

# MIM Notes



December 2005, N° 328

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

## *Protesters demand* **Clemency for Stanley Tookie Williams**

**SCHEDULED FOR  
EXECUTION  
DECEMBER 13**

*From mimnotes.info*  
November 5, 2005

**Update:** On November 30, the California Supreme Court rejected an appeal from Williams to reopen his case, leaving the appeal for clemency from Gov. Schwarzenegger as the most likely avenue for stopping the execution. The governor has a clemency hearing scheduled for Dec. 8. —ed



*From from indybay.org.*

*From mimnotes.info*

November 19 — More than a thousand people converged on San Quentin State Prison to protest the execution of Stanley Tookie Williams, which is scheduled for December 13. Community activists, youth, and many people who have been influenced by Tookie's writings drove and flew in for the rally from across California. This death row prison is ironically located in one of the most beautiful areas of California, right on the water on a small section of land in one of the wealthiest counties in the state: Marin.

Stan Tookie Williams co-founded the Los Angeles Crips gang in 1971. In 1981, he was convicted of murdering four people and was sentenced to death in California's San Quentin prison. William's trial was fraught with racism, questionable evidence, evidence that pointed away from him, and witnesses who were incited to lie. His execution is now scheduled for December 13 after his U.S. Supreme Court appeal was denied. From Death Row, Williams wrote nine children's books focused on educating youth to avoid gangs. He has received multiple nominations for Nobel Peace and Literature prizes.

Speakers gave moving testimonial to the impact of William's many books educating youth about how and why to avoid gang violence. Junior high and high school youth spoke of his influence on their lives; parents talked about the value of his books in educating their children; and community activists talked about getting out of a life of gang banging and into progressive activism after being exposed to Tookie's message.

In addition to youth, community activists, and religious leaders, the rally featured two celebrity speakers: Fred Hampton Jr. and Snoop Dogg. Hampton, a member of the Prisoners of Conscience Organizing Committee, is a long-time prison activist. He pointed out that "Tookie William's real 'crime' in the eyes of the government is that he is a peace maker." Hampton's message "organize or die" was demonstrated as clearly true in this death penalty battle.

Snoop Dogg spoke about growing up in East Los Angeles as a part of the Crips, and learning about Tookie's work when Jamie Foxx invited him to see the 2004 film "Redemption," starring Foxx and chronicling William's life. Seeing this

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Stan Tookie Williams co-founded the Los Angeles Crips gang in 1971. In 1981, he was convicted of murdering four people and was sentenced to death in California's San Quentin prison. William's trial was fraught with racism, questionable evidence, evidence that pointed away from him, and witnesses who were incited to lie. His execution is now scheduled for December 13 after his U.S. Supreme Court appeal was denied.

The Supreme Court ruling on October 11 was an important decision in itself because it rejected William's appeal that

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## **Chemical weapons used by Amerikkkan military against Iraq**

*Posted on mimnotes.info*  
November 10, 2005

Whether or not weapons of mass destruction existed in Iraq before the U.S. invasion matters little. Imperialist aggression is wrong either way. However, the absolute lie that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction was used to justify the U.S. war of aggression. Given this fact, it is the ultimate irony that evidence is mounting that it is the Amerikkans themselves who are unleashing these weapons on whole communities in Iraq. New reports are now confirming use of chemical weapons by the United States in Iraq. The United States may have used white phosphorous shells indiscriminately against civilians during the November 2004 offensive in Falluja against Iraqi national liberation fighters and people supporting them. Earlier, the U.S. government had denied such reports as



*Same war, different war.*

investigators say that it was used against civilians and that it burned their flesh "to the bone." (1) Known by other names in Viet Nam War-era slang, the use, by the U.S. military, of white phosphorous as an incendiary agent is not new.

On Italian state television, ex-marine Jeff Englehart was quoted as saying: "Burned bodies. Burned children and burned women. White phosphorous kills indiscriminately." (1) According to one biologist interviewed in the documentary, "[a] rain of fire fell on the city, the people struck by this multi-coloured substance started to burn, we found people dead with strange wounds, the bodies burned but the clothes intact." The film also claims that it is indisputable that a version of napalm was also used in the attack. (2)

This confirms several earlier allegations that the United States has used chemical

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"myths." (2) Now, the United States is defending itself by saying that the phosphorous was used to illuminate enemy fighters at night,

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## SCHEDULED FOR EXECUTION DECEMBER 13

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race alone should not be the basis for rejecting jurors. In a previous appeal, nine of the twenty-four Ninth Circuit Court judges agreed that the District Attorney at William's trial employed "reprehensible and unconstitutional" racist tactics and rejected jurors strictly because they were Black. This Supreme Court ruling sets a precedent that people can now legally be rejected from juries based on race.

Williams was never a revolutionary, but as he explains about the Crips (in the movie about his life "Redemption: The Stan Tookie Williams Story" (2004)), street gangs were essential for protection for youth living in the poor areas of Los Angeles. Williams sees the need to move beyond killing one another on the streets, and he was instrumental in the truce between the Crips and the Bloods in 1991 which he helped orchestrate from behind bars.

From Death Row Williams wrote nine children's books focused on educating youth to avoid gangs. He has received multiple nominations for Nobel Peace and Literature prizes.

Even if he were guilty of the murders (and MIM stands behind Williams when he maintains his innocence), if anyone is an example of rehabilitation within prison (despite practice that hinder rehabilitation in the California prison system), it is Stan Tookie Williams. His case demonstrates

the hypocrisy of the criminal injustice system which claims to lock people up so that they will learn to stop committing crime, but in reality creates a revolving door, mostly for Black and Latino men, making it virtually impossible for them to get out or stay out of prison.

Williams is someone who genuinely wants to give back to society and who has put this desire into practice for years while locked in a 9-by-4-foot cell. But the racist injustice system has a lot invested in upholding William's 1981 conviction. Overturned convictions bring into question the entire supposedly impartial system and threaten the authority of police, prosecutors, judges, and prison administrators. The institutional investment in killing Williams is strong.

MIM goes further than Williams in our analysis of street gangs. We see these organizations as groups of oppressed-nation youth who have revolutionary potential. Rather than just disband gangs or stop them from killing one another and committing other acts of violence, MIM works to transform street gangs into revolutionary organizations. Groups like the Latin Kings are leading the way in this regard with many revolutionary members working to build a strong revolutionary ideology and practice.

A last-ditch effort to save William's life is underway with a call for clemency to Governor Schwarzenegger. Letters can be e-mailed to [governor@governor.ca.gov](mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov) or faxed to 916-445-4633.

Notes: [Savetookie.org](http://Savetookie.org).

Production by MC12

### MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement  
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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 Mimnotes.info?

<http://mimnotes.info>

Mimnotes.info publishes news articles and culture (media, movie, music, video game and other) reviews from the standpoint of the world's exploited and oppressed under imperialism, capitalism, and patriarchy. Inspired by the Maoist Internationalist Movement, [mimnotes.info](http://mimnotes.info) ("MIM notes dot info") opposes all group oppression, including the oppression of gays and lesbians, wimmin, and youth. The imperialist-patriarchy is full of horrors and misery for the world's oppressed majority. Mimnotes.info aims to build public opinion for revolutionary change. Nothing short of revolution can end this messed-up system.

Knowing the world and conditions inside the belly of the beast is key. Equip yourself with [mimnotes.info](http://mimnotes.info) and write for [mimnotes.info](http://mimnotes.info).



We must strive to unlock the minds of the people by revealing the truth.



<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/rail/impkills.html>

### 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.

# Torture in secret CIA “black site” prisons

Posted on *mimnotes.info*  
November 9, 2005

This month, more reports of a secret CIA prison system and torture were in the news. According to unnamed “U.S. and foreign officials” cited by the Washington Post, four years ago, a system of clandestine prisons was set up that has included sites in as many as eight countries. In addition to a center at Guantanamo Bay, secret CIA prisons have existed in Afghanistan, Thailand, and countries in Eastern Europe.(1)

These “black sites” have little legal oversight. Only a few government officials, including people working for intelligence agencies, in the United States and host countries know of their locations or even their existence.(1) In host countries and throughout Europe, reports in the mainstream press have resulted in allegations and denials. European Union officials said on November 4th that it would encourage countries hosting CIA prisons to come forward and publicly comment on the reports. Officials say that such prisons would be in violation of European human rights standards.(2) We should, however, realize that, despite their outcry, European imperialists and liberal critics of the Bush administration have little concern for human rights either. Human rights violations by their militaries during battles and military strikes often go uncriticized by them even if the violations are directed at non-combatants.

Near the headquarters of Polish intelligence, Szymany Airport in Poland is one likely CIA black site. Another is the Romanian Mihail Kogalniceanu military airfield. Both countries deny such claims. U.S. officials refuse to confirm or deny their existence.(2)

This is just more effort by the imperialists to hide illegal torture practices. In the past, the United States has been criticized for what it has euphemistically called “extraordinary rendition.” One case involved Maher Arar, a Canadian engineer. He was kidnapped by U.S. agents on September 26, 2002, at John F. Kennedy Airport after being placed on a watch list by the United States. While changing planes, Arar was detained and held for thirteen days. Arar was questioned about someone he barely knew; he had only worked with the man’s brother at one point. According to The New Yorker, Arar was then placed in hand and leg irons and taken to an executive jet by plainclothes agents — he was not formally charged with anything. The plane eventually landed in Aman, Jordan, and then Arar was driven to Syria. In Syria, Arar was threatened with rape, beaten, and whipped with electrical cables. He was kept in a windowless cell beneath the ground. Arar was released a year later.(3) It is not known how many people have been kidnaped, imprisoned, and tortured as Maher Arar was.

The Bush administration has shrugged off criticisms concerning secret CIA prisons. This story comes at a time when the Bush administration is trying to weaken legal provisions being considered for detainees. The administration wants explicit permission to do what they have already been doing, torturing prisoners.(4)

That the imperialists may be using a secret prison system to torture and lock people away without even the pretense of due process should be no surprise. Not only has the CIA used people and resources in other countries to torture people, it has trained and helped counter-revolutionary and reactionary militaries torture oppressed people. What is somewhat surprising is how loudly the imperialist media has advocated torture. Almost daily, Fox News has been parroting torture advocate University of California law professor John Yoo, who said that torture is necessary to protect the American way of life.

This system is rotten to the core. The imperialists and their allies will use whatever means they have at their disposal to stay in power, even if that means torturing people just to intimidate other people who aren’t terrorists or even “extremists,” but who could potentially resist the system.

Notes:

1. Dana Priest, “CIA Holds Terror Suspects in Secret Prisons,” Washington Post, 2 November 2005, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/01/AR2005110101644.html>

2. Jan Sliva, “Nations Urged to Answer Prison Allegations,” The Guardian Unlimited, 4 November 2005, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/latest/story/0,1280,-5392397,00.html>

3. Jane Mayer, “Outsourcing Torture?” The New Yorker, 14 February 2005, [http://www.newyorker.com/printables/fact/050214fa\\_fact6](http://www.newyorker.com/printables/fact/050214fa_fact6)

4. Jackie Northam, “EU Probes Claims of Secret CIA Prisons in Europe,” “All Things Considered,” National Public Radio, 3 November 2005, <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4988550>

5. Douglas Jehl, “C.I.A. Is Seen as Seeking New Role on Detainees,” New York Times, 16 February 2005, A16.

“The Central Intelligence Agency is seeking to scale back its role as interrogator and custodian of terrorist leaders who are being held without charges in secret sites around the world, current and former intelligence officials said. . . . The C.I.A. assumed the mission of detaining the leaders in the months after the Sept. 11 attacks. But the officials said the effort required to indefinitely maintain what amounts to a secret prison system overseas is increasingly regarded within the agency as conflicting with its core mission of collecting and analyzing intelligence.”

## Oppressed-nation youth fight back in France

From *mimnotes.info*  
November 4, 2005

Intense protests are spreading beyond the area around Paris and into other parts of France as African and Arab youth show their outrage at the oppression they face because of their nationality. On October 27th, the deaths of two African teenagers in Seine-Saint-Denis, chased by cops into a power sub-station where they were electrocuted, sparked protests in Paris suburbs largely populated by migrants from North African countries.

Rioting during protests has consisted mostly of attacks on property, burning of cars, and throwing stones at the police. The government’s response has only added fuel to the anger of the protesters. Nicolas Sarkozy, the French interior minister and candidate for the 2007 presidential elections, called the youth “scum.”

The mostly European police force conducts regular checks in these neighborhoods, asking youth for their papers at random and treating them roughly and disrespectfully, acting as an occupying army in oppressed-nation communities. An Amnesty International report released in April 2005 “reveal[ed] unlawful killings, excessive use of force and torture or ill-treatment by French police officers.”(1) The report states that complaints about police increased 20%

in 2004, and almost all of the cases investigated by Amnesty International were abuses of non-European people and targeted oppressed nations.(1) Amnesty International describes the abuse as racially motivated.

In France, nationality will keep someone from getting a job, and African youth are assumed to be criminals. Like oppressed nations within other imperialist countries, education and opportunities are severely limited for all but a select few. As in America, it is the dominant white nation that has the power and privileges. Who are the “real” French? “Those with white skin and blue eyes” says one youth from Algeria.(2)

Unemployment in the poor suburbs where the rioting started is unofficially estimated at 60% or 70% among the youth of working age.(3,4) Official estimates in what the government calls “sensitive urban zones” puts unemployment at 19.6%, double the national average, and at more than 30% among 21-29-year-olds. Incomes are 75% below the French average in these areas.(5)

The disparity in employment and income is a direct result of national oppression. Most of these youth are second- and third-generation immigrants, and they are French citizens, but there is strong discrimination against Africans in



France.

Popular opinion among white French supports their national privileges. This is reflected in the overwhelming “no” vote on the European Union constitution in May of this year. Hostility toward oppressed-nation migrants in France exists simultaneously with French economic nationalism. The Maoist Internationalist

Movement concluded in its 2005 congress: “Like a madly jealous lover, the French labor aristocracy did not want to share French imperialists with the Polish (or other eastern European) proletariat. Even worse is the scare that the French labor aristocracy is having over Turkey’s joining the EU. In other words, it was the labor

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# Clemency for Stanley Tookie Williams

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movie motivated Snoop Dogg to get out on the streets and work with youth. He also wrote a song for Tookie with Foxx, called "Real Soon," which is available for download on Snoop Dogg's Web site ([www.snoopdogg.com](http://www.snoopdogg.com)) on November 21. He was originally scheduled to visit with Tookie in person after the rally, but the prison shut down all visiting for the day to prevent this visit from happening. This means all prisoners and their family members who planned to visit them on this Saturday were punished because the prison feared the consequences of a meeting between Snoop Dogg and Tookie Williams.

Both the prison and the media are working hard to keep Williams' execution on track. Over the past few weeks, the media have been repeating lies from prison spokespeople about Tookie controlling the Crips gang from behind bars at San Quentin. This lie is laughable considering that the prison's own validation committee concluded that Tookie was no longer affiliated with the Crips back in the 1990s. But the bourgeois media is happy to repeat sensationalist lies without validation. A lot of media shows up for this rally, and the speakers made a point of refuting these lies. At

least some media reported the truth after this rally.

A writer for the San Francisco Chronicle described the prison where Williams' lives and is condemned to die: "Death Row at San Quentin State Prison is an antiseptic form of hell, nearly devoid of the things, like intimacy and love, that give life value." (1) Ironically, in these conditions, if anyone is an example of rehabilitation within prison (despite practices that hinder rehabilitation in the California prison system), it is Stan Tookie Williams. His case demonstrates the hypocrisy of the criminal injustice system

which claims to lock people up so that they will learn to stop committing crime, but in reality creates a revolving door, mostly for Black and Latino men, making it virtually impossible for them to get out or stay out of prison.

**A last-ditch effort to save William's life is underway with a call for clemency to Governor Schwarzenegger. Letters can be e-mailed to [governor@governor.ca.gov](mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov) or faxed to 916-445-4633.**

Notes: San Francisco Chronicle, 20 November 2005.

## Chemical weapons used by Amerikkkan military against Iraq

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weapons and napalm in Falluja. According to Aljazeera, in March, Iraqi health ministry official Dr. Khalid ash Shaykhli "said that researches, prepared by his medical team, prove that US occupation forces used internationally prohibited substances, including mustard gas, nerve gas and other burning chemicals in their attacks in the war-torn city." (3) Shaykhli said that residents described seeing melted corpses, which indicates the use of napalm gas. Shaykhli's researchers found bodies of animals, dead from the gasses. (3)

Fatiha Saleh, an Iraqi volunteer of the Belgian NGO Medical Aid for the Third World, said: "In a phone call with a doctor in one of those villages [around the city of Falluja] he told me the Americans have used chemical weapons. Iraqi medics could join the U.S. military to collect the dead but they were not allowed to bring some of the bodies: those with strange dark-blue spots and burns, bodies that were bloated and did not have any gunshot wounds. That could have been caused by the use of chemical weapons." (4)

On November 9, 2004, the Pentagon denied reports that any chemical weapons or napalm were used in Falluja. However, the United States has already admitted to using white phosphorous shells. Earlier in 2003, the United States admitted to dropping an upgraded form of napalm south of Baghdad. Internationally banned, napalm sticks to the skin as it burns. (5) Napalm is probably most known for its use during U.S. attacks on Viet Nam, where it was responsible for the deaths of untold numbers of Vietnamese. Given this, it is very possible that, in addition to the white phosphorous and napalm, other chemical or biological weapons were used in Falluja.

This kind of hypocrisy and barbarism should be no surprise. The United States has justified its rampage over Afghanistan and Iraq with all kinds of lies and half truths. It's the same old imperialist hypocrisy. The imperialists justified their

war, in part, because chemical weapons had been used against the Kurdish population. Now, it is the U.S., using the outlawed weapons. Despite the cries of imperialists over human rights, it is the imperialists themselves who are the greatest perpetrators of crimes against humanity. In Iraq and the rest of the third world, when their rule is challenged, the imperialists indiscriminately murder whole communities. This also goes to show that "international law" for the most part currently functions to justify the imperialist order. The imperialists themselves are allowed to violate international law with impunity. The imperialists and their allies spread death across the world. However, their rule won't last forever. The majority of the world's people are fundamentally opposed to their empire of terror and profit. There is no limit to what these military pigs will do to prop up themselves up.

Notes:

1. "U.S. 'used' chemical weapon in Falluja," Aljazeera, 8 November 2005, <http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/A4880137-5E07-4AFD-A3A0-995A84E826F2.htm>

2. Peter Popham, "US forces 'used chemical weapons' during assault on city of Fallujah," Independent Online Edition, 8 November 2005, [http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle\\_east/article325560.ece](http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/article325560.ece)

3. "U.S. Used Chemical Weapons in Fallujah Assault," Green Left Weekly, 16 March 2005, <http://www.greenleft.org.au/back/2005/619/619p15b.htm>

4. Bert De Belder, "Did the U.S. use chemical weapons in Fallujah?" 11 December 2004, <http://www.health-now.org/site/article.php?articleId=394&menuId=1>

5. "U.S. Admits Using Napalm Bombs In Iraq: Report," Islam Online, 4 August 2003, <http://www.islamonline.net/English/News/2003-08/10/article10.shtml>

6. "US Troops Reportedly Gassing Fallujah," Islam Online, 10 November 2004, <http://www.islamonline.org/English/News/2004-11/10/article05.shtml>

## Oppressed-nation youth fight back in France

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aristocracy voting to preserve its national interests, over and against the imperialists who are less wedded to deriving their profits from any particular nationality. It was a case where the global outlook of the imperialists was less conservative and less chauvinist, at least in terms of the political campaign connected to this referendum if not the final outcome of the EU process down the road." (6)

"The EU Constitution vote exposed social-democratic lies about 'false consciousness' in the imperialist country so-called workers. These lies have long served to deny exploitation is going on by imperialist country populations in a particular way — using Marxist rhetoric. They are the small exploiter version of imperialists' lies about 'bringing jobs' to the Third World through 'investment.'" (6)

Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the fascist National Front party, who placed second in the 2002 presidential elections, is taking advantage of the riots to fan the flames of fascism among the white nation in France. Le Pen says he will run again in 2007 on his party's anti-immigration, law-and-order platform. (7) It is this reactionary nationalism that the labor aristocracy united with to defend militant parasitism in the EU constitution vote.

The only viable answer to ending national oppression is revolutionary nationalism. The labor aristocracy in the imperialist countries will continue to fight for their own economic interests, interests that are tied to imperialism. But oppressed nations, both within imperialist-country borders and in the Third World, have a strong interest in fighting against imperialism. It is the anger of these youth in France and the people of the world that can be transformed into revolutionary strength.

Notes:

1. Amnesty International UK, "France: New report reveals racist abuse with

impunity by French police," <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news/press/16035.shtml>

Amnesty International, "France : The Search for Justice : The effective impunity of law enforcement officers in cases of shootings, deaths in custody or torture and ill-treatment," 6 April 2005, <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGEUR210012005?open&of=ENG-FRA>

2. Katrin Bennhold, "'We're French,' but not 'real' French," International Herald Tribune, 4 November 2005, <http://www.iht.com/articles/2005/11/04/business/france.php>

3. Martin Arnold, "Residents point to anger behind French riots," Financial Times, 4 November 2005, <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/24ff94b2-4d6b-11d4-ba44-0000779e2340.html>

4. "Why Paris is burning," New York Post, 4 November 2005, [http://news.yahoo.com/s/nypost/20051104/cm\\_nypost/whyparisburning;\\_ylt=A86.I12fP2tDpdMAixX9wxIF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTBjMHVqMTQ4BHNIYwN5bnN1YmNhdA—](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nypost/20051104/cm_nypost/whyparisburning;_ylt=A86.I12fP2tDpdMAixX9wxIF;_ylu=X3oDMTBjMHVqMTQ4BHNIYwN5bnN1YmNhdA—)

5. Christian Science Monitor, 4 November 2005.

6. "Social-democratic gravy train opposes EU," MIM Congress 2005 resolution.

7. San Francisco Chronicle, 4 November 2005.



## Minutemen are Amerikkka:

# Minutemen leader compares anti-Minutemen protesters and Toledo anti-nazi protesters

From *mimnotes.info*  
October 23, 2005

MIM Notes mentioned before summer that the anti-migrant vigilantes known as the “Minutemen” had majority support in at least some States, such as Arizona. Those who objected to the Minutemen often disagreed with just their tactics and preferred a trained security force. Since then, different politicians have proposed deputizing these wanna-be pigs and others and even introduced legislation to do so, exposing the fine line between the fascists and some of their so-called critics. The fact that the vigilantes aren’t government-trained (except those who are former soldiers or police officers) has led some people to criticize the Minutemen armed vigilantes, but resistance to the Minutemen and what they stand for cannot be limited to just driving the most brazen fascist activists underground. White supremacy in all its manifestations must be resolutely opposed.

The mass popularity of the Minutemen with Amerikkans, particularly Euro-Amerikkans (Arizona does not have a much higher proportion of whites than the United States as a whole but still supported the Minutemen in a majority in April) is something that only MIM Notes and a handful of others have brought attention to out of all the news sources calling themselves progressive or socialist in imperialist countries. Under the cover of unity with the majority of Euro-Amerikkans (actually small-time exploiters benefiting from the exploitation of oppressed-nation workers), activists in the enemy camp have busied themselves undercutting nationalist movements and effective resistance to imperialist domination by whitewashing the Euro-Amerikkans working class’ role in imperialist exploitation and repression. The typical refrain is that only a handful of capitalists and misguided allies are behind the popularity of the Minutemen, and that no national liberation for indigenous and Latin American nations to gain self-determination is needed.

Now, according to Leslie Berestein of the San Diego Union-Tribune, Minutemen may be trying to buy property in California to use for their operations. “Real estate agents who work in the Campo area have received inquiries from people identifying themselves as part of a patrol group, or calling on behalf of one, looking to buy or rent property. And one prospective benefactress is considering buying a property where border watchers could stay and train in exchange for maintenance.”(1) Perhaps the Minutemen sense their strength and the increasing pervasiveness of anti-migrant reaction.

Well-financed reactionary organizations are not without precedent. What’s interesting is how quickly the Minutemen have flourished since little more than half

a year ago. The Minutemen, now comprised of different vigilante organizations, have spread geographically, grown in numbers in their existing locations, and diversified their operations — despite their inane personal conflicts and cosmetic differences. For example, the Associated Press reported recently that a Minutemen-inspired group in Virginia plans to report not only those who hire day laborers, but also the workers themselves, to authorities.(2) The original “Minuteman” vigilante leaders have long been interested in “interior enforcement.” The fascists and virulent white nationalists have no coherent position. On the one hand, with their mantra about border security, they have milked post-9/11 fears about terrorist threats. On the other hand, they claim that it is jobs (rather than an envious or jealous desire to commit terrorist acts in the United States) that drive people to cross the border illegally. While the Minutemen are associated with border patrols, they are just one brand name for a vicious and far-reaching fascist movement that aims to intensify the repression of Third World migrant workers, whether they are already inside the United States or crossing the border — or traveling in the hazardous desert or mountains due to murderous barriers on the border. Also pandering to fears about terrorists and cultural “balkanization,” imperialist countries in Europe are stepping up mass deportations; migrants are already dying in the Saharan desert, and some have been shot trying to cross borders.

News networks from CNN to Fox have

given heavy support to the United States-based Minutemen. Lou Dobbs’ praise for the Minutemen is well-known. However, Minutemen Civil Defense Corps leader Chris Simcox has recently been working with Fox’s “Hannity & Colmes” to reach out to more Republikans. Simcox and other Minuteman leaders have in the past made strongly critical remarks about Bu\$h for his perceived immigration and enforcement policy, but on Monday, Chris Simcox criticized anti-Minutemen protesters in Chicago for being “anti-Bush, antiwar.” Some Republikans are reluctant to support the Minutemen because of the Minutemen’s sometimes wrathful denunciations of Bu\$h’s handling of border and immigration policy. Simcox sought to ease remaining Republican hesitation to back border vigilantes.

Simcox on “Hannity & Colmes” Monday made a comment that was very revealing. He lumped anti-Minutemen protesters (whom he calls “domestic terrorists”) with the activists and residents in Toledo, Ohio, who righteously protested a planned neo-Nazi march in a Black neighborhood:

“Well, it’s very similar to what you saw in Toledo, Ohio. We had the same police presence at a rally in Chicago on the same day, where it took 150 riot police, heavily armed, to keep back a mob of communist, socialist, anti-American protestors, who ended up being an anti-Bush, antiwar rally. And the police had to bring in riot police to stop people from, you know, rioting over — over a simple issue, such as securing our borders in the name of public

safety.”(3)

Sean Hannity did his best to portray the Minutemen as humanitarians giving water or medical assistance to migrants while securing the border, but Chris Simcox seemed to see similarities between the Minutemen and the brazen fascists making up the National Socialist Movement. Answering Alan Colmes, Simcox said that the cities in Texas that have passed resolutions expressing disapproval of the Minutemen are violating the Minutemen’s “constitutional rights and civil rights.” Simcox suggested that elected leaders who so much as disapprove of the Minutemen should be “removed from office.” It’s not enough that the Euro-Amerikkans nation gives settlers the legal right to hold fascist demonstrations in oppressed-nation neighborhoods (while denying free speech rights to prisoners and others interested in political education and organizing), the fascist activists intimidate anyone who opposes them, one of their tactics being the brandishing of weapons. Even legal observers observing the Minutemen have been exposed to the Minutemen’s tactics.(4)

Despite an onslaught of mainstream media coverage of Minuteman events and the ability of most Amerikkans to obtain information from independent media about Minutemen’s often crude and blatant racism, a Rasmussen Reports telephone poll of 1,000 adult Amerikkans conducted on September 20-21, a little bit more than a month ago, shows that a

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Simcox says No to open borders. MIM says No to him.

# Imperialists contemplate building barrier all along United States-Mexico border

From *mimnotes.info*  
November 4, 2005

Colorado Governor Bill Owens on a radio show Thursday supported building a "fence" all along the U.S. border with Mexico. TheDenverChannel.com reported that Colorado Representative Tom Tancredo was working on legislation, similar to California's Proposition 187, to take public services away from undocumented migrants in Colorado.(1) Owens likened the fence he wanted to Israel's so-called Security Fence. CNN yesterday (rebroadcast today) made a similar comparison. CNN correspondent Chris Lawrence said that California Representative and House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter's 2,000-mile border fence proposal "conjures up all sorts of images, from the Great Wall of China to the security fence put up by Israel."(2) CNN and the larger imperialist media's belief in a "border crisis" is common knowledge, so the comparison with Israel's segregation and settlement fence and wall was more cynical than anything else. In fact, the United States supports the repressive barrier in Palestine. So, to compare an expansive barrier on the United States-Mexico to Israel's so-called anti-terrorist fence isn't necessarily a criticism of U.S. border barrier proposals in minds of Americans.

The comparison with the Great Wall of China contains an element of innuendo. The Great Wall of China of the Ming Dynasty is commonly associated with "barbarians" and "invading" nomads. The fact that CNN named the Great Wall of China, but didn't name the revisionist

Berlin Wall, which has a negative meaning for most Americans for other reasons, in the list of parallels is telling. In the past, CNN has brazenly used language such as "illegal alien invasion" to describe undocumented migrants of diverse indigenous and Latin American nationalities. CNN's reference to the Great Wall of China had the effect of portraying migrant people as invaders, and CNN compared the proposed 2,000-mile-long border barrier to the Israeli repressive barrier in order to portray migrants as terrorists. The so-called border crisis and calls to intensify the militarization of the border have long been linked to the phony, imperialist War on Terror, actually a war on oppressed people for profit for the imperialist-country population, but now the imperialist media has gone so far as to suggest a comparison between Mexican migrants and suicide bombers. This shows what the border fence proposals are really about: cementing the settler Euro-American nation's occupation of land.

Proposals to build a barrier along the entire United States-Mexico border are truly a litmus test for distinguishing between those who oppose imperialism and those who support it fundamentally. If only a tiny handful of Americans are parasites living on the backs of oppressed-nation workers, then it makes slightly more sense in the chauvinist logic to have a barrier to prevent drug cartels from victimizing Americans. But the reality is that the average American, who time and time again supports imperialist repression because he lives gluttonously on the

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Rep. Tom Tancredo, who wants to build the 2,000 mile fence, belongs to the Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus. On their website, they quote former US President Theodore Roosevelt as saying in 1907:

"In the first place we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the man's becoming in very fact an American, and nothing but an American...There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag, and this excludes the red flag, which symbolizes all wars against liberty and civilization, just as much as it excludes any foreign flag of a nation to which we are hostile...We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language...and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."

In fact, the Caucus doesn't even grant as much to immigrants as the bigot Roosevelt did: they oppose American citizenship for the children of undocumented immigrants.

## Minutemen are Amerika

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majority of Americans had a favorable view of the "Minutemen."(5) Only 22% had an unfavorable view (and "unfavorable" could mean a number of different things). Those who had a favorable view of the Minutemen were disproportionately Euro-American.

"Sixty percent (60%) of white Americans [the Rasmussen Reports release does not specify whether Latinos were counted as "whites" or not, which they are in some unscientific enumerations] have a favorable opinion of the Minutemen along with 35% of other Americans.

Seventy-two percent (72%) of white Americans say immigration is an important voting issue for them. Sixty percent (60%) of other Americans agree."(5)

In addition, majorities of Democrats and Republicans, and 42% of what Rasmussen Reports calls "unaffiliateds,"

had a favorable view of the Minutemen. Even higher proportions of Americans thought that the "immigration issue" was important in terms of impacting their vote.

So, the situation for migrant workers is very bad. The Minutemen are mainstream, and they are household name. What is on the surface a "debate" about "immigration reform" has the potential to reinforce the status quo of repression against migrants and produce results that are even more reactionary. The Minutemen since their beginning have been seen as legitimate by many Americans, pushing the reactionary discourse further rightward. Optimistically, we can note that as the Minutemen have increased in popularity, so has the number of anti-Minutemen protesters. Minutemen and Minutemen-inspired and -allied groups have been met with various kinds of opposition throughout the country. Resistance to the

Minutemen urgently needs to increase in scope and beat back the larger anti-migrant fascist reaction. The proletariat does not need border vigilantes to be replaced with more Migra agents. This oppressive mentality of pandering to the repressive prerogatives of government-sanctioned pigs needs to be rejected. The debate needs to be dramatically reframed. And the complicity of the American labor aristocracy, which clamours to keep its imperialist-country privileges, in the situation facing migrants must be exposed or else fascism will continually rear its head with greater and greater intensity.

Notes:

1. Leslie Berestein, "Border watch group could rent or buy Campo home," 21 October 2005, <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/mexico/tijuana/20051021-9999-7m21property.html>

2. "Virginia 'Minuteman' effort to focus

on illegal immigrants," Associated Press State & Local Wire, 22 October 2005.

3. Sean Hannity and Alan Colmes, "Minuteman Lawyer Answers Critics," "FOX HANNITY & CO 9:51 PM EST," 17 October 2005, 101706cb.253.

4. Leslie Berestein, "Border observers to carry GPS units for their safety," 19 October 2005, <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/mexico/tijuana/20051019-9999-2m19gps.html>

5. "Most Say Volunteer Patrols Reduce Illegal Immigration," 22 September 2005, [http://www.rasmussenreports.com/2005/Immigration\\_Sept%2022.htm](http://www.rasmussenreports.com/2005/Immigration_Sept%2022.htm)

6. "Far right says immigration makes Spaniards outsiders," 23 October 2005, [http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2005-10-23T145052Z\\_01\\_MOL353438\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_UK-SPAIN-FALANGE.xml&archived=False](http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2005-10-23T145052Z_01_MOL353438_RTRUKOC_0_UK-SPAIN-FALANGE.xml&archived=False)

# Imperialists mobilize anger at Bu\$h to support fascist repression against migrants

*From mimnotes.info  
October 29, 2005*

Lou Dobbs on CNN's "Lou Dobbs Tonight" Friday went all out to defend the anti-migrant vigilantes known as the "Minutemen." The Minutemen are fascist activists who see heightening the repression of Third World migrants to an even more ruthless level as a solution to the supposed cultural and economic threats, posed by "globalization," to the Euro-American nation and the Euro-American working class. Dobbs also criticized the people whom he thought were going to be in Sacramento this weekend protesting the Minutemen and a proposed ballot initiative to create a State border police for California.

Lou Dobbs's blatant support for the Minutemen is well-known. What is striking is that the segment dealing with the Minutemen came shortly after what looked like a laundry list of criticisms of the Bu\$h government for everything from the reported 2,000 American casualties in Iraq, to the fallout over the CIA leak involving Scooter Libby, to the Bu\$h government's handling of Hurricane Wilma. The highlights of Bu\$h's bad week were literally listed on the TV screen one after another. This came under the pretext of reporting on Bu\$h's "very bad week." Lou Dobbs also patted Bu\$h on the head for finally identifying the enemy in the so-called War on Terror as "radical Islamists," putting non-terrorist radicals and "extremists" in the sights of the imperialists. Dobbs said Bu\$h had finally come around to using language that CNN

had in the past been criticized for using, but the underlying message was that Bu\$h was inept and just catching on. The context of all of this is Dobbs' — and the Minutemen's — long-standing, vehement criticism of Bu\$h's supposedly lax immigration and enforcement policy, during which the government itself has reported record numbers of deaths of migrant people.

Conservatives accuse CNN of a liberal bias. And liberals focus their fire on Fox News. Friday's "Lou Dobbs Tonight" is an example of how anti-Bu\$h sentiment can be mobilized for deeply reactionary, fascist purposes. The aim is to pressure Bu\$h to conform to the so-called national interest (that is, the interests of the Euro-American oppressor nation) and step up the repression of migrant workers. Friday's "Lou Dobbs Tonight" was typically spectacular in its self-contradiction. Lou Dobbs criticized "Hispanic voters" who would vote "on the base of race" against California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has supported the Minutemen. Dobbs encouraged Latinos to "focus on the national interest issue, the issue of border security." But immediately after, CNN correspondent Casey Wian, trying to whip up First World economic chauvinism among Latino American citizens, claimed that some undocumented migrant workers "take" jobs from Latinos.

Dobbs had the nerve to tell Latinos what was in their "national interest" when in reality it is Euro-Americans who are stealing desirable jobs from indigenous and

Latin American people through imperialism and the international division of labor. Minutes later, CNN correspondent Christine Romans herself reported a figure showing a relatively low high school graduation rate of Latinos. Also, the Democrats are a thoroughly imperialist party, but MIM Notes does not mind pointing out that it is not Latinos (a majority) who got Bu\$h or Schwarzenegger elected, but Euro-Americans. (Dobbs would never suggest that white voters are ethno-centric in their voting.) Even within the framework of choosing between different ruling-class figureheads, Latinos cannot guarantee which figurehead impacts them and their communities.

Instead of relating unemployment and educational attainment to imperialist interference in the self-determination of Latino nations inside U.S. borders, Romans described the lower high school graduation rate of Latinos as a problem for America as a whole, a political problem. "[T]here are fundamental problems in this country that are eating away the foundations of America and the numbers don't lie." Romans also gave a figure for government-defined poverty. Portraying unwed women and female youth as a threat to the "national interest," Romans reported: "today the government announced a record 1.5 million babies born to unwed mothers last year." CNN had several so-called experts talk about how these and similar numbers supposedly reflected a danger to Americans in general, oppressors and oppressed alike.



*Dobbs: Someone should steal his job.*

Former Labor Secretary Robert Reich said: "There's always been a sense of progress [in American society]. And I'm afraid we're going to lose that because all of the economic indicators, all of the social indicators suggest that we are sliding backward." Eric Hanushek of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University remarked on "the long-run prospects" if

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## *Barrier on United States-Mexico border*

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backs of the oppressed, has everything to do with the conditions in Third World countries that give rise to drug production and distribution. Proposals to seal the border aim to consolidate the status of the United States as a gated community and consolidate Americans' stakes in the imperialist loot. Americans profoundly shaped the conditions in Latin American and Caribbean countries and now they are trying to suppress the consequences.

Those who support building a fence along the southern border obscure the reality that America is not a victim of terrorism and drugs, but a parasite that is trying to maintain its economic position. Inside U.S. borders, it is oppressed-nation communities that are ruined by drugs, not Euro-Americans, hundreds of thousands of whom live in a gated building complex or community with a security fence or security guard in Los Angeles. Border fence proposals most of all have to do with reactionary Euro-American fears about migration's supposed threat to the

Euro-American culture and economy. Reactionaries claim that migration will lead to a cultural "balkanization" of the United States, hiding the fact imperialism and national oppression already cause a segmentation of the U.S. population by nationality. People who only slap in the Minutemen border vigilantes on the wrist and support the militarization of the U.S. border with Mexico show their true colors: they are Euro-American nationalists or lackeys of the Euro-American oppressor nation who have bought into First World chauvinism.

A decade-old, September 11, 2003, Time/CNN telephone poll shows that about a third of Americans favored "build[ing] a fence along the entire border between the United States and Mexico." MIM Notes awaits the release of a more recent poll. The imperialist media, and spokespeople for the imperialists and the high-paid, engorged American workers who make up the labor aristocracy, are currently trying to whip up support among

Americans for having a sealed southern border and, failing that, a border that is patrolled by even more Border Patrol agents, with high-tech equipment, and even military troops allowed to apprehend migrants. The Associated Press reported two weeks ago that the U.S. Army already regularly helps the Border Patrol with surveillance. Some of the Army's vehicles in New Mexico on October 20 used for surveillance "were equipped with mounted machine guns and long-range surveillance equipment." (4) "Border Patrol spokesman Doug Mosier said the surveillance mission isn't unusual and was planned last year." (4)

Notes:

1. "Governor: Fence Should Be Built Along Entire Mexico Border," 28 October 2005, <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/5196549/detail.html>

2. Tony Harris et al., "Bush Greeted by Protests in Argentina; Death Row Inmate Walks Out of Texas Jail;

Congressman Proposes Fence on Southern Border; Poor Immigrants Rioting Near Paris," "LIVE FROM... 1:00 PM EST," 4 November 2005, transcript 110401CN.V85.

3. Bruce Morton et al., "Lewis Scooter Libby Hears Charges; Bill Proposed to Build Barrier Along Mexican Border; Former Saddam Hussein Soldiers Asked to Rejoin Iraqi Army," "THE SITUATION ROOM 3:00 PM EST," 3 November 2005, transcript 110301CN.V16.

4. "Army helps with surveillance mission along southern border," 21 October 2005, <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/mexico/tijuana/20051021-0933-wst-bordersurveillance.html>

5. Mike Sunnucks, "Backing for increased border fencing gains steam," 4 November 2005, <http://phoenix.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2005/10/31/daily64.html>

# “Boondocks” leaves out most of white Amerikkka

Aaron McGruder starts out his new television cartoon series from scratch, at the same point where his comic strip began years ago: Huey and Riley Freeman are forced to move to the white suburbs with their grandfather and immediately the conflict and the laughter begins. The premiere episode centered around the grandfather’s efforts to integrate into the new neighborhood, facing strong resistance from Huey and Riley.

This viewer was disappointed in the depiction of the white neighbors at a ‘garden party’ as an aristocratic elite. This allowed for most Amerikkans to laugh along as creator and co-writer McGruder criticized them without feeling personally attacked. But the interesting twist came when Huey (who lives up to his namesake, Huey P. Newton, fairly well at 10 years old) asserts that: Jesus was Black; Ronald Regan was the devil; and the U.S. is covering up 9/11. Huey is met with unanimous applause and compliments from the approving white

folks.

Huey later makes the observation: “These people aren’t worried about us. They’re not worried about anything. They’re rich! No matter what happens, they’ll just keep on applauding.” The question is: will Aaron McGruder ever take on the majority of the Euro-Amerikan oppressor nation who do see an immediate threat in oppressed-nation nationalism? The only Euro-Amerikan character who is not a clear member of the aristocratic class portrayed in this episode of “Boondocks” (if only because of his young age) is a U.S. soldier, recently back from Iraq, who bonds with Riley (the quintessential thug) over a love of guns and his apparent ability to speak the soldier’s language. We will have to wait and see whether McGruder expands his dealing with white Amerikkka to a more realistic representation.

McGruder effectively criticizes the integrationist aspirations of the Black bourgeoisie in the character of the

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*Huey Freeman.*

## Anger at Bu\$h used against migrants

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academic performance in Amerika didn’t improve. Christine Romans singled out China to warn viewers that the United States was at risk of falling behind Third World countries, saying that “China graduates eight to 10 times as many engineers each year as the United States.”

Artfully using leftist-sounding rhetoric, CNN painted a dismal picture of Amerika under the Bu\$h administration. It did so only to stir up Euro-Amerikan nationalism and spread reactionary hysteria about the decline of the empire, which the imperialist media seeks to reinforce by pointing to conditions for a minority in the United States as a political problem for the imperialist-country population as a whole. But if Bu\$h is bad for the ruling class, it is because he is a public-relations embarrassment or unable to wage wars on oppressed people with more effectiveness and fewer Amerikan casualties. For the majority of the world’s people, Bu\$h and the imperialist system he stands for mean harsh poverty and death by repression. Amerikkans lash out at Bu\$h because the economic fruits of militarism have not been quick in coming or so far worth the number of Amerikan casualties. Extremely reactionary imperialists, whose mainstreaming in the media Dobbs and other reactionary commentators represent, are tapping into such sentiments and mobilizing them for fascist repression against Third World migrant proletarians as well as anti-China chauvinism. This fascist movement is so

developed that armed border vigilantes, who are often brazenly racist, are called a “neighborhood watch program” on a major TV news network, and this passes for what Dobbs on Friday called “nonpartisan independent reality.”

The fact that large numbers of Demokrats and Republikans support the Minutemen does not mean there is nothing non-political about supporting the Minutemen ostensibly for reasons of safety of security. Dobbs praised the Minutemen as good-natured “volunteerism under attack” and accused anti-Minutemen protesters of being violent and “ethnocentric.” Yet, Dobbs, like the Minutemen, wants English to be the official language of the United States, believing that migration is eroding Euro-Amerikan culture, and the real violence is being perpetrated by the imperialists, and the privileged Amerikan workers who make up the labor aristocracy, through the harsh and lethal repression against migrants that goes on daily.

Notes:

1. Lou Dobbs et al., “Vice President’s Chief of Staff Indicted in CIA Leak Probe,” “LOU DOBBS TONIGHT 6:00 PM EST,” 28 October 2005, transcript 102801CN.V19.

2. “Minutemen Outnumbered in Sacramento,” 29 October 2005, <http://www.infoshop.org/news/article.php?story=20051029225613899>

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## What is militarism?

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Bennett shows that racism still exists at this day and age

By a Missouri prisoner,  
October 2005

I am writing this letter in concerns with the racial comments recently made by former Secretary of Education and radio show host, Bill Bennett. On September 28th, Mr. Bennett stated on his radio show, "Bill Bennett's Morning in America," that the U.S. crime rate would decrease if all Black babies in this country were aborted.

These remarks, by [the] former Secretary of Education under President Reagan's term in office, are highly racial and have yet to be addressed by President Bush or any other Republican staff in his cabinet.

Mr. Bennett tried to cover his racist remarks up by later on stating aborting Black babies was "an impossible, ridiculous and morally reprehensible thing to do," even though he still stuck to his belief that the crime rate would go down, if such an act should be carried out.

These remarks show that racism still exists at this day and age.

—a prisoner in Missouri  
October 2005

**Mimnotes.info replies:**

Bennett's remarks were definitely racist. It was a racist generalization. The choice of subject, aborting Black babies as a way of lowering the crime rate, had nothing to do with the radio show caller's suggestion that aborted pregnancies have resulted in fewer people paying into Social Security. And ex-"drug czar" Bill Bennett's remarks were racist also because they obscured the widespread role racism plays in reports of crime, arrests, and convictions (and sentencing). Something else Bennett also implied, but which has not been talked about as much, to disprove the caller's suggestion is that unborn babies from aborted pregnancies would not have grown up to be "productive citizens," paying into Social Security.

Many critics of Bill Bennett's crude remarks rightly say that Bennett portrayed all Black people as criminals, but others agree with Bennett that Blacks commit disproportionately more

government-defined crime than non-Blacks, saying only that the difference is due to poverty. This concession to Bennett about Blacks supposedly committing more crime comes under the pretext of an anti-capitalist critique. But to say poverty is the only relevant variable sidelines national oppression and sets up critics of Bennett to be undermined in cases where poverty does not completely explain differences in crime rates. For instance, crime rates reflect more policing in oppressed-nation neighborhoods. Just looking at income differences does not always account for differences in crime rates due to heavier policing.

Racism is important, and so is national oppression. As Hurricane Katrina illustrated, not everything can be explained in terms of poverty if poverty is just an income thing. For example, Euro-Americans classified as poor by the U.S. government were more likely to evacuate New Orleans than poor Blacks. The difference has to do with the fact, studied by the Maoist Internationalist Movement and others, that poor whites are scattered among their wealthier brethren in the Euro-American oppressor nation, whereas oppressed-nation people in the United States have formed low-income and proletarian neighborhoods with fewer resources and clout.

So, not only do Blacks have a higher poverty rate than whites (using the unscientific U.S. government definition's of "poverty"), poor Blacks often face harsher conditions than poor whites. Being Black or not is a relevant social variable in some contexts, and there is nothing racist or racial about pointing this out. In fact, it is an indictment of national oppression to talk about the ways that rates for different kinds of crime are shaped by national oppression. Some white people don't have to steal things on the street because they have jobs where they sit in an office stealing wealth from Third World workers, or jobs in which they put the finishing touches on products made by oppressed-nation migrants and take a cut of the profit. This doesn't just have to do with skin color or even perceptions of



Bennett: former drug 'czar', gambling fiend, education secretary, moralist, racist

skin color. The main thing is nationality.

As Malik Russell of Blackpressusa.com points out in an October 20th article, when crime is assigned a dollar value, Blacks may actually commit less crime per person than whites since whites commit so much white-collar crime.(1) The cost of white-collar crime far exceeds the cost of street crime. That said, Euro-Americans shoplift as much as Blacks. So, it would be wrong to say all the so-called blue-collar crime is committed by oppressed nationalities. Moreover, the theft of wealth from Third World workers through imperialist exploitation is not even acknowledged, much less considered a crime of any type, blue-collar or white-collar, by the imperialists and the privileged imperialist-country workers who make up the labor aristocracy.

Crime isn't just what the ruling class calls crime. We should go beyond the distinction between blue-collar crime and white-collar crime. If Blacks were removed from the picture, our crime rate for the United States would increase

because oppressors criminally supporting militarism and fascism in a majority would make up a larger share of the population. Another example: Euro-Americans steal different kinds of oppressed-nation cultural artifacts all the time, but the ruling class doesn't consider that a crime except in rare cases.

So, even if Bill Bennett had said something as equally reactionary as "not aborting white babies would make the crime rate go down," he still would have been wrong. (Saying this about white babies, though, would not have allowed Bennett to drive a wedge between Black people and abortion rights activists.) The fact that Bennett chose to talk about aborting "every black baby," something that could only have occurred to someone taking the viewpoint of the dominant Euro-American nation, showed the Euro-American oppressor nation's aspiration to completely dominate the Black people.

Notes: Malik Russell, "The Crime of Being Black," 20 October 2005, <http://www.justicepolicy.org/article.php?id=552>

## Boondocks

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grandfather, who is happy living a lie among white people. He speaks of the "new refined white man" as if the civil rights era actually ended national oppression, instead of making national oppression more palatable to oppressed nationalities and others. A policy of imperialists who seek to assimilate and continue to dominate oppressed nationalities, integrationism is the flip side of overtly chauvinist exclusion and fascist white nationalism. The integrationists try to buy off the most outspoken of the oppressed by making them believe they can achieve self-determination within the imperialist system. This is the

disappointing reality Huey faces when his controversial remarks are met with approval since his family has already been accepted as "one of the good ones."

We can see a parallel to the national oppression within the United States in imperialist France today, where the uprising of oppressed-nation youth has reached over 300 towns and cities in recent days. While President Jacques Chirac has reportedly despaired at France's failures to integrate the largely African and Arab youth, other potential presidential candidates have taken the opportunity to call for restricting immigration and increased repression of

migrants and others within France's borders.(1) Neither of the two faces of the oppressor nation will discuss, not to mention support, the right to self-determination of oppressed nations.

As it exists in this culture, television has inherent problems as a form of media. But due to its penetrating presence in so many lives, we must welcome any time the voice of oppressed nations gets through. Huey Freeman is an anomaly. The only way Black people have been able to get on TV and talk about the white nation as the enemy of the self-determination of Blacks has been by rare bourgeois nationalists mincing words

while doing so, or more often by comedians who present Black nationalism in a self-deprecating way. McGruder has admitted in interviews that his comic and his TV show are controlled by his sponsors, and that he does not have the ability to say whatever he wants. But judging by the first episode of "Boondocks," Huey Freeman may be the best role model for Black youth that has made it onto a fictional animated show on U.S. television.

Notes: "Oppressed-nation youth fight back in France," in this issue of MIM Notes.

# Under Lock & Key

## News from Prisons & Prisoners

### California prisoners hunger strike against SHU regulations

I am contacting all of you to request that all of you join in solidarity to assist me in opposing certain Departmental regulations.

As many of you know, the Department operates a SHU. Under prison regulations, an inmate whose CONDUCT endangers institutional security or the safety of persons will be placed in the SHU. (Title is CCR 3341.5 (o)). However, throughout the years, prisoners have found themselves in the SHU arbitrarily and for lawful conduct, such as for exercising basic First Amendment freedoms to association and free speech, not for violent/dangerous behavior.

I'm one of those prisoners, while I was in the general population at Corcoran. I was challenging inhumane prison conditions and mistreatment of prisoners. In addition, I was legally assisting prisoners (many who were gang affiliated) obtain Court access shortly there after, I was assaulted by prison guards placed in segregation and accused of "gang association." I remain in the SHU based on this vague charge, and prison officials refuse to release me from the SHU due to my continuing association with alleged gang members. Yet, these continuing associations are social and legally assisting prisoners with their cases, some whom have suffered gross injustices. I have a lawsuit pending on these abuses and arbitrary power in *Martinez v. Shaw, et. al.* in the Eastern District Federal Court in Fresno.

With that said, the Department is proposing new regulations to be placed in the Calif. Code of regulations (CCR), Title 15. They govern gang management and segregation procedures. While much more fair than the current process, there are still two proposed regulations that are flawed, I will be opposing these two regulations and I need your help to block them from becoming law.

The proposed regulations in question are 3341.5(6) and 3378(1). While the regulations now force prison officials to designate prisoners as "current active" gang associates, prior to receiving a SHU sentence, the rules are still unfair for two reasons:

First, the Department defines "current active" as any documented activity within the PAST six (6) years. This is unfair for the obvious reason: behavior from six(6) years ago does not prove that a prisoner is currently active in that type of behavior. It's also in conflict with the Dictionary's actual definition of "current." (see also *Toussaint v. Rowland*, 711 F. Supp. At 540, 541-42 n.15 (N.D. Cal, 1989)).

Second, the term "activity" is vague and invites discriminatory enforcement. The question is what type of "activity" is

considered gang activity? Since there is no clear definition, prison officials will be able to apply their own biased opinions and continue to place prisoners in the SHU based on activity that does not violate the law. (see *Rios v. Lane*, 812 F. 2d 1038 (7th Cir. 1987) (Holding "gang activity" rule vague stating "where prohibited conduct does not vary with its own indicia of wrong doing the need for clearly drawn prison regulations is particularly acute").

So how do we remedy this issue? By being heard, and this is how:

On November 30, 2005 a public hearing will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at: Water Resources Auditorium 1416 Ninth street, Sacramento CA 95814. I encourage every single organization/supporter to attend this hearing. However, for those of you unable to attend, you can also submit written comments to: Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Regulation and Policy Management Branch, P.O. Box 942883, Sacramento, CA. 94283-0001.

Either at the hearing or in writing, voice those concerns that I have raised in this letter regarding the two regulations in question, and urge the Department to do the following:

1. Define "currently active" as any documented activity within the past twelve (12) months; and,

2. Define Gang Activity as any misconduct committed on behalf of a gang. I believe these definitions will be fair and prevent arbitrary placement in the SHU. You can also say anything else you want regarding the SHU. But let's not lose focus on the issues in this letter which have merit and legal support.

On a final note, I will be submitting a petition to the Department regarding the issues raised in this letter. In addition, I and over 100 prisoners will be fasting on November 30, 2005 to demonstrate the seriousness of these issues and to stand in solidarity with all of you that support this cause, for those of you that are able to attend the hearing, it may be effective to let the hearing officials know that Corcoran indeterminate SHU prisoners are fasting. I will personally be doing the talking when the administration inquires into the reason for the fast.

I thank all of you for your time and assistance. With solidarity, we can prevail and obtain justice which is well overdue.

- a prisoner in Corcoran, November 2005

### Salinas Valley hunger strike ended

Our hunger strike in our building on our yard at Salinas Valley State Prison lasted for 3 days but we received an immediate response from the prison administration. The prison administration will not admit it did anything in response to our demands but we are receiving a loosening of the restrictions on our cosmetics we are able to purchase at our prison store and those cosmetics we receive in our packages. We were taken off lockdown the next week after our hunger strike ended.

During the hunger strike we had approximately 45% of the prisoner population in our building actively participating in the hunger strike. Although the prison administration would not admit to capitulating to our demands, we received some of our demands. This hunger strike has also proven to some prisoners that we can work together in a constructive manner to fight against unnecessary oppressive conditions at our prison.

We thank MIM for your support on these issues. Many of us prisoners do not believe this had ended and we are preparing for the next time. I have been using this opportunity to share with other prisoners the MIM Notes and to share with other prisoners the mission of MIM.

- a California prisoner  
November 2005

### Brutal conditions in Missouri control units

I am currently housed in the Supermax long term administrative solitary segregation unit for assault on a correctional officer. This unit houses inmates serving 1-5 years in solitary confinement (or even longer).

The COs in this unit are very brutal, and very seldom follow the institutional policy. Everything from toothbrushes to writing paper has to be purchased from the canteen section, so if another inmate is not fortunate enough to have family members send them money, then they are subject to go without hygiene products for an unlimited amount of time.

The inmates in this unit are on lockdown 24/7 and receive showers every 3 days for only 10 minutes. An inmate who has showed a consistent time of good behavior might receive 3 hours of recreations every week. (If COs are feeling good on this day).

The cells are solitary (one bunk) and the situations is so critical that an inmate across the walk from me hung himself on his vent. Another inmate next door to me just requested to speak to a

psychiatrist due to feeling suicidal as I write this letter.

The COs here never follow policy and whenever the food is served it is always cold and never hot. I try my best to avoid them by not even speaking to them to avoid brutality.

I was recently put on "limited property," "hot liquid restriction," and "hazmat," for throwing hot coffee in a guard's face because he searched my cell and took personal property and planted contraband in my cell.

Limited property is when all you have in your cell is a pair of boxers and a t-shirt. Nothing else. Nothing. Not even toilet paper. Hazmat is when you have to wear a screen hat all over your head and face, making it hard for you to breathe. Hot liquid restriction is when you can have no types of hot liquid in your cell.

### MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

MIM seeks to build public opinion against America's criminal injustice system, and to eventually replace the bourgeois injustice system with proletarian justice. The bourgeois injustice system imprisons and executes a disproportionately large and growing number of oppressed people while letting the biggest mass murderers — the imperialists and their lackeys — roam free. Imperialism is not opposed to murder or theft, it only insists that these crimes be committed in the interests of the bourgeoisie.

"All U.S. citizens are criminals—accomplices and accessories to the crimes of U.S. oppression globally until the day U.S. imperialism is overcome. All U.S. citizens should start from the point of view that they are reforming criminals."

MIM does not advocate that all prisoners go free today; we have a more effective program for fighting crime as was demonstrated in China prior to the restoration of capitalism there in 1976. We say that all prisoners are political prisoners because under the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, all imprisonment is substantively political. It is our responsibility to exert revolutionary leadership and conduct political agitation and organization among prisoners — whose material conditions make them an overwhelmingly revolutionary group. Some prisoners should and will work on self-criticism under a future dictatorship of the proletariat in those cases in which prisoners really did do something wrong by proletarian standards.

I am not writing this letter trying to glamorize the situation I am in, only to inform other comrades to continue the struggle because it is not done. This info that I sent you concerning my situation is only scratching the surface of the problem in this housing unit.

- a Missouri prisoner  
October 2005

## Oppression in New York SHUs

I'd like to convey a message to comrades of the struggle in reference to the past & present inhumane conditions we here in NY SHUs are subjected to. I'd like to start off with the violations of the medical confidentiality laws, our situation is as follows: in order for anyone to see a P/A [Physicians Assistant?], we must first discuss our medical issues on the gates in the galleries, not only to the nurses aid, but in front of correctional officers. In effect, our medical issues are open business to other convicts as well as correctional officers. I find this unreasonable & unsatisfactory due to the fact that in each building there is a P/A and nurses aid's office and exam room. Furthermore, when and if we are examined in these exam rooms, the doors are left open with the COs standing right outside. Mind you, in this exam room we are cuffed & shackled so we can't possibly be a threat, to no one. Furthermore, proper medical treatment & attention is often denied, basically Tylenol, ibuprofen is the answer to all medical problems here in these SHUs or so they seem to think so. There are convicts with serious medical conditions, HIV/AIDS, etc. who are underweight and are on the average denied supplements, vitamins.

Furthermore, here in NY SHUs, everything is done given to you on the cell slot, which is where you receive your food, blood tests, TB tests, injections are all done in these cell slots. Cleaning supplies, brooms, etc. are given to you via these slots. Mail is given, packages and this is the slot thru which we are given our (chow) food. This is inhumane and unhygienic.

Okay, moving along to other forms of oppression we face daily. We are continuously underfed; the food portions are so little it seems impossible for anyone to maintain a healthy weight. The IGRC [Inmate Grievance Resolution Committee], wow now there's a topic,

the IGRC is there for the administration sort of like puppets. All grievances are generally resolved in the administration's favor, unless of course if it's a minor facility technicality. Only then will IGRC allow for a minor victory, and even then issues are only temporarily dealt with. And for sure, 2 to 4 weeks later they continue with the same oppressive tactics. Another thing the IGRC at times don't even bother to answer or address your grievances, this I tell you from experience. I've been in SHU for 13 months now. The administration scrutinizes my mail, cell and person and use any reason to justify disciplinary action. They use the excuse of suspicion to open & intercept outgoing mail and of course they regularly read incoming mail. They are always on the prowl to take disciplinary action. It's real easy to do the math on all of this. They must after all meet their quota in order to keep these SHUs open. And the victims of these politics are we the convicts.

I see a very large amount of convicts in these SHUs for minor issues such as verbal harassment, drug urines, unauthorized property, refusing a direct order, or smoking a cigarette. I mean these types of rule violations were once upon a time dealt with via keep lock and loss of rec, packages, or commissary. Today they are dealt with by being put in SHUs. If we look back on why these SHUs/S-Blocks were open for in the first place, they were supposed to be for violent incidents & rule violations and, as DOC proudly claimed, gang related rule & facility violations.

When it was found out that the violence level among convicts was not high enough to meet the quota & fill these SHUs they then resorted to stereotyping, falsely accusing convicts of being affiliated with one organization or another, basically targeting people who in truth are not even affiliated. Other forms of oppressions are that they regularly violate their own rules. Here in these SHUs simple necessities are not met. For failure of the facility being consistent in announcing when rounds are being made to do laundry pick up, hair cuts. Don't they realize we are in a cell. Are we supposed to stand in front of our cells for hours & guess when they will pick up our white laundry or green laundry? Are we supposed to wait in front of our cells to see if a hair cut list is being brought to the gallery by the officers!

I will conclude this brief article by

saying I am voicing my pain and experience on these inhumane conditions & oppression because it's real & it exists. Had these conditions not existed I would not be writing about it, because I am one whom is a strong believer in freedom of speech & mind. I am constantly scrutinized in every way by the oppressors. Nevertheless, I stand firm & strong in my beliefs in cause & struggle. And no matter what disciplinary actions are taken against me, I will always stand up & voice that. Although I am a convict, I am a human being and in prison or anywhere I have the right to be treated as a human being, and so do all convicts in SHUs. We are in prison already sentenced for prior crimes, so why as we are serving our time, are we continuously subjected to all forms of additional oppression by the very same government who deemed it necessary in their eyes that we be sent to prison. It is in truth oppression on top of oppression, sort of like double jeopardy.

Peace & Love to all comrades of the struggle MIM.

- Comrade Viejo Candado  
September 2005

## Racism in Colorado prisons

Even though I may not look it, I am mulatto. My mother is white, my father a light-skinned Jamaican. I've seen and been on both sides of the so-called track. Yet, what I've experienced since being in a federal prison in Colorado is outrageous and must be corrected.

The United States constitution says all men are created equal; daily america says differently. Government employees prove this as does the government.

At this prison the majority of staff that hold highly placed positions are white, and they wield their color as if it were a mighty sword. And the few nazi and Aryan gang members on the yard use this to their advantage - even though staff will look you in the eye and tell you they and their actions are not motivated by racism.

Example: if a white person does something that sends them to the SHU, such as gang activity, a member of one of the gangs will talk to a white member of staff, and in a day or two they are out of SHU. However, a simple rumor of anything will send a Black man, Native American, or any other race to the hole

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## 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.

# Prisoner art show fights criminal injustice system

Posted on [mimnotes.info](http://mimnotes.info) November 7, 2005

Art Release opened a prisoner art show at the San Francisco Modern Times bookstore. Art Release grew out of a Santa Monica bookstore which, shortly before it closed, held an art show and exhibition featuring prisoner art. This event, which took place in April 2004, featured the work of six Security Housing Unit prisoners. After the bookstore closed, the art project lived on, largely due to the efforts of the bookstore owner, Margie Ghiz, and the artists whom she works with. A Web site for Art Release, [www.artrelease.org](http://www.artrelease.org), was launched recently.

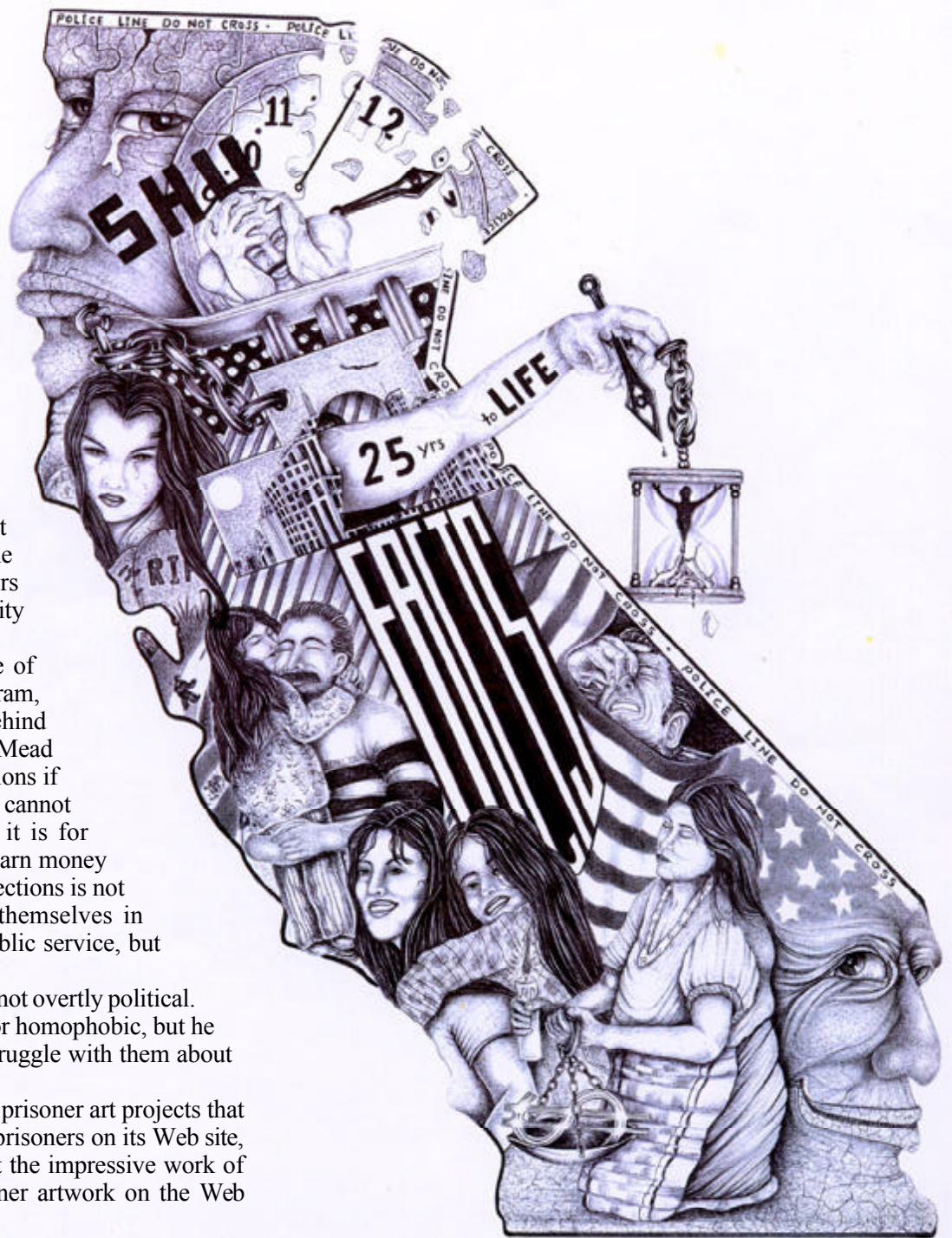
At the art show on Sunday, Margie Ghiz explained why the prisoner art project is important: "Art shows tremendous humanity of the people" in prison. Bringing their art to people on the outside helps "to dispel the idea that prisoners are not part of the human race." Ghiz sees this as a part of a larger battle to fight all that is wrong with the Amerikan prison system.

Prisoners are not allowed art supplies in control units. The Art Release site explains: "Color pens, pencils and pastels are not allowed in 'the hole'." The colors on these drawings were developed by scraping paper pulp out of old magazines. Utilizing a rolled up piece of toilet paper dipped in the pulp, the scrapings are transferred onto the drawing paper. Additional colors are obtained from the coating of vitamins, coffee, and candy." The creativity of prisoner artists surpasses what one can see on the paper.

The Art Release project sells prisoner artwork, offering prisoners one of the only avenues open to them to earn money. Another prisoner art program, Prison Art ([www.prisonart.org](http://www.prisonart.org)), also sells prisoner artwork. The person behind this project, Ed Mead, also spoke at the Art Release show on Sunday. Mead explained that prisons in California now charge prisoners with rule violations if they try to sell their art, claiming they are violating the policy that prisoners cannot run a business from behind bars. Prisoner's labor is welcome when it is for corporations that pay prisoners pennies a day, but when prisoners try to earn money with their art, they are punished. Ed Mead said, "The Department of Corrections is not serving the public interest by not allowing these people to express themselves in constructive and positive ways." For the DOC, prisons are not about public service, but about money.

Art Release and Prison Art sell both political artwork and artwork that is not overtly political. Mead explained that he will not accept art that he considers racist, sexist or homophobic, but he goes further than just rejecting the art: he will write to the prisoners to struggle with them about the political content.

The Maoist Internationalist Movement applauds the work of both these prisoner art projects that are selling art in a political context. MIM has a large collection of art by prisoners on its Web site, and we have displayed this art at public events about prisons. Check out the impressive work of these prisoners at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/art/>, and the prisoner artwork on the Web sites mentioned in this article.



"Facts," by Gabriel Reyes, at [artrelease.org](http://artrelease.org).

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for a very long time.

We must not allow shams such as this to continue. The prison system is a tool of the imperialist power system and the white prison gangs are an extension they use to keep everyone else down. We must fight this injustice by any and every means necessary. We cannot allow this to continue even one more day.

Let us look to our history, reflect upon the lessons we may learn and rise up once again to the forefront of society. It can be done.

- a prisoner in Colorado,  
October 2005

## Corruption in Indiana

Indiana Department of Corrections: Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in Carlisle Indiana: The Department of Corruptions, in their attempt to save money has signed a four year deal with the Aramark Corporation to provide meals

to offenders for 99 cents, saving the Department of Corruptions 12 million dollars.

Step one was to inform the prior food service staff that they could be rehired at a greatly reduced wage and benefits. Step two, after 90 days all beef and pork products would be phased out and that turkey and chicken products would be phased in to assist them in meeting their 99 cent meal quota. Step three . salt and pepper would no longer be provided to offenders or used in the preparation of meals, quoting health issues. And step four, that meals are now sized by weight than by volume and 90% of meals will be of a casserole base.

So the word to the wise you decide, do you want this in your prison? Be warned and alert and informed, just say no to Aramark.

- an Indiana prisoner, July 2005

## SHU prisoner maced and then charged with assault

In one of the MIM Notes dated June 1st 2004 (#303) there is a letter from an inmate in Tehachapi SHU who I believe mentions me. On Jan 16, 2002 I was maced point blank in my face by a 40 merely because I requested to speak to the sergeant. In turn I was maced, assaulted, shot and subsequently given 10 additional years for a bogus .battery on a PO.. At that time (January 2002) I had approximately 6 more months to go home after a 5 year term. The writer of that article is not lying about CCI Tehachapi, especially about that racist jackass lieutenant Lundy. He threatened to shoot me if I ever walked him mainline again.

Of course, no one believed nor cared that the C/Os all lied about what

happened. I was railroaded and here I sit wondering how the hell it is possible for no one to give a damn about this. My public defender would not even talk to me about what was happening since I do not understand legal proceedings.

My complaints were numerous and no one cared. I wrote my nations consulate for help (Mexico) I complained to Bakersfield.s grand jury about how C/Os had .accidentally. placed me in the wrong yard in an attempt to have me assaulted by other races (I am labeled a southern Mexican). I complained of outright ineffective assistance of counsel to the California bar association. I've written countless organizations and not one ever responded.

Anyhow, with 6 months to go home, I was given 10 more years and now my release date is 2012. Instead of 20 years old, I.ll be about 37.

- a California prisoner, September 2005