

MIM Notes



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The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Foreign army purges entire city (the relative size) of Seattle

By MC12

This is the headline you didn't see in the Amerikan newspapers when the U.S. military forced more than a quarter million people from their homes in Fallujah, Iraq, in a futile attempt to weaken the anti-Amerikan uprising.

Fallujah had a population estimated at 250,000 to 300,000 at the time of the Amerikan invasion (1). The population of Iraq is about 24 million (2). That means 1.1% of the Iraqi population lived in Fallujah before the invasion.

To find a metropolitan area in the USA of comparable relative size, look at Seattle, Washington. The Seattle metro area, which includes Tacoma and Bellevue, had a population estimated at 3,122,000. That is 1.1% of the total U.S. population of 288,369,000 (3).

So what happened to this population in Fallujah? They were driven from the city before and during the Amerikan invasion. The clueless Amerikan media can't seem to get the magnitude of this crime into their heads. Consider this exchange between NPR's Scott Simon and his correspondent in Iraq from Weekend Edition Saturday on December 18:

SCOTT SIMON (Host): *Michael, can*



you tell what it's like for people who live in Fallujah to live day by day?

SHUSTER: *No one is living in Fallujah, Scott. Almost all the civilians have left. It's impossible to live. There's no water. There's no electricity. There's no food. And many, many of the buildings and houses have been flattened. All—most of the residents of Fallujah went to other cities to live with other Iraqis while this happened and some went to refugee*

camps not too far back. There's a lot of talk about bringing them back, resettling them. There have been various comments from the Iraqi mayor of Fallujah and the Iraqi government officials in Baghdad that this process is going to start soon. But the Marines tell you — it's not clear how that can happen, as long as there's continued resistance and continued attacks on Marine teams in Fallujah so I

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DNC ARREST CHARGES AGAINST MIM NOTES REPORTER DROPPED

BOSTON

District Court recently dismissed trespassing and disorderly conduct charges against a MIM Notes distributor/reporter arrested at the Democratic National Convention that nominated John Kerry for president.

The Boston Phoenix also reported on charges against four others arrested at the Democratic National Convention—all of Asian ethnicity. One of those arrested complained of racial profiling. MIM will report further on that in the future as we learn the details of the conclusions Boston reaches.

While the MIM Notes reporter was in court, two Black men filed for restraining orders against wimmin. A Black male senior citizen with socks that did not match and looking very frail was one of the applicants. Although MIM finds it disgraceful for the Black nation to have to go through the u.s. court system,

Continued on page 6...

Pressed by U.\$., Dutch gov pursues case against revolutionary Sison

The government of the Netherlands recently defended its decision to halt the social benefits and freeze the bank account of political refugee Professor Jose Maria Sison. Prof. Sison is a Filipino with long history of activism on behalf of the exploited and oppressed and against U.S. imperialism. Under pressure from the United States and without due process the Netherlands declared Prof. Sison to be a "terrorist" in 2002. This ruling froze Prof. Sison's bank account and removed all state subsidies for food, housing, health insurance and other basic necessities which he had received for over a decade as a recognized political refugee.

The U.S. State Department has listed the Maoist Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army (NPA) as "foreign terrorist organizations" and encouraged other governments "to take action to isolate these terrorist organizations, to choke off their sources of financial support, and to prevent their movement across international borders." On 12 August 2002 the U.S. Treasury Department listed Prof. Sison as a "terrorist" whose assets must be frozen. The Dutch government passed the "Sanctions ruling on terrorism 2002 III" that criminalized Sison the next day.

The actions of the United States and

the Netherlands against Prof. Sison's survival rights are a microcosm of the imperialists' brutal repression of the survival rights of the peoples of

the Philippines and other Third World nations. Forty percent of households in the Philippines live below the poverty line of \$200 per persyn; about one-third of pregnant wimmin do not have access to prenatal care. The majority of the population lives in the countryside under conditions of feudal exploitation, with tenants paying as much as 50% of their yearly produce in land rent to large landlords.

This poverty and the resultant suffering are due to the exploitative policies of the imperialists and their local cronies, who rob the Philippines of its natural resources and exploit its workers in labor intensive, import- and export-dependent industries. Over 100 years as an Amerikan colony and neo-colony has devastated the economy of the Philippines—and when the oppressed of the Philippines rise up to try and change that, the U.S.-funded and trained Armed Forces of the Philippines cracks down on them and chases their leaders out of the country.

Here is a press release describing the

latest hearing on Prof. Sison's case. Prof. Sison is not the only persyn affected by these charges—they also restrict the speech rights of residents of the United States or its European allies. (Note the Dutch government's position that those who provide help or accommodation to Prof. Sison are legally punishable.) Even those who defend publication of Prof. Sison writings or those of the CPP on the grounds that this is necessary for fully informed public debate may face harassment or deportation under the "USA Patriot Act." Standing up for Prof. Sison is also standing up for our own ability to speak and organize freely.

For more information about Prof. Sison and the revolutionary movement in the Philippines, see www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/countries/phil/.

More starting on page 4:

- Statement from Committee Defend-Netherlands
- Who is Jose Marie Sison?
- Dutch spies ran "Marxist-Leninist Party"

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Letters

Iraqi insurgents vs. Abu Ghraib guards: Who are the monsters?

Here we go again with Sean Hannity and his so-called smooth right-wing radio host snakes! To the perceptive man, their lies are so lame! So who believes them? Well, unfortunately there are numerous uneducated Americans who are easily duped by their lying propaganda! I feel for them. They are comparing Nick Berg's beheading with the U.S. soldiers who abused those prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison.



Sean Hannity, radio host snake.

The beheaders are being called "monsters" while the prison guards are nothing but "mischievous kids" who did not know what they were doing! They were just kids who were bored and stepped out of line in a non-serious way. They were untrained to be M.P.s, they say! I beg to differ. Anybody with a healthy conscience would know that what they did to those Iraqis was plain wrong and immoral. And aren't these Americans supposed to be the no. 1 civilized people of the world? What happened is very simple to those people who still have some shred of good common sense.

— a Texas prisoner,
21 May 2004

MIM adds: It's no secret that the Amerikan national conscience is impaired by imperialist plunder. The people of this country enjoy a wildly inflated standard of living, at great expense to people in the Third World. Self-interest keeps Amerikans from considering how

persynally the Iraqis might take having their homes and cities decimated and their natural resources turned over to Halliburton.

While we don't see any Maoist leadership in the struggle against the u.s. occupation, it is to the credit of the Iraqi resistance that it is forcing some Amerikans take the war a little bit persynally too. The whole point of anti-imperialist resistance is to make wars of conquest and the profiteering that follows too expensive for the aggressor country to bear. It is unfortunate that the u.s. people are so far gone outside the international community that seeing such resistance is their best chance of waking up to the horrors of their own militarism and cutting it out.

Revolutionaries need background checks?

Greetings as always with a clenched

first salute. Recently I was sitting in my cage reading a book titled *The FBI and Martin Luther King Jr.* by D.J. Garrow. The gist of this book is the effects of COINTELPRO [the FBI's Counter-Intelligence Program, a campaign aimed at spying on, infiltrating and destroying progressive and revolutionary organizations in the united snakes] on the civil rights movement. While I fully comprehend its dynamics, I'm hard pressed to figure out how/why those of the revolutionary left didn't take any drastic countermeasures to unearth those agent/infiltrationist elements. They seem to be able to slide into the ranks relatively easy, with little or no investigation of background!

Reflecting on the assassinations of Jonathan & George Jackson by pigs in 70 & 71, respectively, they were both eliminated utilizing agents provocateurs that had been serving law enforcement for years! My point is you have very lax security when unknown/untested strangers can simply walk in off the streets, claim allegiance to some ideology and by virtue of a look be embraced into the fold. George tried to warn the BPP of Cleaver's background, i.e., his conduct while in prison to no avail. His writing & oratorical skills superceded his potential for derailing the BPP. Now here we are in 2004 still taking two steps forward & three backwards. Where is the effective front line? In the manifesto *Blood in My Eye*, both George & Jonathan observed a primary obstacle to collective progress was the lack of a formal military cadre strictly devoted to internal investigations

& neutralization of traitors! They felt then, as I do now, that it isn't a lack of training in ideology that stagnates a progressive class struggle. Rather it's these boot-licking sellouts amongst us, who are working to kill us!

— a Federal prisoner in Colorado
17 August, 2004

A RAIL Comrade and MIM reply: Revolutionary organizations are always at risk of being infiltrated. We can learn not only from the example of FBI infiltration into the Black Panther Party and other U.S. groups, but from our predecessors in other countries as well. We look especially to the model of Lenin's Russia. When asked about the presence of a state agent on his Central Committee, Lenin remarked that the agent must have done a lot of revolutionary work to earn the position. We take security seriously, but no background check is going to weed out every infiltrator.

At this time, the imperialist police agencies in the U.S. have far greater material resources than the revolutionary camp and can easily concoct false backgrounds for their agents. What they cannot fake is activism that supports our revolutionary goals. We expect the same level of contribution of all comrades at a given level of membership. In other words, comrades and allies will prove themselves through hard work rather than through background checks. We may not deflect every leech trying to suck the life out of our movement from within, but we will be sure to extract the greatest level of work for the least amount of exposure from every persyn we work with.

MIM Notes Production by MC12

MIM Notes

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

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

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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.

People mourn the death of Amerikan revolutionary Carol Andreas

by **International Minister**

El Diario International has reported that Carol Andreas of Colorado died at age 71 on December 7 of a cerebral aneurism. She was a professor and revolutionary. The people of Peru and Amerika both have special reason to mourn.

Although in the 1960s there were over 1 million self-described revolutionaries among u.s. college students, by 1976, the number of people still active in revolutionary struggle in the united States fell to about 0.1% of its previous level. El Diario International led by Luis Arce Borja mentioned her support for the People's War in 1980 and after, but Carol Andreas has international significance to Maoism as well.

In 1976, when most of the world's communists fell for Hua Guofeng and Deng Xiaoping after the death of Mao, Carol Andreas held firm. Her study group immediately published a book upon the death of Mao upholding the Cultural Revolution and denouncing the capitalist restoration. This should have been unremarkable given the preparation Mao and the "Gang of Four" gave the world for capitalist restoration in China, but in practice relative to others, Carol Andreas proved to have great foresight and firmness on this question while most of the world's communists temporarily fell off course. It was only in succeeding years that Hua Guofeng and Deng Xiaoping revisionism went into the minority in parties outside China.

As El Diario International correctly pointed out, Carol Andreas also held firm in 1992-1993 when the "peace accords" controversy in Peru arose. MIM will add that Carol Andreas confided to MIM that we should uphold Luis Arce Borja in exile against others arising at the time to diminish his stature outside Peru. In knowing what's what in 1976 and 1992, no one can do better than Carol Andreas did.

MIM also conducted activity to support the Cultural Revolution and Luis Arce Borja, so the question arises about the unity of Carol Andreas and MIM. One would guess that the issue dividing us would be the labor aristocracy, and we're still not entirely convinced she accorded this issue the proper weight, but Carol Andreas claimed not so much to disagree with MIM on this point. In fact, she pointed out that even in Peru the labor aristocracy was quite a problem. She stressed repeatedly that she had read all of Lenin's Collected Works and she knew where MIM was getting all those suspicions about the oppressor nation workers. With regard to others agitating for labor aristocracy demands she said, "let them bang their heads against the wall."

In print, a newsletter published by Carol Andreas on Peru openly debated MIM's contributions in passing. She reported that she had spoken with those who had found MIM to be a rejuvenation of Maoism in Amerika and integration of Maoism with U.S. conditions while others say MIM made no contribution to the struggle in Peru.

Our criticisms of Carol Andreas were public before she died. What we have not reported before is that she told MIM she "did not have energy" for inner party struggle and democratic centralism anymore. Her attitude was something like "been there, done that."

We do not doubt that Carol Andreas told Luis Arce Borja there is no vanguard party in Amerika, but we only criticize Carol Andreas and some Third World comrades for a liquidationist line. Carol Andreas was an articulate activist regarding the Cultural Revolution and Peru and this translated into invitations to speak to international communist conferences. In this practice of promoting individual personages at conferences, MIM has found a liquidationist attitude catering to the imperialist country petty-bourgeoisie. Some have gone so far as to invite Carol Andreas as an individual to speak while excluding parties.

Sartre spent his most correct years criticizing intellectuals who refuse vanguard parties. Intellectuals chafe against discipline for their own persynal mental needs at the expense of the international proletariat.

The disease of petty-bourgeois intellectuals obtains orthodox aid from those who have quoted Stalin on vanguard parties in the West against MIM. Stalin made a list of conditions organizations must meet to call themselves vanguard parties. Yet we challenge our critics to find in Stalin anywhere that it is OK not to join a party until it meets those conditions and if Stalin did any such liquidationist thing, then he was wrong. Our international comrades do a disservice to the international proletariat with cynical comments denying the need to take sides and join organizations. That does nothing to encourage youth in countries where no one claims to be Maoist either.

The relationship of Carol Andreas to the vanguard party idea and Stalin's theses on vanguard parties raise a basic question of materialism. The problem in the day of Lenin and Stalin was to choose among parties or factions wishing to join the Comintern especially from Germany, but also typically from Italy. These factions Lenin and Stalin could choose among had five and six digit memberships. That sort of luxury does not apply today in the imperialist

countries. When we materialists are choosing among factions and parties, we can use conditions like those prepared by Stalin for use in the Comintern.

The decision on how to recognize one faction or party over another discussed by Stalin is completely different than what Carol Andreas and some of her international admirers have done—which is to deny any choice at all. If we have a choice between factions or parties, we can compile a list of conditions. When we find ourselves saying there is no vanguard party at all when at least one claims to be one, then we have fallen into liquidationism.

There is always a most advanced line in any society—a basic fact of materialism. If Carol Andreas did not like MIM or other organizations, she should have declared herself vanguard in Amerika and forced the issue. The passive attitude that no one else has

already established nicely running vanguard parties that we can join as cogs in the machine must be banished as anti-Leninist and fatal to this stage when so many countries need to form vanguard parties.

One thing we like about what Carol Andreas did is that she took a liquidationist line which she made up for to some extent with internationalism. In her last decade or so she could not see straight to leading revolution in the united States, but she gave her energy to the revolution in Peru.

Comrades who would like to remember Carol Andreas should read her book Peru: When Women Rebel. And if anyone clings to any stereotypes about wimmin not being able to hold firm lines, digest Lenin or lead politically, we point to Carol Andreas. No one in Amerika, male or female did any better than Carol Andreas did in 1976 and 1992.

Sweatshop agreement reached

If anyone in direct contact with the Forever 21 struggle disagrees with this press release or believes it to be false, please contact mim3@mim.org.

A recent agreement reached by the Garment Worker Center and Forever 21, Inc., among others, stipulates that the Garment Worker Center contact the owners of websites deemed by Forever 21, Inc. to contain information pertaining to the disputes resolved by the aforementioned agreement, and to ask those owners to post the statement that follows on any page containing said information.

We apologize if you believe you have been contacted in error.

Sincerely,

Garment Worker Center

STATEMENT:

Forever 21, Inc., the Garment Worker Center, Sweatshop Watch, and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, on behalf

of several Los Angeles garment workers represented by it, have reached an agreement to resolve all litigation between them. In addition, the parties have agreed to take steps to promote greater worker protection in the local garment industry. The parties are pleased to announce the resolution of this matter as a positive and symbolic step forward in demonstrating respect and appreciation for garment workers. Under the parties' agreement, the national boycott of Forever 21 and related protests at the Company's retail stores, initiated by the Garment Worker Center in 2001, have ended. The parties share a belief that garment workers should labor in lawful conditions and should be treated fairly and with dignity. Forever 21, the Garment Worker Center and Sweatshop Watch all remain committed to ensuring that the clothing Forever 21 sells in its stores is made under lawful conditions.

For more on the fight against sweatshops, visit:

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/sweatshops/index.html>



Report on 29 October 2004 Court Hearing in Utrecht on Appeals of Prof. Jose Maria Sison and Ms. Julieta de Lima

by Committee Defend-Netherlands

Prof. Jose Maria Sison's appeals against the Dutch Minister of Finance and the COA (Central Organ for Reception of Asylum Seekers) were taken up at the court hearing at the Utrecht Court on 29 October 2004 at the Vrouwe Justitiaplein 1 in Utrecht. Also taken up was the appeal of Ms. Julieta de Lima against the Ministry of Finance.

Present at the hearing were Prof. Sison and Ms. De Lima and their lawyers: Mr. J.M. Langenberg and Mr. D. Gurses for Prof. Sison and Mr. Gerard Scholten for Ms. De Lima. The Minister of Finance was represented by Mr. A.B. van Rijn and the COA by Mr. R. van Duffelen.

Ms. De Lima's appeal was first taken up. Mr. Scholten argued against the continued freezing of the Euro 1,700 amount in the joint account of Ms. De Lima and Prof. Sison. He strongly asserted that this amount is for paying medical, food and other necessary bills. These have nothing to do with terrorism. Ms. De Lima had been saving up money to pay the bills, thus running into deficits in her other accounts. Mr. Van Rijn, on the other hand, reiterated the Finance Minister's position that any direct or indirect provision of financial and economic means to Prof. Sison is prohibited by the EU listing.

The presiding judge declared that the court would issue a decision on Ms. De Lima's appeal within four weeks.

Mr. Langenberg, speaking on behalf of Prof. Sison, started with the statement that the issue at hand was how, in a modern democratic society, the minimal fundamental rights of an individual must be protected or cannot be protected. This concerns the right to survival, he said.

Mr. Langenberg stated that since 9/11 the world appears, as in the Cold War of the past century, to have been divided into two camps: terrorists and fighters against terrorism. The events in the US have led to the hardening of society, especially American society, and to a wide-ranging internationalization of the fight against terrorism. He cited reports on violations of international law regarding torture of prisoners in Guantanamo. There is now the question of protecting fundamental rights of individuals and protecting democratic society against terrorist attacks.

Langenberg added that it was an executive order of US President Bush that put Prof. Sison on the terror list. This was followed by the Dutch government through a Sanction Regulation that took away his basic allowances for survival. However, through an authorization of the Minister of Finance, the Municipality of Utrecht was allowed to grant the minimal needs for food, accommodation and insurance. Langenberg declared that he assumes, from the humanitarian standpoint, that one who cannot secure his basic needs because he is not allowed

to work and may not be expelled, cannot be made to starve or be put in danger of losing his life through denial of his basic allowances.

Mr. Langenberg strongly criticized the Ministry of Finance's hard line position that it is the policy of the Dutch Cabinet not to provide any financial means to those on the list of terrorists and the granting of authorization would contravene the cabinet policy.

And yet, Langenberg said, Justice Minister Donner declared, when questioned in parliament, that "in the end, the government has to give a certain welfare allowance because he (Prof. Sison) may not be expelled. That is the dilemma in which the law has put itself into."

Langenberg stressed that, since Prof. Sison is covered by the absolute protection of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (EVRM) and may therefore not be expelled, he should be granted a welfare allowance by the COA. He referred to cases of many Afghan refugees who continue to receive allowances from the COA, despite their being declared excluded from the protection of the Refugee Convention. Langenberg criticized the "head in the sand" tactic of the defendant and its "ostrich policy". He further asserted that UN Security Council Resolution 1452 and European Council Regulation 561/2003 should apply to Prof. Sison and the claim of the Minister of Finance that these apply only to Osama bin Laden, Al Qaeda and the Taliban violates the purpose of the UNSC resolution. It would mean that Prof. Sison and others put on the terror lists since 9/11 have less "humanitarian" rights than Osama bin Laden and members of Al Qaeda and the Taliban.

Mr. D. Gurses assailed COA's position that Prof. Sison has no legitimate stay in the Netherlands. He stressed that Prof. Sison is a recognized political refugee, with status of 1A according to the Refugee Convention and is covered by the absolute protection of Article 3 of EVRM. He therefore has a right to a title to stay since he has been tolerated in this state for more than seven years. It is inhuman, stated Gurses, to tolerate a refugee (he may not be expelled) but to deny him the right to a humane existence by taking away the necessary means of existence. This has an impact on the psyche, not only of Sison but also on his wife and his children who live in the Netherlands. He is, as it were, artificially kept alive by gifts from friends so that he will not starve to death. Gurses said that this manner of tolerating someone violates the principles of a socially just state and also Art. 3 of EVRM.

Mr. Gurses pointed out that since it is crystal clear that Prof. Sison may not be expelled, there is indeed in a far-reaching manner a "detournement de pouvoir" (abuse of power) by the Dutch authorities who must be considered as negligent and

improper. The conclusion of the COA that the appeal of Prof. Sison is to be rejected is therefore unfair and unreasonable.

Mr. Van Rijn, speaking on behalf of the Minister of Finance, reiterated the latter's position that no benefits may be given to Prof. Sison, especially since the decision of the Council of the European Union is stricter than the Sanction Regulation of the Dutch government. The latter allowed the Dutch Minister of Finance, in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to grant an exception. But the EU decision requires the consultation with other Member States, the Council and the European Commission.

Mr. Van Duffelen, speaking on behalf of the COA, maintained that the order to leave the Netherlands had been given to Prof. Sison. He ignored the fact that Prof. Sison's recognition as a political refugee and his protection by Article 3 of EVRM effectively countered the order to leave. He reiterated that the decision of the COA to declare Prof. Sison's appeal not grounded should be confirmed by the court.

In a brief question and answer period, the presiding judge asked about refugees whose procedure had ended but still received welfare allowance. An assistant lady judge said that a new law, issued in September 2004, ordered the stopping of such allowances. To a question whether those who have helped Prof. Sison and Ms. Julieta de Lima who has provided accommodation to Prof. Sison are legally punishable, Mr. Van Rijn said "yes".

The Court asked if Prof. Sison wanted to speak. Prof. Sison stated that he has been subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment in violation of Article 3 of EVRM and to violations of his democratic right to due process. He has been unjustly demonized and branded a terrorist. His life has been put in danger. All this and the view of the Minister of Finance's representative that those who help him are legally punishable are indications of a Hitler-like fascism creeping into Dutch society. He added that his lawyers had already presented his position.

The presiding judge announced that the Court would issue its decision within four weeks.

--From Committee Defend-Netherlands, October 31/04

[December 15 2004 comment by MIM: We have no further news as of this date.]



Who is Jose Maria Sison?

Prof. Sison helped found the Kabataan Makabayan (Patriotic Youth) in 1964 and led some of the first protests against American intervention in Vietnam—of particular relevance as the United States used the Philippines as a staging area for aggression in Southeast Asia.

He went on to found the Communist Party of the Philippines on December 26, 1968, the New People's Army on March 29, 1969 and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines on April 24, 1973. The CPP, NPA and NDF continue to wage revolutionary armed struggle for national liberation from imperialism, for socialism, and against feudalism, imperialism, and crony capitalism. Under the pen name Amado Guerrero he wrote "Philippine Society and Revolution," a concrete application of Maoist principles to the reality of the Philippines that remains a guiding document of the Philippine revolutionary movement.

Prof. Sison was imprisoned by the Marcos fascist regime from 1977 to 1986. Soon after his release the U.S.-puppet Aquino regime exiled him. Dutch courts previously upheld his refugee status and granted his wife and son political asylum. While in exile, Sison has served as a political consultant to the revolutionary National Democratic Front of the Philippines in peace negotiations with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines. He also speaks and publishes articles in support of the revolutionary movement of the Philippines and against U.S. imperialism; he is a strong critic of the "war on terrorism" and the U.S. invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

To give their campaign to silence Prof. Sison the flimsiest of justifications, Philippine and American spy services and their media mouthpieces claim without evidence that Sison still heads the CPP. However, as the CPP puts it in a statement reprinted on page six, "the Party's collective leadership effectively operates in the consolidated revolutionary guerilla bases in the Philippines, safely out of the immediate reach and mischief by the US and local reactionary armed forces."



Security: This time a lesson from the Netherlands

by PIRAO chief

On December 10th, Dutch government radio admitted that the Dutch government infiltrated or set up three organizations—the Marxist-Leninist Party and two friendship societies, one for Kampuchea and one for Albania. These organizations also did succeed in recruiting genuine members between 1969 and some date in the 1980s. Among other goals of the organizations set up by the Dutch spies was to obtain support from China, which the Dutch intelligence agencies claim they succeeded in doing. In the West, the governments deliver money to their lackeys running for election or serving as dictators around the world, even where it is illegal. On the other hand, the majority-exploiter governments make a big stink if China or some other competitor spends money on politics in their allegedly free countries that supposedly allow a free competition of ideas as a selling point for the whole organization of their societies.

This incident shows that the Dutch government in its zeal to catch the Chinese government cheated its own people of a chance to organize Dutch communist organizations without interference. This alone gives the lie to the “free world” often discussed by the Dutch and the rest of Western Europe and the United States. Infiltration by the state is especially damaging to communist and anarchist organizations, because people often join them because they detest the idea of secret services, so any talk of “fair play” in a “democracy” needs to be taken with a grain of salt.

Far more damaging to the international proletariat is the setting up of organizations where armed struggle is going on or about to happen. These organizations set up by cops and spies seek to divert the naive where struggle has reached a certain level of intensity. Peru and Nepal have a plethora of parties, mostly because of the needs of the exploiters. Equally damaging is those instances of organizations that suddenly have major support in the imperialist countries arranged by the CIA. In Iraq, it is public knowledge that the “Communist Party USA” works with the U.S. puppet regime, (a case of minor support) but similar activities are also happening covertly in many Third World countries. On the other hand, an additional complication is that sometimes the exploiters do briefly ally with the exploited when the exploiters are in a bad squeeze. The case of Germany sending Lenin back to Russia in a train car in World War I is an example. When there is a war going on or could be going on in a given region, we cannot rule out that a faction of exploiters would ally with the exploited on fairly positive terms.

From the bourgeois point of view, the infiltration of communist groups serves dual purposes. One is to dampen or track activity in those groups and the other is to prevent activity in the first place. As

the people learn that communist organizations are infiltrated, they may give up trying to work with them. Even planting false stories of infiltration aids in this goal. In response, we Maoists have dual duties—one is not to deny enemy activity and the other is never to justify cynicism or paralysis of the exploited and oppressed.

Speaking of an eastern European comrade, Comrade Stalin said “what does he know?” in reference to the idea that there are no enemies in his party. Declassified documents also show that U.S. police infiltrated the Black Panther Party and went so far as to co-chair a Trotskyist group.

Likewise, in Kanada an organization of 2500 found itself infiltrated by agent provocateurs. In the imperialist countries unprepared for armed struggle, the enemy joins communist organizations and tries to provoke them into unplanned armed activity.

Meanwhile, the imperialists carry out illegal act after illegal act through wars only to be let off with impunity. While these infiltrators waste taxpayer money and risk others’ lives in an effort to provoke violence, they fail to arrest war criminals such as Henry Kissinger, Caspar Weinberger and Donald Rumsfeld.

In any case, the capitalist class will continue to look for communist scapegoats in the majority-exploiter countries, with the hope that the public will blame the communists for terrorism, war and everything else the imperialists are carrying out or causing to happen. The fact that the communists have no power and only the blame and the fact that even the Dutch intelligence agencies make it more difficult to organize fair-weather communist organizations is a plus of the kind Mao referred to when he said it is good that the enemy attacks. The quality of movements under attack improves while the quantity dissipates. In countries like the Netherlands, the fair-weather types who avoid communist organizations would be from the petty-bourgeoisie anyway, so there is no real loss of contact with the “masses,” because of the intelligence agency activity.

As MIM pointed out in its 2004 Congress resolution, the enemy does set up entire organizations and it also takes small organizations and makes them transit points for huge operations dwarfing anything the communist organizations in that country could dream of doing themselves. Nonetheless, we would never exchange our internal problems for those of the bourgeoisie—their inter-imperialist wars, imperialist rivalries and shady business competition that undermines the whole capitalist system without any communist’s lifting a finger.

The nub of our problem is that just because the enemy sets up organizations favoring Stalin and Mao we cannot afford to abandon the principles of Stalin and

Mao. Since we cannot always know precisely which organizations are fakes, and to what degree, it is important to approach this question in principle. We must establish principles to follow that take advantage of our strengths and emphasize the enemies’ weaknesses. If we succeed in doing this, it won’t matter if we do not precisely know which organizations or leaders are fakes and which are not, because in the long run our principles will guide us to getting that right in practice more often than not. For example, if we have a purge, and it throws out 100 people, the question is not how to be absolutely right about every single purged individual but how to be sure that overall the 100 thrown out damaged the enemy more than us. If we wait till we find payroll stubs for every enemy on CIA payroll we will lose for sure, because our ability to function in that realm is a relative weakness. If however, we can come up with a policy that disproportionately affects the spies and cops, we will win, and this is something that the party can do.

Crucially, we must teach our own movement the difference between discussions of historical origins and line. This is also related to why ad hominem criticism is never right. It hardly matters if David Duke or a CIA spy says $2+2=4$. $2+2=4$ is still true. Likewise, maybe the first Maoist organization in the Netherlands started with just spies. Nonetheless, that is no excuse for the Dutch to avoid Maoist principles. That is an example of how we have to distinguish between origins and line. This truth is also evident when we work it in reverse. People with good origins often end up quitting or otherwise betraying the movement. The enemy has to emphasize the psychological and individual to split up the strength of the globally exploited and oppressed. The enemy hopes that by targeting the leaders, there will be no one left who can implement Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. The enemy miscalculates and in sports terms there is no way that the proletariat and oppressed can lose unless they defeat themselves or if the bourgeoisie carries out internal war that destroys the planet—game over, called on account of destruction of the atmosphere.

What to do about potential paralysis

Contrary to some dreamers, there are always enemies in communist parties that have been around the block. Only parties just starting that no one has heard of yet can hope not to have enemies inside yet. MIM has a number of policies and recommendations to deal with the enemy problem at arm’s length to take advantage of the proletariat’s strengths relative to the enemy’s. We guarantee that MIM and the organizations it admires have infiltrators perhaps going to the very origins and leadership of the organizations as does happen some times.

1. MIM members do NOT claim to be

MIM members and travel to the Third World struggles except by prior arrangement or at open conferences. In practice with the current low level of International Ministry support mandated by our Party Congress, even this issue should not come up. MIM has NO pre-arranged plans for meeting in the Third World at this moment. So, if anywhere in the Third World you meet someone from the imperialist countries seeming to spew the MIM line, you may be talking to an unaffiliated person or you may be talking to an agent.

There is never any reason for People’s Wars to be trusting toward imperialist country alleged comrades. Someone carrying MIM Notes around could be anybody. MIM Notes is free, so carrying that around does not mean anything either, so we warn everybody, especially the Third World comrades, that no imperialist country comrade is worth risking security for. In the best of circumstances, the comrades from the majority-exploiter countries are not weeded out by systematic armed struggle, so chances are very high that the best one could hope for is that any imperialist-country “comrade” is really a Menshevik with some sympathies for the international proletariat. We suggest that Mao’s teaching that without a people’s army the people have nothing to be taken seriously in relationship to the majority-exploiter countries.

2. Lenin’s “better fewer, but better” is the best security advice for proletarian parties. Write off dead wood hanging about the party. Newbies should be aware of this problem. Newbies and others starting their political commitment should ask themselves, “if I were a leader of a communist party, how would I be able to tell a police agent from a newbie?” This is another reason to emphasize the self-reliance and self-activity of comrades and it is also a reason not to be expecting proletarian unity and action to come about spontaneously and easily. It is part of our underdog status that we must continuously exercise our brains on this question and improve through small increments and sometimes by leaps and bounds.

3. Party leaders should not substitute talk for a standard of action. The fact that someone discusses a cool political line with a party leader does not mean anything. Effective work in public and effective marshalling of resources is what counts in security questions. It does not mean there should be no place just to talk.

4. Lenin’s advice on making police agents work hard is applicable. He had a police agent on his central committee, but there could have been a lot more if the standard of work for the central committee were low. The police agent that managed to get in did much work for the revolution.

5. Do not answer pig questions. People

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Good news, bad news on MIM's central task

December, 2004 Central Task Report

by PIRAO Chief
December 9, 2004

MIM's central task: "to create public opinion and the independent institutions of the oppressed to seize power."

Overall

This month we continue to fail in our primary goal of advancing the number of users. Also, as arranged at our 2004 Congress, we cut back the November and December MIM Notes. Meanwhile, our art users only recovered to their 2002 levels.

On the prisons front we have bad news

and good news. The bad news is that there was no money to distribute papers into prison. Some comrades have stepped forward to keep MIM Notes afloat, but funding for prison distribution is just coming on line now. In the past, I have taken the blame for prison distribution, but in this case I will not. One could say I should do more of X work instead of Y work or allocate resources differently, but then I would be here making a false self-criticism for a shortage somewhere else, such as in MIM Notes printing. It would also encourage people to have overly inflated ideas about MIM's resources.

The good news in prisons is that we continue to right a historic wrong in relations between the lumpen and the middle classes. By this I mean that MIM was always strong in prisons, but the people outside prison walls were not paying much attention. Articles taken in just the prison subsection of our agitation page increased at a 136% annual rate this November.

On an even brighter note, this month had solid growth in our second-most important goal, pages taken. With 76% annual growth in files taken per day, we are almost on target with our Five Year Plan for that goal. Concretely, it means that right now, we average over 250 articles taken per every hour of each day.

MIM Notes distribution

We have a report of independent MIM Notes distribution in Toronto which we do not include in the statistics. As we have pointed out before, the .pdf files are available on our web page. Anyone can print them and distribute them. To learn how to do that and do it once is the major hurdle for any comrade learning distribution. After that, comrades can work on increasing their frequency of distribution per year. Learn to do big distribution of MIM Notes by doing it.

Realistically, it takes on the order of \$1000 to be able to print a substantial quantity of newspapers. For many people,

that \$1000 is another hurdle. Yet, knowing what the problem is is also helpful. The money problem is just another reason we of the proletarian line are the underdog. If we cannot arrange \$1000, we should work on earning a living more efficiently and examine our consumer choices—apartments that are too expensive often being a culprit. Some people would be dramatically better off buying a house and paying a mortgage instead of a rent. Only the children, senior citizens, disabled and prisoners really have a good reason in the majority-exploiter countries for not being able to raise printing money. The rest of us need to think about it. This is our attitude toward any resource question.

It's not enough to enjoy reading MIM. Whenever we say "can't do it" to ourselves, we have to realize we just learned something. We are not Buddhist or Hindu practitioners aiming at thought devoid of material influences. On the contrary, our problem is to obtain all kinds of resources, not to say "we don't have it," and then purify our minds. Working with a vanguard party in the majority-exploiter countries is much like being a business entrepreneur who works from the bottom up. We get people who apply all kinds of wrong logic to working with MIM. It's not like asking for a government job, fitting like a cog in a big corporation or picking a church or fashion outlet at the mall. Out of all these experiences people are familiar with in the non-unionized sectors of majority-exploiter countries, the entrepreneur is really the most applicable model. Most union experiences are also not applicable, because most unions are tied in with large corporations. The large corporations offer a model of how to organize, but they also buy people off so fundamentally, that they are not the best example—though churches, unions and single-issue organizations provide a foundation of experiences very helpful to MIM.

Some people will decide they cannot arrange \$1000 or more for their own

distribution work in which case they should find other ways to build public opinion against imperialism and for communism and the independent institutions of the oppressed. On the other hand, most non-prisoners in the majority-exploiter countries have a basis for gradually improving their distribution work.

Getting to the point of doing printing once is a major achievement. Before MIM did it, we worked with xerox copies and that is another way to go in the short run—to pick articles or posters and do xerox copies. However, comrades should put out of their minds doing distribution of a newspaper every two weeks in small quantities. Let this be an official retraction or end to a past campaign to increase distribution. If comrades in each locality do a large distribution once a year or even two years, this will contribute hugely and also serve as a basis for improvement. In addition to a large sum of money, the activity also requires some free time to distribute the paper. Comrades may wish to consider planning to spread out the distribution over periods of days and maybe weeks or months.

The proletarian class obviously must improve greatly to rule, so improvement is more important than actual level of political work accomplished. We could become demoralized thinking how the bourgeois papers publish their garbage daily or even by how the MIM publishes twice a month. That would be the totally wrong way of looking at the question. The right way is to take a step toward improvement and focus on the one's own progress in contributing to the communist movement. One should take this MIM-recommended road, because imperialism is going to do itself in and because the Third World proletariat is going to assert its interests eventually. The more than five billion people on the bottom will take power from the other billion or fewer people. In the meantime while this huge historical trend is asserting itself, we

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CHARGES AGAINST MIM NOTES REPORTER DROPPED

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because we continue to back the original Black Panther Party demand for Black national courts, we would like to comment on the gender aspect of the restraining orders. Again, because of the imprisonment rate of Black men and the poor health care given to Black men, there is a vast shortage of eligible Black men for heterosexual Black wimmin. The discontent of Black heterosexual wimmin and the stereotyped gender roles and images of domestic violence should not add up to an attack on Black men any more than Black wimmin should put up with domestic violence by Black men. What we saw in court is only a concrete confirmation of what we know from statistics on domestic violence generally.

Police thuggery

The arrest of the MIM Notes distributor started as a matter with the Roxbury Community College administrator who has in the past specifically prevented distribution of MIM Notes while permitting other publications distributed in the Reggie Lewis Center, where the DNC held a forum for Howard Dean and Dennis Kucinich. However, Boston police involved themselves and even upped the ante by physically taking away the MIM Notes reporter's digital recorder on which there were numerous interviews with Democratic Party convention delegates and other official attendees.

We can now report that those interviews will never see the light of day, because Boston Police maliciously destroyed the recorder by breaking it in half before returning it by order of the judge. We apologize to the various delegates and members of the Utah Progressive Democrats Caucus we interviewed that day.

Army purges entire city (the relative size) of Seattle

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think that that process is — that process of resettling is still unclear when it will start.

SIMON: *Mm-hmm*. Michael, have Marine commanders imparted to you or are you otherwise able to make some kind of judgment now about what the strategy on the ground seems to be for US forces?

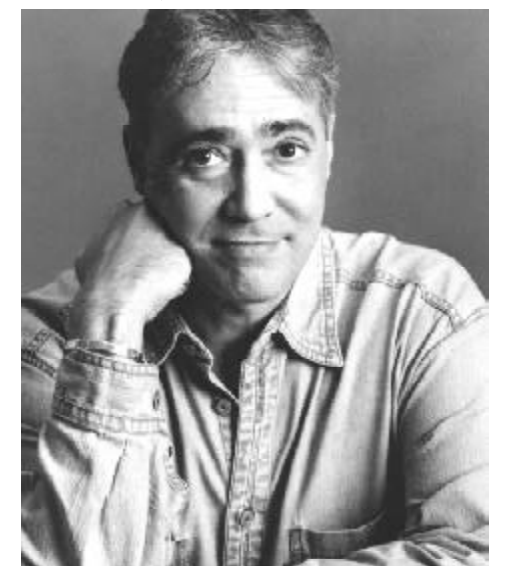
Simon knows he's supposed to "personalize" the story, so he asks about daily life. But when the reporter's answer reveals the horrific crime committed by Amerika, Simon has no response except "Mm-hmm," and he doesn't follow up. Instead, he changes the subject to the future Amerikan strategy.

Perspective affects perception. While the gingoist Amerikan always thinks of

Amerikan well-being first, the scientific perspective allows us to compare apples and apples. We can see that the Amerikans emptied out a city the relative size of the Seattle metropolitan area, and compare that with other atrocities or crimes — revealing the scale of imperialism's crimes. Our revolutionary determination then drives us to right these wrongs by working to eliminate the system that systematically produces them.

Notes:

1. Boston Globe 11/15/04, p. A1.
2. <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2003/iraq/maps/>
3. Statistical Abstract of the United States, at <http://www.census.gov>.



Scott Simon: Hm-mmm.

Security: This time a lesson from the Netherlands

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asking your name, address, occupation, age, race, education level, hair color etc.—any of these—could be innocent or nice but stupid people or they could be cops. There is no reason to take a chance. Nice people should learn not to ask pig questions—ever. Whether people are too inept not to carry this out or whether they are cops hardly matters to the party: such people need to be written off.

6. Politically cut down the psychologists, individualists, geographic opportunists and Liberal pragmatists. a) Psychologists are interested in your persynal motivations. So are cops. Alleged Marxists who cannot distinguish between questions of motivation and line are never going to amount to anything anyway, so dispensing with them in order to dispense with cops is no loss in the majority-exploiter countries.

Let people interested in persynal motivations read some autobiographies. W.E.B. Du Bois and Bobby Seale have them published already. So we should make use of what is already available and not re-invent the wheel.

On the whole, the question of persynal motivation is unimportant. Marxism is a science for solving certain problems of food, clothing, shelter and peace. Marxism-Leninism-Maoism presumes that people are interested in these subjects and that presumption has proved as historically correct as the presumption that people are interested in medical doctors because they fight epidemics. We spend no time worrying about a lack of humyn interest and hence we do not worry about persynal motivations. Those motivations could be right or wrong, and given the low level of scientific effort by psychologists and psychiatrists, those motivations could be misunderstood, but ultimately the question is unimportant. There are going to be people interested in the Marxist agenda until those social problems are gone.

In this psychologist category we can include the ad hominem attack crowd and all identity politics and most of post-modernism. They emphasize subjective experience and motivations while we Maoists emphasize picking the right basketball team to play for and then putting the ball in the hole—sports-talk for implementation. Even if no basketball team will draft you, you still have to put the ball in the hole. To translate—if it is difficult to work with an organization, there still has to be a way to raise the level of the proletariat's game. For the exploited and oppressed to win, it will not be necessary for every persyn to work directly with a party-affiliated organization, though it is certainly desirable.

b) Individualists of all kinds make police infiltration easier. Typically the individualist raises one persynal pet peeve to a level of principle without realizing it.

For whatever reason, individualists hang about communist movements in a manner indistinguishable from cops looking to obtain information without having to work for it. Someone uninterested in broad historical questions should not be given credibility as a "comrade." Someone who would raise this or that ad hoc point above unity and struggle around broad historical questions should be written off. If they're talking about something millions and billions of people cannot reference, it cannot be a basis of unity and struggle.

c) Geographic opportunists only fight for lines that provide leaders in their localities. If that happens to be the CIA with its superior resources, geographic opportunists are satisfied. The geographic opportunists do not think about the logic of what it is going to take to unite billions of people across boundaries. (These kinds of people who passively await something to do in their locality Lenin also referred to as "provincialists.") Likewise pragmatist Liberals.

d) Pragmatist Liberals Pragmatist Liberals are combining problems from above. In some organizations cops/spies outnumber members. In others it is vice-versa, but in no case are we justified in basing membership struggle around anything other than broad historical questions that could be grounds for a cardinal principle. In other words, we cannot allow spy successes to scare us into taking up origins, size or locality questions as a replacement for cardinal questions. That would be a total victory for the enemy, much akin to how the "terrorists" have already won the battle against "freedom" with the passage of the "Patriot Act."

In the Netherlands, the spies put in a lot of effort with a lot of spies, so anyone who joined based on size would have picked the spy organization instead of setting up their own. Likewise, the U.S. intelligence services have a 10 digit budget, not to mention the cops, so for them to carry out large operations is no big deal. Depending on what they are fishing for, these spies may even put the ball in the hole for the proletariat. This does not give us the luxury of saying anyone who accomplishes something is a spy.

In retrospect we can say we wish there were some other organization the Dutch proletarians formed, but we cannot say that it was wrong to join a spy-arranged organization instead of none at all. This idea would be as wrong as Hoxha's metaphysics against Mao that since there is a bourgeoisie in the party, Mao must be a Liberal. The people who joined the spy-arranged organization did so on principle and on the whole that principle is going to work out more often than not for the proletariat and its working is going to doom the imperialist system a tad faster than by its own suicidal tendencies.

Maybe in many Dutch localities, Dutch secret services were the first to espouse Maoist principles. Because of this we do

not obtain the luxury of saying Maoist principles are wrong! First we have to pick our cardinal principles. Then we have to think about how to make life harder for spies and cops.

Lastly, the above speaks of a process of purges and demarcation regarding membership and affiliation practices. Yet it also worth stressing that no purge, no diss and no cop/spy activity ever justifies giving up work against imperialism and imperialist militarism. People who intended to be genuine or who were just thinking through something may find themselves wrongly "written off" or purged. Such people will continue political work and not use the accidents of struggle as an excuse to discontinue work. There are widely varying levels of working with or inside communist parties.

Examples of successful action

In the Dutch case, money for the cause from genuine comrades ended up going right to the Dutch secret services, thus serving to discourage anyone attempting to organize a communist party in the future despite Dutch pretensions to "freedom." Likewise, it is now public that the "Communist Party USA" treasurer was FBI; although the FBI allowed both deposits and withdrawals for political purposes.

So in some cases, the enemy is taking the efforts of hundreds or thousands of people and wasting it. In other cases, the enemy is just watching activity while fishing for bigger fish.

When we emphasize putting the ball in the hole, instead of psychological talk and investigation of "origins," we are going to foil the attempts of the enemy to waste our activity. For example, PIRAO recently reported that Toronto and vicinity has had some distribution of MIM Notes. This particular distribution would foil any possible attempt at sabotage, because the persyn in charge took the MIM Notes from the web site and printed and distributed it him/herself. In other words,

Task report

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should not get lost in its scale and instead we should focus on improving our own activities.

Corresponding attitude toward the party

Something we have stressed is that MIM is not Burger King. We don't have "have it your way." We don't have a professional staff and the number of jobs needed for the revolutionary movement are infinite in variety and intensity, at least metaphorically speaking. So we hope everyone looks at the party the right way. Even if we had a professional staff, MIM would not encourage a consumer ethos in picking one's politics.

It's not a question of "shopping" for a party or dumping jobs on the party and seeing how it does. These are the sorts of passive activities that imperialist consumer society encourages both at

this comrade(s) took the assist from the web page, but basically put the ball in the hole him/herself. So this persyn who carried out action knows him or herself that what the enemy could do to interfere was very limited. It's not a case where the comrade sent in \$1000 and it went to the secret services.

Now let's apply this lesson to newbies and MIM. In every newbie's political life, the hurdle of commitment involving money is very important. People who get in the habit in their teens or twenties of giving money get on the right track. Others often never commit to political activism despite years of discussion. On the other hand, newbies are going to read stories like this true story about the Dutch. In addition, there will be geographic opportunists and pragmatists telling newbies not to "trust" certain people based on various ad hoc reasons that add up to unprincipled individualist schlock. Separating from that will also involve being able to distinguish between petty-bourgeois vehemence for narrow-minded pet peeves and proletarian militance. The bourgeois Liberals dressed in ultra-left or militant clothing can cause paralysis by spreading the most corrosive Liberalism. To break the impasse of "trust," newbies may just have to put the ball in the hole themselves. They can advance cardinal principles themselves and make a tremendous advance while exercising the brain to work in better unity in the future.

Now we would also say this: for those who cannot put the ball in the hole themselves like Toronto did, we have to say, yes, there is the chance the enemy will sabotage your contribution, but there is also a chance your contribution will do good. In the end, the proletariat wins, because it can afford to take more chances than the bourgeoisie. The imperialist system is doomed.

Note: <http://www2.rnw.nl/rnw/en/currentaffairs/region/netherlands/041210canl>

home and at work. How often we have heard "the party does not do _____ (fill in the blank)." It would be like "I don't buy that gadget, because I need 60 watts instead of 40." That is wrong and the correct way to choose a party out-of-power and without control of base areas as is the situation generally in the imperialist countries today is by how it hastens the scientific struggle—and by hastening I do not mean a random fill-in-the-blank "practice." The correct way is by choice of cardinal principles and nothing else. Everything else is part of our predicament of being the underdog class and not doing something because of that underdog status is the equivalent of original sin. There are good and bad reasons for rejecting MIM. The worst reason is thinking one has a proletarian line and then making the absolutely circular discovery that MIM is the underdog. A good reason for rejecting

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Quick-witted children live among mentally disturbed adults in an imperialist country

Review: Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*

**Directed by Brad Silberling
Paramount Pictures, 2004**

Reviewed by a contributor

"Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*" is based on the first few books of Lemony Snicket a.k.a. Daniel Handler's ongoing fiction "*Series of Unfortunate Events*," which deals with the adventures of the three Baudelaire orphans. "*A Series of Unfortunate Events*" has been compared to J. K. Rowling's "*Harry Potter*" series in terms of popularity with children, but has received much less press. A large number of movie viewers may become new Lemony Snicket fans after seeing the movie, which has a bearing on the movie's impact.

Although this review is not particularly interested in how "*Unfortunate Events*" compares with the books artistically, the movie is supposedly similar to the books. Someone mysteriously burned down the Baudelaire's lavish mansion and killed their wealthy parents. The orphans' distant relative Count Olaf doggedly pursues the children, trying to take their inheritance. It seems that he was somehow involved in the arson. Each of the children is "gifted," or "talented." Violet is good at inventing gadgets; she's like MacGyver. Klaus is good at absorbing information from books. Sunny excels at biting things, and in the movie, she can speak "baby" fluently, or think complex thoughts. (The movie captions Sunny's (Kara Hoffman and Shelby Hoffman) baby talk with witty subtitles, which is supposed to be funny.)

"Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*" is definitely not the first comical or satirical movie in which a child character resists a dislikable adult who is ignorant, irrational or given to ridiculous antics. For example, looking way back, there is Jean Vigo's "*Zéro de conduite*" (1933). Of course, there is the whole "*Home Alone*" series (1990, 1992, 1997, 2002). Other recent movies of this kind include "*Max Keeble's Big Move*" (2001). However, few movies are as thorough as "*Unfortunate Events*" in portraying adults as being dim-witted compared with children.

Even Lemony Snicket's (Jude Law) antics are ridiculous compared with Klaus (Liam Aiken) and Violet's (Emily Browning) seriousness and sober-mindedness. He pretends to be writing down a true story, but he is way too excited. The movie pauses its bringing-to-life of Lemony Snicket's story to show Lemony Snicket himself; while doing this, it distracts from the seriousness of the deadly, distressing situations in which Klaus, Sunny and Violet find themselves as a result of Lemony Snicket's typing. For that matter, the character Lemony Snicket's imagination is almost sadistic in

the way that it incessantly torments the Baudelaire orphans with situations that they do not find funny despite the movie audience's laughter. Funny things are going on around them, but Klaus and Violet look antagonized and tired of it all. Gruff, pudgy banker Mr. Poe (Timothy Spall) is too quick to leave the orphans in dangerous situations; if he were a social worker, he would be considered incompetent. High-strung Aunt Josephine (Meryl Streep), who is afraid of realtors, irritates Klaus and Violet with all her warnings about unlikely accidents (for example, her large kitchen refrigerator falling over and squashing a persyn). Count Olaf (Jim Carrey) and his acting troupe are flamboyant, foolish and goofy, but stereotypically greedy and uncaring.

Not all adults seem to bother the Baudelaire orphans. In particular and unsurprisingly, Klaus and Violet have fond memories of their dead parents. But we aren't shown or told much about them, and all Klaus and Violet have to remember their parents by is a metallic silhouette of their parents' side profiles. "*Unfortunate Events*" is the latest in a long line of movies (including "*E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*," 1982; "*Flight of the Navigator*," 1986; "*The NeverEnding Story II: The Next Chapter*," 1990; "*Peter Pan*," 2003; and "*Catch that Kid*," 2004, more recently) portraying mentally or physically strong children, but ultimately having them return to the home or the family as a safe haven. And like the whole "*Spy Kids*" series (2001, 2002, 2003), "*Unfortunate Events*" is big on family "sticking together." However, the movie alludes to some interesting points.

The orphans stick together as a family, but partly because they are legally forced to. Also, we see older children taking care of younger children, or children taking care of other children—true, because they have to take care of each other, but Klaus and Violet are successful in taking care of Sunny. This reflects a reality that many persyns in the united States are familiar with: the decay of some forms of childcare under patriarchy, without the emergence of advanced forms of childcare that are further away from patriarchy, and signs that there are alternatives to biological parents' parenting their own children only.

The Baudelaire are English, but in the real world, after imperialism is overthrown, oppressed nationalities especially may experience a restoration of patriarchal forms of childcare while patriarchy is still being destroyed. For example, imperialism causes some children in the internal semi-colonies of the united States to become orphans. Without imperialism, there may be fewer orphans, but temporarily more children in patriarchal childcare in nuclear families.

Certain patriarchal forms may resurge after imperialism is destroyed, but



patriarchy will still need to be destroyed. This includes the practice of placing orphaned children with relatives even though they may be abusive. "*Unfortunate Events*" deserves praise for trying to illustrate (painfully—Olaf slaps Klaus across the face at one point) that there will be no end to child abuse while the institution of childhood, and patriarchy more generally, still exist.

Count Olaf is after the Baudelaire's inheritance, and the movie does not question class and patriarchal practices of inheritance, but it is not so much that the children want to keep the inheritance for themselves. Legally, the children have to die before Count Olaf can get the money. They may just be trying to survive. Olaf relies on different kinds of force, intimidation and threats to control Klaus, Sunny, and Violet, and other persyns' actions and hate for children effectively protect Olaf, but the Baudelaire repeatedly outsmart Olaf, even Sunny. The point here is not that infants are capable of defeating adults, but rather, that infants, too, are oppressed under patriarchy since gender oppressors obtain benefits from infants through a system that subjects children to violence and enervation. "*Unfortunate Events*" illustrates this in a limited way. Olaf is able to take advantage of Sunny's small size. It may be given that Olaf will go for the most vulnerable child, but he repeatedly calls Sunny a "monkey" to demean her. Later, he puts her in a cage. What Olaf thinks about children is a condition of his actions toward them.

Like so many other movies that feature child characters, "*Unfortunate Events*" represents or misrepresents a particular aspect of children's oppression under patriarchy without even trying to portray what children have in common socially. For example, just looking at the movie, it is hard to imagine that Klaus (a boy, nearly a teenager), Sunny (baby) and Violet (a young teenage girl) have anything in common as children. No other child characters appear in the movie. "*Unfortunate Events*" does go a little bit further than other movies by suggesting that the Baudelaire orphans all have something in common, and maybe even that they are children "against the world" of stupid grown-ups, but the children are supposed to be talented and unique, that is, different from other children. So, Klaus,

Sunny, Violet are exceptional. However, "*Unfortunate Events*" does do a little bit to show how children in general can survive despite, and because of, adults' "mental illness."

In the presence of his troupe, Olaf scolds Klaus and Violet for not making roast beef for dinner, as if he could afford roast beef, but he plainly lives in a dilapidated, unkempt mansion. Also, Olaf seems to be oblivious to the fact that he's a bad actor, and he presumptuously casts himself in leading roles. Some kind of mental disturbance may be a cause of Olaf's brandishing a knife to threaten the children. Olaf is intimidating, but at relatively likable Uncle Monty's place, he is extremely careless with his disguise and is too quick to run after being exposed as an impostor. Olaf's lack of self-control poses a risk to the Baudelaire, but is also a weakness that they take advantage of.

In the real world, the mental abilities of some parasites living in imperialist citadels are decaying for different reasons. (This doesn't necessarily appear as "mental illness.") To the extent that this deterioration of mental abilities, and this descent to lower modes of thinking like sentimentalism or what-feels-good subjectivism, worsens as metropolitan imperialist-country parasites get older, the possibility is raised that some oppressor-nation children will dictate to oppressor-nation adults—and particularly that oppressed-nation children will dictate to oppressor-nation adults. This is on top of the fact that children are gender-oppressed and have an objective basis to support the revolution in different ways, while the vast majority of oppressor-nation men and wimmin, who are exploiters and gender oppressors, do not. Although "*Unfortunate Events*" does not deal with revolution, it is interesting to see the Baudelaire orphans take matters into their own hands because they think they know better than the crazies, fools and idiots surrounding them. It is not so much that stupidity (whatever this means) is peculiar to gender oppressors like adults in oppressor nations. On the contrary, adults may have a sort of monopoly on cognitive development because of the social exclusion of children in so many different ways—but children ought to be encouraged to recognize their differences with other persyns and take important

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Snicket

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matters into their own hands if the supervising adults refuse to change their mistaken ideas.

It is possible to tease out these themes further, but overall, “Unfortunate Events” deserves a neutral rating for doing little to change the status quo. Some of this has to do with the fact that there is so much bullshit in this fantasy movie to wade through to get to anything meaningful. Also, the movie undermines its own best elements. For example, Aunt Josephine’s various fears seem irrational especially when her house’s foundation is built onto the face of a cliff above Lake Lachrymose, but her seemingly irrational fears about unlikely home accidents turn out to be premonitions; the idea is that Aunt Josephine wasn’t that crazy after all. The Baudelaires aren’t enthusiastic about accompanying eccentric Uncle Monty on his trip to Peru and seem to feel that people are pushing them around,

which alludes to a certain reality under patriarchy by which children are pressurized into a restricted group of households, usually relatives’, but Lemony Snicket suggests that sticking with Uncle Monty would have been ideal for the Baudelaires. The movie depicts the Baudelaires as being intelligent compared with all of the adults, which counters the notion that biological children are all unintelligent and senseless compared with adults, but despite all his knowledge, Klaus almost superstitiously believes that there is always a way out of a bad situation. And while “Unfortunate Events” happens to be right in showing how vast book knowledge doesn’t necessarily mean having correct ideas, there is a difference between perseverance and superstitious persistence that the movie itself blurs.

The whole movie is very dream-like. In the movie, everything does happen for a reason, like in roleplaying games. There is always a way out of a bad situation, which is the premise of Violet and MacGyver’s feats. In addition, there is a

lot of deliberate anachronism in the movie; the movie looks like a dream. For example, Olaf drives an antique car with power door locks and lock knobs that can disappear (as if by magic, but this isn’t clear). Olaf’s dark, dingy mansion is across the street from a contemporary, quaint house, while the Baudelaire mansion is located in what looks like a suburb in industrial England. In the “Harry Potter” movies (2001, 2002, 2004), there is at least a sense of how the witches and wizards’ fantastical inventions came to exist (by magic), and there is a more or less clear separation between the Muggle world, which looks like the real world, and the wizard world. In “Unfortunate Events,” it is difficult to discern any history behind the simultaneous existence of Olaf’s power door locks and Mr. Poe’s “car stereo”: a bulky audio tape reel player. In “Unfortunate Events,” no attempt is made to explain the fantastical inventions and fantastical situations; they’re simply there. While “Harry Potter” and

“Unfortunate Events” may both be products of idealism, “Unfortunate Events” makes no effort to ground its fantasticism in any reality, not even a fictional one. As a result, it encourages idealistic ways of thinking and discourages looking for patterns in objective reality that are based on history. Sequels to “Unfortunate Events” may explain some of the stranger elements of the movie, but as it stands, the movie’s redeeming elements have the context of a fantasy world.

“Unfortunate Events” is very dream-like, but real childhood is a nightmare in which children are coerced, silenced, terrorized, and made to be fearful. The victimization of children is not a consequence of just incompetent or malicious caretakers, but will happen as long as children as a group are oppressed under patriarchy. It is doubtful that the adults and even the children who laugh at Klaus, Sunny and Violet’s expense will understand this after leaving the theater.

Task report

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work with MIM is realizing that one likes bourgeois ideology and does not want to waste MIM’s time. There are all sorts of alternatives to MIM ranging from Republican to Trotskyist organizations.

MIM is not asking for votes or for trust. Because what we have to accomplish is different than what Burger King or John Kerry attempt to accomplish and because we do not have the bourgeois resources sufficient to simply replace the government, we must focus on continuous improvement by taking up self-reliance.

The exploited and oppressed camp must have a different outlook than Burger King and other businesses serving consumers. “Ask not what the party can do for you but what you can do to create public opinion and the independent institutions of the oppressed” should be our motto.

Part of adopting the right approach is puncturing any myths about the party. For example, PIRAO is defunct. I’m still here, but I and other comrades are busy with such a wide range of things that for all practical purposes concerning the outsider, PIRAO is defunct. Now, some people will react by becoming discouraged. Others will see this as a lesson about our underdog status. Part of my job is to report on this accountably, so people will know our strengths and weaknesses. Though we are in a weak position, other organizations and activists do not issue reports as regularly and accountably as we do. So my point is not to say we are inactive, only that for practical purposes PIRAO is defunct.

Originally, we had hoped PIRAO would serve as an organization for people under the tightest discipline. As one might think,

that is not our strong suit in the majority-exploiter countries. Yet, as it stands we do not have the leadership to implement even partially some aspects of the PIRAO concept for people willing to do disciplined work or for people who need disciplined structure. That is up to you, our reader to become PIRAO leaders.

PIRAO has become more of a mediating influence—talking about how to approach going from lofty principles and understandings to action. Reading theory magazines and MIM Notes, one could end up a reading consumer only, so PIRAO has attempted to communicate through these reports more about what it’s like to do work that we call “infrastructural” as opposed to direct public opinion or theory writing.

MIM holds no base areas or government power. That’s a key point in understanding what kind of accountability to apply to MIM. Again, if one thinks there is some kind of huge stash of centrally-located resources that need to be employed, that is not the case, at least not right now.

Although we have more readers than any other organization in the English-speaking world calling itself “communist,” we also reach our limits and that is also an example of puncturing myths. For example, why we are stuck at around 40,000 readers, I do not know. That could just be our limits as individuals here, so it’s encouraging to see a deeper readership. Perhaps the deepening of readership will lead to people’s making contributions to the struggles that will get MIM out of this rut, if not now, then by steady improvement, soon enough.

In fact, the readership this month was noticeably dramatically better. This month there were so many articles including many rather obscure ones with over 100 readers that it makes me tired thinking about it. Hopefully we will all get used to the idea that no matter how much we put in work on articles for the website, there

will be more demand.

As the number of files taken on the website indicates, there is a connection between the work we manage to get up on the web page and our readership. The number of files taken increased 61% in one year and that is a major accomplishment by comrades submitting their articles and other web files. Of course, MIM does all that by going through a political weeding-out process. We have proved that it is possible to oppose all opportunism and come up with big numbers.

There is not a single “job” that the party center does that it always did. MIM comrades printed first and then became

journalists, editors and graphics workers. MIM also did not have the money, transportation and other resources and skills that it has now.

The good thing about the way the MIM web page is set up is that people can arrange their own printings and distribution and not “trust” the party. The party has more than earned “trust,” but in the most important senses, “trust” is not an important question. We encourage everyone to keep their eyes on “impact.” Decide for yourself if you like what MIM Notes says and whether you “trust” the party or not, do something to distribute MIM Notes if you like it. That’s what we mean by keeping the eye on “impact.”

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.

Oregon Organizing Needs Next Step

Unfortunately, I am once again enchained in the belly of Oregon's imperialistic DSU machine. This time, for nothing at all! They transferred me to Snake River Correctional Institute only to place me on 'Involuntary Ad-Seg' status which means they can lock me down for any amount of time for nothing other than being me! I say this because of the political tattoo on my face, which reads, 'FUCK COPS!' in huge letters! But the administrative imperialists say it's because I am a threat to staff. Since an anti-imperialist prisoner just stabbed one captain and one CO at OSP, they locked me down as well.

We revolutionaries in Oregon have been very busy this year, with simultaneous hunger strikes on three of Oregon's roughest prison yards, and telephone strikes and boycotts. The imperialistic administrative capitalist machine agendas that run Oregon's prison telephone systems are profiting a million dollars a year off Oregon's prisoners. Our telephone strikes in September were very successful. We are now granted three yard times a day. Also, they have lowered many items' prices in the canteen.

Yet, the biggest accomplishment of all was and remains the racial unity that brought about the prisoner unity that dominated the system across Oregon. It is time for unity to rise up and overthrow. Many people have thrown their theories and ideology around and have gained good ground in the struggles of our movement. Reality, however, is always right around the corner, and fact is louder than fiction. With that in mind, I submit these few words of realism untainted by fantasy.

In Oregon there are 106 county jails, 12 state prisons and 1 Federal prison. Oregon is succeeding in its effort to transform human warehousing into a centerpiece of the imperialist, capitalist, corrupted economy. Yet I see people everywhere shocked by what they saw in the Abu Ghraib situation in Iraq, but no one is protesting the many men and women on Death Row in California and Oregon, the prison beatings, the cases of outright torture, or prisoners murdered for their acts of political resistance. Why is that? It seems that parading around in Portland and Eugene under a 1,000 different ideologies will accomplish nothing other than riling a bunch of street kids to throw a few rocks.

Some say this approach to a common ground in resistance movements is really counter-productive, and in the end only put our supporters with the most heart and courage in the prison system. In turn, this clash of ideology is only sacrificing our people to the system's imperialistic machines, and then forcing them to stand alone in a structure long built on racial separation and oppressive segregation. This is why the ARM and I are combining our efforts in learning and teaching towards working in a united front with MIM, Rail, USW, Under Lock and Key and MIM Notes, and becoming part of the proletarian-led united front against imperialism.

In the struggle, Your comrade Lucky, October 2004

Unite, Stop the Violence in Oregon

Greetings, brothers and sisters, from my concrete cage. Recently some violence occurred at the Snake River Correctional Institution. Due to differences between some inmates, it created a situation that could have been avoided. It is for this reason I would like

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

to address the great need for unity, and what unity through the ages has done for small groups of people.

Everyone knows, or should know, that the whole justice system isn't properly presented to the public on television or in most books. The justice system in this country nowadays bases its decisions largely on community opinion. If a decision to be made by a court might be right and just but contrary to popular ideology, more often than not, the court will rule in light of what commercial society would think.

The reason the prison population isn't noticed as a force of intelligence is because a portion of this population is more concerned with looking good to their friends, getting caught up in the rumor mill, and extorting from the weak. Most of those involved in this are more intelligent than that, but let peer pressure take over their common sense and their depth of humanity.

Those who are oppressed by other inmates are usually highly intellectual people with the knowledge and resources to assist the inmate oppressors in areas important to their (and our) cause. The extorted don't fear the ability to help others, rather they crave it, but instead fear the extorters' actions after a completed task. Without unity the officials of the prisons, cities, states, and the country will forever oppress the little man.

Throughout world history, smaller bands of people have united together to form one mighty force to impress upon the tyrants of the era their human need to be heard and treated as a people equal to that of any other in the world. . . Brothers and sisters, it is time to put away childish ways of thinking and see who the real battle is against. It is time to become a new kind of society. Each one of our prisons has within it a community of its own. The Amerikan government wants prison reform? Let's give it to them. It doesn't take violence, not in our lifetime.

Prisoners can use their minds to achieve a goal, as long as they know what that goal is. We have a goal, people. How long are you going to sit on your hind ends and let others decide what time you go to bed, wake up, and shower. Contrary to what many may be thinking, it doesn't have to be done with violence against each other.

Many people feel angry about some of the immoral crimes some have done to the point of hate for those people. You might ask yourself how you are to deal with that in these times. Hate is an emotion/feeling that takes a lot of mental energy. These energies can be put to better use in other areas. The point is that hate for other inmates could be what is keeping a lot of our warriors in chains. At first it is hard to put into practice, but, like other abilities, it gets easier and easier.

Violence against fellow captives is what the autocrats want. They depend on this to show the unknowing public how 'dangerous' their 'jobs' are. When, in truth, they are nothing more than glorified George Jetsons who push buttons to keep our daily lives controlled. It doesn't have to be this way. Oppression is right in the faces of every locked-up person banned from society.

For those at SRCI, one inmate who became upset because those in charge of scheduling television viewing kept forgetting to schedule his favorite program, wrote to the Oregonian newspaper when the institution was going to show 'The Texas Chainsaw Massacre'. Now SRCI can only host PG-rated movies. Our anger towards each other is pointless while being held within. There will be other times for violence. While in prison it only defeats our purposes for the rights we seek. There will be a time for the actions that one may feel violent and just. But, for our goals, it is not now. This is your call to arms where the weapons are pens and intelligence. That is, unless you like being thought of a stupid misfit shunned by an uncaring capitalist society.

—An Oregon Prisoner, October 2004

Prison abuse in Iraq and U.S.

I greet you in strength. I received MIM Notes; it was absolutely refreshing to read a historical dialectical materialist analysis of the current epoch, i.e., imperialist aggression.

The newly exposed torture and abuse of Iraqi prisoners at the hands of agents of the bourgeoisie, in which some were revealed to be correctional officers in the U.S., has created a new opportunity. I think as a movement we have an opportunity to galvanize and create genuine consciousness as to the culture of oppression that has been taking place in this country for decades. I think a tactic that can be applied is to show the bourgeois domestic policy of prisoner oppression and continued sanctioning of this policy by government officials and the judicial system and how they extended this policy to the rest of humanity. History will not forgive revolutionaries for not making use of the concrete material conditions in relation to the continuous ignominious misanthropy of the bourgeoisie.

It will take a constant vigorous explanation and revealing of the hundreds of thousands of episodes of torture and abuse sanctioned by the state against prisoners in the country. There has to be a real pressure on the bourgeois media machine in such a way that they don't gloss over or pusillanimously report on this condition. It may be idealist to focus on the bourgeois media machine, but I think they have a use. The key is to make it impossible for the media machine to ignore the humongous nature of the bourgeois foreign and domestic policy in the treatment of prisoners.

- A Virginia prisoner May 2004

MIM responds: The bourgeois media can freely ignore prison abuse in this country, until the public knows about it from other sources. It would be idealist to base our strategy on the goal of getting the bourgeois media to carry the proletariat's message. Instead, we build MIM Notes, our website and other publications as independent institutions of the oppressed. True, media exposure may be a result of our victories, but it is not their cause. To expose the prison abuse and torture that you refer to, we continuously publish reports on conditions

in Amerikan prisons — and their connection to the torture in Iraq and around the world. For example, we publish this report from prison in a Virginia control unit. It's our job to get this information into the hands of other prisoners and concerned readers on the outside, to build public opinion against imperialism.

Texas prison system oppression and waste

Greetings to all my brothers and sisters in the struggle for justice and peace. I'm writing to you from one of Amerikkka's Texas Gulags, straight from the pit of hell, where Satan's demons run this system — the Nazi Greyshirts; where innocent men and women are put to death on the Texas Concentration Camp death row; where men are murdered, beaten, and worked like dogs in their sweatshops, without pay.

We work years to stay out of trouble to earn what is called "good time and live class," and then one major disciplinary case can take all that away. A lot of times the cases are bogus. These officers can lie about anything

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.

and their word is always taken as right, but no matter what we say we're found guilty, and we never win on the grievance process.

I'm doing time for giving one of these Nazi Greyshirts a black eye eight years ago. But they can murder, and do everything else illegal, and never see one day in jail. Texas is not the only corrupt system; this whole government is sick and corrupted. Our very own president can bomb countries for oil and kill hundreds of thousands, but it's not murder what he does? I do time for a black eye while all my loved ones stand by waiting for me to come home. I came down when I was 22 years old and I'll soon be 33. All these years of my life gone.

All I can say is I'm with all of you in spirit and heart in this great struggle. One day I'll be able to be on the streets and help if I can, but until then I can only write and say, "March on brothers and sisters and stay strong. The ones who keep up the fight will prevail in the end."

—A Texas Prisoner, May 2004

MIM responds: Thank you for your letter. When they impose a definition of crime under which you are in prison while the president is in his hot tub in Crawford, they not only do an injustice to you and your family and community, they also waste the vast human resources of millions of people who should be doing meaningful work for the people. And beyond that, they actively block those prisoners who are attempting to improve their lives from getting the education they need. See the letter below.

No library or education allowed in Texas

I have always had mixed feelings about the way America treats other countries. The politicians think they can just invade any country, go in, take over, and tell them what to do, while they sit in Washington collecting kickbacks.

I have talked with a couple other people so far and they want to learn more of your views. I would like some history books and political books about Lenin and Stalin for starters if they are available. I read most of the time but all I can get here are sci-fi and fantasy, mostly from other prisoners. They closed down the library after the librarian retired and only let people in school go to it. I have to work in the kitchen 8 hours a day and have too much education for them to put me in school [presumably a high school degree -ed.]

I am in prison for the second time for burglary. I need stability in my life and something to believe in so when I get out again I can stay away from drugs. I can write some articles for MIM Notes, about the prison here. I look forward to receiving my first copy of MIM Notes.

—A Texas prisoner, June 2004

MIM responds: MIM has always said that some people in prison have committed crimes against the people and need rehabilitation (and/or treatment, in the case of drug addiction). It's just that (1) imperialists impose a definition of crime that serves their interests, not the interests of the people (see letter above), and (2) their prison system does nothing to encourage people to improve themselves and their contribution to the people.

It is criminal that MIM and other small organizations are left trying to supply educational material to millions of prisoners, while the state not only denies them education, but denies them access to libraries when they seek to educate themselves even after working all day. Let's purge this system with its insane and oppressive practices, and build a new justice system, as part of a new just society that prevents crime against all people while using the vast resources of the oppressed for the public good rather than the enrichment of the imperialists and their lackeys.

Organizing against control units in Indiana Revolutionary Greetings! I haven't communicated in a while because I've been busy with my court preparation and we are currently in a prison lock-down. I hope the included signatures help out with the struggle.

If you have any extra copies of the Anti SHU petition can you send them to me? I have some comrades that would like to send them to the outside and get them on the streets.

—An Indiana prisoner, August 2004

California Prison Guards: the real danger

I've come to a place that's not dangerous because of the inmates, it's dangerous because of the guards. Don't get me wrong, ya do have some wacked people in here. But the people that are supposed to be overseeing ya safety are the ones putting your life in danger. If they don't like me they can put a knife in my cell. If they don't like me I can fall out and have a seizure in this cell. They'll provoke you in a way that they actually want you to put hands on them. These are the folks who are supposed to be overseeing me. It's just like the police on the street. Ain't nothing different.

—A California prisoner, November 2004

California: Punishment for sagging pants

Folsom prison has its own rules and has been under investigation for corruption. There

was one situation where a young Black brother was sagging his pants. Now the procedural way to deal with such a minor offense is to issue a verbal warning and if that fails the progressive discipline begins. However, for this brotha that didn't happen, instead his cell was searched and all appliances were removed. That night they sat in darkness! I hooked up a citizens complaint for him and left the rest up to him. People are afraid of reprisals.

—a California prisoner, November 2004

Lifers: get involved in the fight

As a lifer in the state of New York, I feel there is not much being done in the fight for good time for lifers. By saying this, I don't mean to offend the few organizations that are fighting on our behalf, I'm speaking more on a prisoners behalf. As lifers, I feel we need to become more involved in the fight for good time and get our families involved as well.

Little do we know that our families hold some kind of power. Just imagine if all of our families were to come together and speak out against this fucked up justice system. They'd leave the government no choice but to listen.

If we're going to see change in the years to come, we're going to have to make that change happen. The only way we're going to be able to make that happen is by coming together and fighting against this fucked up justice system. Fighting against each other only proves that we're still in the same frame of mind that we were in when we first entered this system, when we were purposely kept ignorant and taught what to think instead of how to think. The war on Iraq should open our eyes to what's in store for us. This government will kill kids and women to accomplish their goals. Their goals are to accomplish what Hitler failed to do: take over the world. (It's called the New World Order.)

So instead of getting on these gates beefing about what rapper wasn't good and what ball player made 20 points, we need to start becoming politically aware and get in tune with what's going on in this fucked up world because it effects all of us. Next time, we get on these gates, we need to be talking about how Che and Fidel Castro were able to overthrow a whole system with just 80 comrades and how we can't overthrow a system with over 2 million prisoners. We need to become familiar with the speeches of comrades like Marx, Lenin and Mao. We need to understand their cause and their fight. Like the comrade George Jackson said, "Men who read Lenin, Fanon and Che don't riot, 'they mass,' 'they rage,' they dig graves."

Forever onwards to victory! Freedom or death!

—A New York Lifer, June 2004

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 US 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.



Bush reitera lo mismo: es posible un aumento de tropas en Irak

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El 24 de mayo, Bush salió en la tele con fin de preparar al público para las semanas y los meses que tocan en Irak. "Nuestros comandantes han estimado que menos de 115,000 tropas resultarían suficientes en este momento del conflicto"- dijo Bush. "Dado el reciente crecimiento de la violencia, mantendremos el actual nivel de tropas-138,000- por el tiempo que sea necesario".

"Si los comandantes necesitan más tropas"- dijo Bush,- "las mandaré". (1) El mismo día el senador demócrata Joe Lieberman se puso del lado del presidente diciendo en el CNN que la guerra en Irak era "una prueba generacional". En vez de señalar que esta guerra ha fomentado el odio hacia el imperialismo estadounidense, Lieberman declaró que habría más ataques en el suelo estadounidense si las tropas no se quedan en Irak.

Mientras tanto, los senadores Hillary Clinton (D-NY) y Lindsey Graham (R-SC) hicieron un llamado abogando por unas "fuerzas militares más amplias". Hillary Clinton expresó dudas en cuanto al financiamiento de las mismas pero dijo que no había otra opción. (2) Es posible que Graham vea la guerra como una oportunidad de trabajo para los blancos jóvenes rurales de su estado, ya que Carolina del Sur ha perdido muchos puestos de trabajo, pero se niega a implementar cambios.

Los múltiples escándalos alrededor del tema de torturas de los prisioneros en Irak y Afganistán significan que otros imperialistas como la ONU están en una mejor posición para negociar. En este momento los gobernantes estadounidenses están tratando de aparentar flexibles ante el público. Nosotros pensamos que esta apariencia se dirige más que nada hacia la opinión pública estadounidense, y no tanto hacia otros líderes estatales.

La diplomática de Hillary Clinton, Madeleine Albright, dijo que apreciaba el reconocimiento del valor de la ONU por parte de Bush el 24 de mayo. El hecho de que Bush está dispuesto a fomentar las ilusiones de la población electoral demócrata indica que existe una unidad bipartidista.

El MIM anticipa la introducción de un servicio militar obligatorio después de las elecciones a menos que los iraquíes u otros luchadores del Medio Oriente obtengan una enorme victoria militar o a menos que haya una desesperada lucha radical en contra del servicio militar obligatorio durante los meses que vienen. Por el momento parece que la posibilidad de sacar a EE. UU. de Irak es mejor que nunca: 1) Bush está "recibiendo palizas" a nivel internacional y hasta cierto punto dentro de EE.UU.; 2) Bush y Blair aparecieron ante la ONU buscando una bendición para la ocupación. Hay que enfatizar que si bien es

cierto que EE. UU. están recibiendo palizas militares y latigazos verbales por parte de la opinión pública internacional, y que pronto Bush se enfrentará a las elecciones, es posible que dicha búsqueda del apoyo de la ONU tenga como su meta una consolidación de la opinión pública estadounidense con respecto al tema del servicio militar obligatorio. A los imperialistas les gusta decir que ellos "hicieron un intento" con la ONU y fallaron, de modo que necesitan implementar un servicio militar obligatorio. (Desde nuestro punto de vista, no importa si el Tío Sam decide arruinar el país mediante gastos de déficit para expandir las fuerzas militares o implementar el servicio militar obligatorio. De cualquier manera el imperialismo estadounidense está condenado a ser parte del basurero de la historia. Cuanto más luchan los iraquíes y los afganos, menos eficaces serán los mercenarios que llevan a cabo reclutamientos.)

Los imperialistas jugarán las cartas de la ONU. Otra carta podría ser la Liga Árabe, una asociación de lacayos gubernamentales árabes. El 23 de mayo, los lacayos árabes sugirieron la idea de mandar tropas a Irak como parte de la fuerza internacional respaldada por la ONU. (3) Un milagro diplomático llevaría tropas árabes a Irak, y Bush podría lanzar un grito de victoria para las elecciones de noviembre.

Nosotros pensamos que es muy probable que todos estos esquemas se implementen con el fin de demostrar al público estadounidense que Bush "hizo el intento", y de darles a los senadores Clinton y Lieberman las excusas que necesitan para respaldar diseños más agresivos. Es posible que Inglaterra sea uno de los pocos países que se nieguen a contribuir muchas tropas a los imperialistas estadounidenses. Un 66% del público electoral inglés se opone a que se manden ni siquiera 3000 tropas más a Irak. (4) Los imperialistas estadounidenses carecen de personal militar hasta tal grado que no son capaces de continuar sus operaciones ofensivas contra Irán, Siria o Corea del Norte. Cuatro hechos sobre los movimientos de tropas enemigas y la "estructura de sus fuerzas" demuestran porqué la capacidad militar de los imperialistas ha llegado al extremo, dada la ausencia de un reclutamiento militar obligatorio.

En primer lugar, las tres divisiones (alrededor de 50,000 soldados) recientemente retirados de Irak están clasificadas como "no preparadas para luchar". (5) Hasta que no se reemplace o se repare su armamento, en lo cual se tardarán unos cuantos meses, estas tropas no estarán disponibles para su uso en el extranjero. Estas divisiones han sido reemplazadas por reservistas y guardias nacionales. Con menos entrenamiento y un armamento inferior estos soldados serán menos eficaces.

En segundo lugar, el enemigo ha tomado la

decisión de retirar sus tropas del Corea del Sur para mandarlas a Irak, y no es para que los soldados del frente coreano obtengan una "auténtica" experiencia de combate. (6) La desesperación del enemigo es suficiente para que éste arriesgue un frente (Corea) por otro (Irak).

En tercer lugar, EE. UU. han empezado a buscar miembros de la Reserva Individual, en otras palabras, soldados que durante los últimos ocho años han estado en servicio activo o pasivo. Están sujetos a la posibilidad de una movilización a base de aviso, aunque no estén pasando por un entrenamiento junto con la guardia activa o unidades de la reserva pasiva. (7) Si bien los funcionarios frecuentemente se han negado a dar de baja a personal militar en servicio activo de acuerdo con el programa "paremos las pérdidas", una activación de la Reserva Individual es el último paso que el gobierno puede dar para incrementar el número de tropas, si se evita la introducción del servicio militar obligatorio. En cuarto lugar, EE. UU. también están planeando mandar a Irak sus unidades de entrenamiento de la fuerza de oposición ("OpFor"). (8) OpFor son los mejores soldados de las fuerzas militares. Su trabajo consiste en entrenar nuevas unidades de acuerdo con los estándares más altos. La presencia de estas unidades en Irak significa que los reclutas recién entrenados no tendrán ni idea sobre cómo pelear, de modo que logros a largo plazo (algunos de los mejores soldados de las fuerzas armadas en Irak) resultan en pérdidas a largo plazo (reclutas no entrenados serán aplastados como moscas el año que viene, y sus compañeros fastidiados o indispuestos a luchar terminarán matando a oficiales).

Estos cuatro hechos indican que EE. UU. no tienen el personal adecuado para llevar a cabo sus planes, lo cual implica la introducción de un servicio militar obligatorio después de las elecciones, independientemente de que facción imperialista obtenga el poder estatal. El servicio militar obligatorio no es más que otra forma de opresión de los jóvenes, aún en países imperialistas. Los imperialistas estadounidenses se han dado cuenta de que no obtendrán apoyo material de los imperialistas alemanes y franceses, y ni siquiera de la ONU. Los socios de un crimen con derechos iguales se respetan a sí mismos. Así que EE. UU. implementarán un reclutamiento obligatorio: los problemas presupuestarios apuntan a la misma posibilidad.

El capitalismo promociona una actitud de "vivir en el momento". Este hecho envenena el razonamiento capitalista en cuanto a la guerra. Esta es una de las múltiples razones por la cual el MIM tiene confianza estratégica en el proletariado mundial. Los imperialistas siguen cometiendo errores en esta guerra (9) debido a una sobreestimación de su poder y

no pueden admitir la verdad- el hecho de que su imperio está construido sobre el sudor y la sangre de la mano de obra tercermundista robada por los imperialistas.

Sin considerar el insano tratamiento de los prisioneros y los abusos de los civiles documentados en previos artículos de MIM Notes, está claro que nuestros enemigos están extendidos más allá de su capacidad y están cometiendo errores. Si se suman sus cálculos erróneos de fuerzas militares y sus atrocidades contra el pueblo de Irak, se obtendrá un resultado claro: los imperialistas perderán la guerra en Irak. Cuanto antes sea la derrota, mejor para todos nosotros.

Estos hechos confirman la predicción del MIM de que los países imperialistas desesperadamente necesitados de recursos tercermundistas, terminarán expandiéndose más allá de su capacidad e involucrándose en difíciles guerras por recursos tercermundistas. El enemigo está cometiendo graves errores diarios. Pero nuestra victoria no será rápida: desafortunadamente, los imperialistas matarán a muchos proletarios antes de que sus errores estratégicos se manifiesten en sus propios países. Tenemos que minimizar nuestras pérdidas hasta el máximo grado posible mediante la organización de una resistencia a la guerra. No tarden en oponerse al imperialismo: la vida que Uds. salven puede ser la suya.

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