



## Prisoner abuse scandal spreads to Afghanistan

### RULERS TALK ABOUT THE DRAFT

#### I. New puppets in place, same old national oppression of Iraqis

On June 28, the United States stopped trying to be the direct government of Iraq. Bush's colonial official L. Paul Bremer III handed power over to Iraqi puppets who have no sanction from the Iraqi people of any sort.

We at MIM are aware that many of our readers had given Uncle Sam a break till June 30th, because for many months, the Bush administration was talking about the June 30th "hand-off." Many including naive supporters of the Republicans believed that Bush would leave Iraq on June 30th in order not to have the issue hanging over the presidential election in November.

It is important to be able to distinguish rhetoric about "handovers" from the military and political realities of invasion. This invasion was never about just capturing Saddam Hussein or even weapons of mass destruction, which is why the troops are still there. Without the troops the US political control would collapse.

Draft-age people should now see that the US military continues to occupy Iraq despite the hand-off to Iraq puppets who are dependent on US troops for "security." In fact, Bush continues to talk about

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*Dead Americans cause a pause for reflection.*

### China, Vietnam and now Iraq Only military threats make Americans serious about politics

The pattern of America's involvement in Iraq today follows a decades-old American prescription. When no American lives face direct threat, the US public swallows whole anything that the State Department and mega-corporate media throw its way. The first to bother with anything different than the media perception built by a handful of spinners and deceivers at the top of gigantic government and media bureaucracies are military intelligence and business officials.

When responsible military officials become upset enough, they release information to the public to give it a more accurate picture. This is part of factional fighting within the ruling class, but it is also part of manipulating the public into new directions.

The ordinary picture of Chinese in America before the 1930s was a people running laundries in the United States worthy of racist scorn. That all had to change at least somewhat as real

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### 'FORMER' US GREEN BERET TORTURES AFGHANS, FEEDS WESTERN MEDIA LIES

Afghan police found three men hanging from the ceiling by their feet when they raided a house in Kabul that had been turned into a prison by "former" US Green Beret Jonathan Keith "Jack" Idema and at least two other Americans. All eight prisoners in the house showed signs having been beaten.(1)

Mr. Idema claimed to be a member of a secret Special Operations group called "Task Force Saber."(2) The American military quickly tried to distance itself from Idema and his goons, but because espionage is by definition *secret* warfare, there is plenty of room for reasonable doubt in this case and others like it. Indeed, Idema looked so much like the real thing that NATO troops helped him on several raids. NATO bomb squads found evidence of explosives at several sites *after* Idema had raided them and tipped off authorities—raising the suspicion that Idema himself planted the explosives.

"[Our] personnel believed that he was what he purported to be, which was a special operations agency," said a spokesperson for the occupation forces. "Therefore they believed they were providing legitimate support to a legitimate security agency."(3)

Nor were NATO troops the only ones who accepted Idema's credentials. The American media embraced Mr. Idema as an "Al Qaeda expert." MSNBC interviewed him; so did CBS and National Public Radio. He told the New York Daily News he wanted to "punch out" Geraldo Rivera for allegedly compromising the security of anti-Taliban fighters.(4) The New York Post reported he had discovered "handwritten plans" to assassinate then-President Bill Clinton. (5) He was the centerpiece of the best-selling book "The Hunt for Bin Laden: Task Force Dagger."(6) And he supplied FOX News with a video purportedly showing Al Qaeda fighters training to attack Americans.(7)

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#### REVIEWED IN THIS ISSUE Fahrenheit 9/11, SuperSize Me, and Marlon Brando's career.



## Letters

# Mafia tactics and the Coalition of the Willing

Whatever you contribute “it must be substantial.” So spoke Secretary of State Colin Powell to friendly nations too weak to defend themselves against the world’s strongest military turned aggressor. The only things missing were the pinstriped suits, the broad brimmed felt hat or fedora, and the bulge of a shoulder holster or sidearm tucked under an armpit. Other than that, Mr. Powell could be taken for any mafia henchman walking in to a neighborhood candy store to sell the owner insurance...you do want to protect your place don’t you (smile)...and naturally there weren’t any of the rival families at this conference. Nations from the axis of evil and most others with nuclear capability require a different approach. But the weaker nations are ripe for the picking. Countries like Nicaragua and Haiti need our protection.

Now after a dozen years of embargo and bombing, plus a final walk-on invasion and occupation that didn’t even require the planned “shock and awe” now the U.S. is ready to rebuild Iraqi infrastructure and buildings we so systematically destroyed.

Never mind that Iraq had little or

nothing to do with terrorism or that they didn’t have any weapons of mass destruction ready to be deployed against the U.S. and their neighbors. We all know that. But it’s the thought that counts: and they certainly had a great many evil thought directed towards us.

Restricted to an oil for food program, losing a half million children to starvation and denied the parts to repair their equipment, while their leader built palaces, now how can you blame the Iraqi people harboring resentment?

So Mr. Store owner, you seen what happened to the store down the street. You don’t want that to happen to you do you? Cough up a substantial part of your treasury and we’ll take care of you ...

By the way, terrorism is a tactic not a thing. It’s a scheme, an activity, a method, a strategy. A surprise that can be used by anyone limited only by mans imagination and resources. People like Osama Bin Laden might use it but it isn’t an entity you can see, feel or touch. It’s ethereal. Declaring war against terrorism is like declaring war against thinking.

—A California prisoner, July 2004

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.

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## 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.



### 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.

## Fahrenheit fires on a few good targets, avoids others

Director Moore's "progressive patriotism" leads him astray

**Fahrenheit 9/11 (2004)**  
by Michael Moore

MIM is happy to see Fahrenheit 9/11 doing so well in theaters, despite getting less screen time than the schlock released on its opening weekend.(1) We want people to see this movie, and to confront the cynicism and hopelessness of Amerika's "War on Terror."

That so many people are rushing to Fahrenheit 9/11 means that after more than two-and-a-half years of war Amerikans are finally willing to take politics more seriously. Unfortunately, much as in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, this new-found attention to politics over escapism has more to do with the mounting Amerikan death toll in Iraq than it does with the internationalist awakening this country needs if it is ever to enter a civilized community of nations. Also unfortunately, Moore panders heavily to this brand of Amerika-first liberalism, turning what could have been a really good expose of the War on Terror into a public service announcement for getting out the vote.

But let's start with the good parts. Moore takes a big bite out of the fear Amerikans have been sold. He interviews a Congressman who argues the main function of the Department of Homeland Security's terror alert system is to stun the U.S. populace into compliance because "people will do anything when they're afraid." Of course, the Congressman's apt comments come a little too late: as Moore points out, no one in Congress fully read the draconian Patriot Act before passing it. So much for relying on beauty-contest winners—er, "our elected representatives"—to take risky, principled stands.

"Fahrenheit" aptly ridicules the devices security companies are selling now to give people the illusion of security—a safe room for every home and a parachute, for those times you need to jump from your flaming office building. The upshot of all this fear mongering has been predictable: robust support for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and people who advise their neighbors "don't trust anyone you don't know." We see the extremely unthreatening Fresno Peace Action group being victimized by the kind of policing the new, broader definitions of "terrorism" have sanctioned. Police infiltrated this group of largely middle-aged whites whose main activity is to hold rush-hour street corner vigils against the war. The members learned of the infiltration when the kop who had invaded their group was hurt in a traffic accident and had his photo in the local paper.

The War on Terror is a war on dissent. The only reasonable response to this knowledge is to stand up and defend that

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# Activists expose torture in Amerikan prisons

The United Front to Shut Down the Security Housing Units held the first in a series of educational forums on Amerikan prison torture in San Francisco on July 15. The event opened with a letter from a California prisoner, written in May of this year, shortly after the news of the Iraqi prisoner abuse came out.

"Amerika's modern-day dungeons, such as Security Housing Units (SHUs), Intensive Management Units (IMUs) and Maximum Custody Control Units... were designed with sensory deprivation in mind," he wrote. "[Control units are synonymous with] isolation, control of movement, interrogation, mental and physical tortures, excessive force and criminal abuse.

"These penitentiary test labs have been a breeding ground for prison guards to practice their sadistic murderous behavior unchecked with impunity. So it should be of no surprise that the military uses these techniques and tactics on prisoners in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay." A previous edition of MIM Notes (#302) reported in detail how guards charged with torture at Abu Ghraib had served in Amerikan prisons, where they developed a reputation for brutality.

Control units are prisons within prisons, where inmates are locked in their small cells, alone, for 23 hours or more each day. International humyn rights groups have condemned them as a form of torture. Control units are consciously used

to break prisoners' will and ability to resist. A past warden of Marion IL, one of the first Control Unit prisons, stated: "The purpose of the Marion control unit is to control revolutionary attitudes in the prison system and in society at large."

A speaker from the Barrio Defense Committee (BDC) described her son's battle with the California prison system. Jose Luis was placed in the SHU at Corcoran prison after leading a hunger strike for basic humyn rights at New Folsom prison. While in the SHU he has lost sight in one eye and is experiencing other physical and mental problems.

Another speaker described her recent visit to Pelican Bay State Prison where Hugo Pinell is locked in the SHU. Hugo is one of the many Prisoners of War kept behind bars as punishment for their political activism. She described his isolation from the outside world and spoke movingly about Hugo's strong spirit despite this torture.

The final speaker touched on her experience in the women's prison in California, where she was punished for political activism. She noted that the 40 women locked in the SHU in the women's prison need to be contacted so that activists on the outside can work with them to organize the growing women's prison population.

The United Front to Shut Down the SHU includes a wide range of political organizations and individuals such as the

Barrio Defense Committee (BDC), the African People's Socialist Party (APSP), African People's Solidarity Committee (APSC), the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM), Justice for Palestinians, California Prison Focus, the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL), Proyecto Common Touch and RASCALS. We are working to expand participation from like-minded organizations across the state. We are united in fighting to shut down control units in California prisons.

Current activities include of the United Front include holding events like this one across the state, protests the first Saturday of every month in cities across California, and a petition drive to shut down the SHU (we have collected thousands of signatures already!).

Our next state-wide organizing meeting is scheduled for September 12th in Oxnard California. The United Front is also planning a protest in front of the CDC office in Sacramento for August 20th.

This forum will be held again in the following locations:

### Santa Cruz

August 5, 7pm

Loudlen Nelson Center, 301 Center St

### Los Angeles

August 12, 6pm

Casa de Pueblo Co-Op, Sunset Blvd

## Amerikan brainwashing not good for Amerikans

**Super Size Me (2004)**  
Morgan Spurlock, Director

"Super Size Me", the entertaining documentary by Morgan Spurlock, is a great addition to the education of the Amerikan public about the biological and social roots of obesity. The gimmick: Spurlock only eats at McDonalds for thirty days and goes from fit and trim to dangerously unhealthy and... not-so-trim.

Before beginning his thirty-day binge Spurlock gets checked out by three doctors and consults with a nutritionist. They all proclaim him a model of health and plan to follow him throughout the month. Spurlock then cuts down on his normal amount of exercise, including daily walks to and from work and around New York City, in order to mimic an average Amerikan's daily physical activity. He has three rules for his McMonth: 1) he must try everything on the menu at least once; 2) he cannot eat or drink anything that is not sold at McDonald's; and 3) he will only Super Size his meals when asked by the clerks.

By the end of his experiment, he has gained 24 pounds; his cholesterol has shot up to dangerous levels, and he feels



terrible all the time. At one point he wakes in the middle of the night with such severe chest pains and shortness of breath that he thinks he is having a heart attack.

Spurlock concedes that he could have made essentially the same movie about Burger King or Wendy's (small comfort for the McDonald's propaganda machine). Still, McDonald's has, by far, the largest world market share of fast food poison, and represents 43% of the U.S. fast food market.(1)

McDonald's responded to Super Size Me in much the same way it has responded to lawsuits charging that its food caused obesity: it claims it is offering "more choice and variety" so that consumers can make their own decisions. (Although in one sequence Spurlock searches in vain for the very nutritional information McDonald's boasts it offers.) McDonald's says that Spurlock acted "irresponsibly by consuming more than 5,000 calories a day more than twice the

recommended level for adult males and by purposely limiting his physical activity. That's why this movie makes no contribution to the important dialogue taking place today on nutrition and balanced lifestyles." (2)

A supposedly neutral writer—who actually is a lobbyist for McDonald's (among other corporations)—harped on this last point, noting that Spurlock if Spurlock ate 5,000 calories he "could have gained that extra weight [24 pounds] anywhere—at a health-food restaurant in Cleveland or at Taillevent in Paris."(4) This hack goes on to say, "What Americans need is balance: Sensible eating plus exercise. Staying fit is a matter of personal choice and responsibility which is just what this con man [Spurlock] and his co-conspirators want to take away from you."

This appeals to the individualist streak in Amerikans, but the cold reality—which

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# 'Few bad apples' line takes over in Iraq crisis

## *Collective denial about national oppression*

The responses to the hostage and torture situations in Iraq and Afghanistan are revealing the chasm separating the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties on the one hand and the proletarian parties on the other. The torture in Abu Ghraib and other prisons in Iraq and Afghanistan produced condemnation from Bush to the phony communists. It's useful to look at who is drawing correct conclusions from these events without pulling punches and who is merely saying what is comfortable for the Amerikan petty-bourgeoisie to hear.

It all started off with Bush criticizing the torture situation. He said we "must understand that what took place in that prison does not represent the America that I know."(1) Senator Conrad said much the same thing before Bush, and of course Reagan's "optimism" about Amerika preceded both.

In contrast, Lenin said the following: "First, what is the cardinal idea underlying our theses? It is the distinction between oppressed and oppressor nations. Unlike the Second International and bourgeois democracy, we emphasize this distinction."(2) It's not just a few bad apples: it's a whole nation according to us followers of Lenin.

In response to the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, Al Gore, Clinton's Vice-President for eight years literally yelled for Rumsfeld, Rice and Tenet to resign. Along with the combative tone came the statement that this torture was not a matter of a "few bad apples."(3)

Al Gore's opinion is acceptable opinion

within Amerika and the petty-bourgeoisie is ready to hear it. True, there is a die-hard element, even greater than 10% that openly defends torturing Iraqis. Nonetheless, the majority is with Bush & Gore in a self-image adjustment.

The sad truth is that Al Gore's line is identical to that of a number of phony "communist" parties, such as the "Revolutionary Communist Party-USA" (RCP=USA) and "Communist Party USA" (CP=USA). Both Gore and these phony "communists" deny that they uphold the "few bad apples line," but in fact they do. It takes the sort of crisis facing the imperialists now to best show the public exactly how the phony "communists" line dovetails with the imperialists'.

Careful reading of the RCP=USA line will show that they see the bourgeois dictatorship as some kind of pattern of actions by only the police and military. We're not surprised, because the RCP=USA line is that only 10% of Amerika is enemies.

We hesitate to call the RCP=USA opportunist for saying nothing Gore would not say. The RCP=USA consciously represents the petty-bourgeoisie, which means vacillating toward proletarian positions occasionally for maximum popularity while upholding the imperialist alignment with the middle-classes on the whole. The petty-bourgeoisie has no future of its own, and has no choice but to vacillate between the imperialists and proletariat.

It is the official line of the RCP=USA that only 10% of the USA is enemy.(4)

Get that: it means only 10 out of 100 apples in the barrel are bad ones. Yet, the vocal defenders of the RCP=USA have the nerve to claim they don't have the "few bad apples" line. In contrast, Lenin said that one quarter of the whole world is oppressor and he admitted belonging to an oppressor nation; even though Russian imperialism was no where near the level of global exploiter as the US imperialists today.

There is no detectable difference between the 10 bad apples out of 100 view and the view of Bush and Gore. The RCP=USA is in fact helping to cover up the enemy just like Bush & Gore.

The US contractors in Iraq are another example that causes the political vacillation of the petty-bourgeoisie. On the one hand, the CP=USA says that it supports the occupation regime in Iraq in which its sister party has one of 25 seats.(5) On the other hand, for some occasional proletarian rhetoric, even the CP=USA has vaguely admitted that US contractors in Iraq are oppressors.(6) They try to make it sound like these contractors are exceptional, and maybe not even Americans. This represents another tactical approach for the servitors of imperialism: adopt a proletarian posture but claim it is only very selectively necessary, and not part of an overall class analysis.

What these imperialist lackeys don't do is name Thomas Hamill by name. He was a truck driver in Iraq taken hostage. This would clear up that the CP=USA was not just talking about Cheney's Halliburton

executives in Iraq, but also people like Hamill. Likewise, the RCP=USA hides behind the common petty-bourgeois opinion that the soldiers/CIA should not be in Iraq.

If any of the Trotskyists, the CP=USA, the RCP=USA or the rest of the chauvinist "left" had half a wit, they would know they should be answering the Thomas Hamill question and do it in principle. If they think that Thomas Hamill was an exploiter in Iraq, then they need to answer what the difference is between him and the rest of the oppressor nation "workers." Thomas Hamill worked for a private company. Who doesn't? Thomas Hamill's company had contracts with the government. Which multinational corporation hiring workers does not? Thomas Hamill is tied up with exploiting the Third World people and his salary showed it. What oppressor nation "workers" in the USA do not have such links? To these scum evading the question, we say, "Denial is not a river in Egypt."

Notes:

1. [http://www.news24.com/News24/World/Iraq/0,,2-10-1460\\_1522413,00.html](http://www.news24.com/News24/World/Iraq/0,,2-10-1460_1522413,00.html)
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/classics/text.php?mimfile=distinct.txt>
3. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/05/26/politics/main619770.shtml>
4. Revolutionary Worker #890, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/wyl/text.php?mimfile=avakian9010.txt>
5. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/revisionistoccupation.html>
6. People's Weekly World, May 22-28, 2004, p. 12.

## Prisoner abuse scandal spreads

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Descriptions of the video—played over and over on FOX and earnestly discussed by Dan Rather in early 2002—make it sound suspiciously like campy anti-Communist dreck like 1984's "Red Dawn." "The footage shows a terrorist cell infiltrating a golf course. ... Weapons are hidden in golf bags. And then comes the attack."(8) The video also purports to show "heavily armed al Qaeda thugs ... storming a school, shooting children and taking hostages." "We found little desks with bullet holes in them," Idema told the New York Post; however, an FBI spokesman quotes in the same article says there is "no credible evidence of a specific threat to American schools."(9)

The senior Amerikan commander in Afghanistan at the time "watched the ... tape carefully twice, but said he could not comment."(10)

There's more. According to the New York Times, somebody named Mohammed Ashimey was feeding Western media reports about a "supersecret group" of "renegade Green Berets."

"In breathless prose, the article said the former commandos, frustrated by American government inaction, had ... arrested 13 people suspected of terrorism since arriving in Afghanistan three months ago. The article, which sounded like it could have been written by an American, included an accurate description of the illegal arrests that led to Mr. Idema's detention and a fawning description of his work.

"Driving beat up old SUVs, wearing low-slung holsters like Clint Eastwood, long hair, beards and Afghan scarfs, the Green Berets operated the way they did on the 2001-2002 war, with no rules, no oversight, and no plan..."

"Local Afghan journalists said they had never heard of Mr. Ashimey..."(2)

There is no way to spin this story to exonerate either the Amerikan government or the Amerikan media. Any way you look at it, both are complicit in Idema's torture ring.

If Mr. Idema is just some crusader yahoo, then the Amerikan media let themselves be suckered by a con-man who was selling the pulp fiction they

wanted to buy: a shoot-em-up cowboy story with Osama Bin Laden playing the really really bad dude in the black hat.

If Mr. Idema is just some heavily-armed mercenary nutcase, the Amerikan military let him tramp through Afghanistan starting in 2001, when he reportedly served as military advisor to the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance. Idema and wackos like him thrive in Afghanistan: the Americans have created a Wild West atmosphere there, in part by offering \$340 million in bounties for information leading to the capture or killing of top "terrorists."

"Whatever Idema's credentials are," writes the British Independent, "the fact remains that he and others like him are common sights in Afghanistan. They have an eye for bounty... There are also claims that some are involved in heroin trafficking—in the country that produces three-quarters of the world's supply..."(11) Heroin production has soared 20-fold since the US invasion.(12)

Nor are these "unofficial" thugs the only ones abusing Afghans. "David Passaro, a former Green Beret who arrived on a CIA security contract, is

currently under arrest, accused of beating a 28-year old Afghan detainee to death."(10) So much for "liberating" the people of Afghanistan.

Of course, Jack may have been working for the Amerikan military, the CIA or some other Amerikan spy agency at some point in the last three years. In that case, the Amerikan media are not off the hook: they still let themselves be played, just this time by a clandestine government agent.

The military may have been using Idema both to do its dirtiest work and feed propaganda to the media. Now, perhaps because he had gone independent or perhaps because he got caught in the middle of a nasty job, the Amerikan government wants to distance itself from him officially—and maybe unofficially, by leaking unflattering reports through the likes of the Times and the Independent.

The imperialists are addicted to war, and a necessary consequence of that addiction are nasty spy games like the ones Idema played at in Afghanistan. The official denunciation of Idema is exceptional; usually governments will not admit or deny an individual is a spy.(13) This raises the suspicion that any journalist

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# China, Vietnam and now Iraq

## Only military threats make Americans serious about politics

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political contests broke out across Asia.

In the 1930s, when landlord dictator Chiang Kai-shek partially ruled China, the US media lavished incredible praise on him—much the opposite of what the same media did to Saddam Hussein in 2002 and 2003. Time Magazine in 1937 named Chiang Kai-shek and his wife “Madame” Chiang Kai-shek the “ablest of leadership” worthy of “Man and Women of the Year.”(1) Actually, wild oscillations in American opinion of China started even before that. It’s just that by 1937, thanks to a war brewing and a communist threat led by Mao Zedong, American policymakers started to judge that Chiang Kai-shek was their man in China.

The praise was so fulsome, authors said that the Chiang Kai-shek couple had been made into “plaster saints” at the time. All that changed as soon as American lives were at stake in China during World War II. One Graham Peck of the US “Office of War Information” said, “I think every American who came to Kuomintang territory on war duty has bitter memories of the do-nothing attitudes, and the profiteering which ranged from the prices the U.S. had to pay for air fields to the prices GI’s were charged in restaurants.”(2)

American military men who thought they were flying Madame Chiang Kai-shek on an important mission found instead that they were transporting her luxury baggage, at risk to themselves. Previously, if the press had reported that

she was doing politico-military work, they would have believed it, but with their own lives on the line in the flying, the pilots’ attitude was different.

After World War II, something else reminiscent of Vietnam and Iraq happened. Chiang Kai-shek’s party and generals told the Americans that “The Communists are babies; they don’t know how to fight.” “The war will be over in three months,” Chiang’s top-ranking general declared.” That all went into the American media.

Nonetheless, based on World War II experience, American generals, pilots and soldiers knew better. Even though most US military forces went to Europe during World War II, there were some who dealt with the Chinese and Vietnamese attacking the Japanese. When Mao liberated all of China in 1949 instead of collapsing in three months, much of the US military knew exactly why—that Chiang Kai-shek was a hopelessly backward and corrupt man heading a useless and corrupt party.

While Chiang Kai-shek’s money came from the United States, he still found ways to lobby America after being booted onto Taiwan by the Chinese Revolution. Among other things that Chiang Kai-shek’s government did was give money to Richard Nixon’s campaign for Senate in California and egg on Senator Joe McCarthy.(4)

The same thing happened with Vietnam. The US military officials who dealt with the regime in southern Vietnam knew it

to be corrupt and inefficient in every way—not promising material for the development of “freedom.” Nonetheless, the dominant media-created perception was that sending a few more thousand troops would wipe out the communist threat and Vietnam would be on the road to “democracy.”

This belief continued for several years until Lyndon B. Johnson had 500,000 troops in Vietnam in 1965. Even then, it took until 1969 for a majority of US public opinion to swing against the war—but not before tens of thousands of US deaths.

The process of thought in the American mind started with debunking what it considered “lies.” For example, in the spring of 1964, the outgoing general in Vietnam named Paul Harkins told the incoming military leader William Westmoreland and a civilian official that the United States would win in six months.(5) As early as a January 1963 battle at Ap Bac that the media observed, the US media knew that the US government lied about winning a battle that the US puppets lost. President John F. Kennedy tried to get a reporter reassigned for knowing the truth.(6)

So it is today in Iraq. When the war started, a majority supported it. In fact, in March, 2003, only 20% of US whites opposed the war.(7) Then Bush declared that “major combat operations in Iraq have ended” on May 1, 2003. Since that time, more US soldiers died than during the official fighting. The soldiers themselves learned on the scene that contrary to the neo-conservatives, the Iraqi people did not “throw roses and rice” to the “liberators.” Some military police have learned up close that Americans are no more humane in imprisoning Iraqis than Saddam Hussein was. Above all, the petty-bourgeoisie has decided that the war was not “worth it.” The costs are too high according to 52%-62% of the public today. (A May 21-23 Gallup poll showed 52%.) (8) The public remains evenly divided on whether the war should have started in the first place, but the “costs” question is bringing out the vacillating petty-bourgeoisie which has been convinced that filling up the SUV in Iraq won’t be as cheap as they thought.

An example in the oscillation of petty-bourgeois opinion is California. In April 2003, 58% said the war was “worth it.” Now 63% say it is not “worth it.” (9)

By the way, we are happy to report that the Spanish-speaking population is vacillating against the war even more extremely than the rest of the population inside US borders, with 75% now saying the Iraq war was not worth it. MIM believes this vindicates our strategy opposing the Martin Luther King road with revolutionary nationalism. (10)

In Alabama, 52% of the population still thinks that the invasion of Iraq “was the right thing to do.” The poll from the third

week of May also shows that 66% of Alabamians do not think Rumsfeld should resign. Nonetheless, even the population of Alabama has shown a dramatic drop-off in the percentage of people who think the war is going “well,” falling by 30 percentage points since January. 78% said that the prison torture will make things harder in Iraq. When we think about how Alabama learned about Iraq, it’s once again a vindication of the same old pattern. US soldiers, many from Alabama, went to Iraq and took some photographs. Those photographs found their way back to the United States.(11)

It’s not that Americans of the last 100 years have opposed imperialism in principle. Americans are much more impressed by whether stated objectives can be achieved easily or not. They would rather learn from direct experience, including being shot at—whether a war is “worth it” to their class interests. Nations that stand up and cause American imperialism severe material and moral damage find that petty-bourgeois opinion in America swings their way as petty-bourgeois doubts about particular imperialists and particular imperialist strategies grow.

Notes:

1. Felix Greene, *A Curtain of Ignorance China: How America Is Deceived* (London: Jonathan Cape, 1965), p. 14.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 19.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 37.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 52.

5. Douglas Kinnard, *The War Managers: American Generals Reflect on Vietnam* NY, NY: A De Capo Paperback, 1991, p. 18.

6. *Ibid.*, p. 126.

7. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/antiwarpolls.html>

8. [http://www.wbex.com/script/headline\\_newsmanager.php?id=297687&pagecontent=nationalnews&feed\\_id=59](http://www.wbex.com/script/headline_newsmanager.php?id=297687&pagecontent=nationalnews&feed_id=59)

9. <http://www.news10.net/storyfull.asp?id=7218>

10. [http://www.americanprogress.org/site/pp.asp?c=biJR\\_J8OVF&b=83165](http://www.americanprogress.org/site/pp.asp?c=biJR_J8OVF&b=83165).

Another interesting figure: “An April Gallup Poll found that among Americans who go to church at least once a week, 56 percent agreed that the ‘situation in Iraq was worth going to war over.’ Fewer than 45 percent of those who seldom attend church thought so. ... A Gallup Poll also shows the evangelicals’ growing numbers, placing them at no less than 43 percent of the U.S. population.” [http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/business/index.ssf?newsflash/get\\_story.ssf?cgi-free/getstory\\_ssf.cgi?f0033\\_BC\\_WSJ—Power-and-Peril&&news&newsflash-financial](http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/business/index.ssf?newsflash/get_story.ssf?cgi-free/getstory_ssf.cgi?f0033_BC_WSJ—Power-and-Peril&&news&newsflash-financial)

11. <http://www.al.com/news/mobileregister/index.ssf?base/news/1085303759134260.xml>

## Abuse

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or tourist is spying and poisons the relationships between peoples.

In both Iraq and Afghanistan, the imperialists are showing they have no solution to the problem of violence. Their “policing” approach has not reduced violence in either country. Indeed, given the Americans’ notorious frontier dog-eat-dog mindset, they’ve arguably made things worse. A real solution to the problem of violence requires international economic cooperation to meet basic human needs, not profit.

Notes:

1. The Guardian (UK), 9 July 2004.

2. The New York Times, 11 July 2004.

3. Agence France Presse, 15 July 2004.

4. Quoted in The Columbus Dispatch, 6 April 2003.

5. New York Post, 13 March 2003.

6. Many reviews on Amazon.com—from people claiming to be Special Operations soldiers—call this book “largely fiction.” This likely reflects some personal rivalries among the “soldier of fortune” crowd; although, from the few excerpts MIM has read, we agree with their assessment.

7. As it turns out, one of the men arrested with Idema was Edward Caraballo, a videographer who directed “The J Keith Idema Story,” about

Jack’s supposed exploits in Lithuania (google Idema and Caraballo and check out the cached pages). Idema and Caraballo also worked with Gary Scurka at Point Blank Network News. Scurka produced “The J Keith Idema Story” and covered the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq for National Geographic Explorer—to “present a U.S. Marine view of the war” ([http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/04/0410\\_030410\\_iraqjournalist.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/04/0410_030410_iraqjournalist.html)); ([http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/05/0516\\_030516\\_iraqreporter.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/05/0516_030516_iraqreporter.html)). National Geographic, by the way, is adept at getting Americans into geopolitical hotspots such as Afghanistan or the region of Colombia controlled by the FARC under the guise of human interest reporting. So Idema possessed the technical knowledge and local contacts needed to make a fake “training video,” if he wanted.

8. CBS News, 16 January 2002.

9. New York Post 9 Mar 2003.

10. [www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/01/16/60II/main324592.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/01/16/60II/main324592.shtml).

11. The Independent (London), 9 July 2004.

12. [www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?040412fa\\_fact](http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?040412fa_fact)

13. See article on Equatorial New Guinea, MIM Notes 299, 1 April 2004.

# RULERS TALK ABOUT THE DRAFT

Continued from page 1...

sending more, not fewer troops.

## II. Draft of ex-soldiers already under way

Not only that, but of great significance is the fact that Bush called up former troops based on a clause in their contracts that makes it possible to call them back to duty once they have left the military services. As MIM told our readers he would back in May, Bush called up the Individual Ready Reserve.

MIM Notes considered that maybe Bush only called up a few people in states he has no chance of losing in November, but that is not the case, because Bush called up former troops in 48 states of the United States. For example, "Twenty-five former National Guardsmen and 171 former Army soldiers in Louisiana are being recalled to active duty. They are among about 5,600 retired and discharged soldiers being involuntarily returned to active duty for possible service in Iraq or Afghanistan in the first substantial call-up of the Individual Ready Reserve since the 1991 Persian Gulf War."<sup>(1)</sup>

The fact that Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry blasted Bush for the "back-door draft"<sup>(3)</sup> that prevents "volunteers" from retiring shows that there is a very important goal involved here for Bush. He surely knows that 70% of the public opposes a draft right now<sup>(2)</sup> and his call-up and stop-loss orders do not help Bush's chances among military personnel—except for those most itching to fight. Even if the IRR members do not object, Bush had to have known how much media his "stop-loss" and IRR call-up measures would have generated.

Bush is politician enough to know in advance that his call-up of the Individual Ready Reserve would potentially cost him in elections in November; yet Bush still went ahead. So, we stop to consider three separate but possibly overlapping things that Bush may think he is gaining for that price: 1) creating a public opinion atmosphere of sacrifice for the "War on Terror" that also helps his election chances; 2) scraping the bottom of the barrel to prop up his puppets in Iraq; 3) faking a crisis to give the military a much higher profile and justifications for expanded budgets—although this could also backfire by funding personnel at the expense of weapons systems according to some bourgeois analysts of imperialist financing.

With regard to the budget, Bush is the type of Reagan Republican who claims to oppose the draft and not care about deficit-spending to benefit the military. However, in fact, whatever Bush's personal beliefs about the draft, his actions make the draft more likely. Bush may believe that Reagan proved that deficit-spending "doesn't matter," but Congress may decide he is wrong. At some point, having a large military budget in front of

it to pay for "volunteers" may cause the Congress to want to go whole hog and get non-volunteers, perhaps for less money per soldier, perhaps more. There will be arguments about it both ways. Part of the equation will be how to snooker the public into giving more to the military by way of taxes. Some would say that with a national service requirement, volunteering for combat would increase based on a certain analysis of Vietnam that boils down to the enthusiasm of youth and how to bring it out.

## III. Military recruiting and race/nationality

The New York Times claims in a July 3rd story that a bill for a draft by Senator Ernest F. Hollings and Black House Member Charles Rangel has no support from Republicans.<sup>(2)</sup> That's not exactly right.

In April, Senator Chuck Hagel (Republican Party Nebraska) not only changed position to raise supporting the draft but suggested a mandatory two year military service on the "Today" show. Hagel also raised the same reasoning as Rangel—that it would spread the burden of fighting by class more evenly.

More important is the reasoning the rulers themselves use when it comes to whether a draft is necessary: "'You have drafts when you can't get the requisite numbers,' said the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Representative Duncan Hunter, Republican of California. 'There is not now indications that you can't get the requisite numbers. But we watch those numbers every month.'"<sup>(2)</sup>

The numbers show that recruiting is falling about 10% short of goals. Those numbers would be different if there were an attack on US soil from Iraqis, and not just some propaganda from Cheney about links between 911 and Saddam Hussein. The importance of "those numbers every month" revolves around military pay and also ideological ardor for the war among the military itself. If the bourgeoisie succeeds in "educating" the public to its view of international affairs, the enthusiasm for fighting will be greater. Mostly by default, 17 and 18-year-old Americans have no education about the Third World, except from military service abroad. A portion at any time will be ignorant and adventurist enough to go fight for whatever the government says. The question is whether that portion is enough for the imperialists' current plans and future aggressions. The military recruiting/retention statistic or portion of youth willing to "serve" would not be the same for all political contexts and historical periods.

In recruiting at this time, speculation abounds that recruits will be disproportionately desperate sorts. Sergeant Everett Best recruits this way:

"I tell them straight up. Miami is the biggest war zone we've got," he said. 'Every time you turn on the TV we see someone shot.'"<sup>(4)</sup> It's comments like these that leave part of Amerika realizing that the military takes advantage of the ignorant among us, and this in itself creates a political basis for the draft among some of the more fair but nonetheless bourgeois-minded who seek to oppress and exploit Iraq but not a particular group of Americans.

Sergeant Michael Bass, "uses simple figures. Nine people from southern Florida have died in Iraq, compared with 338 murders in the Florida region last year: 'They have a better chance in the army than on the streets of Miami.'"<sup>(4)</sup>

We should all be clear that this is fallacious reasoning—the same underlying mathematical method error underlying claims that say Hitler was relatively harmless compared with Stalin and Mao as the idiotic Black Book of Communism says. In actual fact, despite the USA's murder rate, which is disgraceful for such a rich country, urban areas such as southern Florida are safer than serving in Iraq.

We cannot compare 9 with 338 the way Sergeant Michael Bass did. That's like saying rookie pitcher Shaun Hill of the Expos is a better pitcher than future hall-of-famer Roger Clemens, because Hill has only lost 2 games in his career, while Clemens has lost 163. Of course, Clemens' career has been much longer (624 starts to Hill's 3), so in terms of losing percentages, Clemens looks better than Hill (26% to 67%). Based on those numbers alone, a smart manager would start Clemens over Hill.

Similarly, we have to do a calculation for how many people die per 100,000 per year both in Iraq and southern Florida. The United States had 866 deaths in 466 days in Iraq. That would be 678 deaths in 365 days. That's approximately 484 per 100,000 troops in Iraq one year. Now we take the sergeant's 338 figure. That is 338 deaths for all the population of southern Florida, when Miami by itself is over 370,000. That means that there are much fewer than 91 murders per 100,000 in southern Florida once we account for the rest of the population of southern Florida and not just Miami. That 91 number should be compared with the 484 deaths in Iraq per 100,000 troops.

"Hostile fire" accounted for 657 out 880 (a more recent toll than the 866 above) deaths. We don't really see any reason to separate "friendly fire" deaths. Moreover, "accidents" also need scrutiny, to see if there is a higher "accident rate" in Iraq, given the equipment that soldiers use compared with their environments at home.

In daily life we need to use math to have what is called "a sense of proportion." Everett Best tries to fool his

recruits into thinking they are 37 times better off in Iraq than Miami by comparing 9 with 338. By only obtaining the population of Miami and doing some division we see that in fact people are more than 5 times better off in Miami than Iraq when it comes to exposure to death. If we do a little more research, we find that Miami had only 65 murders in 2002 and 66 in 2001.<sup>(5)</sup> Using the 2002 figure, that is less than 18 per 100,000 people per year dying of murder in Miami. So in fact, one could be seen as more than 26 times better off in Miami on this score, so Sergeant Michael Bass would seem to have it exactly upside-down.

Nor is this a problem just with some low-level recruiters. "Defense Secretary" Donald Rumsfeld started the ball rolling with the military recruiters by talking about the murder rate in Washington DC. When he was under fire for casualties in Iraq in June 2003, Rumsfeld himself implied that Iraq is safer than Washington DC. Fox News and frontpagemag.com took this to refer to all violence in Iraq, and excluded violence by US soldiers or people in civil war to come to a ridiculous conclusion that order is fine in Baghdad when in fact the total US-caused deaths in Iraq fully equal what Saddam Hussein was doing per year by the imperialists' own wild estimates of Saddam Hussein's violence.<sup>(6)</sup> When we consider that the Americans installed Saddam Hussein to begin with, we can see that violence traces back to the Americans in any case.

Alas, for the 18-year-old Black man of DC, Iraq may be a marginally safer place than DC if we assume that Blacks are not a disproportionate share of the casualties out of the soldiers in Iraq. [In 1991, the homicide rate per 100,000 for Black men ages 17 to 24 in Washington DC was a deplorable 652 per 100,000.<sup>(16)</sup> The overall DC murder rate declined 42% from 1991 to 2002.<sup>(17)</sup> Assuming the proportion of homicides with Black victims and the proportion of the city's Black populace remained the same, we estimate the homicide rate for young Black men in DC was around 380 per 100,000 in 2002.] DC usually leads in murder each year, but the situation is only slightly better for Blacks in Detroit, Baltimore and New Orleans.

There are two separate questions here. Blacks had 14.3% of the casualties in Iraq at one point,<sup>(7)</sup> compared with 12.8% of the US population. That is relevant when we talk about why Blacks should have their own nation and not sacrifice their youth to imperialism. When it comes to the DC question though, that particular ratio is not quite relevant, because Blacks are a disproportionate share of recruitable young people and the military.

In fiscal year 2002, whites were 66.96% of recruits and Blacks were 15.71%.<sup>(8)</sup> Of the groups "white,"

Continued on next page...

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“Black,” “Hispanic” and “other,” “Hispanic” is the only under-represented group in the recent military recruits based on the 18-24 age group pool.

On the whole, DC is much safer (for the average Amerikan thinking about being a soldier) than Iraq since DC’s murder rate as a whole is only 45.8 per 100,000 compared with the 482 per 100,000 death rate for troops in Iraq. That Iraq figure is even more than 10 times worse than the victimization of Black men inside U\$ borders. Black men in the United States as a whole suffered homicide at a rate of 37.5 per 100,000 in 1999.(9)

The real relevant factors here are age and gender. When we look specifically at 18-year-old Black men considering DC or Iraq, there is not much difference. Ditto Baltimore, Detroit and New Orleans.

As their excuse for slavery or theft (in the case of whites) or out of stupidity, racists are always ready to say that Blacks are genetically inclined to crime against themselves and others. The truth is that national oppression in places like the USA and southern Africa are responsible for high crime rates.

If we look at a place like Côte d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast), at 4.07 per 100,000 in 2000, (10) the murder rate is lower than rates in the USA, including by Blacks, of Black victims and all victims including whites. The highest murder rates in Africa are found in the last countries to de-colonize, places where there is a high proportion of whites nearby so that they still exploit and rule the Blacks up-close. The sooner Blacks in southern Africa take control of their economic destinies, impose socialism led by a party of Marx, Lenin & Mao and the sooner they break with the settler bourgeoisie, the sooner problems such as high murder rates will decline to normal.

It is easy to see why the “Secretary of Defense” harps on the DC murder rate. He uses it to meet his recruiting goals which would tend to fall short in the cities otherwise. The conservative Heritage Foundation has made similar arguments.(18)

There are other people exaggerating Black crime who are also having the effect of driving recruits into the military. We speak of the Black bourgeoisie talking about the country with the highest imprisonment rate and an imprisonment rate of Blacks higher than under Stalin in peace time. There are many ready to say Blacks and Amerikans generally “deserve it.” Bill Cosby (11) is only the latest in the news to exaggerate Black crime to the benefit of military recruiters: “The incarcerated? These are not political criminals. These are people going around stealing Coca-Cola. People getting shot in the back of the head over a piece of pound cake and then we run out and we are outraged, saying, ‘The cops shouldn’t have shot him.’ What the hell was he doing with the pound cake in his hand?”(12) Yes, Cosby is justifying police murders of Blacks and creating a certain image when the majority of the incarcerated are there for non-violent

offenses. Although we agree with his “work hard” and “stay in school” message, with leaders like Cosby the Black nation is going nowhere. In the current context, what Cosby (with Jesse Jackson cheering him on) is doing serves as the Black face for Rumsfeld.

It comes down, again, to a sense of proportion. Without a sense of factual proportion, we cannot pinpoint the correct cause of a problem. Black youth aged 17 to 24 were about 12.8% of the Black nation in 2000. Youths 17-24 were 32.7% of the homicide victims among Blacks—2060. 2060 people out of approximately 4.55 million people died in homicides.(13) That’s about 45 homicides in the 17-24 age group per 100,000 people. Black wimmin will be averaging about 15 per 100,000 in the 17-24 age group and the Black men will be averaging approximately 75 per 100,000. That’s not even close to 484 per 100,000—even for Black male youth.

Rumsfeld is telling Blacks that they have a choice of being oppressed here or in Iraq. Bill Cosby leads toward incorrect solutions such as volunteering to go to Iraq to be oppressed there. We should not exaggerate urban crime or even Black oppression to make it sound like going to Iraq is paradise. Blacks and Iraqis share the same oppressor, so going to Iraq will not solve anything.

#### IV. How rulers think about personnel shortages

The Washington Post dipped directly into the subject of over-extended U\$ military commitments touched on in the documents that founded our organization in 1983. “Gen. Richard A. Cody, the Army’s vice chief of staff, said forces are ‘absolutely’ stretched thin. ...

“Some lawmakers said yesterday that they fear the military is dangerously close to being broken. Rep. Ike Skelton (Mo.), the committee’s ranking Democrat, said he believes that the military is wearing its soldiers out. Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) said he believes the military is ‘using people pretty hard right now’ and needs to consider expanding, an idea the Pentagon has resisted because it would raise the military’s budget.

“‘We are also concerned that insufficient force structure and manpower are leaving the services to make a decision that I liken to eating the seed corn,’ committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) said.”(14)

USA Today is also heating up the issue.(15) In contrast, we at MIM warn people not to think that U\$ imperialism is about to fall any minute. Uncle \$am always has more plans for global repression and he will get himself into yet more trouble—which is another reason the draft will come about unless there is a desperate anti-militarist movement.

U\$ imperialism has more political reserves and more cards to play. Amerikan youth should cut Uncle \$am off at the pass by stopping the draft, criticizing those who make serving in the military sound better than life in the USA



and opposing the imperialists’ war on Iraq and “war on terrorism.”

#### Notes:

1. [http://www.2theadvocate.com/stories/070704/opi\\_edi2001.shtml](http://www.2theadvocate.com/stories/070704/opi_edi2001.shtml)
  2. “Military Draft? Official Denials Leave Skeptics” New York Times 3Jul2004, p. 1.
  3. Kerry’s “back-door draft” comment made into numerous media. Here is one story from South Carolina with a good overall sense. <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/mld/sunnews/news/opinion/9129117.htm>
  4. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,12271,1258593,00.html>
  5. <http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/police/statucities2000.html>
  6. <http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/ReadArticle.asp?ID=11315> ; <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0%2C2933%2C105954%2C00.html> ; <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/bushvshussein.html>
  7. [http://www.imdiversity.com/Villages/African/politics\\_law/hutchinson\\_black\\_deaths\\_iraq.asp](http://www.imdiversity.com/Villages/African/politics_law/hutchinson_black_deaths_iraq.asp)
- You can count the faces for yourself here, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/iraq/casualties/facesofthefallen.htm> but that won’t tell you what race/nationality the dead soldier considered him/herself and it is not always easy to tell.
- Let us know if you do a count.
8. [http://www.defenselink.mil/prhome/poprep2002/appendixb/b\\_03.htm](http://www.defenselink.mil/prhome/poprep2002/appendixb/b_03.htm)
  9. Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2002, Table No. 289.
  10. “United Nations Survey” “7th Survey” [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/seventh\\_survey/7sv.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/seventh_survey/7sv.pdf)
  11. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/07/02/national/main627156.shtml>
  12. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/07/02/national/main627156.shtml>
  13. Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2002, Table Nos. 14, 15, 288 & 289.
  14. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A35283-2004Jul7.html>
  15. [http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2004-06-30-oplede\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2004-06-30-oplede_x.htm) ; [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2004-07-05-reservists-duty\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2004-07-05-reservists-duty_x.htm) ;
  16. Washington Post, 19 April 1998.
  17. Washington Times, 16 June 2003; <http://www.washingtontimes.com/metro/20030616-093406-7084r.htm>.
  18. The supra-geniuses at the Heritage Foundation compare the probability that a Black 15-year-old male living in DC would be murdered before his 45th birthday (which they estimate to be about 10%) to the percentage of U\$ soldiers killed in recent wars (about 2%) and argue that “serving in the U.S. military during wartime may be preferable to living in some urban communities today.” Sure, they immediately admit they are lying—”strictly speaking, these military death rates are not comparable to the rate for young black males in urban communities because they were endured over much shorter periods of time [one to two years versus 30!]—but then they go on to say these figures “illustrate the magnitude of the risk faced by African-American males.” Leave it to the conservatives to throw away the facts when they become inconvenient. By the way, the equivalent probability that an Amerikan soldier serving a very extended tour of duty in Iraq would be killed before his or her 30th year in-country is 14%—higher than the Heritage’s estimate of the risk to Black men in DC. See: <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Crime/CDA00-05.cfm>.

# Marlon Brando (1924-2004)

We Maoists have very positive memories of Marlon Brando, who passed away July 1st in Los Angeles at the age of 80. Although we cannot say we followed Brando to the extent some tabloids follow movie stars, we still know him as a man who took the side of the oppressed in the face of hysterical white opposition in the instance of some of his political choices.

Already in 1954, Brando was known as someone pushing the limits of respectable sexuality. He called himself “trisexual” and made a big deal of carrying on some gay behaviors in public,(1) though there is hardly a more heterosexual image than Brando’s. One of Brando’s greatest contributions may have been to show men that masculinity and white ethnicity do not have to equal reactionary politics.

The Washington Post also noted this: “Starting in the 1960s, Brando became one of the first actor-activists to march for civil and Native American rights. He memorably refused to appear at the Oscar ceremonies to accept his award for ‘The Godfather,’ protesting what he felt was discrimination against Native Americans on film and in government policy.”(2) Prior to his protest at the Academy Awards on behalf of First Nation peoples, Brando had used his image in TV ads to help fight a fishing rights battle in white occupied Washington State. Then in the famous “Wounded Knee” incidents, Brando again donated money and sided with the First Nations.(3)

Marlon Brando donated large sums of money to the Black Panther Party when it was a Maoist organization. Brando worked hard to free Huey Newton from prison. Others in the Black Panther Party



Brando as Stanley in Streetcar Named Desire.

also had his support. In the same years, Brando himself played in countless movie roles of great fame, including Don Corleone in the “Godfather,” the highest grossing film up to that date. It came at a time when Brando had trouble finding acting roles after a hugely successful career in the 1940s and 1950s. The film business considered him washed up by the early 1970s when the “Godfather” came along. The British Telegraph newspaper called Brando: “the most influential film star of his generation, pioneering on screen the use of the acting technique popularly known as the Method.”(1)

“The Method encouraged players to

identify with their roles and imagine for them a biography beyond the bounds of the script. At its best this resulted in a realism and conviction never before seen on the screen. Marlon Brando was its most gifted exponent, and he set the pace for such later players as James Dean, Paul Newman and Al Pacino.”(1) Out of all his films, Brando was most proud of “Burn”(1) and we share his opinion. The bourgeois media won’t give it much attention because it’s an anti-colonial revolutionary film with many parallels to the war going on in Vietnam at the time the film came out.

The bourgeois media is remembering Brando professionally. We at MIM

remember him in his true spirit, as he wanted to be through his movies like “Burn” and his political activism.

Notes:

1. <http://www.opinion.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/07/03/db0301.xml&sSheet=/opinion/2004/07/03/ixoprigh.html>

2. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A23157-2004Jul2.html3>. <http://www.canada.com/national/nationalpost/news/artslife/story.html?id=6573daf1-69d0-443b-a22f-a1e89ad704a7>

## Amerikan brainwashing not good for Amerikans

Continued from page 3...

Amerikans have to understand if they are to eradicate the obesity epidemic that threatens them and (even more) their children—is that “personal choice” is not so persynal. As we said in MIM Notes 224 (December 15, 2000), “Two of the most important risk factors for obesity are sedentary lifestyle and high-fat, energy dense diet. These may seem like individual ‘choices,’ but as always, societal context determines choice. As one obesity researcher puts it, ‘We can’t just tell people, ‘exercise more, eat less,’ when for example, fast-food places now sell 32-ounce Cokes as their normal size.”(3)

With a glut of fast-food restaurants, with Coke and Pepsi and Mountain Dew being cheaper in some convenience stores than water, with 7-11s bursting at the seams with potato chips while a few brown bananas hide next to the Slurpee machine, eating right becomes a difficult challenge, to be mastered only by the most

dedicated (and, of course, those with a little more free time and cash). Similarly, with Amerikan cities designed around the car and the elevator, it is a challenge to exercise appropriately.

Spurlock notes that there are 30,000 McDonald’s restaurants in more than 100 countries on 6 continents.(1) He notes how pervasive the advertising is and its obvious slant toward children. (Spurlock says that the average Amerikan child sees 10,000 television advertisements per year.) (1) “Super Size Me” shows the “choices” kids have in public schools’ lunch programs and in vending machines. One student interviewed by Spurlock said that she wouldn’t be caught dead eating an apple in school versus junk food because eating junk food is cool. (In MIM Notes 224 we reported that more than 5,000 Amerikan schools have agreements with fast-food franchises to provide school meals.) (3)

The latest government figures “show no decline in the U.S. obesity rate, with

31 percent of adults and 17 percent of youngsters seriously overweight.” (5)

As if it wasn’t already easy enough to get a fat-filled Big Mac meal, McDonald’s has now come up with a new gimmick to make it even easier. Franchises are starting to introduce self-serve kiosks similar to bank machines and airport check-in stations. McDonald’s hopes it will “shorten lines and give consumers more control over ordering.” (6)

McDonald’s and other capitalist corporations are concerned with maximizing their profits no matter what the humyn and societal costs, under the guise of “freedom of choice and persynal responsibility”. But MIM is concerned with maximizing humyn health and societal productivity for the benefit of the majority of the world’s people. Under the dictatorship of the proletariat people will not have “choices” like Big Macs and 64 ounce Cokes and caramel sundaes with every meal. Physical education and activity will be mandatory and

schoolchildren will receive fresh fruits and vegetables instead of vending machine snacks and French fries for lunch.

Notes:

1. See Spurlock’s website, <http://www.supersizeme.com/> 2. McDonald’s press release, 29 April 2004 [http://www.media.mcdonalds.com/secured/news/pressreleases/2004/Press\\_Release042904](http://www.media.mcdonalds.com/secured/news/pressreleases/2004/Press_Release042904)

3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/text.php?mimfile=mn222/obesity.txt>

4. “A Big Con Man”, <http://www.techcentralstation.com/032504F.html>

5. “Feds Find No Decline in Obesity Rates”, <http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl+story&cid=541&u=/ap/20040616>

6. “McDonald’s serving up new kiosk ordering plan”, [http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2004/06/17/mcdonalds\\_serving\\_up\\_new\\_kiosk\\_o...](http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2004/06/17/mcdonalds_serving_up_new_kiosk_o...) . 6/17/2004



# Fahrenheit fires on a few good targets, avoids others

right while we still can.(2) Moore notes that the bourgeois media have only helped to spread fear and promote the war, acting principally as a wire service for the White House and the Pentagon since 9/11. Dan Rather is shown, with a backdrop of bombs dropping on Baghdad, giving an emotional speech to the effect that “one” cannot help but to hope that one’s own country will win the war. In another display of open jingoism we see Katie Couric telling the camera that she, for one, thinks that “Navy SEALs rock.”

This all serves as a good lesson for people who taunt MIM and other radicals, asking “have you ever been to Iraq?” when we criticize the war. Hundreds of reporters went and couldn’t manage to add anything but a little local color to the Defense Department briefings handed out in Washington. Going to Iraq didn’t help those journalists analyze the news they were reporting; doing that requires critical thinking and the ability to learn from history.

Moore demonstrates, all too briefly, how the U.S. army is terrorizing the Iraqi people. A middle-aged Iraqi woman screams that god is going to take vengeance on the Americans, that Allah will destroy the houses of the Americans the way Americans have just destroyed her uncle’s house. Clearly, the Iraqi people hate America because America is tearing their country apart, inflicting mass civilian casualties, destroying homes, schools and hospitals. While there is still no proof of any connection between Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden, the U.S. military is doing a good job raising a new generation of Iraqis who would be justified to devote their lives to inflicting violence on America.

According to Fahrenheit 9/11 anyway, U.S. troops take their jobs about as seriously as they do the video games they play to aid their training for active combat. One tank unit plays a CD of “let the motherfucker burn” while running raids. By the troops’ own description, the music helps them get hyped up for bulldozing whatever is in their path. A commander talks about “winning hearts and minds” before we see his troops go out on a nighttime raid that includes pointing machine guns at innocent and terrified women while interrogating them about the men in their house. The soldiers arrest a college-age man without telling him or his family what he has been charged with.

Some of the American troops are disillusioned about their jobs and emphasize that the war is not a video game, that they had no idea of the kind of destruction they would be seeing before their tours began. One soldier’s letter home includes fury at George Bush for sending him into Iraq. One Marine back

from active duty in Iraq is clear that he will refuse to return to Iraq on penalty of prison. These latter dissenters’ stories are compelling, and their presence and willingness to talk is encouraging, but it seems clear even to Moore’s hopeful eye that they are the minority.

In the end, this reviewer found Fahrenheit 9/11 less compelling than Moore’s last, “Bowling for Columbine,” even though the subject here is of much deeper concern to MIM. “Bowling for Columbine” had its problems—summed up in Moore’s insistence that America is a great country in need of fixing, rather than a rotten society living at the expense of the international proletariat. But because its emphasis was on the contradictions within the white American nation, it was easier for Moore to build a progressive analysis. He focused on the tremendous violence perpetrated by the U.S. military as the real violence in this society, as opposed to the video game and rock music violence conservatives went all out to censor after the Columbine High School shootings.

With “Fahrenheit 9/11” Moore is in over his head dealing with the principal contradiction—that between America and the Third World countries it dominates economically and militarily—and his analysis never goes deeper than that of the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. As in “Bowling for Columbine,” Moore emphasizes that he loves America and believes it is a great country. His emphasis is on fixing what is wrong with this country, which to his mind is embodied by the Bush clique. All Moore wants people to do after seeing the film is get out the vote.(3)

The film ends up feeling pretty flabby, because of all the causes one could finger for spawning the 9/11 attacks. Bush’s supposedly personal stranglehold on U.S. foreign policy is so not the point. Moore would have us believe that the reasons terrorists attacked America are all wrapped up in the Bush family’s business and personal connections with the Saudi royal and bin Laden families. He even suggests that since Saudis control 7% of the investment in some American stock exchange, they run the U.S. government. This is where Moore’s America-first bias is most cringe-worthy, and—aside from justifying racial profiling—it keeps him from seeing things as they really are.

We don’t deny the connections between the American government and the Saudi ruling clique, but Moore has the relationship backwards. The United States has the most leverage. After all, the unpopular Saudi royal family owes its position to American support—support that comes with some pretty tight strings attached. Furthermore, all those harping about the Saudi regime being soft on bin

Laden would do well to recall that the CIA gave bin Laden the training and start-up funds he later used to pressure the Saudis and others.

Moore favorably refers to a \$1 trillion lawsuit brought by relatives of 9/11 victims against the Saudi royal family; the Bush administration opposes this lawsuit. As we reported earlier, aside from failing to understand the deeper connections between the CIA and bin Laden, “the demand for \$1 trillion is nothing but war-propaganda, as any but the most naive will realize, because there is no way to extract that \$1 trillion for such a nonsensical cause except war to take over Saudi assets.”(5)

If MIM made a movie focusing on Bush the way Moore did, it would be how he, his father, and Rumsfeld aided Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden. Trying to blame Saudis for 9/11 is sugar-coating what happened for those Americans unwilling to stomach that their own political role in selecting their leaders such as Bush is at the root. Americans must learn to think about what some of their government leaders gained from 9/11 and what unnecessary capitalist risks they would be willing to take that guarantee another one.

Thus, despite Moore’s emotional appeal that young American men and women not be sent to kill and die for needless causes, Moore’s America-first sentiments betray him. He may be playing a different tune than Bush, but he’s beating the war drums just the same. Moore also argues that the Bushes’ heavy involvement with big oil (and Cheney’s with Halliburton) are the roots of the war in Iraq. Of course there is truth here, as we see Bush speaking at a white tie event: “Some call you the elite. I call you my base” to appreciative applause. But it is not all, or even the most important part of the truth, which extends to other administrations and the government in general.

Fahrenheit 9/11 takes a big hit in saying nothing about the hand the Clinton Administration, say, played in curtailing civil liberties with the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996. Moore also completely ignores the decades-old American partnership with Israel to humiliate the Palestinian people and disrupt the Middle East. And he neglects to mention the ground Clinton laid for this latest war in Iraq with the so-called Iraq Liberation Act, which authorized the “regime change” that has Democratic voters so riled up. If “regime change begins at home,” how about those same Democratic voters take responsibility this next time around for electing a president who won’t sanction illegal assassinations halfway around the world?

This is to say nothing of the fact that a

bourgeois democratic government is by definition the administrative arm of the bourgeoisie—whether its officers are of that class or not. Which brings us to the fact that the Washington Post calculated and Moore repeats, that Bush spent almost half of his first 12 months in office on vacation. In the end, people get the leaders they deserve, and a population that can bring itself to oppose an unjust war only when the number of its own dead approaches 1,000 deserves “Dubya.”

That said, it’s good to see popular debate on the subject of this war. America has been fighting under the false pretense of finding weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Moore makes big play of the fact that only one Congressperson has a child serving in active duty in the military, while Congress has sent the sons and daughters of the lowest rungs of labor aristocracy to fight for less than questionable cause. The solution to these problems is not to be found in replacing leaders within the current zero-accountability system. The solution is to replace this system with one that holds its leaders accountable with their lives if necessary, for wasting the lives of others, as Mao sacrificed his own son in the Korean War.

The movie’s closing scene, of George Bush blundering the old saying, “Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me,” gets a big laugh, but Moore misses its point. It’s not that the country shouldn’t be fooled into re-electing Bush (a point on which Moore is in agreement with close to half the country already anyway), it’s that people need to quit being fooled by the falsehood that America-firstism can prevent terrorism.

As MIM wrote on 9/11/2001: “The fact that there are so many possible threats in the world is something that should tell the leaders of the United States that problems have reached well-beyond the point where they can be managed by keeping track of various peoples and groups. U.S. leaders have failed miserably with their arrogant superpower attitude that denies the simple fact that in this modern world almost anyone can kill anyone with high-tech weapons....

“The U.S. people must also learn their lesson.... While the last presidential election hinged on Monica Lewinsky and George Bush’s supposed amiability as someone ‘to drink a beer with,’ the U.S. Government kept up a grinding war against peoples all over the world. The U.S. people have treated politics as a joke, the whole time that multi-billion dollar U.S.-sponsored wars are going on all around the world and people starve to death in eight digit figures annually. ... It is precisely the people of the United States who as part of the world’s superpower must be most relentless in the pursuit of global peace, and not get sidetracked with comfortable and arrogant attitudes.”(4)

Notes:

1. New York Times 6/28/04
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/civlib/>
3. <http://www.michaelmoore.com/takeaction/vote/pledge.php>
4. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/sept112001/sept112001.html>
5. MIM Notes 271, 1 Dec 2002.

## Starting a study group in Kentucky

I just got your first MIM Notes this week, I had over 120 guys read them. I took my own funds and ran copies for each of them in this dorm. Now I am the head dorm leader of the first ever low key revolutionary group here. So I need for you to mail me study group materials and information on forming the group the right way.

As to the censorship here, we can get study group materials sent to us without the education department's approval. You have comrades here who will go to war and work for you every step of the way! We will not harm any staff by putting hands on them. No! We will do war in the District Court, and with letters and phone calls. This is the war we are talking about.

With love and respect 4-ever.

—a Kentucky prisoner 13 May, 2004

**MIM responds:** Want to get your own study group going? Write to MIM for a prisoner-authored guide to getting started. And revolutionary literature to study from our Books for Prisoners program. Non-prisoners should take inspiration from this prisoner in Kentucky and send MIM donations of money, stamps and books to pass on to prisoners in KY and elsewhere, hungry for revolutionary literature to study.

## MO prisoner weighs in on Ad Seg

I am an inmate here at Jefferson City Correctional Center. I have been in prison for two years now and I have been truly done in. I have a 10 year sentence and I am certified as a Dangerous Offender by the State of Missouri.

Prisoners are allowed ten minute phone calls and showers every day, two to two-and-a-half hours of recreation a day. Ad Seg has three hours of recreation a week and three showers a week with no phone calls. We have written letters to the Attorney General, Governor Bob Holden and the Director of the MDOC for change but we get nowhere. We file grievances but they take up to 30 days to six months to get a response. The parole board refuses to release people from prison here and we have a dangerous problem on our hands.

I am a soldier-warrior who will not break or bend for these people. The reprisals are harmful to us. If they see you kiss your wife/girlfriend too much you can get a violation and lose your visits for 12 months.

The state censors certain books, and reading material in this prison system. The housing units have no group dining or recreation. If there are six people or more in a group they take you out to the hole for a violation. The control units are at Jefferson City, Licking, Bonne Terre, Charleston, Cameron and Potosi. The controlled movement and 22-hour lockdown are pitiful.

—a Missouri prisoner, 28 May 2004

## AZ Medical deaths

Two nurses at a juvenile jail are now charged with murder because they skipped exams and falsified medical records on a seventeen year old who spent his last days in agony lying on a concrete bed. He died of a burst appendix. The women face charges of third degree murder and aggravated manslaughter of a child.

A sixty-two-year-old man who cannot move without a wheelchair due to epilepsy, arthritis,

# Under Lock & Key

## News from Prisons & Prisoners

spinal and nerve damage and stroke-related problems is ordered to walk to the cell door to be cuffed with hands behind him. Upon his refusal, due to his condition, he's zapped with a laser gun, gassed and pepper sprayed in his eyes. Is this necessary?

—an Arizona prisoner, 18 April, 2004

## Sex slaves in AZ

In the news, two prisoners at Buckeye, AZ took two guards hostage. What's not in the news are pleas from prisoners about the horror of prisoner rape and sexual slavery there. Nothing is done to stop it. Society pretends these acts of violence don't happen. Crimes — often perpetrated by heterosexuals against anyone perceived to be homosexual, transsexual, young or vulnerable — are ignored.

Authorities should consider the effects of such constant threats of violence where there is no chance for escape. The horrors increase and continue to ensnare many lives. No protective custody is given even when proof is shown of the abuse. Due to AIDS and hepatitis-C those who are raped in the prison rape and sex trade are often given a death sentence no matter what their court-ordered sentence. These prisoners live with depression, loss of self-esteem and perpetual terror.

A footnote: The guard who was released at ASPC-Lewis in Buckeye commended the administration for not attacking the prisoners holding her. She was released after officials guaranteed the two men would be transferred out of Arizona to another state.

—an Arizona prisoner, 18 April, 2004

## Grateful for MIM in OH

I just wrote recently to be placed on your mailing list. I sure would like to say Thank you for your newspaper. Wow, what an eye-opener! My only regret is I wish I would have had someone like you to open my eyes and see the world for what it really was when I was a kid, to point me in the right direction and bring things into the light.

I'm currently serving 20-life in the Ohio prison system and I'll do my best to promote your message and make your MIM Notes available to everybody on my unit after I read them.

Once again, Thank You.

—an Ohio prisoner, 24 April, 2004

**MIM responds:** Please do make the papers available to as many others as you can, and encourage them to write for their own MIM Notes. If each prisoner passes on his/her newspapers to ten more, you'll be doing so much more to expand our readership than you could all by yourself.

## MIM Notes censored in Washington

Enclosed is a mail rejection notice for your March 15 issue, dated June 9, 2004. Prior to my recent transfer at MCC-SOU they really

did censor mail and apparently did not feel MIM Notes appropriate reading for me (I have never received an issue). Now at WCC in the Intensive management Unit (IMU), on Intensive Management Status (IMS) level 2, I may receive books and other mail but not magazines or newspapers. Although this rule is not always enforced, it has been in this case.

—a Washington prisoner, June 2004

## California Black prisoners on lockdown

Once again in this prison the Black prisoners are on lock down status with no program. The pigs claim to have received word that one of their staff was in danger of being attacked. Many of us here think that our captors are using this excuse to retaliate on the Black prisoners. Last time this happened the Black prisoners were on lockdown for months. And this time just like last time a few Black prisoners were sent to ad-seg because the pigs claim those prisoners are "shot callers" and will incite violence. Whenever these pigs want to retaliate on the Black prisoners for any reason these pigs can use the excuse of a kite being "found" and can say that one of their staff might be in danger. None of us prisoners have any way of verifying if these threats are true or not so will just have to ride out the lock downs.

—a California prisoner at Susanville, May 2004

I'm writing to inform you about the situation here at Corcoran prison with this so called state of emergency lockdown. This place has been slammed for over 90 days for nothing. All prisons from Pelican Bay to Calipatria level 4 are on lockdown. Correction Officers are scared of all Black inmates.

It's a lot of Blacks being stereotyped by the staff here. Staff believe every Black inmate is a gang banger. It all started with an inmate coming out of the visiting area back and February this year on B yard. A Black man had a conflict with a Corrections Officer (CO). Administration wants to lock down everything that is Black on A, B, and C yards. This particular incident is the first of the new year between an inmate and CO here at Corcoran.

I would like to know why didn't we hear anything about Corcoran in the news media? It's a state of emergency. Does Arnold Schwarzenegger know that all Blacks are being denied programs here, including visits, phone calls, canteen, yard time, etc. All Blacks have to be handcuffed coming out of the cell for a shower.

—a California prisoner, May 2004

## Repression at Salinas Valley State Prison

I am writing to let the rest of our fellow comrades and the world know about what's really going on here at Salinas Valley State

Prison (SVSP). There is a new collect call billing system set up and put into effect early this year by CDC and MCI. This agreement between MCI and CDC strictly mandates that anyone who wishes to receive collect calls from inmates currently confined in any of CDC prisons must have an approved MCI phone carrier. For instance, if I choose to make a collect call to someone, they must first be currently signed to MCI or an approved affiliate. Anyone who is not signed on with MCI or an affiliate will have their collect calls that come from inside CDC's prisons completely blocked.

By implementing these new phone regulations on us, CDC and MCI have successfully removed one of the only practical and affordable means for us to keep close contact and communication with our loved ones, friends, etc. Also, our families and friends should not be forced to inconvenience themselves into switching entire phone carriers, which by the way are not financially reachable to all of the inmates loved ones. This is not only unfair and unjust, but it is abuse of power and monopolization on behalf of CDC and MCI.

## 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.

I recently filed a 602 complaint form on the situation. The appeals coordinator replied citing the Title 15 California Code of Regulations 3084.2 (c), place of filing. The appeals coordinator is trying to discourage me from continuing to take any further action by basically stating that I have failed to file my complaint at the first and formal level. This is false! The appeal coordinator is the first and formal level as far as this issue is concerned. The appeals coordinator also stated that I exceeded a 15 working days time limit, which is also untrue since this action did not have an adverse effect on me until I attempted to make a collect call to my loved ones only to discover that their phone numbers had been blocked. This appeal was made within 15 days of the phone call.

I also have a 602 form going against the mail room here at SVSP. All of the inmate population mail has been delivered to us anywhere from 15 days to over 30 days from the postdate. This is totally unacceptable. Not only have I personally had mail delivered to me over 30 days late, but in some instances not at all. I am still waiting for mail over a month and a half old. I presume it has either been lost or intentionally disposed of without my approval. I presume that it might be retaliation for the grievance I have filed.

These actions do not discourage me but only make my desire to see justice done that much stronger.

— a California prisoner, July 2004

## Prisoners stuck with gang affiliation

At this present time I'm battling these tyrants on paper (inmate appeal 602) to correct my status, that labels me a gang member. I've been informing prison officials for the past 3 years that I've disconnected ties with that lifestyle. However, these devils continue to enforce that label over my head. I submitted a grievance in to correct the gang status (87th Crip) which is fictitious. I never been a member of this gang. I am non-affiliated.

However, my grievance was denied based on my probation report, and being housed with a gang member. The probation report was written 7 years ago, so that's insignificant because a person can change for the betterment but these devils hate that fact.

In September 2003 my cell was searched by the investigation staff (IGI) finding nothing indicating that I was gang affiliated. So therefore, these devils have no solid grounds to continue that gang status. After my appeal was denied I forwarded it to Sacramento appeals. The appeal came back to me tampered with. My appeal attachments were missing, and the appeal was denied. I resubmitted an appeal and have not received a response.

I have not participated in any gang activities since I've been incarcerated, I have no tattoos

## Censorship in California prisons

### Afraid to receive MIM Notes

Thank you very much for your introductory news letter. I find the information very informative, straight forward, with words of wisdom. However, under my present oppression such information could be misinterpreted to define a contrary meaning.

Due to the Anti-Terrorist Act, misinterpreted censorship would jeopardize my United States Fourth Amendment Rights, solely based on the contents therein censored mail.

I am attacking the validity of my conviction based on the laws intact. I have lost my freedom, with invasion of my privacy (under the ruse of a security need), and therefore do not wish to provide the California Department of Corrections, nor associated oppressors with any additional fuel to suggest my involvement with any particular religion, nor sect. I therefore respectfully request that my name be removed from your mailing list.

— a prisoner in California, July 2004

**MIM responds:** The letters below demonstrate that this prisoner's fear of censorship is well placed. And in fact many of MIM's comrades behind bars are placed in solitary confinement as punishment for their activism behind the bars. This is a clear example of the lack of freedom of speech for groups like MIM, which are censored for talking about the horrors of imperialism. And it demonstrates the real danger prisoners face when they try to get prisons to abide by their own laws and regulations.

### Corcoran prison censors MIM Notes

As you can see by the enclosed Department of Corrections form depicting

infringement of 1st amendment rights, my MIM Notes is being censored.

— California prisoner at Corcoran SATF, June 2004

Upon reconnaissance I discovered the censorship flag now being on a recent newsletter and the MIM Notes pages you sent this way. I have appealed reply which stated: "MIM provides correspondence between prisoners and is not allowed." I challenged on grounds that MIM poses no security threat and that ban is vague attempting to encompass all aspects of MIM political ideology by using alleged threat by prisoner correspondence. Turns out Darrel G. Adam is still the Warden here.

— a prisoner at Corcoran, May 2004

**MIM adds:** The official "notification of disapproval" form forwarded to us by the prisoner above justified the censorship because MIM Notes is revolutionary. This is in violation of existing regulations governing censorship but the prison has yet to respond to MIM's letter on this topic sent in February of this year. We encourage our readers to send protest letters to: Warden Adams, PO Box 5248, Corcoran, CA 93212. Send a copy of your letter to MIM Notes.

### MIM Theory on Culture censored

The MT 13 theory journal (on Culture and Revolution) that you sent did not make customs line. The pigs here figured some of the contents had racially motivated figures. Can you believe that! If the pig was so pressed to filtering out racism from its institutions they need to filter themselves. I had the material sent home.

— a California prisoner at Coalinga, July 2004

linking me to the gang they're accusing me of being with, I'm not housed in a cell with a gang member, I am a Muslim, there's no informant information linking me to a gang. In fact I have Crips members saying I'm not affiliated, and staff are aware that I'm not affiliated.

— a California prisoner, May 2004

**MIM adds:** Being labeled a gang member is important in California prisons because this dictates the where a prisoner is housed.

Labeled gang members are placed in higher security institutions, with fewer services, and less likelihood for parole. The methods for labeling prisoners gang members are arbitrary at best, using information about who a prisoner speaks to, the prisoner's nationality, and "confidential evidence" of informants looking for a way to get a few more privileges for themselves. Prison officials routinely deny appeals about gang status regardless of the evidence.

## Join the fight against the injustice system

While we fight to end the criminal injustice system MIM engages in reformist battles to improve the lives of prisoners. Below are some of the campaigns we are currently waging, and ways people behind the bars and on the outside can get involved. More info can be found on our prison web site: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>

**Stop Censorship in Prison:** Prisons frequently censor books, newspapers and magazines coming from MIM's books for prisoners program. We need help from lawyers, paralegals and jailhouse lawyers to fight this censorship.

**Books for Prisoners:** This program focuses on political education of prisoners. Send donations of books and money for our Books for Prisoners program.

**End the Three Strikes laws:** This campaign is actively fighting the repressive California laws, but similar laws exist in other states. Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Send articles and information on three strike laws.

**Shut Down the Control Units:** Across the country there are a growing number of prison control units. These are permanently designated prisons or cells in prisons that lock prisoners up in solitary or small group confinement for 22 or more hours a day with no congregate dining, exercise or other services, and virtually no programs for prisoners. Prisoners are placed in control units for extended periods of time. These units cause both mental and physical problems for prisoners.

Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Get your organization to sign the statement demanding control units be shut down. Send us information about where there are control units in your state. Include the names of the prisons as well as the number of control unit beds/cells in each prison if that is known. Send us anti-control unit artwork.

**MIM's Re-Lease on Life Program:** This program provides support for our comrades who have been recently released from the prison system, to help them meet their basic needs and also continue with their revolutionary organizing on the outside. We need funds, housing, and job resources. We also need prisoner's input on the following survey questions:

1. What are the biggest challenges you face being released from prison?
2. How can these problems be addressed?
3. What are the important elements of a successful release program?

## 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.



## Un receso para Bush: el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU legitima la guerra contra Irak

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

El presidente George Bush obtuvo una victoria diplomática al reconciliar su postura sobre el tema de Irak con la de sus competidores rusos y franceses. El 8 de julio, el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU por voto unánime aprobó la resolución 15-0 que legitima la ocupación de Irak por las fuerzas estadounidenses en colaboración con su títere, un primer ministro iraquí instalado por la CIA. El hecho más lamentable fueron los votos de lacayos tercermundistas, incluyendo el voto de Algeria, a favor de la resolución.

La sumisión de la actual ONU al imperialismo estadounidense es una de las razones por las que el MIM lucha por Naciones Unidas proletarias, una organización de naciones capaz de reemplazar el imperialismo estadounidense. Una organización proletaria de Naciones Unidas habría mandado tropas y activistas para impedir un ataque imperialista contra Irak. Para obtener este tipo de poder es necesario que una organización proletaria de Naciones Unidas primero conquiste a los EE. UU. Para poder quitarle al país la "libertad" de atacar a otros países es

necesario establecer una dictadura proletaria de las naciones oprimidas. Los diplomáticos burgueses seguirán haciendo tratos que reflejan la actual falta de balance del poder, en vez de luchar por la justicia y difíciles cambios organizativos necesarios para la paz. Los diplomáticos burgueses deberían ser reemplazados por funcionarios estatales de los países oprimidos.

La resolución del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU significa que los imperialistas jugaron todas sus cartas con el fin de calmar a los iraquíes que se oponen al imperialismo estadounidense. Si la administración de Bush sigue teniendo éxito en Irak y en otras partes del mundo en términos de esta cuestión, el gobierno decidirá que un servicio militar obligatorio no hace falta.

Además, la resolución de la ONU deja el paso abierto para que Bush soborne a otros países con el fin de que éstos manden tropas a Irak cuando sea necesario. Esta opción es muy poco plausible por el momento debido a la feroz resistencia del pueblo iraquí. Muchos países no quieren mandar tropas a una situación de obvio peligro.

Uno podría preguntarse porqué Bush propone la resolución si la ONU no proporciona tropas. A diferencia de muchas maniobras diplomáticas dirigidas hacia la opinión pública estadounidense,

la maniobra en cuestión se dirige tanto hacia la opinión pública de los EE. UU., como hacia la de Irak. Si el pueblo iraquí sigue luchando, los demócratas no podrán decir que el mandato de la ONU no se busca a causa de la estrategia de Bush. Es por eso que el voto del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU es un paso victorioso para Bush, aunque también es la última carta que le queda por jugar.

El régimen títere establecido en Irak por los EE. UU. y reconocido por la ONU tiene la autoridad- una autoridad sancionada por la ONU- de retirar por completo las tropas del territorio iraquí. Dicha resolución también especifica la fecha del retiro de tropas internacionales ocupando Irak- enero de 2006. Es muy probable que la resolución retrase el movimiento anti-guerra dentro de los EE. UU. a medida de que más elementos pequeño burgueses decidan que Bush ha empezado a hacer caso de la diplomacia. Por el contrario, los partidos proletarios seguirán oponiéndose al régimen títere respaldado por la ONU independientemente de la vacilación de la pequeña burguesía.

La resolución de la ONU servirá además como eficaz propaganda frente al movimiento en contra del servicio militar obligatorio, ya que instiga al público a pensar que la necesidad de tropas desaparecerá para el febrero de 2006. Hasta este momento ninguna de las predicciones del MIM sobre el servicio militar obligatorio ha fallado. Dijimos que los partidarios de Bush estarían sorprendidos por el fallido retiro de las tropas antes del 1º de julio. Para apaciguar a los que tienen miedo a que Kerry le gane a Bush, Bush buscó la resolución de la ONU en vez de retirar las tropas.

En realidad, es al pueblo iraquí al que le toca poner el punto sobre la i. La pregunta es la siguiente: ¿logrará apaciguar la resolución de la ONU al pueblo de Irak? Si los iraquíes deciden seguir luchando duro contra los agresores, la pequeña burguesía estadounidense verá los beneficios del retiro de las tropas estadounidenses. Si el pueblo iraquí no lucha duro y hasta se desarma, el público puede anticipar una manipulación de las elecciones iraquíes por parte del Tío Sam, y la posibilidad de que las tropas sigan en Irak hasta después del año 2007, igual que en el caso de Alemania y Corea del Sur.

Como hemos mencionado antes con respecto a otras noticias sobre el servicio militar, el Tío Sam ofreció retirar todas las tropas de Corea. El hecho es que ahora se va a retirar un tercio de las 12,000

tropas- mil tropas más de las 3,000 que se discutieron recientemente. (2) Hay que señalar que es posible que este gesto abra el paso hacia un bombardeo de Corea del Norte por parte de los EE. UU., cuyos cálculos indican que menos tropas estadounidenses sufrirán la retaliación del Corea del Norte.

También hay que señalar que Bush mandó tomar medidas "anti-pérdida" con respecto a las tropas presentes en Irak, llamadas por el candidato presidencial demócrata John Kerry "un servicio militar por la puerta trasera". (3) Esto más o menos equivale a una aceptación del hecho de que para la gente con experiencia militar, cualquier rechazo de una decisión de terminar el servicio militar o de trasladarse a otra división equivale a un servicio militar en vigencia. El Pentágono se quejó de que sin estas medidas faltaría un 25% de divisiones creando una falta de personal militar.

Kerry propuso un doble incremento de "fuerzas especiales" (3)- fuerzas utilizadas contra movimientos de liberación nacional desde la época de J. F. Kennedy. Las fuerzas especiales se entrenan para guerras psicológicas, poseen conocimientos lingüísticos y tienen un perfil menos amplio que el de las unidades militares regulares.

Tanto la retórica de Kerry, como las últimas acciones de Bush implican el hecho de que el gobierno está tomando en serio la idea de atacar "el terrorismo", no naciones. De alguna manera han logrado pegar la etiqueta de "nación terrorista" a Irak, diseminando esta percepción entre los círculos gobernantes y entre sus partidarios brutos.

A pesar de todo, semejante flexibilidad permite redirigir recursos de lugares como Corea y Okinawa hacia Irak. Como hemos mencionado antes, ningún candidato abarcará el tema del servicio militar antes de las elecciones de 2004. A los dos les interesa crear la ilusión de que están haciendo todo lo posible para que un servicio militar obligatorio sea innecesario. Advertimos a nuestros lectores que el sistema económico que causó la guerra contra Irak sigue en pie. Los fines lucrativos detrás de ventas de armas de destrucción masiva siguen existiendo. El capitalismo no es capaz de proporcionar una genuina estabilidad a largo plazo, por muchas resoluciones del Consejo Nacional que se pasen.

Fuentes consultadas:

1. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/us/elecciones2004/story/0,13918,1174017,00.html>
2. [http://www.johnkerry.com/pressroom/releases/pr\\_2004\\_0527.html](http://www.johnkerry.com/pressroom/releases/pr_2004_0527.html)

### ¿Que es el MIM?

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

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

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

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

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