duty, we MIM comrades do take responsibility for Uncle Sam, and also the Canadian government, the British government, the French—in short most of imperialism—because that's where our members—civilians—are based. There is no one else to take responsibility for it: surely we cannot expect the government terrorists to take responsibility for their own terrorism.

These imperialisms also claim to be “democratic,” so that there is a link of some kind between the civilians and their terrorist governments. In fact, no terrorist government can survive without support from its citizens.

Some people we should think about include First Nations in North America. The people of some of the First Nations may claim the right to condemn terrorism, if some of their own governments have not been carrying out terrorism. There are also undocumented workers inside U.S. borders, many of whom speak Spanish and not English and have no right to vote: some of these really cannot be blamed for U.S. government terrorism. The rest of the people are generally a different story.

When citizens are sure their own government is not carrying out terrorism abroad, they gain the right to condemn other peoples' terrorism without hypocrisy. Otherwise, what happens is that one nation's people ends up accusing another of “terrorism.” “Terrorism” becomes a convenient type of name-calling used by opportunists simply to refer to “the other guy.” When right-wing citizens criticize other countries' terrorism, while supporting their own, it is called “patriotism,” which is correctly known as the “last refuge of a scoundrel.” When citizens using socialist rhetoric accuse other nations of terrorism without bringing down their own terrorist governments, they are guilty of “social-

patriotism.” Social-patriots will pay lip-service to ending oppression, but their weak criticisms are intentionally limited and ineffective, while their criticisms of other peoples' terrorism will have real murderous, war-mongering impact. Unfortunately, in the imperialist countries, MIM is nearly alone as an organization opposing both patriotism and social-patriotism.

The U.S. government knows that Filipino Joma Sison has not attacked any U.S. civilians. In fact, he has been in prison and exile, but the U.S. government is trying to distract attention from its own terrorist record, so it has recently labeled Sison a “terrorist.”

Colin Powell's statement on this is so obviously criminal that we include it here in its entirety for the public to evaluate (see sidebar). People will notice that in the entire statement there is no mention of any unarmed civilian killed—not even in “collateral damage,” the kind of which Powell himself partook in in the Gulf War. The purpose of Powell's statement is to label anyone the United States disagrees with most a “terrorist.” Before the United States goes and calls Sison “terrorist,” it better pay reparations to the Philippines for the more than 1 million unarmed civilians it slaughtered in the Philippines from 1899 to 1914. The U.S. military has admitted and documented that anyone over age 10 in the Philippines was to die: “American soldiers killed ‘men, women and children, prisoners and captives, active insurgents and suspected people, from lads of ten and up, an idea prevailing that the Filipino . . . was little better than a dog.’” (5) Readers should understand that we just quoted a U.S. military source and there are many more for those really interested in fighting terrorism.

What is true in the Philippines is true in the rest of the world. Dig a little deeper and you will find that in most cases the U.S. Government is the number one terrorist. Dutiful extension of the U.S. Government CNN reported on the October 12th nightclub bombings in Bali that “The blasts were ‘the worst act of terrorism in the country's history,’ according to Indonesian police Chief Da'e Bakhtiar.” (6)

Given CNN's poor reporting record, we at MIM Notes are not surprised it thinks 180 or even 400 people could possibly be the worst terrorist attack in Indonesian history. After all, CNN and other mainstream U.S. media outlets ignored almost completely the genocide in East Timor perpetrated with U.S. weapons and blessings that killed over 200,000 people, more than one-quarter of the now independent nation.

In MIM Notes 249, MIM referred to U.S. Government documents declassified about East Timor on December 6th 2001. Indonesia used to consider “East Timor” as a province: “Fully declassified U.S. government documents published on the Internet December 6th

[2001] show that President Gerald Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger gave the go-ahead for Indonesia's attack on East Timor that killed over 200,000 people, over a quarter and maybe a half of the people of East Timor.” (7)

Since 1975, the United States has lied about its role in East Timor. Henry Kissinger was still denying his role as late as quotes obtained from him in 1996 and 1999 and he did not answer a phone call from the Washington Post about the released documents published on the Internet December 6th, 2001. (8) After the genocidal invasion of 1975, Kissinger chastised his staff for preparing a memo on cutting off military sales to Indonesia in line with existing U.S. law. Apparently the staff expected that the U.S. government would be forced to follow its own laws about offensive weapons use. (9) (The United States supplied as much as 90 percent of Indonesia's weapons on the condition that they only be used for defense. (10)) Instead, Kissinger kept the arms pipeline open.

That's not the only six digit massacre of unarmed civilians the United States actively assisted in in Indonesia. We will not mention the massacre of communists of the early 1960s, because this is only a news article and it's too long already.

Smokers should condemn smoking so their children do not smoke, hypocritical as it may be. However, MIM has decided no imperialist country organization has the right to condemn “terrorism” against imperialist country civilians. We mourn the losses of civilians and even young servants in the imperialist military, because they are all sacrificial offerings of the capitalist system, but we know they are being attacked because of the terrorist violence of Anglo-Saxon imperialism. As the New York Times pointed out, the bombers did not attack just any Indonesian nightclub: it was one that had predominantly European and Australian clients, one that turned away Indonesians at the door. (11) Unlike smoking, condemning terrorism by “the other guy” involves provoking other nations and war-mongering. When MIM and the oppressed and exploited bring down imperialist terrorism, we will condemn smaller imitations as well—not before that.

Notes:

1. <http://asia.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/asiapcf/southeast/10/13/bali.reax/index.html>
2. Ibid.
3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/books/asia/mcnamara.html>
5. <http://www.cohums.ohio-state.edu/history/people/grimsley.1/milhis/phil.htm> MIM rarely needs to quote a communist source for anything.
6. <http://asia.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/asiapcf/southeast/10/13/bali.blast.missing/index.html> Article falsely titled “Hundreds missing in Bali bombings: Indonesia's ‘worst act of terrorism’” See also CNN correspondent Atika Shubert say: “And this is by far the worst terrorist attack Indonesia has ever seen, and it could be the deadliest attack since September 11.” [\[asia.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/asiapcf/southeast/10/13/otsc.shubert/index.html\]\(http://asia.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/asiapcf/southeast/10/13/otsc.shubert/index.html\) It goes to show how ignorant one has to be able to tolerate working for CNN.](http://</a></li>
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7. <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB62/>

8. Washington Post reporting on this subject, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A5291-2001Dec6.html>

9. <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB62/#doc4>

10. Reuters, 6 Dec 2001.

11. <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/10/14/international/14BOMB.html>

## Statement by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell

August 9, 2002

Today we are taking another important step in our continuing efforts to combat global terrorism. I am announcing the designation of the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, as defined under U.S. law. I made this decision in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury after an exhaustive review of this group's violent activities.

The CPP, a Maoist group, was founded in 1969 with the aim of overthrowing the Philippine government through guerilla warfare. CPP's military wing, the New People's Army, strongly opposes any U.S. presence in the Philippines and has killed U.S. citizens there. The group has also killed, injured, or kidnapped numerous Philippine citizens, including government officials.

By designating the CPP/NPA as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and publishing that decision in the Federal Register, we impose measures against these terrorist groups in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, which was originally enacted as part of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act. This law makes it illegal for persons in the United States or subject to U.S. jurisdiction to provide material support or resources to these terrorist groups; it requires U.S. financial institutions to block assets held by them or their agents; and it makes representatives and members of these groups, if they are aliens, inadmissible to and, in certain circumstances, removable from the United States.

With today's designation, the number of Foreign Terrorist Organizations is now 34. FTO designations play a critical role in our fight against terrorism and are an effective means of curtailing support for terrorist activities and pressuring groups to get out of the terrorism business. I hope this list will draw the attention of foreign governments around the world to this group and to the other FTOs. I also hope it will encourage those governments to take action, as we have, to isolate these terrorist organizations, to choke off their sources of financial support, and to prevent their movement across international borders.”

# Mayan wars scarred whole continent

Ancient writings of the Mayan civilization appeared recently after a hurricane uncovered some previously covered hieroglyphics in Guatemala near Mexico. The newly translated writings show that there was the equivalent of a “world war” that ruined Mayan civilization in the 8th century.

An attack on the Mayan city of Tikal established in 629 included a scene of genocidal fury and skulls piled up according to the 18 steps uncovered by the hurricane.(1) Tikal struck back and it was Calakmul’s turn to suffer. The war was so intense that authority broke down into smaller localities and certain cities ended up being abandoned completely.(2)

The history of the Mayans and many other great civilizations—including those no one knows about yet—shows that humyns are not “rational” about their war-fighting contrary to common apolo-

gists of the status quo. The Mayans destroyed the great organization of society and cities that they had going. Other civilizations have done the same and with such a ferocity in some cases that we do not know of their achievements. There is no reason for complacency about “humyn nature” and its ability to see through the disadvantages of war.

It is common to accuse communists of believing in a perfect humyn nature. Quite the contrary, it is possible that the humyn-being is so inherently flawed that other species from other planets deserve this planet much more. There is no guarantee that the humyn-being will not commit massive suicide as a species. As a result those calling themselves “communists” and only talking about future events in perfect circumstances of ideal revolution are not scientific communists. The gap between scientific communists

**There is no guarantee that the humyn-being will not commit massive suicide as a species.**

following Lenin, Stalin and Mao on the one hand and idealist Trotskyists and anarchists only gets larger with each passing year.

What we scientific communists are saying is that to take a flawed animal and insert him/her in a profit-system is to make that animal worse than s/he has to be. Looking back on Mayan accomplishments, we see that it’s clear that the Mayans themselves did not adequately

appreciate their own accomplishments and possibilities. Rather than have confidence in their evolving ways of organizing ever larger numbers of people to work together, the Mayans settled conflicts through self-destructive wars.

Today the situation is even more grotesque. The United States spends hundreds of billions of dollars a year on military preparations—more money than the entire economy of most countries—when the solutions to the most pressing problems of the world would cost much less. What is more, there is plenty of slack in the economies of the world that could be used to put unemployed people to work for food, clothing, shelter and other things that make people happy.

Notes:

1. <http://news.independent.co.uk/world/americas/story.jsp?story=334858>
2. AP in [www.sunspot.net](http://www.sunspot.net) 29Sept2002

## ‘Security’ panel misses the point

A panel of former U.S. legislators and “security” experts concluded that the next September 11-style attack will result in “even greater casualties and widespread disruption to daily life and the economy.”

“The more we tighten up on external threats, the higher the risk becomes at home,” said co-chair Gary Hart at a 25 October news conference releasing the report. “We have to face up to that threat.”(1)

Hart is just restating a truth MIM has emphasized since September 11: oppression breeds resistance. Attempts to break that resistance militarily, using broad tactics such as the bombing of Afghanistan or the round up of thousands within U.S. borders simply on the basis of their religion or apparent ethnicity, are bound only to increase the resistance of the oppressed.

Hart’s panel’s take-home message was not that the United States should work to eliminate conflicts over resources or ensure that food gets to 6 million children under the age of five who starve to death. Rather, the panel took it as a given that the United States would and should crack down on “external threats”—that is, make sure the United States has continued access to cheap oil and American farmers keep those farm subsidies.(3) Consequently the United States should increase “security” measures around seaports, energy plants and water supplies.

The panel also endorsed the proposed Department of Homeland Security, headed by former governor Tom “Hang ‘em High” Ridge.

Such “security” measures will not prevent future September 11-style attacks, to say nothing of the violence of poverty and war millions face daily due to the

U.S.-supported status quo. Bourgeois politicians like Hart lack the intelligence to recognize this or the courage to say it. Instead they opportunistically use partial truths to get funding for their pet projects or further American warmongering.

(The report claimed that Saddam Hussein would attack the U.S. mainland with weapons of mass destruction if the United States invades Iraq. The imperialists’ own spy agencies have discredited this claim, saying Hussein has neither the desire nor the ability to launch such an attack.)

Socialism offers the best hope for reducing the threat of war and other forms of violence such as malnutrition due to poverty.

Note:

1. Associated Press, 25 October 2002.
2. LA Times, 16 Oct 2002.
3. MIM Notes 261, 1 July 2002.



## What is militarism?



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

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

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

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

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

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

# Interview with Prof. Jose Maria Sison

your assets. The Government of the Netherlands, where you currently reside, followed suit the next day. Could you comment on the charge of terrorism against you? Why does it come now?

**SISON:** The charge of terrorism against me is pure rubbish. The U.S. government has fabricated it in a vain attempt to demonise and destroy me. It calculates that by targeting and discrediting me with the label “terrorist” and applying repressive measures on me, with the help of other imperialist governments, it can terrorize the progressive overseas Filipinos as well as the people back home in the Philippines. The attack on me is part of the U.S. drive to destroy all the forces in the world that stand up and fight against imperialism.

The United States is the super-terrorist of the world. It has killed millions of civilians in waging wars of aggression and in directing puppet regimes of open terror. It has killed a far greater number of people through the daily violence of imperialist exploitation. Those responsible for the September 11 attacks are former trainees of the United States in terrorism and their acts are small scale in comparison to the grand scale terrorism of U.S. imperialism.

The United States is using the pretext of waging a war on terrorism in order to wage a war of terrorism against the revolutionary movements of peoples and against countries assertive of national independence. A growing number of people are outraged that the U.S. postures as an avenger acting in the name of the victims in the September attacks in order to foment imperialist war and state terrorism and to grab the sources of oil and other natural resources, fields of investment, markets and salient points for military intervention.

**Q:** What do you see as the definition of terrorism? Do you think Bush is using a consistent definition of terrorism? What do you see as the solution to terrorism?

**SISON:** Terrorism consists of willful and systematic threats and acts to harm or destroy the lives and properties of the people mainly and essentially. To show what is terrorism and how to stand against it, we must know the principles, conventions and standards of respect for human rights under any condition and of humanitarian conduct towards civilians and incapacitated combatants under conditions of war.

Bush uses terrorism as a catchall and open-ended term for persecuting, repressing and warring on any entity that is opposed to U.S. imperialism. He uses the word for whipping up war hysteria and fascism within the United States and elsewhere in the world and for actually stepping up war production, launching wars of aggression and pushing puppet regimes of open terror.

The solution to terrorism is the resolute and militant struggles of the proletariat and people to defeat imperialism and all reaction. The only way to get rid of

terrorism is for the people to get rid of imperialism and achieve national liberation, democracy and socialism. Imperialism is super-terrorism as well as the source of or stimulus for lesser terrorists like Al Qaeda and the Abu Sayyaf.

**Q:** Colin Powell also labeled the Communist Party of the Philippines a “terrorist” organization in August. At about the same time, the government of Macapagal-Arroyo declared all-out war on the CPP, taking up a new “terrorist” bogeyman after claiming that the Abu Sayyaf group was defeated. Similarly, the government in Nepal has called the Communists waging people’s war there “terrorists” when appealing for military aid from the United States, China and others. Could you comment on the difference between a people’s war and “terrorism”?

**SISON:** People’s war is the revolutionary mass undertaking of the people for the purpose of national and social liberation. It is diametrically opposed to the counterrevolutionary violence or terrorism of the imperialists and their puppets. The imperialist wars of aggression and the repressive regimes of puppets clearly harm and destroy the lives and properties of the people all over the world.

**Q:** According to the latest reports we have, the Dutch government has frozen your bank account and canceled your subsidies for food, housing, health insurance, etc. Have any other official—or unofficial—punitive measures been taken against you? Members of the Philippine government have made thinly veiled threats against you—for example, that your house might be raided or that you could be deported to the United States. [We even heard the baseless rumor that you already had been deported to Guantanamo.] What do you think are the gravest threats against you right now? What can be done to counter them?

**SISON:** I face several grave threats which overshadow the freeze on my small joint bank account with my wife and the termination of social benefits previously accorded to me as a recognized refugee. I can be subjected to a raid and arrest for the purpose of humiliating and defaming me and even for the purpose of planting evidence and arresting me.

According to certain high officials of the Manila government, the US is poised to extradite me under the US-Dutch extradition treaty by fabricating a criminal charge. Supposedly I would be brought to any US military base, Guantanamo, Guam or Diego Garcia, to make difficult or impossible my access to a lawyer of choice for a long time.

A high military official of the Manila government, who is known to be a CIA asset, has been boasting that Bush is likely to order my assassination by the CIA if I do not push the National Democratic Front of the Philippines to

capitulate by signing a “final peace agreement” prepared by the reactionary government.

What we can do to counter the punitive actions and threats against me is to expose the oppressive and exploitative character of the imperialists, arouse, organize and mobilize more people for the struggle and pursue various forms of struggle.

**Q:** You have said the charges against you are also meant to intimidate “all the panelists, consultants, staffers, and supporters of the Europe-based NDFP negotiating panel.” Can you comment on concrete intimidations panel members or supporters of the NDFP have faced?

**SISON:** The panelists, consultants, staffers and supporters of the NDFP negotiating panel are well aware of the actions and threats publicly and discreetly directed against me. They also know why these are being done. These are intended to put me in a corner and pressure me and thereby begin to put the entire NDFP negotiating panel under duress.

Just consider the intimidating effects on others of the unjust acts already taken against me, such as the criminalization without due process, defamation or demonisation, the consequent threats to my life and liberty and the moral and material damages.

I think that the United States and Manila government actually want to destroy the peace negotiations. They are now doing everything to render impossible the resumption of these negotiations. These brats, Bush junior and Gloria Macapagal, think childishly that they can destroy the people’s democratic revolution by persecuting me abroad and by intimidating the NDFP negotiating panel.

**Q:** We have also noted that the charges against you are meant to have a chilling effect here in the United States. Now, thanks to the “USA Patriot Act,” people who would support even just the publication of the views of yourself or the CPP in the name of a fully informed public debate on something important, say, direct U.S. intervention in the Philippines—such people are meant to wonder whether they will be punished

for supporting “terrorists.”

**SISON:** It is true that the Bush administration is trying to put the Filipino community in the United States under a climate of fear. The Patriot Act and other related acts of the United States read like the fascist decrees of Marcos. The Filipinos and Filipino Americans must review how the Filipino people fought and prevailed against the deadly U.S.-sponsored Marcos fascist dictatorship.

They must work and struggle hard in the community and in cooperation with the people of various nationalities against the growing fascism and violent racism in the United States. In the United States and abroad, Bush is already known as a blustering dumbo. The broad masses of the people are muttering, “It’s the economy, stupid!” The progressive forces, of course, are striving to spread the message that imperialism is the scourge to be extirpated.

**Q:** Moving on. George Bush claims that the United States must go to war with Iraq in order to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). What do you think of this claim? What do you think can best be done to eliminate the threat posed by WMD? **SISON:** It is quite obvious that Iraq does not have the weapons of mass destruction. The United States knows this. That is why it is in a rush to launch a war of aggression in order to grab the oil resources of Iraq and install a U.S. colonial administration.

The claim of Bush that the United States must go to war to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is pure hogwash. His logic and bravado should bring him to war with India, Pakistan, China and Russia. But he will not go to war with any of these countries precisely because they have nuclear weapons. The best way to eliminate the threat posed by WMD is to generate within imperialist countries revolutionary movements of the people that can paralyse the use of these weapons by the imperialists and that can ultimately do away with these upon the global victory of socialism. The people cannot be absolutely safe from WMD until they can do away with the system of the imperialists.



# DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF PROF. JOSE MARIA SISON

MIM Notes asks its readers to send the following letter to the addresses listed below. Please cc: [mim4@mim.org](mailto:mim4@mim.org) or send a copy of your letter to Defend JMS c/o MIM, PO Box 29670, Los Angeles, CA 90029-0670 so that we can keep track of our effectiveness.

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 De-

partment 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 ben-

efits to which he is entitled as a political refugee (monthly allowance, insurance and housing benefits);

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

**Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende**

Binnenhop 20  
Postbus 20001  
2500 EA The Hague  
Tel. +31 70 356 41 00  
Fax +31 70 356 46 83

**Mr. J. G. de Hoop Scheffer**

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Bezuidenhoutseweg 67  
Postbus 20061

**Consulate General of the Netherlands**

9th floor, King's Court  
Building 1, 2129 Chino Roces Avenue  
Makati City, Philippines

## EU threatens to place Sison on its 'terrorist' list

According to the Belgian newspaper "De Financieel-Economische Tijd" (page 34, 19 Oct 2002) Prof. Sison will be added to the European Union list of "terrorists" whose assets are to be frozen. MIM Notes joins with others in asking that protest letters like that reprinted here be sent to Lene Espersen and Bertel Haarder, the Danish ministers who preside the Council of Justice and Home Affairs of the European Union. Please cc: [mim4@mim.org](mailto:mim4@mim.org) so that we can monitor and communicate our effectiveness.

**Lene Espersen** ([jm@jm.dk](mailto:jm@jm.dk))

Chairman of the Council for Justice and Home Affairs of the European Union  
Minister for Justice, Denmark

**Bertel Haarder** ([inm@inm.dk](mailto:inm@inm.dk))

Chairman of the Council for Justice and Home Affairs of the European Union  
Minister for Refugees, Immigration and Integration and for European Affairs, Denmark

**Re: "Anti-terrorist" measures against Filipino organizations and individuals**

Dear Madame, Dear Sir,

On August 9, US Secretary of State Colin Powell announced the designation of the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. He called on foreign governments "to take action to isolate these terrorist organiza-

tions, to choke off their sources of financial support, and to prevent their movement across international borders".

On August 12, the CPP, the NPA and Jose Maria Sison were listed as targets for freezing of assets by the Office of Foreign Asset Control of the US Department of Treasury.

According to media reports, the Dutch and British authorities would already have taken steps to implement the measures as demanded by the United States government. More so, the Dutch government reportedly would ask the European Union and the governments of its member countries to take similar action.

May we remind you that the CPP and the NPA are leading components of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). Over the years, the governments of the Netherlands, Belgium and Norway have facilitated rounds of peace negotiations between the NDFP and the government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP). Prof. Jose Maria Sison is the chief political consultant of the NDFP Negotiating Panel.

The European Parliament has passed resolutions endorsing the peace negotiations between the NDFP and the Philippine government. These are EP Resolution No. B4-0601, 0645 and 0686/97 dated 17 July 1997 and EP Resolution No. B4-1096,1106,1147,1158 and 1160/

value. Politically, the one insight of the film is the inner workings of police departments. A younger scientific-minded cop struggles with the older cops used to doing things the "bullshit" way as they themselves say. There is a rush to judgment by cops pursuing a suspect and the cops nearly kill an innocent man as a result. Meanwhile, there is the political angle with the mayor's office getting involved along with the television media.

The usual question arises of whether crime stems from family problems or whether everyone is a free-floating indi-

98 dated 14 January 1999.

Both the NDFP and GRP have succeeded in forging the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

And now NDFP allied organizations and consultants are being called "terrorist"!

We are also concerned that legitimate political organizations and individuals, including legitimate asylum seekers and recognized political refugees, may become the target of unjustified repressive measures in the guise of fighting terrorism.

We demand that the European Union does not follow the misguided advise of the United States government and refrain from including the CPP, the NPA and/or other NDFP allied organizations and individuals in its list of 'terrorist' organizations.

We demand that the European Union and its member states refrain from any legislation or action that may hinder the legitimate political activities of these organizations and individuals.

We demand that their democratic rights, including the right to asylum, be guaranteed and respected.

Sincerely yours,

vidual responsible for his or her actions. Yet, as usual, Amerikkans obsess over this question without going in any new productive direction. The film points to no real solutions to basic crime and drugs problems but dramatizes one man's problem and solution.

There is nothing to comment on in this movie from MIM's point of view because it has little redeeming value. The acting and artistic form may or may not be OK, but the premise is fundamentally a waste of time.

## Another weekend, another (yawn) cop drama

**City by the Sea** (2002), Warner Bros.

Starring Robert De Niro

Drugs, violence, an experienced cop, his son in criminal trouble—there is nothing much new in this film. A cop has to do his job that leads to his son as a suspect, and he has to help his son. The family versus professional duty angle is old.

The story based on a 1997 Esquire article while realistic has little redeeming

## MARYLAND

## DEATH PENALTY MORATORIUM

by a Texas prisoner

Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening has decided to stop all state executions in his last eight months in office. Though he supports the death penalty, he wants to be sure that it is applied fairly, he says, and not in a racially discriminatory manner. He has appointed a group, led by a criminologist and seven doctoral students, to study how state executions are applied.

If the governor wanted to really find out if state executions are meted out fairly, he should start with the statistics of the Justice Department and the incarceration and execution rate of Blacks, whites, and Latinos, compared to their populace in Amerika.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out simple mathematical problems. The fact that such death penalty moratoriums are in fact progress just underscores the rottenness of a system that sanctioned legal lynchings for decades.

The bourgeoisie sometimes feels a need to speak out on human rights violations—but often in a chauvinistic way. If they were really concerned about killing, the majority of Amerikkans wouldn't support the sanctions on Iraq, which have killed millions since 1991, or Bush's murder of civilians in Afghanistan, nor the detention of "terrorist-looking" people.

If people of "Middle Eastern descent" were brought up on charges under the U.S. Patriot Act and the penalty was death, would governor Glendening declare a moratorium then?

—Edited by MC206

Note: Jet, May 27, 2002

# Israeli settlers: paramilitary ‘facts on the ground’

Jewish settlers in Gaza and the West Bank are both the bleeding edge of the Israeli land-grab and the *raison d’être* for military occupation. Explaining the policy of defending the settlements, government officials have described these people as “facts on the ground.” In building houses, roads and schools for themselves the settlers are supposed to have obviated the question of whose land they are living on — they are there, and now the army must protect them from the inevitable Palestinian revolt.

The settlers right now embody the principal obstacle to peace in the Middle East. Israel’s aggressive policy of settlement makes its refusal to live in peace with the Palestinians clear. In direct violation of international law, more than 200,000 settlers have established “civilian” outposts in the territories occupied since 1967,(1) with an extra thrust of building activities since the so-called peace talks at Oslo in 1993.

Recent settler actions have included a campaign against the Palestinian village of Khirbat Yanoun in the West Bank, which resulted in the villagers’ evacuation. Settlers from the occupation town of Itamar built illegal outposts to surround Khirbat Yanoun. A Khirbat Yanoun resident said: “our problem was not with Itamar until they began setting up outposts near our villages ... Now they have outposts on every hilltop here, and are beginning to build between them.”(1) From their outposts settlers fired guns

and threw stones at the village and people working the olive orchards, assaulted villagers and vandalized property. The conditions got so dangerous that the villagers evacuated, leaving only a couple of men to guard against complete occupation by the settlers. This was the first time any settlers had terrorized an entire community into exile.(2) After the situation attracted international press, the Israeli army (which had previously refused to do anything for the villagers) moved in and promised to protect the Khirbat Yanoun residents if they would return.(3)

The settlers have also become a wedge driving Israeli society apart. Their actions are an open rejection of peace, and it is easy for anyone who believes in justice to see the need for unity against this most flagrant wing of the occupation. A reserve officer in the Israeli army and a leader of the Refusenik movement notes that “guarding settlers has become one of the army’s main jobs. We had more soldiers protecting [a West Bank settlement] than it had settlers.” The officer described cutting down stands of orange trees “to make it harder for people to crawl up to the [border] and sneak through.” Arguing against this policy he asked his commander: “What happens if we have to cut the orchards to a depth of 5km rather than 500m on the grounds that the Palestinians are getting longer-range rockets?”(4) The Palestinian Authority says Israeli troops have uprooted more than 130,000 olive trees since the intifada

began in November, 2000.(5)

The distasteful work of depriving peasants of their livelihood and driving them out of their homes is causing more Israelis to reject military service, even if they don’t take a political stand in doing it. All Israelis are required to do military service, including reserve duty, but according to the army only one-third of reservists showed up for duty in 2001 (most found medical or other excuses rather than refuse outright).(4)

The settlers are doing all they can to turn more soldiers against the war. 90 people were injured when 400 settlers fought soldiers and police dismantling the illegal Havat Gilad outpost near Nablus.(5) An army brigade commander said outright: “We are tired of babysitting extremist thugs and guarding illegal settlements ... They weaken our society, they weaken the rule of law.”(1) In two other demolitions, hundreds of settlers confronted the army, but the troops showed restraint they do not offer the Palestinians and the scene ended without violence.(6)

History has already harshly judged the Christian crusaders who pursued a merciless policy of conquering the “Holy Lands” and slaughtering “infidels.” The Israeli settlers are no different. They are well represented by people like Ezra Rosenfeld of the Yesha Council of Jewish Communities who says: “the last thing we can allow ourselves is to back off on our legitimate claims to have Jews

live in their historical homeland.”(5) All sane people must reject this talk of some ahistorical entitlement of the Jewish people, as if the presence of Palestinians on the land were irrelevant, or at best secondary.

MIM reminds readers that Britain before 1948 and the U.S. mainly since 1967 are responsible for the intractable war in the Middle East. If Amerika in particular could cough up \$100 billion in aid to Israel since 1967, it can certainly come up with the resolve to deny aid to the Israeli settler state from here on, and to come up with a real peace solution, one that involves land and genuine sovereignty for the Palestinian people. We further point out that the war between Israel and the Palestinians is a matter of settling a few million people. It is worth any amount of money and effort to see that this conflict does not continue to feed militarism and strife that could easily end in nuclear armageddon.(7)

Notes:

1. Boston Globe 23 October, 2002.
2. New York Times 21 October, 2002.
3. New York Times 24 October, 2002.
4. The Guardian (London) 22 October, 2002; for more on the refuseniks, see MIM Notes 261 1 July, 2002 and the Refuseniks’ website: [www.yesh-gvul.org](http://www.yesh-gvul.org)
5. Atlanta Journal and Constitution 21 October, 2002.
6. Los Angeles Times 17 October, 2002.
7. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/cong/mideastpeace2002>.

## MIM builds momentum for UC Divestment from Israel

*Continued from page 1...*

respectively in companies that do business with Israel.(2)

The Israeli apartheid state is in violation of 70 UN resolutions condemning it for unparalleled human rights abuses, legalized torture and land theft. In addition to divesting, MIM calls on the University of California to make its investment policy plain and public, and to join the international community in renouncing Israel’s violation of human rights and the laws of nations.(3)

MIM has said over and over that no one is safe in a militarist society, so we call on Israelis and their American supporters both to seek peace with the Palestinians for their own sakes, if not for the sake of humanity. Ultimately it will not be possible for Israelis or Americans to reserve to themselves the “right” to live in domestic peace and safety while they deprive the Palestinians of all basic survival rights. As an Israeli army reservist said of his refusal to serve the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza: “if I’m in the army in the territories, I’m not protecting people here in Tel Aviv. Being a soldier increases the danger to my family here. You have to be blind to think that people under oppression won’t rebel.”(4)

The grinding oppression Palestinians

live under includes a system of pass cards and curfews—much like in South Africa under the pre-1994 Apartheid regime—so that the Israeli army controls the basic movements of the Palestinian people. The constant curfews are onerous, regularly confining people to their homes until they run out of food, and for their inability to get to work they run out of money to buy food as well.(1) These conditions, and the fact that the army does not clearly state when a curfew is beginning and ending, make it impossible to abide the military rule. Since June of this year, the military has killed 15 people for violating curfews. 12 of these were children under age 16. The Israeli human rights group B’Tselem called the killings “excessive use of force” and “a sweeping means of collective punishment,” which violates international law.(5)

One adult and three of the children killed for curfew violations died in Jenin on June 21, when they and hundreds of residents rushed to shops, mistakenly believing that the army had lifted the curfew. An Israeli tank fired on and killed all four. Another adult, a widower with 7 children, was killed on August 11. A municipal electric company worker, he was legally exempt from the curfew, and drove a truck that B’Tselem videotapes showed to be clearly marked as that of a municipal worker.(5)

Just as a military occupation cannot but kill some innocents, “targeted actions”—the name the Israeli military gives its assassination operations—will take civilians with them. Two human rights organizations in Israel report that between November, 2000 and January 14, 2002, the Israeli army assassinated 53 Palestinians, killing 19 bystanders including 5 children in the process. The army also attempted and failed at 11 other assassinations, and wounded a total of 57 bystanders in the successful and failed assassinations. From January 14 through the middle of October, Israel assassinated another 51 people, killing 27 civilians. To carry out assassinations, Israel uses gunfire, missiles (helicopter-to-ground and ground-to-ground), tank fire, and car or phone booth bombs. It would be shocking if Israel did not kill bystanders by these methods. Israel’s High Court has so far rejected to petitions contesting the legality of the assassination policy.(6)

Of course the ubiquity of “collateral damage” extends beyond assassination attempts. On October 13, a Palestinian toddler in Rafah, Gaza, was killed by falling debris during an Israeli military raid. Also in Rafah during the same week, six Palestinians were killed, including two women and two children, and 50 others were wounded, all during a firefight between Israeli soldiers and

Palestinians.(7)

While it was claiming credit in the international press for not responding militarily to a bus bombing, Israel clamped down hard with bans on drilling for water and olive picking in the West Bank. This is the height of the olive harvest, a vital link in Palestinian agricultural economy.(8) The water ban is an even more immediate danger. The head of the Palestinian Water has said that now 225 villages have no water supply other than rainfall (occasional in the winter months, but always scarce) and the black market. “In the northern West Bank, we have no more than three wells. For example, Tubas has only one well for 60,000 people, which means about 12 liters per family per day.”(9)

In October, the United Nations floated a new co-called “peace plan.” For the immediate future, the plan would see Israel retain all the land it had occupied before November, 2000, along with all the settlements and military outposts in the West Bank and Gaza that helped instigate the intifada. The November, 2000 Palestinian borders would be “temporary” for two years. In 2005 a Palestinian state could be established, subject to Israeli conditions on its internal operations and borders. After both Sharon and Arafat rejected this plan,(10)

*Continued on next page...*



# Columbine satires Amerikan culture of violence

by a MIM Comrade

*Bowling for Columbine*, by satirical documentary filmmaker Michael Moore, is better than the documentary that made him famous, *Roger and Me*, in which he bemoaned the loss of Amerikan jobs to poor countries. *Bowling* is also better than his recent book *Stupid White Men*, which was mostly just dumb.

Using the mass murder at Columbine high school and the shooting of a six-year-old by another six-year-old in Flint, Michigan as starting points, Moore tackles the issues of gun violence and murder in Amerika. He makes an argument in three parts. The first is historical, made through a cartoon by the animators from Comedy Central's "South Park." The white settlers who formed the country were a violent, paranoid mob that was shaped in conquest and domination. For them, oppressing others was a way of life, and personal violence was a central part of their identity. They burned "witches," raped and killed slaves, then formed the Ku Klux Klan—and the National Rifle Association—to protect what they'd won. Their savage murder spree continues to this day. He uses interviews with the Michigan Militia and various other gun nuts (including Charlton Heston) to show that whites hypocritically pump themselves up to be heroes, partly driven by their racist fears of Blacks, and now the "war on terrorism."

The second argument is also about white violence, and he makes it through an interview with Marilyn Manson. Manson's music was blamed for the Columbine massacre, because the killers listened to his music and dressed in black. In the interview, Manson also says violence in Amerika results from fear. But in addition to the media hyping crime and violence, the culture constantly tells

people through advertising and celebrity worship that they are not good enough, and never will be. The fear and insecurity drives them to ever higher levels of consumption, and the alienation that results leads to outbreaks of violence like Columbine. One of the South Park creators agrees, saying that kids at Columbine clearly got the message that if they were screw-ups in high school, they would never amount to anything—and if they conformed to all the expectations of them, their "successful" lives would be empty and meaningless anyway. The murders took place right before graduation.

Finally, Moore argues that violence among what MIM calls the oppressed internal semi-colonies results from racism and lack of social support from the state. Compared to Canada, which also has a lot of guns but not a lot of gun murder, Amerika lets its relatively poor people suffer without education, health care, decent housing, and so on, which all contributes to violence. In the example of the Flint shooting, he shows that the Black womyn whose child committed the killing was working 70 hours per week at two "workfare" jobs—which she was forced to do by the welfare reform law. Despite her efforts, she was evicted from her house. That's why she and her son were staying with relatives, where her son (unsupervised because his mother was taking the 40-mile bus ride to the mall where she served rich white customers) found the gun he brought to school that day.

(Under the kind of socialism MIM envisions, jobs, healthcare and education will be guaranteed to all, which will eradicate the roots of all sorts of intrapersonal violence as Moore argues. We differ from the social chauvinists who



often point to Canada as a positive example in that we do not seek to implement socialist reforms for those within First World borders at the cost of continued exploitation in the Third World.)

Moore argues against those who blame Marilyn Manson and video games, by showing that the biggest violent role model in history is the U.S. government. He goes to great lengths to show this, and it's the best part of the movie. For example, he says the day of the Columbine massacre was the biggest day of bombing in the U.S. war in Kosovo, and many civilians were killed when a school and hospital were hit. He goes from there to detail Amerikan wars and interventions from Iran (and Iraq) to Guatemala and

Chile, from Vietnam to Panama, naming the Amerikan-installed dictators and counting the dead. He even shows that there is a giant nuclear missile plant near the Columbine high school, where many people in that town work. To blame video games while all this is going on at the highest levels is just dishonest.

These arguments are reasonable partial explanations for Amerika's gun violence problem. We find the movie to be pretty internationalist, especially compared to *Roger and Me*. We are also glad that Moore does not call for a ban on guns, though he clearly favors much greater restrictions on gun ownership. MIM believes that although private guns are used to kill many innocent people in Amerika, the right to own guns is an important one for resistance against the government.

Moore is a liberal reformist, to be sure, and there is plenty here that is not correct or exciting politically. However, his criticism of Amerikan culture, and especially the hypocrisy of its leaders and supporters, is good enough to warrant a recommendation. Also, there is a lot to laugh at in the movie, which makes good use of juxtaposing images and snippets, and letting politicians and gun nuts embarrass themselves just by talking freely.

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## UC Divestment from Israel

Continued from last page...

the u.s. withdrew to the Israeli corner, saying there can be no peace talks until "terrorism and violence" against Israelis stop.(11)

While the U.S. tells Palestinians to suck up ongoing assaults, it is considering a new request for \$10 billion to help Israel out of the economic rut its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and the subsequent intifada, has caused. A Hebrew University economics professor said that since the current intifada started in November, 2000: "Tourism revenues have halved. Foreign investment has fallen by two-thirds since the start of the intifada [though part of this is the international slide in imperialist economies]. I think nothing will improve until something happens to the peace process." Most of the aid package would go to buying weapons from Amerikan companies, like those the University of California and others invest in. Though the Israeli apologists suggest that letting Israel buy weapons from its own

"defense" industry would enhance the restorative benefits of the aid.(12)

Either way, ramping up Israeli militarism a poor plan for stabilizing the political situation in the Middle East and insuring long-term economic growth. The economics of war profiteering have had their chance and failed big time. In the end opposing the Israeli occupation of Palestine is a matter of standing up for survival rights of the humyn species, not just Israelis and Amerikans—a basic plank in any anti-imperialist's platform. As "Electronic Intifada" website co-founder Ali Abunimah has pointed out: "There is an inability for the U.S. to deal with the objective facts. Five times as many Palestinians have been killed [as] Israelis."(2) The Palestinian people have taken up the struggle for statehood because Israel has left them no options: they can have death under occupation, or make their own history for a chance at survival.

The mounting numbers who are paying

attention to and signing on with the campaign to divest from Israel are our hope for some sanity in this country. Stay up to date on the UC Divest campaign, take up the demands on your own campus, help stop the death march before it's too late!

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

Notes:

1. MIM Notes 269, 1 November, 2002.
2. The Houston Chronicle 21 October, 2002.
3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/cal/DivestIsrael.htm>
4. The Guardian (London) 22 October, 2002.
5. Financial Times (London) 17 October, 2002; Los Angeles Times 17 October, 2002.
6. The Jerusalem Post 17 October, 2002.
7. Los Angeles Times 18 October, 2002.
8. The Guardian (London) 23 October, 2002.
9. The Jerusalem Post 23 October, 2002.
10. The Independent (London) 24 October, 2002.
11. The Guardian (London) 25 October, 2002.
12. The Guardian (London) 22 October, 2002

## Israeli 'Defense' Forces assassination methods

November 11, 2000 -  
January 14, 2002

Gunfire, including snipers: 28  
Missiles (fired from Apache or Cobra combat helicopters): 22  
Ground-to-ground missiles: 1  
Tank fire: 2  
Bomb in car or public phone booth: 11

Source: "Report slams 'assassination' policy," Jerusalem Post 17 October, 2002.

## Harrassment and Censorship in Texas

I have previously reported to you that I am litigating a case against Texas state prison officials for their making arbitrary denials of literature to prisoners. I am scheduled for an evidentiary hearing in November.

On Sept. 1, a new property policy went into effect in Texas prisons. In July, I had put in for authorization to possess legal material that would make my total property exceed the two cubic feet maximum allowable volume becoming effective on Sep. 1. I was told by an official who does the authorizations that as long as my property fit into my oversized storage space locker, I would not have a problem. However, after Sept. 1, I was told something different.

I put in for written authorization to have the "excess legal material" on Sept. 12, but by Sept. 17 I had not received authorization, and my excess legal property was seized. On Sept. 18, I received the required paperwork that I had submitted back, with the notation "Which Court?" I had written [the name of the court] in the blank on the form. Obviously, the officials who are supposed to authorize extra legal property are up to no good.

In struggle,

—A Texas Prisoner, October 2002

**MIM responds:** This prisoner is one of several comrades who are currently fighting censorship in Texas prisons. As MIM's work in Texas prisons — including the campaign against forced labor for prisoners who are sick or injured — continues to gain supporters, and more prisoners read MIM Notes and get involved, we expect more of this censorship and harassment. Watch these pages for updates on the labor campaign and these censorship fights — and write to keep other readers posted of relevant developments in your own cases.

## Excited to learn about MIM and spread the news

Dear MIM:

I greet you today with lots of respect for the movement that you all represent and for the enlightenment that you all are bringing to the people. I'm one who truly knows about the wickedness of the oppressor. I'm very serious about wanting to know more about MIM. I'm also sending you the name of [another prisoner in another state] that I write to regularly and we're always debating on issues that MIM talks about. [This other prisoner] feels that the only ones who are doing something or even thinking about issues of oppression, etc. are inmates. I tried to tell her that the movement goes far beyond these prison walls; that there's brothers and sisters that aren't in prison who can see the struggles and are doing something about it. I would like to show her how true this is. Even though I can't send any money to help I promise you that I'll share all books and newspapers with the brothers around me and she'll do the same with the sisters around her.

—A North Carolina prisoner, September 2002

## Communism doesn't deserve bad rap

Revolutionary Greetings Comrades:

I am in receipt of your [introductory form] letter. . . There wasn't one thing that I didn't agree with in the six pages that were sent forth to me. If that is the being and the great cause of a communist then by all means sign me up. . . Communism has gotten a bad jacket because of the men and women in history who betrayed its system in various times in his-

# Under Lock & Key

## News from Prisons & Prisoners

tory but I'm very much sold on the fact that communism is what the world needs. I'm ready to offer my two hands for the work of the party but I must be educated so that my work is not done to no effect. . . As I read the papers of these imperialist controlled presses I can see where their propaganda can be countered and so when I do come across issues as such I'll save the article and write a piece on the same issue from communist perspective and send it to you. . .

I'm currently in a dorm environment so it would be easy to "spread the news" and form study groups. . . It's also my aim once I'm released and have gathered up some funds to purchase MIM Notes and disperse them to key points.

—A Connecticut prisoner, October 2002

**MIM responds:** We are eager to have both these comrades on board and look forward to working together both inside and outside the walls.

## Illinois: Down with Menard's seg quota

Menard Correctional Centers Segregation Unit consists of one abnormally large cell house, which has the capacity of 490 inmates. Menard had only one major incident this year and there's hardly anyone getting into trouble. So in order to justify using so much space for segregation, the staff issued quotas for each population cell house on how many inmates they need to send to segregation. So the staff sets out to find reasons to place inmates in segregation.

During quota filling time, correctional officers exaggerate disciplinary reports, by writing tickets for "intimidation and threat" because an inmate stared at them too long. Or they charge people with "gang activity" when six or seven people are standing in a small group on the yard. Oftentimes, they can't exaggerate tickets so they talk loudly and curse at inmates to provoke a verbal or physical response. If all else fails, they will utilize the Internal Affairs Confidential Sources procedure, which uses inmate trustees to lie on gang members. Law advocates say that the inmates are planning some outrageous security threat, so that they can lock them in segregation anywhere from 30 to 60 days under "investigative status." I encourage any and all inmates to remain dormant to force the staff here to open at least half the segregation unit's building to the general population, and at the same time neutralize Menard's Segregation quota procedures.

— an Illinois prisoner, June 2002

**RAIL and MIM respond:** The prisoner is correct to expose the everyday injustice as prisonrats use their power to fix their stupid mistakes. Like this prisoner, we also do not encourage prisoners to fight the pigs since they are currently armed and dangerous. The demand to reduce the size of Menard's segregation unit is a correct one. Segregation brings with it such increased suffering for prisoners as sensory deprivation, reduced yard time, highly restricted contact with other prisoners if any, denial of the ability to work, and tighter controls on visitation. All this is in addition to the loss of good time from tick-

ets, forcing prisoners to serve longer sentences before getting the opportunity to parole.

As we point out in every issue of MIM Notes, the size of the U.S. prison population is too big and growing, with more prisoners per capita than any government since Stalin's during World War II and more Black prisoners than Apartheid South Africa. While we work to bring down this system in its entirety, for the short term we look to fight winnable battles that we can win by legal means. Bettering prisoners' conditions now is a good thing. Any honest persyn can see that getting the Menard Correctional Center to stop manufacturing charges against prisoners is a positive reform that deserves support. To express your views to the Warden, write or call (please send MIM a copy of any correspondence):

Warden George Welborn  
Menard Correctional Center  
711 Kaskaskia Street  
Menard, Illinois 62259  
Phone: (618) 826-5071

## Tennessee censorship victory

Dear MIM,

I received this memorandum [from the Warden stating that MIM can send in literature and he will review it]. What do you think about it? Do I need to take further steps or what? When I showed him the brown envelope that was sent back to you, Mr. Warden told me that he wasn't aware of that and that somebody in the mailroom took it upon themselves to return the magazines. He told me that he would personally see to it that all incoming magazines that you send he would make sure they are routed to his office, and if they are in the guidelines of police I would get them. He asked me to hold on to the brown envelope so he could make copies of it, and that he would return it. I let him take it with him. So have we won or do I need to fight on, or are you gonna send the magazines that I asked for earlier? I am sending three stamps to donate to you because I know it costs to send mail. I will try to send stamps every other month.

—A prisoner in Tennessee (WTSP), October 2002

**MIM responds:** The warden at WTSP sent MIM a letter claiming he had no record of mail being sent to this prisoner as well as another one. Both had been sent copies of MIM Theory, which were returned to MIM censored by the prison. After several protest letters from MIM and the prisoner, which included copies of the returned envelopes, the Warden was forced to admit the censorship violated prison policy. Although we reject the idea that educational material sent to prisoners needs to be reviewed by the warden, we consider this a victory over censorship. We will resume sending in literature to the prisoners at WTSP and monitor the situation closely.

## Oregon censorship victory

Revolutionary greetings,

For the most part censorship of MIM material has been stopped! I did pursue the cen-

sorship of MT7, as well as other MIM publications, and Kathy Stevens, and the rest of the administrative assholes in the mailroom bowed down real quick like. MIM will now be able to send any material it publishes itself, however, non-MIM published material will continue to be rejected.

I patiently and triumphantly await MT7 so that I might continue with my education and work.

In struggle,

—A prisoner in Oregon (SRCI), October 2002

## New York censorship battle continues

Greetings Comrades,

I must inform all comrades that on my side of the globe, I continue to struggle in a plight against one of the imperialist system's oppressive soldiers for their confiscation of MIM's publications and the constant censoring of our correspondence. My studies regarding how and what type of legal approach may be used to challenge these oppressor's are coming together well, however, any insight from a fellow comrade is greatly appreciated. the

## 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.

publications confiscated are of May 1, 2002 (MN #257) and May 15, 2002 (MN #258). I will keep you posted on the results.

— a prisoner in New York, October 2002

### Tennessee: Warehousing inmates

The iron fist of Shelby County JustUs system, under which mostly young black men fall prey, conspiratorially warehouses its inmates not only causing jail overcrowding, unfit living conditions, and overlapping trial budgets, but also forces many inmates to serve more time or charges than the actual sentence ranges requires. This entire warehousing process begins with the arresting officers who frequently apprehend so-called suspects and overcharge them with crimes. For example, there are several inmates who were charged with aggravated robbery, when the police reports as well as the circumstances of the charges clearly constitute theft. By the person being charged with aggravated robbery, by the arresting officer, he has to meanwhile be placed in an already overcrowded court system, which if he refuses to 'cop out', he will be given the bond of an aggravated robbery charge and forced to either make an extremely high bond or wait at the rear end of the crowded court dockets until he can contest his bogus charges, which can sometimes begin with months and other times turn into years. All of this can no doubt be simply avoided if the arresting officer properly charges the so-called suspect instead of accusing him of bogus offenses, which wastes unnecessary time and money, and further intensifies court docket and jail overcrowding. The repetition of this process is "warehousing."

One of the contradictions of the warehousing scheme is that on the one hand the criminal JustUs system is successfully incarcerating its prey, young black men, at a record high of 200 to 400 a month. And the courts consequently issue excessively high bonds as well as resetting trial dates off at 6 to 9 months intervals. On the other hand, special courts have been adopted to subsidize the overcrowded dockets and overcrowding of the jail. The epicenter of the contradiction lies with the question is how can court dockets and jail overcrowding be eased when the sheriff's department allows officers to arrest and overcharge suspects with bogus charges (in the name of zero tolerance), which adds to the burden of the courts to clear dockets, property charge, sentence, and close out cases. As the old saying goes..." actions speak louder than words." The only actions occurring are young black men being disproportionately incarcerated, given excessively high bonds, and being forced to reside in the county jail for periods ranging from 2 to 4 years, which is far too long to wait for a trial.

I have forwarded complaints to the new sheriff (Mark Lutrell), the federal courts, mayor and congressman. If there are no broth-

ers stressing these issues instead of 'bucking' about losing institutional 'privileges' not 'rights', then the power of the pen would be more effective. Unfortunately, Shelby County is not only a blatant racially oppressive county, but also shelters young black men who see no benefit or future in becoming politically conscious.

In struggle,

— a prisoner in TN, October 2002

### Incarceration vs. social programs: What should be done?

Over the last two years we've seen deep financial cuts made in every social service here in Washington state. The only exception to this has been the department of correctional operations which got by without having anything slashed and has managed to do so for many years now.

When you've read the facts presented herein you may question whether this is justifiable. If so, we urge you to join with us in pushing for correctional reforms which would result in a cheaper better way of dealing with crime and produce a savings of millions that could be used by people for social programs.

#### Facts

There's a total of 17 prisons in Washington State. Fourteen of those were added since 1980 and we have 15, 000 prisoners presently incarcerated. Along with that, we've seen a corresponding rise in the prison budget. Which is close to 1 billion dollars and one of the state's highest.

No purpose has been served by this because our approach to crime and punishment failed over 20 years to produce permanent decreases in the crime rate. A temporary drop here or there is the best we can point to in any given category. And evidence of this sort makes it necessary to consider new methods which address these problems without a waste of money.

#### Solution

To this end we need to shift the approach we've taken from long term incarceration to crime victim compensation. Reliance on the former has justified big budgets for corrections without producing any real solution. Our emphasis requires a stay in jail or prison until a debt is paid by the offender. Only non-violent drug or property related offenses would qualify under the program but this covers half the inmate population.

This of course makes it possible for you and others to recover your losses any time someone is convicted of those crimes. Once paid, the offender would be free to go because they were punished to the fullest under our laws.

Under our plan, prisoners don't simply sit in prison watching TV when they're locked up. They pay for their crime in a real way that helps both victims and taxpayers alike. By restoring a victims property and emptying cells once their debt's paid off, when a

person's made compensation no one benefits by having them in prisons using up money needed for programs hard hit by cuts in our budget.

We seek to pass legislation making this a law.

— a prisoner in WA, August 2002

*This article was submitted by a prisoner in Washington building a movement for schools not prisons. MIM has been fighting for similar reforms for years and we unite with this battle in Washington state. To get a copy of the MIM petition for this struggle, which is an adapted version of the one developed by this prisoner (reprinted below) you can visit MIM's web site at [www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons](http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons). If you would like more materials on the work this prisoner is doing you can contact him at: Mark LaRue 629174, Washington Correction Center, PO Box 900, Shelton, WA 98584*

**MIM replies:** We unite with this prisoner in harshly condemning the high state and federal prison budgets. And we agree that this outrageous spending on prisons has done nothing to deter crime. In fact, prison building works as a capacity driven system as the incarceration rate has gone up steadily over the past 30 years. As this prisoner points out, this should be no surprise with the concurrent budget cuts to social services. With over half the prison population locked up for non-violent drug or property crimes, with the disproportionate imprisonment of Blacks and Latinos, and with most prisoners coming into the system with little money or resources, the correlation should be clear.

The change to the system of incarceration proposed by this prisoner would be progress for the criminal injustice system because it would reduce the sentences served in prison. MIM would add to this proposed solution that the Amerikan criminal injustice system is behind the problem, not just incorrect sentencing of non-violent offenders, or misplaced spending. This solution does not address the injustice of the entire system, from arrest, to the courts to sentencing to prisons where repression and national oppression are the norm. The same people currently being locked up would still be imprisoned, while the biggest property criminals, the imperialists who steal huge amounts of wealth from the Third World peoples, go free running the country. Prisons would still be used as a tool of social control by the imperialists, even if they couldn't lock people up for the same ridiculous sentences.

MIM envisions a system that would serve the people rather than serving the Amerikan imperialists. As a part of our fight for reforms that will improve the conditions of the oppressed, we need to make clear to the people that without revolutionary change the oppressive system will remain. We must frame our reformist battles in this context as a part of our work to build public opinion.

The concept of retribution also misses the bigger picture. Property crimes are fueled by poverty, and locking people up until they make retribution will not do anything to address the problem of poverty. MIM does not see a way to address this problem under imperialism and this is why we put our work to reform the criminal injustice system in the context of the battle to overthrow imperialism. We work to build a society run by the people for the people. This system, after capitalism is overthrown, is called socialism and is run by a dictatorship of the proletariat. Socialism will still require prisons, but prisons will be used to re-educate those who commit crimes against the people. The goal won't be retribution, though certainly prisoners may be made to work while locked up. Rather the goal will be to create productive members of society who can go back out and make lasting contributions. As a model for this we look to revolutionary China under Mao. We recommend the book Prisoners of Liberation for a more detailed description of the use of prisons for real rehabilitation in China at that time.

### Incarceration vs. education: A stacked Deck

*Evergreen State College \$2,000,000 --  
Prisons \$800,000,000*

We, the undersigned, object to cuts in our educational budget when no money at all was taken from the budget for correctional operations. Based upon the facts which follow we believe correctional reforms should be pursued. And the savings made on this should be used for educational purposes.

There are a total of 17 prisons in our state and fourteen of these were brought on line since 1980. The prison population now stands at 15,000. And the rise in our correctional budget makes it one of the highest in Washington State at close to one billion dollars.

In spite of all this, our approach to crime and punishment served no purpose over the last 20 years. Aside from temporary declines which never last there has been no permanent decrease in our crime rate during this time. And a record of this sort requires us to review alternatives. Rather than spending money to lock up more people, without offering them any rehabilitative services, prevention of crime should include increased spending on education in our state.

In our view there's a priority here which is being over looked. All of us feel our current approach is misguided. And urge you to set us on a better course by pursuing these matters in a different way and shifting money from prisons to education.

Name, address, phone

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## 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.



## ¿Porqué la facción terrorista estadounidense no puede ganar?

### *El MIM saca conclusiones y calcula la trayectoria terrorista*

[Octubre 2001]

El clímax que hoy día se presencia en la historia, aclara muy bien la política yanqui. Según las encuestas, el 92% de los yanquis están a favor de la guerra mientras que el 8% está en contra de la misma. Un solo miembro del Congreso se opone a la guerra. El entero partido Demócrata y el partido Republicano se han unido.

La unidad de los partidos Republicano y Demócrata demuestra que el sistema está a punto de quebrar. La estupidez de los republicanos y los demócratas en el poder saltará a la vista del pueblo de una vez por todas.

En EE.UU., la clase gobernante ha asumido un gran riesgo, del cual tal vez no va a poder recuperarse. Cuanto más dure la alianza entre los Demócratas y los Republicanos, la probabilidad de que el pueblo estadounidense tenga que enfrentar la incompetencia por parte de la clase gobernante en su esfuerzo por lograr la paz y la justicia, será mayor.

La clase gobernante actual va a gastar 105 mil millones de dólares no más para retirar los escombros del World Trade Center. Otras pérdidas económicas relacionadas al terrorismo alcanzan cientos de miles de millones de dólares, mientras que las pérdidas en la bolsa de valores han llegado a los 1.4

trillones de dólares. (1) El dinero que EE.UU. han perdido en el conflicto hasta el momento sin contar los miles de millones de dólares otorgados anualmente a Israel en forma de ayuda militar- pudo haberles alcanzado para comprar la región entera de Long Island con fin de fundar un estado de Israel. Hoy en día, gracias al creciente número de policías federales a bordo de los aviones y guardias de seguridad por todos lados, la economía está brindando mucha seguridad pero menos servicios y mercancías. Esta pérdida de vidas humanas que se desgastan guardando cosas en vez de producir las, es resultado de la incapacidad del gobierno actual para lograr la paz y una armonía económica. Sin embargo, desde el punto de vista de nuestro gobierno actual y el presente sistema económico, estas pérdidas no afectan el lucro capitalista; de hecho, es posible sacar ganancias incluso con establecer compañías de seguridad. Es por eso que los capitalistas no se oponen a este tipo de gastos e ineficiencia. Los socialistas son los únicos capaces de cuestionar si los arreglos políticos actuales están malgastando la labor humana.

En cuanto al caso ántrax, durante las dos primeras semanas en octubre, se reportaron 2300 incidentes de ántrax. (2) El MIM denomina esto como el principio del señuelo ofensivo. El ataque de tipo señuelo ofensivo es particularmente eficaz contra rivales de alta tecnología y gigantes financieros, como es el caso del gobierno estadounidense.

Para explicar porqué es poco probable que una facción terrorista (los yanquis) derrote por completo a otra alegada facción "terrorista" (por ejemplo, Osama bin Laden patrocinado por la CIA) por vía militar, o

porqué es imposible alcanzar aunque sea un cierto grado de la paz mediante una liquidación de la "mayor parte" de otras facciones terroristas, algunos reporteros de la Internet cubriendo el caso ántrax han aclarado cómo funciona el ántrax falso sin que sean captados los responsables de su difusión. La gente compra guantes y evita dejar huellas o su DNI, o compra guantes con 1000 huellas dactilares. Lo peor es que las cartas destinadas a agencias del gobierno estadounidense pueden ser mandadas de cualquier lugar del mundo. Cuando la posibilidad de recibir un sobre con una verdadera amenaza de ántrax es 1 entre 1000, la clase dominante no se las puede arreglar. Por lo tanto, un solo ataque es acompañado por 999 ataques de tipo señuelo ofensivo.

Una falsa amenaza a la Agencia de Protección de Medio Ambiente de Connecticut ha costado 1.5 millones de dólares. (3) Aún con 2300 amenazas recibidas hasta el momento, a la clase gobernante no se le ocurre ser honesta con su pueblo y decirle que es imposible ganar esta guerra y que la única solución viable consiste en tomar pasos hacia una armonía económica y social en vez de dar la bienvenida a la expansión del dominio estadounidense. Es imposible defenderse contra un señuelo ofensivo bien planeado, pero nuestra clase gobernante no alcanza a comprender que aun teniendo las fuerzas militares más poderosas y unos servicios de inteligencia de la más alta tecnología, es imposible ganar a personas que posean armas nucleares en forma de maletines y que implementan tácticas acompañadas por ataques de tipo señuelo ofensivo. Por ahora, los casos de ántrax falso son relativamente escasos. Si los servicios gubernamentales de China y Rusia decidieran mandar a EE.UU. correo con polvo blanco o llevar a cabo amenazas más sofisticadas, ¿se podría imaginar lo sobrecargado que estaría el FBI? Por otro lado, dentro de EE.UU. parece haber cierta confusión. Ya en junio de 2000, una página web sobre materiales peligrosos aseguró que era casi imposible transmitir ántrax por vía de correo.(4) Este tipo de confusión sin duda aumenta los gastos del gobierno estadounidense, y una de las condiciones de la caída de un gobierno es su inhabilidad de conseguir más prestamos.

¿Se imaginan lo fácil que sería bloquear los mecanismos de espionaje con tan sólo establecer redes telefónicas y electrónicas capaces de originar señales falsos? ¿Cuánto tiempo tardarían "los terroristas" a los que el imperialismo estadounidense les está jugando una pala pasada, en adaptar la misma táctica? El uso de esta táctica- el señuelo defensivo - agobia hasta a los servicios de inteligencia de la más alta tecnología. Es por eso que la presente retórica en torno a la "seguridad" e "inteligencia" no puede tener éxito. Cuando los imperialistas prosiguen con sus planes de espionaje, señuelos defensivos aseguran que la mayor parte de la información obtenida sea falsa. Al contrario, el señuelo ofensivo contiene falsa información contribuyendo a que un solo ataque acompañado por 999 amenazas resulte exitoso sin haber sido

impedido.

No es ningún secreto que el estado de Florida tiene una tasa impresionante de desempleo porque la industria turística ha sido minada. Según unos rumores en la Internet, puede que se lleve a cabo un bombardeo de DisneyWorld para acabar con la economía de Florida. Wall Street está aún más horrorizada que el resto de la economía: "Muchos inversionistas están diciendo: 'No vemos luz al final del túnel. No han ningunas señas que indiquen el fin de la presente recesión económica'".(5)

La lista sigue. Por ahora es el ántrax, pero existe un sinnúmero de otras amenazas semejantes, cada una de las cuales será acompañada por señuelos ofensivos o defensivos.

Desde luego, EE.UU. tiene la capacidad militar para matar a todo el mundo, en cuyo caso ya no habrá señuelos ofensivos ni defensivos. Sin embargo, según comprueban los recientes casos terroristas, una economía en expansión requiere un mínimo de colaboración global. Es irónico que los gobernantes de un país dedicado al individuo, no logren comprender que el poder destructivo del individuo ha alcanzado una fase en la que la única posibilidad de sobrevivir y seguir con la expansión económica a largo plazo se plasma en la necesidad del comunismo. "Otogarle el poder al individuo"- ¿Acaso no ha sido este el lema de los fundadores yanquis? Es mejor que tomemos medidas para llegar al comunismo antes de que los individuos que han obtenido el poder acaben con todos nosotros.

El propio ex-presidente Clinton señaló que EE.UU. tenía que reducir el campo que origina terrorismo. Esto significa liquidar las raíces del terrorismo, sobre todo, el terrorismo estadounidense que compone la mayor parte del terrorismo mundial.

Instamos a todo el pueblo estadounidense y a toda la gente del mundo que se encuentra bajo peligro u oprimida por el gobierno yanqui, a que dejen de tolerar la estupidez de los Republicanos y los Demócratas que proponen "soluciones" en forma de bombardeos, "seguridad" o "inteligencia". Estos gobernantes están arriesgando las vidas de ustedes en una guerra que jamás podrá ser ganada, y ustedes no tienen que aguantarlo.

Notas:

1. [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 4Oct2001. "Una semana brutal en Wall Street," [http://cnfn.cnn.com/2001/09/21/markets/markets\\_newyork/](http://cnfn.cnn.com/2001/09/21/markets/markets_newyork/); además, según Edward Said, (<http://www.newleftreview.net/NLR24502.shtml>) a partir de 1967, el gobierno estadounidense ya ha gastado 92 mil millones de dólares en ayuda a Israel.

2. <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel101/mueller101601.htm>

3. [http://www.marketplace.org/shows/2001/10/16\\_mpp.html](http://www.marketplace.org/shows/2001/10/16_mpp.html)

4. <http://www.emergency.com/hzmtpage.htm>

5. <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,36863,00.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 básicos: (1) El MIM sostiene que después que el proletariado conquiste el poder estatal, existiera aún el potencial para una restauración de tipo capitalista, bajo la dirección de una burguesía nueva dentro del mismo partido comunista. En el caso de la Unión Soviética, la burguesía se apoderó del gobierno después de la muerte de Stalin, en 1953; y en China después de la muerte de Mao y del derrocamiento de la llamada "banda de los cuatro" en 1976. (2) El MIM sostiene que la Revolución Cultural en China es la fase más avanzada a la que llegó el comunismo en la historia. (3) El MIM afirma que la clase trabajadora blanca de los EE.UU. es primordialmente, una élite trabajadora no revolucionaria en el presente. Es por esto que no es el principal vehículo para avanzar el Maoísmo en este país.

El MIM acepta como miembro a cualquier individuo que esté de acuerdo con estos tres puntos básicos, 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:

**MIM • P.O. Box 29670 • Los Angeles CA 90029-0670**