

MIM Notes



February 1, 2003, Nº 275

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Massive marches against war *Rallies show movement's promise and pitfalls*

Report: San Francisco

An estimated 200,000 people joined the anti-war demonstration in San Francisco January 18 with a range of political views from liberal-conservative to communist. MIM is glad to see all these people opposing the war in Iraq. This opposition to the massacre of the Iraqi people for imperialist gain is progressive. But we have disagreements with some of the more popular reasons for opposing war in Iraq. And for this reason it is very important for communists to be out at these protests pushing people further in their political analysis, demonstrating that war is an inevitable part of imperialism, and engaging people in thinking globally.

Many protesters in San Francisco held signs proclaiming their patriotism, or demanding focus on domestic issues. One woman's sign read "Domestic issues first, No war" with Amerikan flags attached to the top of the sign. This sign promotes Amerikan chauvinism and an

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San Francisco's rally January 18 was one of the biggest. Photo by Sandra Bradman, sf.indymedia.org.

Report: Montreal

A record 20,000 people turned out in Montreal's bitter cold January 18 (1) to oppose war, as did thousands of demonstrators in nearby Ottawa and Vermont, where temperatures were below zero. MIM handed out copies of the January 15th MIM Notes in Montreal, and the response was so good that a TV news crew stopped by to film the brisk pace in which 1000 copies went to demonstrators one at a time in less than an hour.

By all measures, the rally was a huge and unexpected success. Organizers in an umbrella- group of 70 organizations had originally expected over 2000 people in Montreal,(2) and that increased to 5000

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Report: Washington DC

By a RAIL Comrade

Several Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL) chapters attended the Anti-War rally/march in Washington D.C. on January 18, handed out hundreds of copies of MIM Notes, Collected signatures for the Free Memik Horoz and Defend the Democratic Rights of Jose Maria Sison petitions, sold a large number of "Imperialism Kills" stickers, and put out an internationalist anti-imperialist message that was in general sorely lacking. Organizers of the March said that at least 200,000 attended the rally, countering the bourgeois news, which estimated a mere 30,000.(1)

In general, the message put out by demonstrators

was a perfect fit for the interests of the parasitic Amerikan labor

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Report: Los Angeles

Thousands of people took to the streets of downtown Los Angeles January 11 to protest the USA's war against Iraq. Organizers said 15,000 were there, while the police said 5,000. MIM and RAIL participated as well, passing out newspapers and fliers, and collecting signatures for our petitions against University of California investments in Israel and for Jose Maria Sison's freedom in the Netherlands.(1)

The rally featured many progressive people who oppose the war against Iraq for internationalist reasons. For example, some people had signs that read, "Stop U.S. Imperialism," or, "Hey George, what about these terrorists? CIA FBI INS LAPD Border Patrol" (photo, p. 10). These are progressive anti-imperialist slogans, which make good connections for opposing the war against Iraq. Others in this category include the popular, "No Blood for Oil," which is especially good when it's clearly talking about Iraqi blood; not as good when the implication is, "I don't think we should shed Amerikan blood just to get more oil." This one is good for pointing out the

hypocrisy of Amerikan intervention in Iraq: "Sanctions against Iraq are weapons of mass destruction."

MIM opposes the war against Iraq because, like all acts of aggression by the U.S. imperialists, it represents militarism, causing the deaths people in the

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Maybe the most reactionary sign on display in L.A. January 11 (MIM photo).



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Letters

Chinese reader writes in

Dear MIM: Hello, comrades!

It's the first time I've seen your website: it is very good, thank you! Thank you for deep love of Chairman Mao; thank you for supporting the truth!

—Chinese reader, December 2002

Former prisoner tells of isolation

Salutations! I was recently released from Corcoran SHU and know what it is like in there. I noticed that in your article it says SHU prisoners spend 22 hours a day in their cell, well in Corcoran we spent weeks in our cells! Yard there is offered only every other day. As you might know that there is an A and B side to every block with 64 cells per side. Last year Corcoran put in 26 dog kennel cages for yard per block. Now as you can see with 64 per side total 128 and only 26 cages, one would only get yard every week. That's if your lucky and the guards don't act like punks. There is a need for this issue to be addressed, we tried to bring it up several times and never received a response from the administration. I'm sure you know how they deal with such things. Well, thanks for your time and attention.

MIM responds: We're actively organizing to shut down the Security Housing Units (SHU) in California

prisons. To get involved in this fight visit our web page at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons.html> or write to us at the address on page 2.

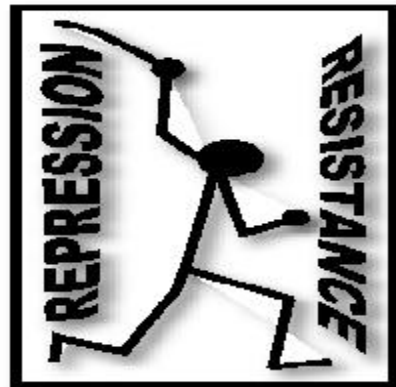
Prisoner salutes SHU protest

Dear MIM:

I was reading about the Berkeley protest in the December issue of MN. That is a bang-up article and very exceptional labor by the comrades. I for one deeply appreciate the work MIM and RAIL are doing to abolish this control and torture units know as SHUs as well as the campaign against the criminal injustice system in general.

I am disgusted by what those idiots commented to the comrade sat Berkeley: "I think torture is good." That mirrors the yanqui weltanschauung and the yanqui position towards the oppressed nations and peoples. And torturing the oppressed is exactly what they are doing!

—a prisoner at Pelican Bay (SHU), January 2003



Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

MIM Notes

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MIM Notes is the bi-weekly newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement. MIM Notes is the official Party voice; more complete statements are published in our journal, *MIM Theory*. Material in *MIM Notes* is the Party's position unless noted. *MIM Notes* accepts submissions and critiques from anyone. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions unless permission is specifically denied by the author; submissions are published anonymously unless authors insist on identification (prisoners are never identified by name). MIM is an underground party that does not publish the names of its comrades in order to avoid the state surveillance and repression that have historically been directed at communist parties and anti-imperialist movements. MCs, MIM comrades, are members of the Party. The Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL) is an anti-imperialist mass organization led by MIM (RCs are RAIL Comrades). MIM's ten-point program is available to anyone who sends in a SASE.

The paper is free to all prisoners, as long as they write to us every 90 days to confirm their subscriptions. There are no individual subscriptions for people outside prison.

People who want to receive newspapers should become sponsors and distributors. Sponsors pay for papers, distributors get them onto the streets, and officers do both distribution and financial support. Annual cost is: 12 copies (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. To become a sponsor or distributor, send anonymous money orders payable to "MIM." Send to MIM, attn: Camb. branch, PO Box 400559, Cambridge, MA 02140. Or write mim3@mim.org.

Most back issues of MIM Notes are available free on our web site. The web site contains thousands of documents, with ordering information for many more.

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UNITED FRONT

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

What is MIM?

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

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

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

Liberals blame SUVs for terrorism

In January the group The Detroit Project bought up TV time to run two commercials suggesting that people who drive sport utility vehicles are supporting terrorists. Arianna Huffington, a syndicated columnist and founder of the group, raised \$50,000 from her readers as part of the \$200,000 it cost to fund these commercials which are similar to the anti-drug ads, sponsored by the Bush administration, that discourage illegal drug use by suggesting money for these drugs goes to terrorists.(1)

According to the New York Times, one of the commercials used the following script: "This is George," a girl's voice says of an oblivious man at a gas station. "This is the gas that George bought for his S.U.V." The screen then shows a map of the Middle East. "These are the countries where the executives bought

the oil that made the gas that George bought for his S.U.V." The picture switches to a scene of armed terrorists in a desert. "And these are the terrorists who get money from those countries every time George fills up his S.U.V." At the close, the screen is filled with the words: "What is your S.U.V. doing to our national security?"(1)

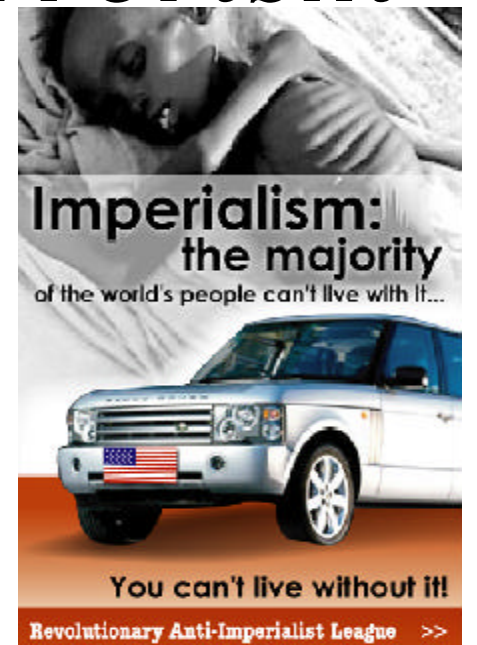
Huffington says the commercials are intended to influence congress to raise fuel-efficiency standards and push the automobile manufacturers to develop more efficient cars.(1) According to a spokesperson for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers SUVs make up 21 percent of auto sales.

Several TV stations refused to run the commercials. One ABC programming director said "There were a lot of statements being made that were not

backed up, and they're talking about hot-button issues."(1) Of course the TV stations don't really care about the validity of advertising statements. Claims about diet aids, hair replacement products, medicines, food products, and political candidates all go unchecked by TV stations eager for the money they get from these advertisers. Nor did station's balk at playing the anti-drug ads which link pot smoking to foreign "terrorists" without proof. But censorship of ads for political content does happen—such as when google.com refused MIM advertisements.(3)

There is a progressive kernel to the SUV ad. Americans often forget that their standard of living depends on the exploitation of Third World countries and the Amerikan government's ability to

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RAIL's take on the SUV situation is different...

Cal. governor increases funding for prisons, cuts everything else

California's Governor Gray Davis announced sweeping budget cuts in response to a huge budget deficit, but after cutting funds from nearly everything in the state, Davis proposed 1% budget increase for the Department of Corrections (DoC). Davis has accepted more than \$3 million in campaign contributions from the prison guards' union, so it is no surprise Davis wants to increase funding for the DoC. This contrasts with his proposed reduction in spending on education: a 4.2% decrease for the University of California and a 4.5% decrease for California State University. (1)

Davis justified the budget increase claiming it was necessary to increase spending on health care for inmates and to support the growing prison population. But as readers of MIM Notes Under Lock

and Key news on prisons know, programs for prisoners, including health care, are practically non-existent in California.

In December The Legislative Analyst's Office made proposals to save DOC money, including letting nonviolent inmates out of prison one month early and releasing nonviolent offenders over 60. The suggestions would have saved more than \$373 million.(1) But these proposals don't mesh with the powerful guard's union demands or the tough-on-crime image put out by the California government—an image that has resulted in a conviction of over 4000 people sentenced to life in prison for non-violent crimes under the state's Three Strikes law.

The guards union has a history of

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Michigan prisoners battle for humyn rights

The Michigan Department of Corrections is reporting another bad prisoners' rights ruling in the 14-year-old Cain v. MDOC class action lawsuit. MDOC's website crow's that "The Michigan Court of Appeals unanimously reversed two orders requiring the Department of Corrections to maintain Prison Legal Services of Michigan, Inc. (PLSM), in an office inside the Egeler Correctional Facility and requiring the MDOC to maintain 12 general population prisoners as PLSM workers in that same office."(1) Previous rulings made PLSM's work harder by effectively reducing its funding. The Cain suit addresses a broad range of prisoners' rights, including access to the courts, MDOC's security classification system, and property rights.

As we go to press, MIM Notes has been unable to find out if this decision is in effect, and we ask readers inside and outside the Michigan prisons to write in

if you have any information on the status of this important case. The appeals court decision came down on 27 December, 2002 and was to take effect on 17 January, 2003 unless PLSM won a rehearing or filed an appeal.(1) Prison Legal Services of Michigan has handled all manner of civil legal aid issues for prisoners, federal habeas corpus and other post-appeal/post-conviction matters, and provided advice on negotiating the prison administrative process.(2)

Cain challenged a harsh new property policy that forced prisoners to surrender any personal property that could not fit into one duffel bag or footlocker. Under this policy the MDOC confiscated prisoners' "excess" coats and jackets several years ago, leaving many prisoners to choose between frostbite and pneumonia on one hand and skipping their yard time on the other. The property

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INS capriciously rounds up hundreds

Hundreds of Middle Eastern citizens were arrested across the country in mid-December as they appeared voluntarily at INS offices to comply with a Justice Department order. About 3000 temporary visa holders from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Sudan were required to appear before the INS by December 16 to be photographed, fingerprinted and interviewed. The vast majority were in the U.S. legally, but the INS arrested hundreds on technicalities. Many of those arrested were waiting for their already-approved green cards—which were delayed by slow INS bureaucracy. Estimates suggest between 500 and 1000 men were arrested in southern California alone(1). The INS refuses to make public the numbers of people arrested.

A similar round-up on January 10 netted "scores" of citizens from predominately Muslim countries.(3) The

next deadline for registration is February 21.

Last summer, Attorney General John Ashcroft issued an order requiring all male noncitizens without permanent residency over the age of 16 from countries "considered a high risk for terrorist activity" to register with the INS. Federal authorities are to interview, photograph and fingerprint the men.(4) The initial list of "high risk" countries included Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Sudan. Ashcroft later expanded the list to include 15 other countries, among them Yemen, north Korea, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The Justice Department removed Armenia from the list after protest.

The INS claimed that those arrested had violated immigration laws, overstayed visas, or were wanted for

crimes. Many of those arrested were victims of delays in processing visa and green card requests after 9/11. Essentially the U.S. made it impossible for immigrants to comply with immigration laws and then arrested them for it. Of the hundreds arrested, the INS reported that all but about 20 were released after days in jail, proving that there was no justification for the arrests. Many of those held reported on badly overcrowded jails and abusive conditions.

Pacific News Service reported "Payam Mohseni, president of the Berkeley-based organization Students for Progress and Development in Iran, traveled to Otay Mesa. After waiting for hours, Mohseni was allowed to interview some of the detainees. He reported that they were deprived of sleep and were sick and near the breaking point emotionally. Mohseni

pointed out that all should be legally entitled to call a lawyer and their families, and receive basic medical care."(2)

Shortly after the arrests there were protests outside the Los Angeles and San Francisco immigration offices.

The February 21st deadline applies to immigrants from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Letters of protest can be sent to:
John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001
Fax: 202-307-2825

Notes:

1. Reuters, Dec 19, 2002
2. Pacific News Service, December 27, 2002, www.pacificnews.org
3. OneWorld.net, 13 Jan 2002.
4. New York Times, 17 Dec 2002.

United States risks war in Korea

The United States recently considered attacking north Korea over its nuclear weapons programs, south Korean President Elect Roh Moo-Hyun said in an interview on 18 January. “In fact, at the time I was campaigning and getting elected, U.S. hard-liners, people in very responsible positions in the U.S. administration, were talking about the possibility of attacking North Korea and the possibility of war.”

“I felt so desperate,” continued Roh. “I couldn’t say in public what would happen if the United States attacked North Korea because that would make people afraid. I then felt that no matter what differences I might face with the United States, I would oppose an attack on North Korea.”

A spokesperson later said that Roh had no specific information about discussions within the Bush Administration and had been referring to reports in the American press. Whether or not the U.S. government did consider a military strike and discussed this with the south Korean government—as is very likely—the United States’ dogged refusal to sign a peace treaty to end the Korean war, the U.S. military presence on the Korean peninsula and its own recent saber-rattling make rumors of war very dangerous.

Last Fall north Korea announced that it would re-start its nuclear reactor at Yongbyon, since the United States had reneged on its 1994 deal to provide power and sign a non-aggression pact. American “intelligence” services claim the Yongbyon reactor is capable of producing fuel for nuclear weapons. North Korea also announced that it was developing nuclear weapons of a variety different than those which could be produced at Yongbyon.

North Korea later withdrew from the

nuclear non-proliferation treaty—which the United States effectively tore up last Spring by announcing it would use nuclear weapons preemptively “in the event of surprising military developments.”

We wrote at that time: It is extremely arrogant and hypocritical for the United States to openly bully non-nuclear nations with nuclear attack and expect them not to take steps to defend themselves.

Even former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara—one of the arrogant fools who led the U.S. war of aggression against Vietnam—correctly criticized the NPR. “[T]he basic implication of the NPR—that the U.S. reserves the right to target any nation [for nuclear attack] whenever it chooses to—is itself likely to increase the risk for nuclear proliferation... A quote attributed to Indian George Fernandes provides some insight: ‘Before one challenges the United States, one must first acquire nuclear weapons.’”(2)

The Bush Administration’s stated preemptive strike policy and its refusal to discuss a non-aggression pact with north Korea—which the United States has technically been at war with since 1950—have heightened tensions in Korea. Together with President Bill Clinton’s admission that he considered bombing the Yongbyon reactor in 1994, it’s little wonder that politicians in north and south Korea are worried about American aggression.

Retreat to attack

Reacting to north Korea’s withdrawal from the non-proliferation treaty and increasing opposition to the United States in south Korea, New York Times columnist William Safire suggested that U.S. troops should leave south Korea—



North Korean propaganda poster. According to Reuters, the caption reads: “U.S. imperialists should not carelessly provoke war!”

so that the United States would be able to attack North Korea and China with greater impunity.

“Because the U.S. is not an imperialist power,” argues Safire, “it does not belong where a democratic nation decides America is unwanted. [This is a sarcastic slam on “ungrateful” south Koreans.] Moreover, our ground forces have never been there to resist an invasion by an army well over a million, but as a tripwire to make certain American air and sea power would be used immediately to help the South’s army...”

“Few realize that this deterrent of the past has now been reversed. After a half-century, we no longer need a tripwire of troops to force our decision to defend Seoul from ground attack; our primary concern is to defend our homeland from

nuclear missiles. We would have far greater freedom of action to take out a dangerous facility in North Korea if our nearby ground troops were not hostage to massive counterattack across the old DMZ.”(3)

Safire wants to be able to bomb Korea with impunity as the United States bombed Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, Iraq, etc. Of course, “impunity” means “impunity for Amerika”—Safire revels in the fact that any war provoked by U.S. preemptive strike will terribly impact the Koreans, Chinese and Japanese but leave the United States relatively unscathed.

The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Korean soil would be an advance—especially if they are forced to leave by pressure from an anti-militarist mass movement. However, as Safire’s essay illustrates, as long as imperialism exists, the danger of war persists. Sometimes retreat is merely the prelude to a bigger offensive.

As long as state power remains in the hands of people like George Bush and Bill Clinton who are willing to toy with war to preserve American dominance and the profit system, the risk of nuclear war remains non-negligible. Even if capitalism were as efficient in making people work as the capitalists say, it is not worth the war that comes with it. Socialism—the system which outlaws production for profit—removes the economic basis for war and removes the risk of “lone nuts” starting a nuclear war.(4)

Notes:

1. Associated Press, 18 Jan 2002.
2. MIM Notes 255, 1 Apr 2002.
3. New York Times, 26 Dec 2002.
4. See e.g. our review of “Sum of All Fears” on page 8.

Rallies show movement’s promise and pitfalls

SAN FRANCISCO, from page 1...

ignorance of the international oppression perpetuated by Amerika on a daily basis. There are certainly domestic issues that merit the focus of our attention, but not first, or to the exclusion of international issues. When the majority of the world’s people are suffering at the hands of American imperialism, we can not afford to put domestic issues first. We have to tie domestic oppression to international oppression and demand no war for imperialism. This is why MIM is a communist party and not a single issue organization: we are able to focus on both crucial issues of domestic and international oppression at the same time.

Anarchists staged an “anti-capitalist” break-away march in San Francisco, joined by about 1000 angry activists who wanted to do more than just peacefully walk the streets while the U.S. prepares to murder tens of thousands of people in

Iraq. While we disagree with their tactics, MIM shares their sentiment of urgency: if we don’t take down the imperialist system soon it may well destroy all of humanity in its war-mongering frenzy. The anarchist “Black Block” contingent ran through the streets vandalizing symbolic buildings including the SF Chronicle (newspaper) office, Citicorp, Wells Fargo, the British Embassy, the INS building and Starbucks. In the end these protesters were dispersed by police with just two arrests. The vandalism included broken windows and graffiti proclaiming “no war.” Some who participate in these breakaway actions proclaim their importance as a way to get media attention, but it is clear that the media paid more attention to the 200,000 people in the main rally. Focoist actions can be spectacular, but rarely involve educational work that will push more

people to opposing imperialism. And in an imperialist country like the U.S., where the majority of the people do support their government and their country, actions such as these are used as an excuse for increase repression against activists.

Tying domestic and international oppression together MIM focused on two campaigns at the San Francisco rally. In the morning we collected signatures to demand amnesty for Professor Jose Maria Sison. We gathered about 75 signatures for this campaign, explaining to people that Sison is just one of many causalities on the so-called war on terrorism. Sison has played an important part in the national liberation struggle in the Philippines, leading the United States to label him a “terrorist.” The United States convinced the Dutch government

to follow suit, jeopardizing Sison’s survival in exile in the Netherlands. (For more information on this campaign, or to sign a petition visit www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/philippines).

After the march started we joined comrades with the Barrio Defense Committee and the Uhuru movement to collect petition signatures to shut down the Security Housing Units in California’s prisons. We erected the mock-SHU that we used in previous demonstrations throughout the bay area, and explained to mostly sympathetic rally participants the need to eliminate these torture units that house thousands of men in California. In about five hours we collected 700 signatures and distributed many flyers and MIM Notes describing the torture units used in California prisons.

Kanadian bourgeoisie, political pundits say: **Kanada should surrender political sovereignty**

Concerned with the poor trade situation and border-crossing difficulties since September 11th, 2001, the Kanadian capitalist class has proposed that Canada surrender on issues such as borders and immigration in order to obtain better business and trade relations with the united States. Currently, the Kanadians are seriously disturbed by difficulties in their soft-lumber exports to the united States and truckers want to see improved and eased procedures for border-crossing.

MIM opposes the merger of the united States and English-speaking Canada, as it would extend the reach of Amerika's reactionary immigration policies.

Recent discussion started with a January report by the "Canadian Council of Chief Executives" representing Kanada's top 150 companies and led by Tom D'Aquino. The organization of Kanadian CEOs is saying that it's not worth arguing with the united States over immigration and security issues. The CEOs would like the border to become an "internal checkpoint," not a real border. D'Aquino pointed out that "The world's largest two-way trading relationship was paralyzed,"(1) after September 11th when the united States virtually closed borders with Mexico and Kanada to search for "terrorists."

One bourgeois mouthpiece rehashing the argument put it this way: "The United States will defend its security through much tougher border controls after Sept. 11. Given Canada's enormous economic integration with the United States, we need to be within those borders, or risk our standard of living," says William Thorsell writing for the *Globe and Mail* on January 20th.(2)

In order to get on the good side of Uncle Sam, the Kanadians have realized that they can only offer doing things Uncle Sam's way: "we hear calls from Canadian business for a common security perimeter around North America, fleshed out with a common customs union. We presume that, in return for some shared laws and enforcement at North America's border, the Canada-U.S. border would become much more casual,"(2) says Thorsell. That means "joint patrol" of the borders so that the two sides both know what is happening and can trust each other's judgements, since their policies will be one and the same.

Thorsell adds, "Many Canadians live part-time now in the United States and have family, friend and love interests there. Beyond economics, an officious, viscous border is incompatible with the human relations that span it so robustly. A "checkpoint border" would reflect more accurately who we really are in North America, not just what we want to earn. And in any case, no one in Canada should be under an illusion that our domestic security interest is separate from that of the Americans. As Osama bin Laden remarked himself in December, it isn't."(2)

Contributing to the weak-knees of the Kanadian bourgeoisie is the relative success of the European Union, which has adopted one currency and in many regards already has very casual borders internally. It would seem to some that the rest of the imperialist world is amalgamating while Kanada allows itself to fall behind in the game of economic alliances to promote economic competition.

A likely future prime minister and

friend of George Bush named Paul Martin says that the old way of doing things is sufficient in Kanada. Martin says Kanada must increase cross-border cooperation on terrorism, but that the border works and allows trade.(3)

Political reality is that the u.s. imperialists would not integrate with Mexico the way some Kanadians are suggesting that Kanada and the united States merge. Nonetheless, some of the pro-business wing have suggested that Kanada put forward proposals to unite Mexico, the United States and Kanada in one customs union. Although such proposals would make the united States seem outnumbered two to one and might assuage Kanadian national feelings, however weak they may be, the net effect of such proposals probably just softens Kanadian public opinion for U.S. takeover. Nothing is liable to happen on the Mexico front any time soon: "Mexico would be invited to join the Canada-U.S. pact but not for some time because of security concerns."(4) MIM will translate: the united States is too busy super-exploiting Mexicans and does not deign to treat them equally with u.s. citizens, as would be necessary with the easy border-crossings proposed by the Kanadian CEOs.

One possible scenario would see English-speaking Kanada push for Anschluss with the united States (as openly threatened by one young reactionary pundit supporting the Republicans on the TV show "Crossfire," when teased by a Kanadian about spending so much time reducing freedoms in order to hunt "terrorists.") Then Quebec may fall away into its own nation and the First Nations would also

step up their struggles for their interests.

As MIM showed in "Kanada knows it is Amerikkkan," in the October 15th, 2002 MIM Notes, 80% of Kanadians do not believe they have any cultural difference with the united States. Yet despite this fact, almost all parties calling themselves "communist" believe that Kanada is a separate nation while there are no separate Black, Aztlan, Asian-descended and First Nations. Again, we at MIM ask these people: why do you see a separate Kanadian nation and premise separate vanguard parties on that basis, but you do not see any for the peoples of color historically oppressed by the dominant nation in North America? Material reality shows that there is less basis for seeing an actual Kanadian nation than for the First Nations, Black, Aztlan, Asian-descended and other nations inside North America. The Kanadian bourgeoisie could easily pack it in, especially after another round of terrorist attacks and border clampdowns by the united States. The Kanadian bourgeoisie faces much less difficulty than that of the oppressed nations when it comes to handling the united States.

Notes:

1. National Post 17Jan2003, <http://www.nationalpost.com/financialpost/story.html?id=%7B3447E83E-4170-45E9-A104-DF45D8304163%7D>.
2. *Globe and Mail* 20Jan2003, p. a15.
3. David Crane, "How would Martin safeguard our independence?" http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1035776770719&call_pageid=968350072197&col=969048863851
4. Oliver Bertin, "CEOs urging stronger ties to U.S.," *Globe and Mail* 15Jan2003, p. b3.

MONTREAL, from page 1...

(3) the day of the rally, but there were many more. What was also impressive was that given the temperatures, old and middle-aged citizens of the stolid middle-class showed up and marched quite a distance after listening to speeches. Organizers said it turned out to be the largest rally since the Vietnam War more than 30 years prior.

The current reporter took a first glance at the rally and thought only 800 to 1000 people had shown up, but that was a result of seeing only one street corner side of the rally. In fact, once the rally started marching it became clear that the demonstration was a whole street wide and several blocks long. By standing on the side of the road and handing out to the people on the far right side of the column, in a small portion of the blocks-long column, MIM gave out 1000 copies of MIM Notes in less than an hour.

The favorite slogan of the marchers was "no to war!" chanted in French. There were some others as well. One clever slogan in English was: "George Bush, we know you: your father tried to kill us too!"

There was also a song modeled on the children's song "Happy and you know it." "If you love democracy, don't go to war. If you love your liberty, say no to war."

Whether it was a misunderstanding of French-speakers singing English or whether it was some very radical protesters, we heard another version criticizing "democracy." "If you love democracy, then go to war."

As at the Boston demonstration where MIM ran it's own poll, the "moron" question was thick in the air of the Montreal demonstration. (An aide to the Canadian prime minister had to resign for calling Bush a "moron" in private.) After seeing us hand out the paper, which is in English, one demonstrator wanted to make sure "moron" meant what he thought in English. Many people turned away MIM Notes and asked for our newspaper in French. We were sorry to say we could not provide it; although, our web page is making promising strides in French.

One undercurrent in the rally pitted Quebec's French-speaking nature against the Canadian government. Many people carried flags linked to the French royal

imperial past that appear throughout Quebec as the provincial flag since 1948. At that time, the current flag replaced one that carried the British Union Jack of colonial times. Hence, carrying the Quebec flag at an anti-war rally at a time when England is the leading pro-war ally of the united States has political meaning.

A poll shows that 62% of Kanadians believe they should support the U.S. war effort only if approved by the United Nations. 18% believe that the government of Canada should not partake in the war against Iraq even if the United Nations approves while 15% believe Uncle Sam deserves support even if the UN does not approve the war.(4)

18% of Kanadians named war as the most important issue that should be on their minds in international relations. Pundits believed that trade with the united States should be higher in their thoughts. Only 31% of the Kanadian public believes there are good relations between Kanada and the united States. The rest said poor or neutral.(5)

36% of Canadians have concluded that the united States is the world's most dangerous threat to peace. 21% said Al

Qaeda, 17% Iraq and 14% northern Korea. 11% said "don't know."(6)

Some Montreal newspapers did not put the rally on the front page or page two or three despite its size. The *Gazette* placed the rally across the top. Likewise, the *Boston Globe* and *Boston Herald* ran anti-war protest stories on the front page as their lead stories. The *New York Times* put a photo of demonstrators on their front page. It's safe to say that the word is out all around the globe: there is a vocal minority in the imperialist countries which opposes Amerikan war machinations against Iraq.

Notes:

1. The *Gazette* 19Jan2003, p. 1.
2. Jennifer Jett, "In fighting for peace, they prepare for war," *McGill Tribune* 14Jan2003, p. 4.
3. The *Gazette* 18Jan2003, p. 1.
4. Gloria Galloway, http://www.globeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/PEstory/TGAM/20030118/UPOLLN/national/national_temp/6/6/28/
5. <http://www.canoe.ca/LondonNews/lf.lf-01-19-0025.html>
6. <http://www.ctv.ca>

An Oklahoma execution

They're going to kill someone tonight. We can always tell. They lock up their service inmates and retreat into the darkness of their control lair. They leave one guard to twiddle his thumbs before the empty monitors. The others strap on armor and grab their beat-sticks and attack-gas, on their way to menace the people maintaining a candlelight vigil near the front guardtowers.

The media vultures are easy to see from here. Their elephantine motorcoaches form an orderly herd in the guards' parking lot. Their microwave dishes like ears and their satellite transmission guns like trunks — all point at the heavens as if in worship. The newstalkers with their camera crews and microphones far outnumber the protesters; they take turns backing up to the prison's official sign to give their reports of impending death to an audience that couldn't care less.

Execution is mostly just for show, to validate the politicians' "get tough on crime" rhetoric. From our point of view, they've always been tough on crime. Every year millions more man-hours are wasted so they can profit off taxpayer subsidized slavery.

— an Oklahoma prisoner, 27 August, 2002

Parole board harasses prisoner for political views

I recently received evidence that the parole board have been collecting some of my published writings in the Philadelphia Daily News. Believe it or not, they read one such letter concerning my opinions on Afghanistan to my mother. They were supposed to be checking her house for approval as my residence if released. However, the parole agent used the occasion for intimidating me through my parent!

—A Pennsylvania prisoner, October 2002

NC prisoner urges: use the system for what it's worth

Have we all heard of Huey Newton? He was a leader and one of the most influential people of the Black Panther Party. Huey Newton instructed his comrades that when the police arrest you and ask your name to state "6th Amendment." If they ask anything else to state "Lawyer," and then don't do any more talking until you get to a phone. Also, have we all heard that now famous saying "I plead the 5th?" well this famous saying that we oppressed now know so well was made known to us by the powerful effects it had on a murder trial. Yes, Huey Newton's murder trial.

The reason I've stated the above is because I feel that Huey Newton understood that one level of struggle that also has to be fought is our right for our Constitutional rights. Because of the simple fact that you were born in the United States, there are certain rights that you have. Or shall I say "are supposed" to have. For example, prisoners have a 1st Amendment right to be free from all unnecessary "censorship." What this means

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

is an issue that you can take to court. Letters are good. In fact I personally write every state official, from the warden to the governor when I believe I'm being violated, But I also give them ten days to respond. After that, it's court time. No more games, no more run-around. Let's get a lawsuit going and see what a judge has to say about this.

I think the time is now for us to unite inside the Federal courts and the state courts of this country, in the effort to bring our oppression to the Supreme Court. I have learned that a judge's order sounds a little louder than the voice of a prisoner's letter to these slave masters. It's up to us to learn our Constitutional rights, and how to access the courts. We are men, and there are no handouts in this oppression. Not being smart enough is an excuse, but not a reason. I started off with a regular dictionary to learn words. One thing leads to another as long as you believe in yourself, and your fight.

We don't even have a Law Library in North Carolina. We have to depend on state-appointed lawyers, who are only the same as the oppressors. But me and my comrades learn from them. We don't listen to them like a slave; we study them like students, and use what we learn for ourselves. This is what must be done. Some of you have law libraries. Study them and memorize the knowledge. Spread the knowledge around to others and make others leaders. Not having money doesn't matter either, because as long as you follow the rules and laws of the court, a lawsuit can go with the fees being waived. But you can't play games with this.

I know what you are thinking; how can I get the system to help me against the system? The answer is the same way John Brown and other whites helped Blacks to escape from and end slavery. There are a few judges who will rule in favor of prisoners and they may be few indeed. But it's up to you to use your paper and pen to find them. The state of our oppression outweighs how hard it may be to find a good judge. I say let's unite on this constitutional front, working together as comrades, and start the fight. There are a few out there that will help.

I have two addresses that I would like to share with you:

Lewisburg Prison Project

PO Box 128

Lewisburg, PA 17837-0128

Prisoners Self-Help Legal Clinic

35 Halsey St, Suite 4B

Newark, NJ 07102

These are the cheapest people I know of on the East Coast. Write them for a free catalog on prison Constitution material. Also find out knowledge about Federal and State civil procedure in your area. Spread this knowledge around with others and unite to fight. It is time and we must act now.

In the words of MIM "we need to use the system's laws to our favor whenever

possible." I say "Right on!" and it's damn well time. May the oppressed and poor rise up and become winners on all fronts. Power to the struggle.

—a prisoner in NC, October 2002

A prisoner's responsibility

Why is political stagnation such a huge factor in the ghettos across the U.S.? I've pondered this question heavily many times. It seems that since the ghettos are the places where political concentration is needed the most, the peoples of these areas should be more politically conscious than any other class. Unfortunately, a percentage of people living in the ghettos work so much that they feel as though there is no time for anything else but sleep. There are also those who work in the streets (hustlers) as a means of livelihood and see no benefit in revolutionary political struggle. And even worse are the unemployment and welfare recipients who (many of them) are so dependent upon the aid of the U.S. government that anti-imperialism and capitalist resistance go far beyond their minds causing them to regard political struggle more as a curse than a possible cure to the illness of poverty, in which they find themselves permitted.

What is the best way to reach the workaholic, the street hustler, and the welfare recipient (who dominate the U.S. ghettos and are mostly minorities) when the majority of them either feel they lack the time or interest in revolutionary political struggle? Many prisoners across the U.S. for example just by their condition of incarceration, begin harboring enmity against the U.S. government. This enmity harbored in the hearts of prisoners can be seeds of revolutionary political struggle if properly nourished. The social class in which inhabitants of the ghettos find themselves plants seeds of revolutionary political struggle in their hearts. However, in most cases these seeds are not properly nourished and as a result don't grow. Revolutionary and political stagnation in the ghettos help perpetuate the existence of ghettos. Until the existence of ghettos (in the eyes of ghetto dwellers) became as loathsome as epidemics are, they will perpetuate their own stagnancy as well. Convincing poor peoples of this country that they aren't truly free citizens isn't as hard as convincing them that anti-imperialism: protests, demonstrations, resistance, and ultimately revolution, is the solution to the social grievances that afflict this nation. They must understand the ultimate benefit of revolution as much as they understand the concept of heaven and hell.

Power is in numbers and the number of peoples dwelling in the ghettos across the U.S. is in the millions. Wherever there are millions of politically inactive people under

democracy there is a grave oppression operating in full swing. For comrades in prison who are about to re-enter society (many of whom will be living in ghettos), you will be among the best qualified in reaching peoples of the ghetto and helping dissolve the political stagnation amongst the destitute.

— a prisoner in TN, December 2002

Cal. tries to take more of prisoners' money

To MIM and all other parties concerned in the California Prison System. It has recently been brought to my attention that the CDC will be holding a meeting on Jan 14, to decide on a proposal to raise our already too high restitution from 22% to 33% effective immediately with an increase to 55% by July 4th 2004! As the current circumstances already stand at 22%, if our families send us a money order for, lets say for example, \$50, after the CDC finishes punishing our families, we're left with \$39. Now once it's raised to

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.

55%, if our loved ones send us, for example, \$100, once again after the CDC pulls its hand out of our families pockets, we'll be left with \$45. Not only is it already appalling and absolutely immoral to punish our families for our convictions at 22%, any amount for that matter, but to raise it to 55% is sickening! This issue needs to be addressed at all levels and opposed from all directions and means collectively! We can start by directing our opposition to the address below.

—a prisoner in California, December 2002

Being a resident of this dungeon I feel it my duty to bring it to your attention a new development concerning "Inmate Restitution". Currently we have deducted from monies on our inmate accounts 22%. 20% for restitution and CDC charges us 10% of that 20% for "administrative fees." Which totals 22%. A proposal was put out November 22nd to raise this percentage to 33% and by 2004 to 55%. If I was to get \$100 put on my account I would only get \$45 in the end. That is insane, especially since the majority of individuals get allowances of maybe \$20 a month.

The icing on the cake is the 10% administrative fees that CDC deducts in addition to the 20%. No wonder they would emphatically support the perpetual increase of the percentage of restitution to its max of 50% because instead of \$20 of every \$100 they will now get \$50 if the proposal is passed.

—a second prisoner in California, December 2002

Protests of the new Inmate Restitution proposal can be sent to:

Rick Grenz, Chief Regulation and Policy Management Branch

Department of Corrections

PO Box 942883

Sacramento, CA 94283

Phone: 916-322-9702

Cal. comrades fighting censorship, organizing behind the bars

Greetings in solidarity comrades! Although in its initial stages, MIM Theory Journal 2&3 (Gender and Revolutionary Feminism) was denied me, in the end I prevailed. I interjected Departmental rule 3004(c) and in so doing overcame what appeared a defeat. I am looking forward to chapter's #1 thru #8. It will take me some time before I digest this double issue. Currently I am in possession of 9, 11, 5 and now 2/3. I am well on my way to a compilation of all MIM Theory journals. I

am making them available for others to check out. I am awaiting the MIM Notes papers for Nov-Dec. I look forward to using them as a topic for discussion. I then can, upon sparking interest, turn them [other prisoners] on to the journals. I am in the process of compiling a pamphlet to send you about the SHU and I will work on sending ideas for flyers.

— a prisoner at CSATF, Corcoran CA, January 2003

MIM replies: We print this letter as an example of organizing work we need our prisoner comrades to take up. In the past month MIM has seen a sudden increase in censorship in California prisons. It is no coincidence that this comes at a time when we have stepped up our organizing both behind the bars and on the streets in the form of campaigns against the Security Housing Units (SHU) and the Three Strikes laws, among others. MIM Theory was denied to this prisoner at CSATF in Corcoran while the What is MIM pamphlet was denied, labeled "contraband", at CSP SAC in Represa, and a Mao book and MIM Theory journal were denied at CSP in Imperial. All of these censorship cases are being pursued aggressively by our comrades behind bars, and we invite others in California having similar problems to bring this to our attention and we will provide you with a copy of the appeal successfully filed by this prisoner.

We also commend this comrade for taking up organizing in his prison by sharing his newspapers and theory journals, using the papers as a basis for discussion and then encouraging others to read the theory journals for more in depth analysis. This kind of education, along with the work to write pamphlets and flyers about topics Under Lock and Key helps us build successful campaigns.

Corruption in Cal. state prison

Corruption at California's state prison, S.A.T.F. in Corcoran (New Corcoran State Prison) continues unchecked despite inmates' efforts to expose and stop these practices of corruption. The inmate grievance system in California's prisons contains many problems. Most of these problems with California's prisoner grievance system are created by corruption in administration and staff that maintain these prisons. These types of corruption include complaints being lost or meeting with long delays (caused by the complaints being buried in bureaucratic red tape). Many complaints are even rejected or the inmates are denied access to the inmate

The Museum of the Solitude From the Walls

by a New York Prisoner

We vegetate
in their plunder of life
our humanity
seasons of bitter legacies
of the festering wounds
we are empty frames
victims of stolen by
centuries of injustice
that history mandate we defy
we exist timeless
in this museum of the solitude
from the walls, walls that laugh at
the sunshine and love, they defy!
we are the wounds of the humanity
lost by the Eagle's Policemen.

We are prisoners of America
which has never been a democracy;
America, a victimizing lie!
we exist in timeless



festering wounds of
dehumanizations
in this museum of the
solitude
from the walls,
our lives are its frames
without pictures.
In solitude suffering is
anonymous.

the rich earth of our memories
of beauties are dry!
so painful are memories full of tears
that cannot cry.

We look for a butterfly, a flower, or
for
a bird flying in its beautiful garment
of freedom in a sun-filled sky.
but we see nothing but another wall
full of timeless solitude
and we die a little more, in the screams
of our lives in our desolate eye!

grievance system.

Many of these grievances concern living conditions, but the grievances can vary greatly. Some of these grievances involve staff corruption such as staff assaults on inmates, illegal prison conditions, and oppressive action by prison administrators. Some prime examples of administrative corruption in SATF/State Prison in Corcoran happened in early June of 2002. The prison administration on a high security yard let rival gang members with administrative created tension into dayrooms and recorded with cameras the use of a new experimental rubber shot (for 35mm guns) on these inmates and repeated this experiment a few days later. Staff assaults on inmates at this prison are usually covered up by charging the involved inmate with battery on staff and placement of that inmate in administrative segregation. The prison administration very often will place segments of non-involved inmate population on long lock-downs as a punitive reprisal against that inmate group, even when there are no safety concerns in that prison yard. These inmates are confined to their cells for months at a time with no exercise yard, or other basic necessities like receiving monthly purchases of cosmetic items such as soap, shampoo, and deodorant. These illegal activities by prison officials go unabated because the prison administration controls the inmate grievance system. Therefore, it can be very difficult for prison inmates to call attention to these illegal

practices.

Some prison inmates at SATF/State Prison in Corcoran tried to stop this corruption by the prison administration by writing letters but to no avail. Prison inmates have little recourse and letters to California's Inspector General or to state assembly members usually produce no results. The only recourse left to these inmates is to instigate legal litigation in form of civil suits and petitions for writs of habeas corpus.

— a prisoner in California (SATF), December 2002

What is internationalism?

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

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

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

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

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

Facts on U\$ imprisonment

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

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

To find a comparison with U.S. 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.

Sum of All Fears is indeed frightening

Latest Clancy actioner unintentionally exposes stupidity in the bourgeoisie's attempts to control nuclear weapons

Sum of All Fears, 2002

PG-13

123 minutes

reviewed January 2, 2003

This film came out last summer and has already been released on video. We're running a review now because of its relevance given all the Bush administration's pretensions about eliminating the threat of nuclear weapons in countries like Iraq and Korea.

A young and new CIA analyst saves the world from nuclear destruction in this largely realistic drama. What this film is lacking is a sense of just how often the CIA and the U.S. Government generally think they are going to have to chase after individual weapons of mass destruction.

Whether it is the arms-dealer of the week paying nuclear-scientists or whether it is the country of the month—Iraq, Korea inspections etc.—the current U.S., British, French, Russian etc. approach is doomed to lethal failure, if not with nuclear weapons, then with some other future or past weapon invented through the wonders of capitalist science. We can count on capitalism for progress in destruction.

Aside from having to assert himself in the corridors of power at an early age, in order to save the world, the character Jack Ryan has to fly and boat back and forth between the DC/Baltimore area and Russia and Ukraine. If he did not bail out his operations colleague in a pistol fight, if he did not survive having a chain placed around his neck to choke him, if he had not survived a helicopter crash in a terrorist nuclear bombing and if he did not find his boss the CIA director just as he died to take his identification for illegal use, Ryan would have failed and the world would have ended in nuclear war between Russia and the United States. The sad part is that the rulers just do not know or don't care that there is something wrong with that. They see a happy ending.

The bourgeois politicians in the film and in real life speak in generalities, but they cannot come up with a solution for weapons proliferation. The capitalist authorities' approach is a lot like their approach to crime in general—spying on individuals and trying to catch people. That's not surprising, because the premise of the movie is a black-market nuclear weapon lost in a Mideast war in 1973. For \$50 million, neo-Nazis obtain the weapon.

It's hardly relevant that it was neo-Nazis seeking to play off Russia against the United States. The point is that in a world with a black market and money as the legal monarch, someone was going to buy and sell nuclear weapons. It speaks to just how bold the solution has to be, yes, an extreme solution, but much less

extreme than waiting for nuclear or other catastrophe.

Although the Tom Clancy novel is great apologetics for the CIA, on the whole, the "Sum of All Fears" succeeds in adding just another degree to the political temperature in Amerikkka. Published in 1991, the book seems especially relevant thanks to the response to September 11th, 2001.

Neo-Nazis ship the bomb to Baltimore and succeed in detonating it there in what appears to be a cigarette machine. Since the nuke is supposedly smaller than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and since smoking kills over 400,000 Amerikkans a year, it's not entirely implausible that smoking kills more people, and that may have been part of the symbolism. It turns out the nuke was "made in the USA" anyway when the CIA stole plutonium to give to I\$rael, which then lost the nuclear weapon in the midst of the 1973 war.

Even though the story centers on readily identified centers of power—the CIA, the U.S. president—the film is politically ambitious. We suspect that it left a large part of the audience behind, including some reviewers who we will not mention by name.

The outcome of the whole movie relies on knowing who detonated the nuclear bomb in Baltimore. That is a great subject matter; even though, we do not agree with the answers being killing the communists and listening to the CIA instead of CNN, the State Department or Pentagon generally. Those are just details really.

If the bomber of Baltimore turned out to be Russia, then the United States was going to retaliate in a general way. The movie succeeds in portraying the logic of escalation of war. As in the movie on the Cuban Missile Crisis "Thirteen Days" based on government documents, we see that not all aspects of the crisis go according to the rulers' plans. Neither Kennedy in "Thirteen Days" nor the Russian president in "Sum of All Fears" has total control of their militaries. Such an idea of total control is fantasy in any case, except in bourgeois-written idealist history where only a handful of individuals matter. In contrast, we see in this film that an air force officer easily convinced his men that Moscow had been nuked by the united States: he then ordered them into attacking a U.S. aircraft carrier. The fact that the world is not of one mind, including in the respective militaries is one part of the benefit of this movie.

People that the united States usually considered very suspicious in Russia turned out to be the real "good guys." Shadowy forces kill the military officers in Russia who go off on their own tangents in Chechnya and the aircraft carrier attack. The author labels the errant officers as old-style "communists" in Chechnya and corrupt officers bribed by neo-Nazis in the aircraft carrier attack, but all that is besides the point in weapons proliferation when the whole

point is that it could be anybody with money.

In fact "back channel" communications with shadowy Russian forces prove to save the day while political hotheads in the u\$a and Russia bring the planet to the brink. Without a CIA director to clear the way for him, Jack Ryan used the back channel communications to Russian intelligence to understand what was happening and to get the job done. Other departments of the U.S. Government hardly listened to Ryan and they called him an "apologist" for the Russian president. He actually succeeds in convincing his own president by convincing the Russian president first, because the U.\$ president had shut Ryan off, literally. It goes to show that truth does not have a nationality, and just how important that could be.

The chasing-drug-dealers-and-murderers-paradigm for arms proliferation will not work. Our ruling class has not noticed yet, but individual murderers and drug-dealers get away all the time, especially those in the ruling class itself. In contrast, even one weapon of mass destruction can bring down the species if it is powerful enough to ruin the atmosphere or if it sets off certain suspicions and chains of events in a world brimming with causes of war. Not all CIA agents can drive vehicles through nuclear radiation and possess the thick necks necessary to survive choking by chain. Relying on them lacks vision. What is important is not the actions of a few action-heroes chasing weapons-dealers like drug-dealers but the ongoing statistically relentless probability of catastrophe. We encourage our readers to imagine hundreds of Jack Ryans and

similar scenarios generated in a capitalist world where the line between legal and illegal profit-making is impossible to find in every instance. Sooner or later, the Jack Ryans are going to fail: it's built into the system.

There is a word for those who support Bush and Clinton who offer no vision or progress toward a global peace: stupid. When such an approach is imposed through government it is not just stupid but evil.

MIM in contrast, does have an answer. Abolishing money in the long run and profit in the short-run while holding for questioning anyone transferring \$50 million for persynal consumption would be a start. The social cost of the black market in weapons alone is too much to offset the benefits of having a free market in other goods. Production and exchange for profit should be illegal in all cases, so there are no problems of law enforcement. That is communism—an extreme solution to an even more extreme problem. Weapons proliferation and terrorist nuclear bombings cannot be treated the way the bourgeoisie handles street crime. The causes of weapons proliferation have to be eradicated completely. There is no other realistic solution.



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.

Massive marches against war

Washington, DC, from page 1...

aristocracy. Signs such as “Money For Jobs, Not War” emphasized the typical Amerikan so-called “leftist” rhetoric that attempts to subtly (or not so subtly!) legitimize the tremendous influx of super-profits that makes Amerikan living conditions so cushy. The logic is that the labor aristocracy should have more of a say of where the imperialist booty goes. Fittingly enough for this line, the overwhelming majority of speakers focused on the impact that a war would have on Amerikans, downplaying that the point should be the effect it has on the Iraqi people and other oppressed people of the world.

RAIL saw several signs saying such things as “What Happened to Osama?” and “Forget Saddam, What About Osama?” These types of signs attempt to legitimize imperialist terrorism in some situations while condemning it in others. Aside from the obvious point that both the US actions in Afghanistan and throughout the world in the so-called “war against terrorism” on the one hand, and the sanctions and possible heightened assault on Iraq on the other are all part and parcel of imperialist war against the world’s majority, it should

also be kept in mind that attempts to blame Osama for 911, if in fact he was involved, ignore the fact that 911 itself was an example of the “chickens coming home to roost.”

An excessively erroneous focus was placed on the role of individuals and individual leaders, ignoring the systematic nature of imperialism and the economic and political reasons underlying all wars. For example Ramsey Clark’s speech had as its main point, the role of Bush in the war drive. He emphasized the need to impeach Bush, for going against “international law,” for “stealing the elections,” etc.

RAIL does not mean to imply that all people are at the same level of political maturity; but those claiming to be leaders, or claiming Vanguard status, have no excuse for putting out a message that is the equivalent of a soggy noodle.

RAIL was pleased to hear a few speakers, such as the Free Palestine Alliance, and the Muslim Students Association focus on the issue from an internationalist perspective, highlighting the relationship between imperialism and war, as well as the relationship between Iraq and movements of other oppressed

nations such as Palestine. Imam Mousa of Masjid Al-Islam pointed out that what we need is not a regime change, but a “system change,” which he explained means revolution.

RAIL also witnessed signs of “feel-good” activism among participants. Many speakers seemed to be more concerned with congratulating attendees for “braving” the cold weather, than they were with saying anything of substance. Some “Marxist-Leninist” groups were intent on giving a sales pitch like “join us- we have just begun to fight,” instead of accurately assessing the balance of forces. Their message was that an increase in numbers at rallies means revolution is just around the corner: a line that may draw in eager youth in the short-term, but will end up with incorrect practice. These so-called “revolutionaries” are more interested in clichés and left-sounding phrases than they are with being scientific Marxists. (2)

Contrary to most organizations present and most “leaders,” RAIL does not take the “masses are asses” line. Instead of engaging in motivational speaking and watering down our message to get the

“middle forces,” RAIL was not afraid to elaborate on MIM’s line on the labor aristocracy when asked questions by rally attendees about the difference between MIM and the RCP. Likewise we did not talk about the effect an attack on Iraq would have on well-fed Amerikans, but focused on the question from the internationalist viewpoint.

Despite above-mentioned shortcomings, one of the most positive points of the march was that a lot of people were interested in hearing a revolutionary analysis of war and imperialism as well as learning about Maoism. People eagerly took copies of MIM Notes, approved of RAIL’s presence, and showed their awareness of MIM.

The Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League is a mass organization of non-Party members who accept MIM’s leadership.

Notes:

1. Thousands Rally in U.S. Against Iraq War, Calvin Woodward, Associated Press Writer, January 18th 2003
2. See for example Voice of Revolution, Publication of the U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization,, January 18th edition.

Cal. governor increases funding for prisons, cuts everything else

Continued from page 3...

buying the loyalty of California lawmakers. The union secured their budget by inviting several key lawmakers to a conference it sponsored in Hawaii in December. Last year, as the state budget was sinking into deficit, Davis signed a new contract with the guard’s union giving the guards large raises, which will result in annual salaries of \$73,000 within five years. A few weeks later Davis received the largest donation check he has ever received from any group: \$251,000.(1)

As California Lawyer explained in their November 2002 article, “The CCPOA’s influence grew alongside California’s phenomenal prison construction boom. From 1985 to 1995 the number of state prisons increased from 13 to 31 and currently house 160,000 inmates in the largest state system in the country. As the number of prisons increased, so did the California Department of Corrections’ (CDC) annual operating budget—from \$923 million in fiscal year 1985 to \$3.4 billion in 1995. Today it is \$4.8 billion. From 1985 to 1995 the number of prison guards increased from 7,570 to approximately 25,000. Wages, benefits, and working conditions for officers improved remarkably: In 1980 the average annual salary was \$14,400; by 1996 it had grown to \$44,000; today it is \$54,000. ...

“According to the anonymous criminal

law attorney in Fresno, the CCPOA spends far more time urging DAs to prosecute assaults by inmates than defending allegations against officers. This lawyer claims the union pressures DAs to bring felony charges against inmates ‘for every nickel-and-dime dispute’—which permits officers to threaten a third-strike conviction as a tool for controlling behavior. ‘Scuffles where nobody gets hurt—things that should be handled administratively—the union wants them pressed as a felony,’ the lawyer says. ‘You read between the lines, and you see the guard pushed the guy [the inmate] to act.’”(2)

Gray Davis is an example of why MIM says the Democrats are just as much a part of the system of imperialism as the Republicans. Davis recently won re-election appealing to voters on typically Democrat issues such as abortion. But while Davis may pretend to be progressive on some issues he is increasing imprisonment faster than many Republican-controlled states. To fight the criminal injustice system we will have to dismantle the system that makes it profitable to eliminate any guise of rehabilitation in favor of raising the salary of guards.

Notes:

1. SF Chronicle, January 13, 2003.
2. California Lawyer, November 2002.

Michigan prisoners battle for humyn rights

Continued from page 3...

policy also limits the number of books and magazines a prisoner can own, and the number of legal papers.(3)

Prisons throughout the state implemented the policy unevenly. A prisoner activist reported “while one pack-up team allows prisoners to have certain things, another pack-up team will deny other prisoners the same items. I see these maneuvers as a tool the prisons are using to create hardships and bad feelings among the prisoner-class, as the prisonkkkrats are good at the ‘divide and conquer’ tactics among the unconscious and unpoliticized prisoners.”(4) One of PLSM’s functions was to help prisoners deal with the effects of these policies, and to make sure that the MDOC did not overstep its mandate.

PLSM also provided the tremendous service of training 12 on-staff prisoner paralegals at a time, and helping these paralegals to find jobs on their release. These prisoners have worked actively on the Cain lawsuit, and they are an important resource for Michigan prisoners — both for their training and skills, and as examples of what prisoners can achieve. The so-called Department of Corrections should be looking for ways to give more prisoners the education that the PLSM paralegals have had, not scrabbling to shut the office down.

The state’s conduct in the Cain suit has always revealed its desire to run the MDOC under an institutional form of martial law. MDOC wants the courts to

agree that prisoners check their humyn rights at the jailhouse door. In its ideal world, MDOC would be categorically incapable of violating prisoners’ rights because prisoners would have none. This is the same MDOC that denied an Amnesty International petition to tour the Michigan prisons and investigate the humyn rights situation inside.

This is one of those clear cases where communist ethics win out over capitalist ones. Communism is based on the rights of the exploited masses, and on any legitimate government’s accountability for meeting the basic needs of its people. Under socialism MIM will indeed imprison anyone who interferes with the rights to food, shelter, education or health care. These things are non-negotiable—a matter of basic principle. But we will urge prisoners toward understanding their crimes in relation to society, and provide programs that help them become productive members of society.

Notes:

1. “Cain decision reversed,” MDOC press release 9 January, 2003 www.michigan.gov
2. Southern Center for Human Rights resource list www.schr.org/state-resources/mi-ref.pdf
3. “MIM Legal Notes: Cain v. MDOC implementations of censorship” www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/ulk/mln/mln167.html
4. Ali Khalid Abdullah, “Michigan Prisoners Lost Major Property Issue” flag.blackened.net/blackflag/216/216mich.htm

Rallies show movement's promise and pitfalls

Los Angeles, from page 1...

oppressed nations of the world, and the suffering and exploitation of hundreds of millions around the world. U.S. imperialism is the main enemy of the oppressed people of the world, and its wars of aggression lead the way for all the rest of its crimes.

There were some people who oppose the war for less admirable Reasons at the rally.

Some people are pure pacifists, opposing all war. Some of these people are important allies against imperialist militarism, even though revolutionaries disagree with them on important issues (e.g. the justness of armed struggle for liberation from imperialism). They had signs reading, "War is insane" and "War is dumb."

Some people are hell-bent on demonstrating their patriotic fervor even while they oppose this particular war. MIM doesn't hold any illusions that it's possible to be a patriotic Amerikan and oppose imperialism -- without imperialism there is no Amerika, practically speaking. These people held U.S. flags, and had signs that said, "Peace is patriotic," and "Patriotic and Peaceful" (see photo). This is similar to the message on signs provided by California Peace Action, which read: "Bush's Policies: Endangering America, Enraging the World" (see photo). We are not trying to get Amerika to clean up its image in the world, but to overthrow Amerika and replace it with governance by the oppressed in their own interest.

Others in a similar vein want Amerika to support the United Nations instead of acting unilaterally. One of these held a sign that said, "Use the UN, not bombs." This begs the question: "Use the UN for what?" If the ends are the same—domination of the people and resources of the Middle East—but the means are the UN instead of bombs, we're not impressed.

Other people said they oppose the war



A sampling of signs from MIM's photo eye in L.A.

for self-interested reasons, which range from fairly progressive to completely reactionary. The more progressive signs pointed out that "Iraq Never Closed My Health Clinic," referring to a major shortage of health clinics in the Los Angeles area (see photo). Still, even the poorest people in Los Angeles are not suffering like the poor people in Iraq, so this message calls out for some more internationalism.

But that's nothing compared to: "Saddam Hussein did not steal my 401k" (photo, p. 1). This guy is just upset because some corporate bozo stole his stolen superprofits -- the money he had in his retirement account. Amerikans who are complaining that imperialist militarism is a drag on their retirement accounts just don't understand that imperialism is the source of their retirement accounts, not to mention their salaries (and land!) in the first place. So these people are ignorant as well as reactionary.

Finally, there were progressive internationalist statements against the detention of immigrants, recently increased in Los Angeles, for Palestinian self-determination, for Chicano self-

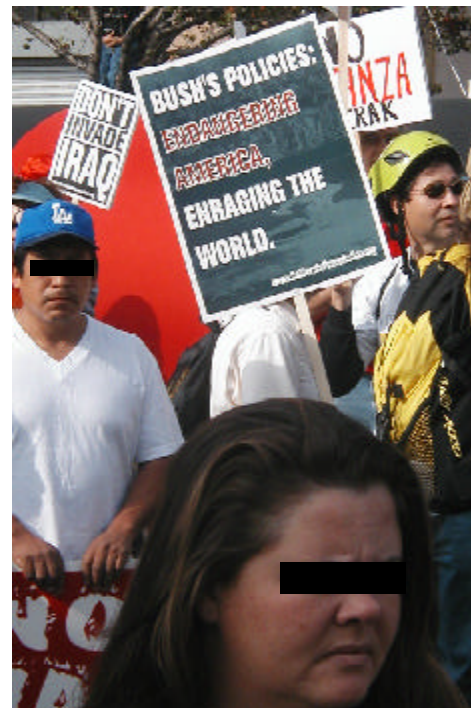
determination (from the National Chicano Moratorium Committee), for immigrant garment workers, and against the U.S. military presence in Korea: "U.S. Troops out of Korea"

MIM is very glad to see thousands of people in Los Angeles and around the country speaking out against the war. We are not purists who only want to see revolutionary anti-imperialists stand with us against Amerika. At the same time, we want to use the opportunity of many people rethinking their political views to argue for the most progressive revolutionary position possible, because that will ultimately be the most effective for stopping imperialist wars and ending the oppression they perpetuate.

It is the first duty of revolutionaries in the imperialist countries to attempt to undermine militarism against the people of the oppressed nations, and a broad movement including many types of activists is necessary to accomplish that.

Notes:

1. See petition on page 11, as well as MIM Notes 270 and 273.



Liberals blame SUVs for terrorism

Continued from page 3...

force other countries to submit to this—militarily and otherwise. In the particular case of decadent Amerikan car culture, the relatively cheap gas prices which make a blithe Sunday drive in the Explorer possible are made possible by Amerikan meddling in the Middle East—including keeping the region divided and under the constant threat of war. So yes, George may not know it, but part of the price of his SUV is the threat of nuclear war and "terrorism."

However, the SUV ad fails to make this connection. Instead of cursing a system which risks bloody war for the sake of profit, it raises the usual racist "Arab terrorist" bogeyman—which plays into the hands of the Amerikan war-mongers.

The ad couches the debate solely in bourgeois terms. On the one hand are the nationalists, who dream of a United States which is self-sufficient. On the other are the internationalists, who see massive profits for themselves in controlling Middle eastern oil—although they wouldn't mind if Amerika's hand were strengthened by increasing its domestic energy reserves.

There are profits being made by countries that are not giving the money to the United States and not acting subservient enough (i.e. Iraq which has the second largest oil reserves in the world). But in reality Amerika already reaps big profits from oil and controls key oil producing countries. The biggest

purchaser of US arms and probably British arms is either Saudi Arabia or United Arab Emirates, the rich oil producers.(2)

As Noam Chomsky explains: "Actually one of the purposes of the [post World War II] Marshall Plan, this great benevolent plan, was to shift Europe and Japan from coal to oil. Europe and Japan both had indigenous coal resources but they switched to oil in order to give the US control. About \$2bn out of the \$13bn Marshall Plan dollars went straight to the oil companies to help convert Europe and Japan to oil based economies. For power, it's enormously significant to control the resources and oil's expected to be the main resource for the next couple of generations."(2)

If The Detroit Project wanted to run a truthful ad it should have laid the blame for terrorism on capitalism. And it should have pointed out who the biggest terrorists in the world are: the Amerikan imperialists. Imperialist exploitation, the means by which Amerika steals profits from Third World countries by paying workers unlivable wages, makes Amerikans rich while literally killing millions of people each year from malnutrition and lack of even basic health care.

Notes:

1. NYT, January 8, 2003
2. Daily Times, Jan 9, 2003, Interview with Noam Chomsky www.dailytimes.com.pk
3. MIM Notes 272, 15 Jan 2002.

DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF PROF. JOSE MARIA SISON

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

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

On 9 August 2002, the US State Department listed the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's

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

Subsequently, the Dutch government has followed the bidding of the US by issuing the "Sanctions ruling on terrorism 2002 III" on 13 August 2002, criminalizing Jose Maria Sison as a "terrorist" without benefit of due process and subjecting him to punishment such as:

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

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

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

We demand from the Dutch authorities:

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

* the grant of his residence permit in the

Netherlands;

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

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

* the refusal of any possible demand for his extradition.

Please write to the Dutch Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs (addresses given on this page) and the relevant Dutch consulates and embassies.

¡Defiendan los derechos democráticos de José María Sisón!

continuado de la pagina 11

sus negociaciones con el gobierno de la República Filipina, el Frente Democrático Filipino encabezado por el PCP priorizó la ratificación del Acuerdo Comprensivo sobre los Derechos Humanos y el Derecho Humanitario Internacional. Desde que ambas partes firmaron el acuerdo, el ejército filipino ha torturado y asesinado a los capturados miembros del NPA mientras que el NPA ha puesto en libertad a varios oficiales filipinos de alto rango quienes alabaron su tratamiento.(4)

22 miembros del Parlamento Europeo firmaron una carta solicitando que los Países Bajos retiren la calificación "terrorista" del profesor Sisón y el PCP/NPA. "Solicitamos la presente medida de acuerdo con las resoluciones del Parlamento Europeo de 1997 y 1999 las cuales respaldan de una manera convincente y endosan las negociaciones

de paz entre el gobierno de la República Filipina y el Frente Democrático nacional de las Filipinas".(1) Hasta algunos de los senadores del gobierno filipino han condenado la decisión de los EE.UU. por ser ésta una intervención en los "asuntos internos".(3)

El profesor Sisón no es la única persona afectada por dichos cargos. Estos últimos restringen además la libertad de expresión tanto de los ciudadanos de los EE.UU. como de sus aliados europeos. Hasta los que defienden los derechos de Sisón o el PCP para publicar sus escritos basándose en la creencia de que la divulgación de los mismos es una condición necesaria para un debate público bien informado, pueden convertirse en víctimas de acoso y deportación bajo el "Acta Patriota" ("USA Patriotic Act"). Apoyar al profesor Sisón significa defender nuestra

propia libertad de expresión y organización.

Con el fin de defender los derechos democráticos del profesor Sisón, llamamos a nuestros lectores a presentar las siguientes solicitudes al gobierno holandés:

* un respeto completo por la protección del estatus de refugiado reconocido de José María Sisón según los convenios internacionales correspondientes;

un otorgamiento de su permiso de residencia en los Países Bajos;

* un retiro inmediato de su nombre y una liquidación incondicional y total del "Sancieregeling terrorisme 2002 III";

* una devolución inmediata, incondicional y completa de todos los beneficios sociales cuyo otorgamiento le es garantizado según el estatus de refugiado político (pago mensual, seguro médico y beneficios de vivienda);

* un renunciamento de cualquier solicitud de su extradición.

Escriban a:

Primer Ministro Jan Peter Balkenende
Binnenhop 20

Postbus 20001

2500 EA The Hague

Tel. + 31 70 356 41 00

Fax. + 31 70 356 46 83

Sr. J.G. de Hoop Scheffer

Ministro de Relaciones Externas

Bezuidenhoutseweg 67

Postbus 20061

Consul General de los Países Bajos

9th floor, King's Court

Building 1, 2129 Chino Roces Avenue

Makati City, Philippines

Adjuntamos el texto de la solicitud en inglés.

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

Entrevista con el profesor José María Sisón

continuado de la pagina 11

otorgados gracias a mi condición de refugiado político. Puede que me asalten y encarcelen con el fin de humillarme y difamarme o incluso con el fin de colocar evidencias falsas y arrestarme.

Según varios oficiales de alto rango del gobierno de Manila, EE.UU. está listo para extraditarme según el tratado de extradición entre EE.UU. y los Países Bajos mediante la fabricación de un cargo criminal. Se supone que me llevarán a una base militar estadounidense- Guantánamo, Guam o Diego García- para dificultar o hacer imposible por mucho tiempo el acceso a un abogado que yo pueda escoger.

Un oficial de alto rango del gobierno de Manila y un funcionario de la CIA ha estado alardeando que es muy probable que Bush ordene mi asesinato a través de la CIA en caso de que yo falle en lograr la capitulación del Frente Nacional Democrático Filipino por medio de un "acuerdo de paz final" preparado por el gobierno reaccionario.

Lo que se puede hacer para afrontar las acciones punitivas y amenazas en mi contra es exponer el carácter opresivo y explotador de los imperialistas, levantar y organizar a más gente en torno a la lucha, así como emprender varias formas de lucha.

P: Ud. ha dicho que los cargos en su contra también tienen con fin intimidar a "todos los participantes, consejeros, funcionarios y partidarios del equipo de negociación basado

en Europa". ¿Podría comentar sobre algunos casos concretos de intimidación contra los miembros o partidarios del FNDF?

Sisón: Los participantes, consejeros, funcionarios y partidarios del FNDF están conscientes de las acciones y amenazas dirigidas en mi contra tanto de una forma abierta como velada. También entienden el porqué de las amenazas. Su propósito consiste en ponerme entre la espada y la pared para presionarme y de esta manera coaccionar al entero equipo de negociación del FNDF.

Consideren, por ejemplo, los efectos intimidantes que han tenido las acciones injustas tomadas en mi contra como la criminalización fuera del proceso legal, difamación, las amenazas subsiguientes contra mi vida y libertad así como los daños morales y materiales.

De hecho, creo que lo que busca EE.UU. y el gobierno de Manila es destruir las negociaciones de paz. Están haciendo hasta lo imposible para frustrar el reinicio de estas negociaciones. Los necios de Bush, el hijo, y Gloria Macapagal creen con inocencia que pueden derrotar la revolución democrática popular con tan sólo perseguirme en el extranjero e intimidar al equipo de negociación del FNDF.

P: También hemos notado que el propósito de los cargos en su contra es crear un efecto escalofriante aquí en EE.UU. Ahora, gracias

al "Acta Patriota", las personas que normalmente respaldarían la publicación de su punto de vista o la del PCP en el nombre de un debate público bien informado en torno a algún asunto importante- por ejemplo, la intervención directa de EE.UU. en las Filipinas- se ven obligados a preguntarse si se les castigaría por el apoyo a los "terroristas".

Sisón: Es cierto que la administración Bush está tratando de intimidar a la comunidad filipina dentro de EE.UU. El Acta Patriota y otras actas semejantes se parecen a los decretos fascistas de Marcos. Los filipinos y los americanos de descendencia filipina deben repasar la lucha y la victoria del pueblo filipino sobre la mortal dictadura fascista de Marcos patrocinada por EE.UU.

Deben trabajar y luchar duro en sus comunidades, así como colaborar con la gente de varias nacionalidades en contra del creciente fascismo y el violento racismo que se dan en EE.UU. Tanto dentro de EE.UU. como en el extranjero, a Bush ya se le conoce como un tonto fanfarrón. Una gran mayoría de la gente está murmurando: "¡Es la economía, idiota!" Claro está, las fuerzas progresivas se están empeñando en difundir la idea de que el imperialismo es el azote del que hay que deshacerse.

P: Sigamos. George Bush sostiene que EE.UU. debe iniciar una guerra contra Iraq

con el fin de acabar con la proliferación de armas de destrucción masiva (ADM). ¿Qué opina Ud. Sobre esta aserción? En su opinión, ¿cuál sería la mejor manera de acabar con la amenaza planteada por el uso de ADM?

Sisón: Es bastante obvio que Iraq no posee armas de destrucción masiva. EE.UU. lo sabe. Es por eso que se apresura a lanzar una guerra de agresión con el fin de apoderarse de los recursos petrolíferos de Iraq e instalar una administración colonial proestadounidense.

La aserción de Bush de que EE.UU. tiene que iniciar una guerra para acabar con la proliferación de armas de destrucción masiva no es más que un disparate. Siguiendo este tipo de lógica y bravuconería acabaría declarando guerra a India, Paquistán, China y Rusia. Pero no se atreverá a iniciar guerras contra ninguno de dichos países precisamente porque estos países tienen armas nucleares. La mejor manera de acabar con la amenaza de ADM es originar movimientos revolucionarios dentro de los países imperialistas con el fin de paralizar el uso de estas armas por parte de los imperialistas y al fin y al cabo liquidarlas del todo después de la victoria del socialismo. No hay seguridad completa respecto al uso de ADM hasta que se acabe con el sistema imperialista.

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



¡Defiendan los derechos democráticos de José María Sisón!

El 13 de agosto, siguiendo la iniciativa del gobierno estadounidense, el gobierno de los Países Bajos hizo pública su "Decisión judicial sobre el terrorismo 2002 III" criminalizando fuera del proceso legal al refugiado político, el profesor José María Sisón. Como resultado de esta decisión, se congela la cuenta bancaria del profesor Sisón, así como se liquidan todos los subsidios gubernamentales de vivienda, alimentos, seguro médico y otras necesidades básicas recibidos por Sisón conforme su condición de un reconocido refugiado político.(1)

El profesor Sisón ha estado viviendo en exilio desde que el régimen de Aquino canceló su pasaporte a base de unas acusaciones falsas en 1988. Antes de este

suceso, a partir de 1977, Sisón había sido encarcelado y torturado durante nueve años por la dictadura de Marcos respaldada por los EE.UU. Anteriormente, los tribunales holandeses habían confirmado su estatus de refugiado y habían proporcionado a su mujer e hijo auxilio político. Unos miembros de las Fuerzas Armadas de las Filipinas han conspirado para asesinar a Sisón durante su residencia en los Países Bajos.(2)

Actualmente el profesor Sisón es el Consejero Superior del revolucionario Frente Democrático Filipino (NDFP) que está llevando a cabo negociaciones de paz con el gobierno de la República Filipina (GRP). Sisón fundó el Partido Comunista Maoísta Filipino (PCP) en 1968. Tanto los servicios de inteligencia filipinos e

yanquis como sus voceros aseguran sin cualquier evidencia que Sisón aún encabeza el PCP. Sin embargo, según la declaración del PCP, el liderato colectivo del Partido opera de una manera eficaz en las bases reforzadas por la guerrilla revolucionaria fuera del alcance inmediato y travesuras de los EE.UU. y las reaccionarias fuerzas armadas locales".

Hace poco el Departamento de Estado de los EE.UU. incorporó al PCP y al Nuevo Ejército del Pueblo (NPA) en la lista de "organizaciones terroristas internacionales", instigando a que otros gobiernos "tomen acción con el fin de aislar a estas organizaciones terroristas, estrangular sus fuentes de apoyo financiero e impedir su movimiento a través de fronteras internacionales".(1)

El 12 de agosto de 2002, el Departamento Fiscal de los EE.UU. calificó al profesor Sisón como un "terrorista" cuyos activos deberían ser congelados. Al día siguiente, el gobierno holandés aprobó la "Decisión judicial sobre el terrorismo 2002 III". Las aseveraciones estadounidenses sobre el carácter "terrorista" del profesor Sisón y el PCP no tienen ningún trasfondo. No constituyen más que un intento burdo de meterse en los asuntos internos de las Filipinas y silenciar al profesor Sisón, un crítico implacable del imperialismo yanqui.

El Secretario de Justicia filipino ha declarado que en las Filipinas no existe ningún tipo de cargos criminales en contra de Sisón. El NPA ha prometido atenerse a la Convención de Ginebra. En *continuado en la pagina 11 ...*

Entrevista con el profesor José María Sisón

Octubre 23, 2002

El profesor filipino José María Sisón tiene una larga historia de activismo por parte de los explotados y oprimidos, y en contra del imperialismo estadounidense. Ayudó a fundar la Kabataan Makabayan (La Juventud Patriótica) en 1964 y encabezó algunas de las primeras protestas contra la intervención yanqui en Vietnam- un hecho que cobra particular importancia a la luz de que EE.UU. utilizó las Filipinas como un escenario para la intervención en el Sureste de Asia.

Consecutivamente, el 26 de diciembre de 1968, Sisón fundó el Partido Comunista Filipino; el 29 de marzo de 1969- el Nuevo Ejército del Pueblo; y el 24 de abril de 1973- el Frente Democrático Nacional Filipino. El 10 de noviembre de 1977, fue capturado por el régimen fascista de Marcos y estuvo encarcelado hasta el 5 de marzo de 1986- fecha en que fue puesto en libertad poco después del derrocamiento de Marcos. Vovlió a formar parte del profesorado de la Universidad de las Filipinas. Del 1 de septiembre 1986 hasta 1988, salió al extranjero para realizar una gira mundial de conferencias universitarias. El 18 de octubre de 1988, al ser cancelado su pasaporte filipino por el régimen Aquino, solicitó refugio político en los Países Bajos.

Pregunta: El 12 de agosto, el gobierno estadounidense le ha calificado como un "terrorista" solicitando a otros gobiernos un congelamiento de sus activos. Al día siguiente el gobierno de los Países Bajos, su actual lugar de residencia, siguió el ejemplo yanqui. ¿Podría comentar Ud. sobre el cargo de terrorismo que se le imputa? ¿Porqué ahora?

Sisión: El cargo de terrorismo que se me imputa es una tontería. Ha sido fabricado por el gobierno estadounidense

que en vano está tratando de difamarme y destruirme. Calcula que persiguiéndome, desprestigiándome mediante la etiqueta "terrorista" y utilizando medidas represivas en mi contra con la ayuda de otros gobiernos imperialistas, logrará aterrorizar a los filipinos progresivos tanto en las Filipinas como en el extranjero. El ataque en mi contra es parte del intento estadounidense por destruir a nivel mundial a todas las fuerzas que luchan contra el imperialismo.

EE.UU. es el superterrorista global. Ha asesinado a millones de personas civiles en guerras de agresión y mediante el control de regímenes títeres de violencia abierta. Ha asesinado aún a más gente mediante la violencia diaria que implica una explotación imperialista. Los responsables por los ataques del 11 de septiembre habían sido entrenados en asuntos terroristas por EE.UU.; el impacto de sus actos es sobrepasado por el terrorismo a gran escala dirigido por el imperialismo estadounidense.

EE.UU. está usando la guerra contra el terrorismo como una excusa para lanzar una guerra terrorista contra los movimientos revolucionarios y los países que se expresan a favor de la independencia nacional. Un creciente número de gente se indigna de que EE.UU. pretenda asumir un papel de vengador que actúa en el nombre de las víctimas de los ataques de septiembre con el fin de fomentar guerras imperialistas y terrorismo de estado, y apoderarse de recursos petrolíferos y otros recursos naturales, campos de inversión, mercados y lugares provechosos para intervenciones militares.

P: ¿Cómo definiría Ud. el concepto de terrorismo? ¿Cree que la definición del terrorismo por parte de Bush es

consistente? ¿Cuál, en su opinión, es la solución para el problema del terrorismo?

Sisión: El terrorismo consiste en hacer amenazas intencionales y sistemáticas y llevar a cabo actos con el fin de perjudicar o destruir vidas y propiedades de la gente más que nada. Para demostrar qué es el terrorismo y cómo hacerle frente hay que conocer los principios, las convenciones y los estándares del respeto por los derechos humanos bajo cualquier condición, así como de la conducta humanitaria hacia la gente civil y los combatientes incapacitados bajo las condiciones de la guerra.

Bush utiliza el terrorismo como una excusa y un término abierto a interpretación que sirve para la persecución, represión e iniciativas bélicas en contra de cualquiera que se oponga al imperialismo estadounidense. Utiliza dicha palabra para avivar la histeria bélica y el fascismo dentro de EE.UU. y en el resto del mundo y, efectivamente, para poner en marcha la máquina bélica, iniciar guerras de agresión e instalar títeres cuyos regímenes perpetran un terror abierto.

La solución al problema del terrorismo consiste en la lucha militar decisiva del proletariado y la gente contra el imperialismo y toda la reacción. La única manera de deshacerse del terrorismo es deshacerse del imperialismo y conseguir una liberación nacional, una democracia y el socialismo. El imperialismo es el superterrorismo y la fuente que estimula la aparición de terroristas de menor escala como Al Qaeda y el Abu Sayyaf.

P: En agosto Colin Powell también calificó al Partido Comunista Filipino (PCP) como una organización "terrorista". Casi al mismo tiempo el gobierno de Macapagal-Arroyo declaró la guerra total contra el PCP,

supuestamente un nuevo "terrorista", al declarar la derrota del grupo Abu Sayyaf. Al igual, el gobierno de Nepal ha denominado a los comunistas encabezando la guerra popular en Nepal como "terroristas" al tiempo de solicitar ayuda militar a EE.UU., China y otros países. ¿Podría comentar Ud. sobre la diferencia entre una guerra popular y un "terrorismo"?

Sisión: Una guerra popular es un movimiento revolucionario del pueblo cuyo fin consiste en conseguir una liberación nacional y social. Es diametricamente opuesta a la violencia contrarevolucionaria del terrorismo imperialista y el de los títeres imperialistas. Las guerras imperialistas de agresión y los regímenes represivos de títeres sin duda dañan y destruyen las vidas y las propiedades de la gente en todo el mundo.

P: Según los últimos informes que tenemos, el gobierno holandés ha congelado su cuenta bancaria y ha anulado sus subsidios alimenticios, subsidios de vivienda, seguro médico, etc. ¿Hay otras medidas punitivas-tanto oficiales como no oficiales- que han sido tomadas en su contra? Algunos miembros del gobierno filipino le han amenazado de una forma velada, por ejemplo, aludiendo a la posibilidad de que su casa sea asaltada o que Ud. sea deportado a EE.UU. [Hasta hemos oído rumores no confirmados sobre su supuesta deportación a Guantánamo]. ¿Cuáles, en su opinión, son las amenazas más graves en su contra en este momento? ¿Qué se podría hacer para afrontarlas?

Sisión: He tenido que enfrentar varias amenazas cuya gravedad sobrepasa la de congelar la pequeña cuenta conjunta que tengo con mi esposa y liquidar los beneficios sociales que me habían sido *continuado en la pagina 11 ...*