



U\$ State Terror Against Migrants

MORE DEATH AND REPRESSION AT THE BORDER: TWO MEXICANS KILLED BY PIG OCCUPIERS

January 20, 2006

Within the space of about two weeks recently, two Mexican citizens were slain by Amerikan law enforcement.(1) Ismael Segura Méndez, a 23-year-old undocumented agricultural worker, was shot by a state trooper in Roma, Texas, during a “routine” traffic stop on January 14th, a Saturday. Also, on December 30th, Guillermo Martínez Rodríguez was shot by a U.S. Border Patrol agent in San Diego soon after Rodríguez had crossed the border without permission. Both died.

According to Segura’s family’s lawyer, an autopsy revealed that there were bruises on Segura’s wrists, indicating that he may have been handcuffed.(2) Lawyer Mike Jolly said, “If somebody’s handcuffed, I don’t think you need to shoot them.” He continued, “And if someone’s shot, I don’t think you need to handcuff them.” According to the shooter himself, Patrick O’Connor, Segura fled into a fenced area where he was trapped. There, he was shot.

What is also interesting is that some media outlets have tried to deflect criticism from what appears to be an execution-style killing. They initially reported, falsely, that Segura had fired on the pigs, a claim that has proved to be false. As it turns out, Segura was unarmed.(2) An investigator into the case said they did not have information about whether Segura was handcuffed before or after he was shot.(2) The pig who murdered Segura has been placed on administrative leave by authorities trying to save face.(3)

Go to 4...



Chertoff: “There is zero tolerance for violence along the border.” But the maintaining the border is an act of violence, and the U\$ is its greatest perpetrator.

Bill shows need for gay rights activists to unite with oppressed-nation migrants

December 22, 2005

Different gay rights groups, and news outlets aimed at gays and lesbians, have commented extensively on the recent passage of the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005 (H. R. 4437) by the U.S. House of Representatives.(1,2,3) Eric Resnick in the Gay People’s Chronicle, for example, says that “the bill will make it more difficult for all unmarried bi-national families to stay together, and exacerbate the inequalities that LGBT families, who cannot marry, already face in immigration.”(1)

MIM Notes considers this development interesting because it illustrates what the

the imperialist repression of migrants, even within the First World. In November, MIM said: “struggles for things like gay marriage tend in Amerika to be fights for greater imperialist privileges and far from life-and-death issues. This is true with few exceptions, some of which are related to immigration law and mainly impact oppressed-nation people.”(4) MIM also said that it supported “the right to marry for gay people in general, and that includes gay and lesbian migrants who should not be left out of marriage equality campaigns.”(3) MIM noted that denying gay people the right to marry, in addition to being a sign of queer oppression, is a form of control of migrants and other oppressed-nation people.

What the passage of the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act on December 16th makes clear is that the repression of migrants can even be a way of perpetuating discrimination against First World gays and lesbians whose partners are migrants. So, not only do oppressed

Go to 5...

HOMELAND SECURITY CHIEF BLAMES BORDER KILLING ON MIGRANTS, NOT IMPERIALISM

By HC116

January 7, 2005

A Mexican proletarian died in Tijuana after being shot by a U.S. Border Patrol agent near the border on December 30th. Guillermo Martínez Rodríguez was shot somewhere in the back, according to the Los Angeles Times.(1) “Mexican authorities say Martinez Rodriguez was killed by a shot fired from a distance of 7 to 15 feet. The bullet struck him from behind and passed through his neck, they said.” According to La Prensa San Diego, the General Prosecutor in Baja California in an investigation “found out that Guillermo was shot from the back and at a distance no more than 5 meters away with a 9 mm gun. . . . Raul Martinez, Border Patrol spokesperson in San Diego, said that the agent felt threatened by the immigrant, who threw several rocks at the agent.”(2) This would not be the first time a Border Patrol agent has attacked a migrant after supposedly feeling threatened. These Border Patrol pigs occupying Aztlán and terrorizing people in oppressed-nation communities have no right to defend themselves regardless of whether the shooting was appropriate within Border Patrol policy, but the Border Patrol agent who shot Rodríguez should be held accountable for whatever rules they may have broke.

The Border Patrol’s excuses in regard to the December 30th incident vary and seem to contradict each other. Border Patrol officials have claimed Rodríguez was a humyn smuggler, but have also claimed Rodríguez was throwing rocks, which suggests that he may have been a protester; although, neither account explains why it was necessary to shoot him. The Border Patrol has said people throw rocks at Border Patrol agents from within Mexico. Simultaneously, other U.S. officials, sparing no opportunity to legitimize the repression of migrants — the cause of so-called illegal immigration

Go to 4...

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interconnectedness
of the gay
rights struggle,
and the
struggle against

Letters

Death threats against commies

Dear MIM,

If you people love Communism so much then get the fuck out of this great capitalist nation and live in Cuba or North Korea where the poor become the slaves.

Get the facts right Mao killed and murdered millions of people, I know because I was born there and you weren't. You guys are just a bunch of sad bunch of individuals who think after reading the red book immediately you know everything.

I can't wait till Bush launches an oppression against your kind and just randomly imprisons people of your kind and if lucky such as justice, you all get executed one by one and that would be a happy ending to the communist life.

Get the facts straight, there have been more deaths and executions under communism than fascism, now thats scary isn't it? Considering we the US gave Hitler a professional ass kicking.

Fascism = 8 million deaths communism = 50 million deaths and thats a fact buddy.

Now if only Bush would run things kinda like Pinochet and just get rid of communists like you people.

MIM replies: This letter is a good example of what's wrong with capitalism. The capitalist supporters think it's ok to kill people opposing imperialism as a way of ending all opposition to capitalism. Anyone who knows anything about Pinochet can see the fascism being promoted by this writer - Pinochet came to power in Chile in a U.S. backed bloody coup to overthrow the elected Allende

government. Immediately thousands of Chileans were "disappeared" and subsequently tens of thousands of people were killed because they opposed the Pinochet government.

This writer parrots the usual anti-Mao propaganda that claims Maoism is responsible for more deaths than any other system (and apparently this writer believes Mao himself killed all those people persynally). MIM has lots of factual responses to this claim on our web site that serious people should read. The numbers of deaths in China are grossly overcounted by the imperialists and do not reflect actual causes of death. Mao did claim government responsibility for 800,000 executions between 1949 and 1954. These were popularly sanctioned executions done in people's trials against the most hated landlords and pro-Japanese (pro-imperialist) elements who had terrorized the masses during World War II and its aftermath.

With a quarter of the world's children, if China hadn't been liberated by Mao and the Chinese Communist Party, that situation would be much worse today. As it was, 22 million Chinese died of starvation during World War II, thanks to Japanese imperialism and the U.S.-backed regime. Under Mao and the Chinese Communist Party, the life expectancy of the Chinese people doubled from 35 under the capitalist Kuomintang to 69. In contrast, the starvation in capitalist countries and the inadequate health care for Blacks in the United States is so routine and whitewashed that no capitalist politician bothers to make self-criticism or mention the problems.

See www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/mythsofmao.html for more information.

Letter from crank on China

Dear MIM:

I have recently returned from China. I recognize that you are taking advantage of the "freedom" given to Americans but not given to Chinese to push your anti-American message. Every Chinese person I met would prefer to leave China and go to that terrible country the US. I wish you the best of luck in pushing your message in the US, a country ignorant of the real effects of Mao's actions.

—Internet crank

January, 2006

mim3@mim.org replies: Chinese people left for the united States before

Mao came to power too. It's not because of freedom but the wealth stolen from the Third World. Millions immigrated to the united States each year before there was any Bolshevik Revolution, so it does not follow that the desire to go to the united States stems from Mao.

Thanks to Mao who doubled the life expectancy of his people, ended the drug trade, abolished foot-binding, legalized divorce and started industrialization while securing nuclear weapons, we can say it's less likely that Chinese want to go to the united States than before Mao.



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

Production by MC12

MIM Notes

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

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

People who want to print and/or distribute MIM Notes should contact mim3@mim.org.

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What is MIM?

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) is the collection of existing or emerging Maoist internationalist parties in the English-speaking imperialist countries and their English-speaking internal semi-colonies, as well as the existing or emerging Maoist Internationalist parties in Belgium, France and Quebec and the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist Internationalist parties of Aztlan, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.S. Empire. MIM Notes is the newspaper of MIM. *Notas Rojas* is the newspaper of the Spanish-speaking parties or emerging parties of MIM. MIM upholds the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and is an internationalist organization that works from the vantage point of the Third World proletariat. MIM struggles to end the oppression of all groups over other groups: classes, genders, nations. MIM knows this is only possible 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.

Russian Liberals discover imperialism

January 3, 2006

The beginning of the new year saw a farce play out in the ex-Soviet Union over natural gas. Russian monopoly-capitalist corporation Gazprom went on television to turn off the gas pipeline delivering supplies to Ukraine. Hilariously funny was the reply of Russian Liberals who dusted off the old word “imperialism” and employed it to refer to the hike of prices on gas going from Russia to the Ukraine.

For decades Russian Liberals had told the world that the Soviet Union and then Russia should rely on the free market for prices. Yet, in Europe excluding Ukraine, they pay more than four times as much for natural gas as Ukraine does. When Gazprom asked Ukraine to pay the international price of \$230 per cubic 1000 meters instead of \$50, Ukrainians called “foul” and Russian Liberals stepped to the plate. These combined actions revealed to the Russian people yet again that Liberals are a cover for Western interests. The Liberals are not consistent about wanting a free market. They are consistent in backing politically whatever Washington and London say.

The background to the dispute is simple. The “Orange Revolution” put a pro-Western government in power in Ukraine over a year ago. Relations with Russia took a blow as a result. That Russian Liberals feel sympathy with the Ukrainian “Orange Revolution” is not in doubt. So when push came to shove, the Russian Liberals tossed their support of free market prices to support Ukraine’s political elite: “The move toward a policy of imperialism ... has a clear and high price that will eventually be paid by the citizens of a nation that embarks on the imperialist path,” (1) said a Putin advisor named Andrei Illarionov.

That Russia is imperialist MIM had no doubt since Lenin warned of Russia in its capitalist days. However, for a generation, Lenin has been a character on a statue pointing the way to the bathroom as far as many Russians can remember. That is why MIM had to check its international payrolls to see if any Russian Liberals were on them. It turns out we communists could not pay to expose Liberalism in the light they have exposed themselves lately.

Naturally, in coordination with Gazprom, Russian president Putin painted himself as the potential savior of the Ukrainian people. He offered loans and a delay in the price increase along with soothing words about the “fraternal” Ukrainian people. Since the vote for the pro-Western government in Ukraine was close, there is no saying that such a power play may not work to improve relations with the Ukraine. Despite cheering for the European Union (EU) and the United States, it seems unlikely that either the united States or EU can come up with heating energy or energy for Ukraine’s industry.

One quarter of Europe’s natural gas comes from Russia and 80% goes through Ukraine. The dependence of

Europe on Russian oil and gas can only increase in the immediate future.

It appears that Ukraine started siphoning off natural gas for Europe when Russia stopped sending it. According to Bloomberg, “Ukraine took 223.5 million cubic meters of gas in Jan. 1 and Jan. 2, which Gazprom was due to deliver to customers in Europe, Sergei Kupriyanov, a spokesman at Gazprom, said today in Moscow. Ukraine denies the accusation.”(2)

In all these years of denying political connection to Russia, some Russian neighbors had to play a double game for economic reasons: “Belarus played the game last week when it ceded its Yamal pipeline carrying gas to European clients to the Russian monopoly Gazprom. As a result, Belarus will get its delivery of Siberian gas at \$47 (27) per 1,000 cubic metres compared with the \$230 Gazprom is demanding from Ukraine. Even Georgia, with its anti-Kremlin president, Mikhail Saakashvili, has been careful to avoid slamming the door on Russian participation. Its price this year is \$110.”(3)

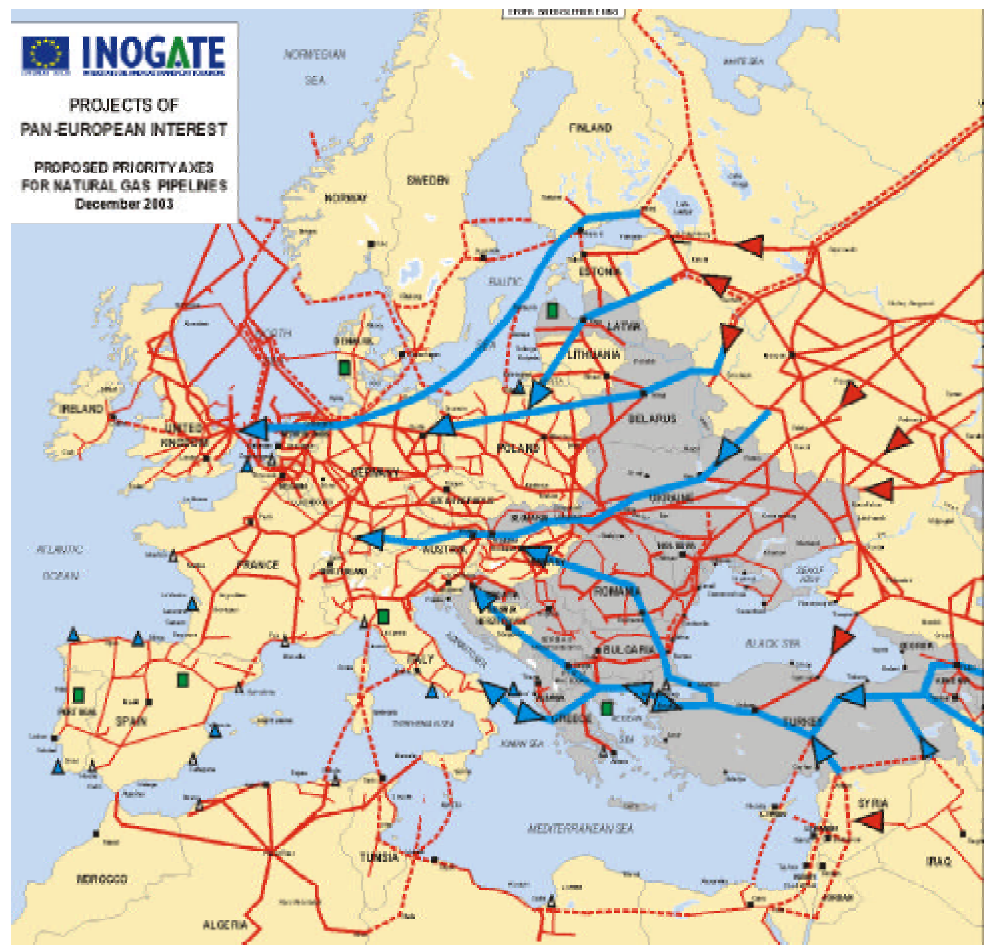
On January 2nd, Moldova also entered the conflict. “Moldova, a former Soviet state, also complained yesterday that it was being bullied by Russia. It said its gas supply had been all but switched off after it failed to agree to a 100 per cent price hike. Reckoned to be the poorest country in Europe, Moldova paid \$80 per 1,000 cubic metres last year but is under pressure to pay \$160 this year.”(4)

This sort of conflict reassures the Russian labor aristocracy that it was partly right that the Russians carried the burden of holding the USSR together. Russian nationalists enjoyed their vindication that Russians do indeed bring something to the world. MIM would only tell them that except for the oil sector, the Russian economy has not done better than under the old Soviet state-capitalism, so there is nothing to be proud of.

The ridiculous British Telegraph newspaper said that the Russians were bullying Ukraine and do not belong to the “civilised” world,(5) and this coming from a country that invaded Iraq to secure the West’s oil supply. Russia asks for the free market price and then some British papers call Russians “uncivilised.” The effect will be to exacerbate imperialist tensions.

Among Russian Liberals, it seems that the squirming of Andrei Illarionov is typical. The Apple party invoked the “fraternal” relations between the Russian and Ukrainian peoples, thus bypassing the Russian ruler Putin but using Soviet-era language.(6) The Russian Liberals at Yabloko further had to admit that the enrichment of Gazprom capitalists did not mean enrichment of Russians in general. In other words, the Liberals only oppose capitalism in Putin’s hands and they’re not consistent anymore.

The Russian Liberals told the world that 18 months of their rule in the early 1990s



A European Union project map showing natural gas pipeline projects, illustrating European dependence on Russian gas, with much of it coming through Ukraine (<http://www.inogate.org/>).

would bring Western development to Russia. They believed that Soviet-style capitalism was just that inept in holding back economic development. They were wrong, because Liberalism is wrong about the causes of economic development. The Liberals also said they favored free market prices, but now we see that they are inconsistent on that. It is the Leninist concept of imperialism that makes consistent sense.

In the Soviet era, Lenin was a great advance over the tsar as far as the liberation of nations went. Stalin was a Georgian and he, too, could hold the Soviet Union together. However, once the ordinary Russian Khrushchev came to power, it became clear that the structure could not stand an ordinary Russian as leader. The Russian population was the majority of the Soviet Union, even though Russians came to be only one of many republics.

Just as the Amerikan empire is a majority white, the Russian empire was a majority Russian. Russian and Amerikan cases of empire face a limiting factor. Integration occurs only under the dominance of one majority nationality. Relations among the peoples only advance so far in such circumstances.

Thanks to bourgeois influences from Khrushchev and Brezhnev in particular, the Russians became convinced that they carried the burden of the Soviet Union. The interests of the various nationalities seem best served when each small nationality has a vote among a sea of similar votes from small nationalities. The Non-Aligned Bloc and the United Nations General Assembly provide a taste of how

it can be difficult for any one power to buy off a large number of votes.

Liberals are not always the worst in Russia, with many opposing the Chechen wars and willing to face down chauvinist fascist forces killing foreigners and doing their best to imitate Nazis and KKK. Within the rules of the imperialist game connected to natural gas, however, Russians have done no wrong. On this we must disagree with the Russian Liberals, who perfume Western imperialism while criticizing their own when it opposes Ukrainian Liberals. It is we followers of Lenin who are for the overthrow of imperialism.

Notes:

1. “Ukraine warms to Putin gas deal,” 31 December 2005, <http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/europe/12/31/russia.ukraine/>

2. “Europe Gas Supplies Resume Amid Russia, Ukraine Row,” 3 January 2006, <http://quote.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=1000006&sid=ap258SzFvfl&refer=home>

3. “Price of failure in the post-Soviet consensus,” 3 January 2006, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/russia/article/0,2763,1676948,00.html>

4. “Russia promises to restore Europe’s gas supply,” 3 January 2006, <http://news.independent.co.uk/europe/article336258.ece>

5. “The West must resist Russia’s bullying,” 3 January 2006, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2006/01/03/dl0301.xml&sSheet=/news/2006/01/03/ixnewstop.html>

6. http://www.yavlinsky.ru/theme_of_day/index.phtml?id=2626

MORE DEATH AND REPRESSION AT THE BORDER

An 18-year-old Mexican citizen, Guillermo Martínez, was also shot under questionable circumstances. A Border Patrol agent claims that he shot Martínez in self-defense after a rock was thrown at him. Martínez, who was shot from behind, was a worker and had a family, according to Mexican media outlets. The imperialist U.S. media, on the other hand, has tried to portray Martínez as a hardened criminal, because he allegedly

guided undocumented migrants across the border repeatedly.(5) Even if Martínez had been a criminal, the settler Euro-American oppressor nation writes the laws and controls the police at the border and elsewhere, and it is the imperialist border and artificially imposed wage differences that help make people smuggling such an attractive option relative to other available jobs.

The recent direct killings of migrants,

after what has been one of the deadliest years for migrants for other reasons related to the militarized border, are not isolated incidents. These are just the latest high-profile events in a long history of imperialist and white-worker brutality at the border and elsewhere. These incidents are part of a pattern of repression by the squatter white nation against Mexicans that has been going on since the U.S. occupation of northern Mexico began.

Notions about Mexicans near the border as a cultural, economic and political threat to Euro-Americans must be seen in this context. Although myths about subversive migrants are exaggerated and intended to whip up a deeply reactionary and often racist white nationalism, the repression continues nonetheless.

Today, the repression of migrants, not only Mexican migrants but also migrants from Asian, Caribbean and other Latin American countries, continues in part because capitalists in the United States

Next page...

CHERTOFF BLAMES BORDER KILLING ON MIGRANTS, NOT IMPERIALISM

From 1...

in the first place — have blamed the shooting on “illegal immigration,” thus diverting attention from the policies creating undocumented migration, and the economic disparities influencing migration, to the migration itself. The Los Angeles Times quoted Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff as saying: “This is the kind of tragic thing that occurs when people try to illegally cross the border.” “There is zero tolerance for violence along the border.” By this, Chertoff undoubtedly was not referring to the Border Patrol. Chertoff is known for being tough on so-called illegal immigration. His reason for not deporting all undocumented migrants residing in the United States right away is that it would cost too much money. Chertoff’s answer to deaths at the border is: violence just happens. In his view, the border, which is just one manifestation of an unstable system of imperialism, is there to stay. This is just an excuse for even more repression at the border. Focusing on the criminality of individuals and ignoring the social and economic causes of smuggling and undocumented migration leads to more policing and repression.

This writer does not know what really happened to Rodríguez at this point in time, although the circumstances are certainly suspicious. What is clear is that the imperialist bourgeoisie and its die-hard allies among the broad sections of the privileged Euro-American working class are throwing everything at the wall to see what sticks. Although national television news networks in the United States have been slow to cover the incident, several large mainstream newspapers have run articles dedicated to how Rodríguez was allegedly a people smuggler. This is not merely a reporting of facts, but an attempt to explain why the shooting happened — either that or an effort to portray Rodríguez in an unsympathetic light as a criminal — and some readers have not surprisingly used the allegations against Rodríguez to justify the shooting. In tandem with the mainstream news reporting of stone throwers at the Mexican border, some have even compared Rodríguez with Palestinians throwing stones at Israeli imperialist soldiers, saying that both the Mexicans and the Palestinians should be shot. But the oppressors have no right to use any amount or kind of force against the

oppressed. Many humyn smugglers aspire to be privileged, do not fight for the interests of the people, and are selfish, like most Americans denouncing smugglers, but ultimately only revolution to end imperialism, not more imperialist repression, is going to change the situations migrants face.

Coinciding with all of these implicit and explicit attempts by the media and various commentators to justify shooting and killing people for crossing the imperialist border are renewed attacks on migrants for supposedly stealing American jobs. This past week, long-planned demonstrations by fascists and virulent white nationalists against day laborers took place throughout the United States in several States.

Migrant workers in general are viewed as a threat to American workers and a threat to the dominance of the Euro-American settler nation. In the relatively small number of cases where Americans do compete with migrants for jobs, whether at day labor sites or in the labor market more globally, these are actually jobs stolen from the Third World proletariat by bourgeoisified American workers who have longed benefited from enormous wage differences and an advantageous division of labor in the global economy under imperialism. (Although, Third World workers’ being employed in such occupations does not by itself mean they are liberated. Oppressed nations need to transform their economies so they are independent from, and not exploited by, imperialist nations. This requires extensive, organized reparations paid by imperialist nations to oppressed nations.)

So-called leftists and even some so-called socialists out of touch with the reality of First World imperialist privilege are busy once again attacking migrants as “scabs” and sowing confusion on Internet sites, such as San Diego Independent Media, and elsewhere, while criticizing Mexico for being too corrupt to have social and economic conditions worth staying for in Mexico. This defense of imperialist borders in some cases even takes place under the pretext of “international working class unity,” which in the context of the bourgeoisified Euro-American working class really means obscuring that reactionary class’

exploitation of Third World workers, and defending imperialist privilege and the imperialist system. Euro-American workers as a whole are reactionary and have been at the forefront of much of the present movement to intensify the repression of migrants.

Following the shooting on December 30th, imperialist lackey Vicente Fox through a spokesperson seemed to vaguely criticize the humyn rights abuses associated with the border and U.S. immigration policy. Fox accepted that Americans had a so-called immigration problem that they needed to solve, a “migratory problem.” Many in Mexico, including the mainstream media there, have criticized Fox for being too soft on the United States. But American chauvinists have attacked Fox by saying he mainly is to blame for the social and economic conditions in Mexico driving Mexicans to migrate to the United States. This criticism ignores the principal role of the United States in imperialist economic policies impacting Mexicans and indigenous people, and people in many other Latin American countries, not just Mexico.

Recently, Fox was also criticized for bringing attention to humyn rights abuses associated with U.S. immigration policy after the House of Representatives passed draconian legislation that would, among several other things, make any unauthorized presence in the United States a criminal offense and a single DUI (Driving Under the Influence) conviction a deportable offense, and build hundreds of miles of barriers with high-tech surveillance technology along the southern U.S. imperialist border. Fox was criticized for meddling in U.S. affairs by opposing the Border Protection, Antiterrorism and Illegal Immigration Control Act. On the contrary, the Mexican government is the tail, and the dog doing the wagging is Amerika. Polls show most Americans support increasing the repression of migrants. They are paving the way for the greatly increased repression of undocumented migrants and would-be migrants, and massive crackdowns. Amid what it perceives as a threat to its economic, cultural and political future, white supremacist Amerikkka is exerting pressures that Vicente Fox and others must negotiate even if Fox wants less

repression of migrant workers for political reasons.

The fascist anti-immigrant movement is supported by the majority of Americans and involves many more people than just card-carrying, Nazi flag-waving open white supremacists. Pragmatic critics of the Minutemen who otherwise agreed with their goals worried that the trigger-happy vigilantes might cause an international incident and sought to replace the vigilantes with trained border enforcement personnel. This is what amounted to the “left wing” of the debate over Amerika’s so-called immigration problem in the context of the Minutemen anti-immigrant vigilantes. But the killing of Guillermo Rodríguez has exposed the ruthlessly repressive nature of both the vigilantes and the government-sanctioned pigs. The incident has the potential to contribute to division internationally over humyn rights, even between the United States and other imperialist countries, but oppressed people are fighting back on their own terms, struggling against white nationalism, First World chauvinism, and imperialism.

Notes:

1. Héctor Tobar, “Shooting Puts Pressure on Fox,” 6 January 2005, <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-flag-shooting6jan06,1,7224268.story?coll=la-headlines-world>

2. Pablo Jaime Sainz, “Guillermo’s dream ended with a bullet from Border Patrol,” 6 January 2006, <http://www.laprensa-sandiego.org/current/bullet.htm>

3. Will Weissert, “U.S. official: Mexican shot after illegally crossing American border was known migrant smuggler,” 4 January 2006, <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/mexico/tijuana/20060104-0936-mexico-us-immigration.html>

4. “Mexico demands investigation into death of migrant,” 2 January 2006, http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/breakingnews/010206Mexico_Immigration

5. “Mexico asks neighbors’ help to halt US fence plan,” 29 December 2005, http://today.reuters.com/news/newsarticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyid=2005-12-29T211308Z_01_KNE976353_RTRUKOC_0_US-MEXICO-USA.xml

Bill shows need to unite with migrants

nations have an interest in supporting marriage equality, some First World gays and lesbians have an interest in opposing the repression of migrants to the extent that this repression, and decisions about who is able to be in the United States, distinguish between people on the basis of marital status and perpetuate anti-gay discrimination.

Now, it appears that hostility toward migrants, a hostility shared by some gay Americans but also by the majority of Americans, has given ammunition to fascists and white nationalists who were looking for ways to further criminalize migrants. In turn, this has given rise to an apparent conflict among Americans over gay rights, and also a conflict between gay rights activists who are First World chauvinists and exclude migrants from marriage equality proposals and those who don't exclude them. The Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act, which so far has been passed by the House only, would make it a crime for migrants to simply be in the United States without authorization. It would also make it a crime for migrants to overstay their visas. These things are already illegal, but H. R. 4437 would turn

them into criminal violations. This would just add to the repression that gay and lesbian migrants already face under existing immigration law. Gays and lesbians are legally unable to marry their partners and are particularly impacted by legislation such as H. R. 4437 for that reason. People living with HIV are another group whose entry into the United States is restricted. Their struggle is also connected with the struggle against the imperialist repression of migrants, particularly Third World migrants.

Mimnotes.info pointed out in June something about Congressman James Sensenbrenner's view of the American public's attitudes toward migrants. Sensenbrenner is the sponsor of the recently passed immigration legislation and was also the sponsor of the REAL ID Act, which was passed by Congress last May and, among several other things, denies undocumented people driver licenses. Sensenbrenner months ago believed that things like the virulently anti-migrant Minuteman Project expressed the sentiments of the American public. He felt he had the majority support of Americans. This was not just wishful thinking by Sensenbrenner. The

Minutemen anti-migrant vigilantes are mainstream, and so is the larger movement to step up the repression of migrants. White Amerika primarily will be to blame for any gay and lesbian families, containing undocumented people, that are broken up by the proposed law.

In addition to making visa overstays and unauthorized presence in the United States crimes, the 250-plus-page H. R. 4437 would also potentially criminalize people who help undocumented family members, according to the American Immigration Lawyers Association's section-by-section analysis.(5)

Other aspects of the legislation are equally disturbing. H. R. 4437 would require the Department of Homeland Security to detain all undocumented people who are apprehended, and the act would allow the government to deport so-called "aliens" simply for being in so-called "criminal street gangs." According to the AILA, the draconian H. R. 4437, as passed by the House, would even make "a single DUI conviction a deportable offense."(6) Further, H. R. 4437 contains various provisions that would make the expedited removal of certain groups of undocumented people for ordinary immigration violations much easier. And contributing to the

militarization of the border, H. R. 4437 would add more border fencing among other things. The text passed by the House calls for "2 layers of reinforced fencing, the installation of additional 16 physical barriers, roads, lighting, cameras, and 17 sensors" in different areas.

The crypto-fascists and virulent white nationalists will stop at nothing to drive forward with their plans to remove undocumented oppressed-nation people from the United States and repress other migrants who are trying to enter, even if it means alienating some of their gay and lesbian constituents whose partners are migrants. Ultimately, only revolution can end this system which keeps on generating reactionary anti-migrant movements. But the present crypto-fascist and virulently white nationalist movement to increase the repression of migrants to an even more ruthless level must be beaten back. This requires putting forward the independent demands of migrant proletarian workers and the larger world proletariat, concentrated in the Third World, and not getting caught up in just internal imperialist ruling-class politics. The proletariat cannot always be on the defensive, trying to please the reactionary Euro-American majority. It can, however, unite with the minority, that has less stake in the fascist repression of the proletariat, in order to make it more difficult for the oppressor nation to act against the interests of future generations and the world's people.

Notes:

1. Eric Resnick, "New immigration bill is bad for bi-national couples," 23 December 2005, <http://www.gaypeopleschronicle.com/stories05/december/1223053.htm>

2. "Immigration Bill Could Destroy Binational Gay Couple," 19 December 2005, <http://www.365gay.com/Newscon05/12/121905immigration.htm>

3. "Gay Groups Say House Bill Penalizes Vulnerable LGBT and HIV-Positive Immigrants," <http://www.proudparenting.com/page.cfm?typeofsite=snippetdetail&ID=2101&snippetset=yes>

4. "Reader responds to MIM Notes on gay marriage," 18 November 2005, <http://mimnotes.info/news/20051118gaymarriage/>

5. "The Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005 (H.R. 4437) : Section-by-Section Analysis," <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=18126>

"As we noted in earlier reports, H.R. 4437 would criminalize unlawful presence; strip the courts of much of their remaining jurisdiction over immigration matters; gut the due process rights of aliens, permanent residents and United States citizens; expand expedited removal; broaden the definition of alien smuggling to include churches, employers, family members, and immigrant advocates; expand the definition of aggravated felony; create new grounds of deportability and inadmissibility; increase mandatory detention; militarize the border; and place limitations on eligibility for naturalization."

6. "House Passes Harsh, Enforcement-Only Bill That Would Criminalize 11 Million Immigrants," 16 December 2005, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=18174>

MORE DEATH...

From last page...

see little reason to end a repression that, as part of a border that is only partially open, contributes to a larger labor force that in some ways is easier to control and more disciplined. Contrary to myth, not all capitalists in the United States want open borders.

And many white workers perceive migrants, documented and undocumented, to be a threat to their high, parasitic incomes, made possible by imperialism. So, from the viewpoint of some exploiters, the repression of migrants, not open borders, is something to be valued economically.

Proponents of increasing immigration restrictions, and even many of their critics, share a white nationalism that puts Amerika before all else. Some opponents of increasing immigration restrictions just want to assimilate oppressed-nation migrants who have already crossed the border and reside in the United States.

With these motivations and in this environment, imperialists, and their diehard allies among a large segment of the Euro-American working class, which benefits from the exploitation of Third World workers, are encouraged to actively inflict terror on the Mexican community and other Latin American and indigenous people in the United States. This terror takes forms like state killings and also white terror groups such as the Minutemen, a group, now a movement, that has been embraced by huge segments of the white nation and media. Recently, white-worker activists, and a relative handful of non-white, U.S. citizen workers influenced by First World

chauvinism, harassed day laborers in cities throughout the United States in a coordinated action in several States.

These shootings are bringing more attention to border-related issues and the harsh and vicious treatment of migrants, although the mainstream media has been hesitant to report on the two recent killings at length. We can expect those quasi-fascist types who support draconian legislation currently before the U.S. congress, legislation to build a much longer wall along the border, among other things, to use these shootings as a justification for their racist and fascist plans to expel Latinos and indigenous people from border towns and from areas farther inside the United States. Ironically, they will and have claimed that such a wall will prevent future "accidental" shootings. But these fascist activists, politicians and advocates don't care about the safety of Mexicans. In fact, they and the forces they represent would like to see the depopulation of Mexicans from the "Southwest." Often, it is only the costliness of such an enormous crackdown that is seen as an obstacle. Recently proposed legislation would criminalize not only people smugglers, but the migrants themselves, simply for being in the United States without authorization.

There are contradictions within the white nation in regard to stepping up the repression of migrants. Within the white nation, some capitalists support partially open borders in order to have a semi-free market for labor. And as news anchor Lou Dobbs' recent hysterical attack on the Vatican, after the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, for "interfering" in American affairs illustrates, some white people, including Catholics, are concerned with deaths on the border for

religious, human rights-related and purely political reasons. However, the oppressed minority in the United States must resist the fascist anti-immigrant movement on their own terms and on the basis of a consistent anti-imperialism, opposing white nationalism and First World chauvinism in all their manifestations.

Notes:

1. "Fox official condemns second death," El Universal, 18 January 2006, <http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/miami/16646.html>

2. Kaitlin Bell, "Answers sought in killing of Mexican national by state trooper," The Monitor, 19 January 2006, <http://www.themonitor.com/SiteProcessor.cfm?Template=/GlobalTemplates/Details.cfm&StoryID=11148&Section=Valley>

"Some initial reports, including The Monitor's, erroneously stated earlier this week that O'Connor shot Segura after Segura fired at him. But [Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman Tom] Vinger stressed Wednesday that Segura did not have a gun."

3. "Mexican government asks for investigation of death," 18 January 2006, <http://www.kristv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4375281>

4. Will Weissert, "U.S. official: Mexican shot after illegally crossing American border was known migrant smuggler," Associated Press, 4 January 2006, <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/mexico/tijuana/20060104-0936-mexico-us-immigration.html>

5. "At Border, Fatal Shot Still Rings," 9 January 2006, <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/state/la-me-colonia9jan09,1,3258641.story?coll=la-news-state>

Bu\$h replays Nixon

January 16, 2006

President Bush has secretly conducted surveillance of Americans without the required permits from a court. The December resignation of one of 11 rubber-stamp judges James Robertson of the FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) system, which was ordinarily consulted for such warrants(1), highlighted an offense by Bu\$h that should result in his impeachment under normal bourgeois procedure.

For quite some time, the united States has lived under a system with first-, second-, third- and fourth-class citizenship rights. An example is how a court system exists to approve surveillance on unwitting targets. Anonymous judges rubber-stamp executive branch requests for these surveillance warrants affecting people with lower-class political rights.

For some reason Bu\$h has decided not to obtain these rubber-stamp warrants despite telling the public, while defending his "Patriot Act," that all surveillance goes on with a warrant. Radio stations are now playing this clip from Bush on April 20, 2004: "There are such things as roving wiretaps. Now, by the way, any time you hear the U.S. government talking about a wiretap, it requires — a wiretap requires a court order. Nothing has changed, by the way. When we're talking about chasing down terrorists, we're talking about getting a court order before we do so ... because we value the Constitution."(2)

At this time, it has become public knowledge that the U.S. Government violates the supposedly highest law in the land called the Constitution with respect to U.S. citizens. That is why segments of the political elite now refer to a "constitutional crisis." Techniques developed by counterintelligence to deal with foreign diplomats and spies now apply to Americans. The executive branch agency conducting the surveillance is the shadowy NSA (National Security Agency), one that in many aspects dwarfs the better-known CIA.

In all countries, governments know that there is a set of rules to handle foreign diplomats and spies. Spies have long been accustomed to living under surveillance, being followed, and having unaccountable dirty incidents occur.

In some countries, when the government takes repressive action, it puts ordinary people under "house arrest," a kind of limitation of freedom that is supposed to be more comfortable than prison. Even house arrest can come with freedom of movement in some versions. With regard to ordinary citizens, in the United States, however, the government pretends that it is the leader of a so-called free country, and so surveillance, break-ins, disruption of communications, placement of agents pretending to be this or that, instigation of violent acts and even murder — all that occurs in the united States without a confrontation in court or

the accountability of convicting someone that might occur in other countries. A government that openly convicts someone for shoddy political reasons is superior to one that spares someone a conviction while nonetheless likewise attacking political opponents.

When rubber-stamp judges and administrators need to know if activity went beyond surveillance authorized, they often use a combination of standards open to opportunism. One standard runs that if the judge can imagine that surveillance would not disrupt its target, then de facto that target's rights are preserved as well as anyone else's. The second standard comes in where judges examine the effects of secret activities. When it comes to finding out if secret missions overstepped their boundaries or the imagined range of effects the judge intended, the judges and administrators rely on: the people of the executive branch carrying out the mission. The target of the surveillance cannot appear in court except to sue after the fact by piecing together what happened independently and surrendering privacy rights by going public.

On December 21, 2005, the New York Times reported that spying on Americans went beyond what the court system and law can even contemplate. The FISA was not supposed to be for purely domestic communications or for people not named in warrants. Yet, NSA has intercepted both purely domestic communication and the wrong people. This comes from the NSA's admissions, and we do not know how much more has happened that targets know about but the executive branch has not admitted.

In many other countries, every move and countermove by regimes and political opponents comes with scrutiny. In court or the press, the two antagonists can charge each other. In the united States, the emphasis in the executive branch is doing things and getting away with them scot-free.

The pro-Bu\$h camp says simultaneously that we have been at war with terrorism for a long time — for decades including the Clinton presidency years when Clinton supposedly botched it all and left Bu\$h Jr. with the bag. According to the reactionary activists, we can go back and find Osama bin Laden bombing the united States back in the 1990s, and they stress that so as to reduce the blame on Bu\$h for 9/11. In other words, reactionaries say war of indefinite length justifies giving the president the power to wiretap people. Just as novelist Orwell said of Big Brother, indefinite war is always the justification for indefinite suspension of civil liberties. People pointing to terrorism as a justification for Bu\$h are pointing to something the system has not solved in decades and cannot solve now: they are just saying they do not need the Bill of Rights.

MIM has a different approach. When

living in a bourgeois system, stand by the bourgeois civics lessons on distrusting the government, having free speech and preventing searches. The government should only gain in trust when the potential for corrupt abuse of power decreases thanks to the disappearance for the motivation for corruption. Under the dictatorship of the proletariat, there is repression, too, but the use of such repression toward private ends becomes much more difficult with the abolition of the profit motive.

The growth of executive branch power is "good" for one thing — creating white-collar jobs. The budget of the U.S. intelligence agencies possibly excluding revenues from businesses being run by those agencies as fronts runs in the 40 billions of dollars range. MIM is different than other organizations in emphasizing how this is a part of the economic problem of U.S. imperialism. That money and effort is that much less money and effort spent on solving the real problems in energy, housing, food, and medical security.

The reason the Amerikan system of tiered citizenship rights does not come under attack from outraged citizens up in arms is that the first three classes of citizens have economic rights to share in Amerikan prosperity brought about by imperial plunder as in Iraq, for example. Only fourth-class citizens — migrant workers and prisoners — do not share in the economic plunder of the Third World. It remains to be seen whether enough of



the bourgeoisie finally feels threatened by this sort of Bu\$h power-grab to repel it.

Notes:

1. New York Times, 21 December 2005, <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/21/politics/21cnd-spy.html>

2. Dick Polman, "Domestic spying issue likely to dominate politics in 2006," Knight Ridder Papers, 8 January 2006, <http://www.duluthsuperior.com/ml/duluthsuperior/news/nation/13579076.htm>; also archived at www.afterdowningstreet.org

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.

Amerikans flush civic lessons

January 16, 2006

Fifty percent of people inside U.S. borders systematically polled by CNN believe that President Bush should be able to conduct eavesdropping without a warrant from a court.(1) Other polls show similarly close divisions of opinion. Though the question is recent, the CNN poll joins a long line of studies showing that the liberal democracy founded by the American Revolution has its defenders mostly among the political elite and not among the public.

U.S. children in school learn civics lessons on “innocent till proven guilty,” “free speech” and no searches without a warrant from a judge, but a majority of Amerikans has not existed in support of any of these ideas for decades for which there is polling data. For many coming of age under the Bush regime, there may be a rude awakening to the gap between civics lessons and reality.

Despite the consistently bad news regarding the polls that show bourgeois democracy not implemented by the public, it is also true that the bourgeois political elite is somewhat more consistent than the public. For example, constitutional

lawyers quoted by Knight Ridder in Dick Polman’s stories show that if they were for Clinton’s impeachment, they are even more for Bush’s impeachment. It is for this reason, for example, that referenda in the states turn against gay marriage in the majority of states while a judge in Massachusetts or the California legislature can say otherwise.

In the case of Watergate, President Nixon organized a break-in at the Democratic Party’s organizing offices. Over time, political elites came to believe that he violated laws in a number of areas and swayed the public. The bourgeois elite understands its own competitive nature and why certain Liberal rules benefit their stability even if the public does not understand them.

This time around in 2006, whether or not Bush gets the boot will depend on various factors. Obvious factors include the spine of the Democratic Party and the ability of the political elite to function. There is much debate over whether the spread of pornography and other forms of entertainment such as video games has added even the political elite as well. The

political elite may have an increasing fascist part to it, aiming to repress primarily oppressed-nation people inside and outside U.S. borders, in which case we can understand how Bush does everything Nixon did and gets away with it. The bombing of the border of Pakistan is very similar to the bombing of Cambodia by Nixon — just one more parallel.

On August 30, 2002, the Associated Press reported a poll from the First Amendment Center that shows 49% of Amerikans believed that the First Amendment overall goes too far in allowing freedom of speech.(2) Previous years’ polling had shown that figure in the 20s range, not 49%. The 2002 poll was also in contrast with many other polls that show three-quarters support for free speech in general and a decline of support only in the context of concrete instances, for example, communists and gay people. A majority of people who claim to support free speech and civil rights do not support them in the case of unpopular groups. What is new in the First Amendment Center poll is that it showed that overall

abstract support for the First Amendment was declining in the public in recent years, including among college students.

Libertarians and civil rights activists looking to the white so-called worker in Amerika as some kind of bulwark defense against the repressive imperialists are barking up the wrong tree. Whether it be letting white wimmin date Black men, allowing communists to speak in public buildings, or allowing gay marriage, the labor aristocracy has always had a more fascist view than portrayed in self-defeating propaganda.

Notes:

1. “Poll finds U.S. split over eavesdropping : Half say warrants unnecessary; most want changes to Patriot Act,” 11 January 2006, <http://www.cnn.com/2006/POLITICS/01/11/poll.wiretaps/index.html>

2. “Support For 1st Amendment Slipping,” 30 August 2002, <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/08/30/national/main520314.shtml>

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White riots in Sydney, typical

December 18, 2005

Last weekend, violent white-nationalist riots erupted across Sydney. This weekend, there are fears that the rioting will continue and possibly even spread to occupied Aotearoa (New Zealand). The violence is typical; these societies, like Amerika, and also other imperialist countries with and without large oppressed-nation populations, are white supremacist to the core. They are just one manifestation of a multifaceted pattern of violence, against oppressed-nation people, supported or directly perpetrated by oppressor-nation people.

Last Sunday, December 11th, a white mob of an estimated 5,000 people viciously attacked people whom they thought looked like people of Middle Eastern descent. The savage attacks left at least 30 people injured reportedly and led to 16 arrests. The rioting started on Cronulla beach, 25 kilometers south of central Sydney. Etched in the sand there were crude white-nationalist messages such as “100-percent Aussie pride.” One white teenager painted “We grew here, you flew here” on his back. Later, rioting spread to several neighboring suburbs where the violence escalated and confrontations continued between the white attackers and those defending themselves. Baseball bats, rocks, iron bars, and Molotov cocktails were used during the confrontations.(1,2) Electronic text messages may have been used to coordinate the mobs.(3)

There are fears that the white riots will spread to occupied Aotearoa. Posters have gone up at railway stations in occupied Aotearoa calling for “Australian style” riots. They also call for “white power to take back our land.” Of course, the land is not theirs to begin with. Australia and New Zealand (which occupies Aotearoa) are white settler nations built off the plunder and theft of indigenous land. The posters in occupied Aotearoa have been attributed to various white supremacist groups in an effort by the mainstream media to deflect the reality that these racist attitudes represent mainstream white kkkulture.(1) Stories abound about mainstream Australians acting like they are shocked, but this contrasts with widespread hostility by the majority of Australians toward oppressed-nation migrants.

Imperialist claims that they are engaged in a “war of civilizations” against Muslims certainly encourages the anti-migrant attacks. According to one source, since the latest round of imperialist wars against the Muslim world, attacks against Muslims and those who appear Middle Eastern are on the rise. There have been many instances of attacks by Australian men against Muslim wimmin for wearing the hijab, putting the lie to the notion that imperialist wars are about liberating Third World wimmin. Several ranting chain e-mails have been making their way across the Internet. The Internet communiques specifically target Muslim wimmin and



also charge that immigrants are ruining Christmas. One of these communiques says “ ‘In God We Trust’ is our National Motto. This is not some Christian, right wing, political slogan.”(4) This racist writer sees what the so-called “left” refuses to — that the majority of whites share his supremacist views. Young Muslims said they have gathered to defend their mosques and communities.(5)

According to one observer, “[the violence is] not going to stop one day. It’s going to keep going, which is what it’s been doing since my father’s time.”(6) This observer makes a point that most on the so called imperialist “Left” have failed to see. These riots are not isolated incidents, but rather they go back for generations. This is part of a larger

pattern of white supremacy. Nor are these riots being driven just by the upper class of white society; rather, this confirms what Maoists have said about the main force for this kind of terroristic white supremacy being the labor aristocracy, the European so-called “working class” in the Britain, the United States, and other dominant imperialist countries. Speaking of the history of white supremacist anti-immigration policy, British historian Eric Hobsbawm wrote:

“Within the socialist and labour movement those who frankly accepted imperialism as desirable, or at least an essential stage in the history of peoples not yet ‘ready for self-government’, were a minority on the revisionist and Fabian

Next page...

Amerikan soldiers support shooting defiant Iraqi children after making disparaging remarks about youth

December 27, 2005

A video is circulating on the Internet in which a passenger of a vehicle is heard complaining that he doesn't have the authorization to shoot children throwing stones. The passenger, whose voice is frequently heard throughout the video, is sitting next to the driver, who wears what appear to be camouflage military fatigues. The main speaker and the driver both have Amerikan accents. The vehicle is accompanying a convoy of tankers, and numerous youths scattered along the long route are seen throwing rocks at the vehicle. Mimnotes.info has learned that the video is also being distributed on an Internet Web site for "AEGIS Iraq PSD [personal security detail] Teams," an unofficial Web site for employees of the security contracting firm British Aegis Defense Service Ltd. Another video distributed on the same Web site, purportedly showing Western security contractors firing at civilians driving in Iraq, has been investigated by the U.S. military. The video of the stone throwers, with the filename "American_convoy_kids_throwing_rocks.wmv" on www.aegisiraq.co.uk, has recently been discussed on a pornography Web site by people claiming they were stationed

in Iraq.

Mimnotes.info in late September and early October reported on the existence of the pornography-sharing Web site, which contained numerous gruesome photographs purportedly depicting dead and injured Afghani and Iraqi people.(1)(2)(3) Many of the photos were allegedly taken and posted by Amerikan soldiers themselves — in violation of international law prohibiting the desecration or disrespectful treatment of remains. The photos show burnt, dismembered and maimed bodies. Site operator Chris Wilson identified an injured womyn in one photo as a civilian. Some of the people whose bodies are shown in the photos may be youths. Since mimnotes.info last reported on the site, Florida resident Chris Wilson was arrested in early October on obscenity charges unrelated to the gory photos.(4) This was supposedly in response to some of the amateur pornography content on his Web site. The gory photos still remain after the U.S. Army claimed it wasn't able to identify who took any of the photos despite at least one photo showing several faces.

The porn Web site was littered with text advertisements for pornography appealing



to fantasies of child rape and incest. On this same board were several photos of Iraqi children and youths with patronizing captions and descriptions. Some of these photos were accompanied by descriptions suggesting that the youths were grateful to the Amerikan soldiers and idolized them. Mimnotes.info recently learned that members of the same community, including several people who claim they were stationed in Iraq, centered around this amateur porn and so-called occupation porn Web site have been making hateful remarks about the children whom the imperialist soldiers in Iraq claim to be liberating.

In a video that has been floating around the Internet as early as the first week of December, a man who may be an Amerikan soldier is heard complaining that he is not authorized to use his "weapon" to "engage" the "little bastards," "little shits," "little f**ers" pelting his truck with stones.(5) The soldier appears to call his commanding officer a "hippie" for not "authorizing force," "deadly force." Mimnotes.info at this point is not prepared to say whether this video is authentic or not. It would not be surprising if it were authentic because

similar remarks by an Amerikan soldier have been broadcast on at least one national television program, MTV's "True Life," in the past, in the context of alleged youth suicide bombers approaching Western soldiers dispersing candy. Perhaps more important than whether this particular video is authentic or not is how people have responded to it assuming that it is authentic. Considering comments by people claiming to be soldiers or ex-soldiers who were stationed in Iraq, there is probably a pattern of prejudice against youth, and degradation of youth, being used to legitimize ruthlessly repressing them.

Chris Wilson's Web site was one of the first Web sites to have a link to the video of the youth throwing stones after someone, on December 4, posted a link to a Web page with the video. One user of the message board on Wilson's site objected to the suggestion by the main speaker in the video that he be allowed to shoot the youths throwing stones.(6) Others expressed similar objections, usually focusing on the stone throwers' young age and obscuring the fact that the resistance by Iraqis of all ages is righteous. But there have been several

Next page...



White riots in Sydney, typical

From last page...

right wing, though many trade union leaders probably thought discussions about colonies were irrelevant, or considered coloured peoples primarily as cheap labour threatening sturdy white workers. Certainly the pressure to ban coloured immigrants, which established the 'White California' and 'White Australia' policies between the 1880s and 1914, came primarily from the working class, and Lancashire unions joined with Lancashire cotton-masters to insist that India must remain deindustrialized.(7)

Australia, in which thousands of

aboriginals live under oppressed conditions, and New Zealand (occupied Aotearoa) are both white settler societies based on plunder and theft of indigenous land as well as the continued imperialist oppression of the Third World. Like Amerikkka, these nations are white supremacist to the core. This is not a problem that can be fixed through reform, legislation, nor consciousness raising. Only Maoist revolution can defeat this kind of reaction and smash imperialism and white supremacy forever.

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1. Sundeep Tucker, "Sydney fears more race

riots as violence threatens to spread," Financial Times, 17 December 2005, <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/e21137b0-6ea2-11da-9544-0000779e2340.html>

2. "12 held for Sydney race riots," News24.com, 12 December 2005, http://www.news24.com/News24/World/News/0,,2-10-1462_1849120,00.html

3. Lincoln Wright, Kelvin Healey, and Carly Crawford, "Neo-Nazi link in race riots," Herald Sun, 18 December 2005, http://www.heraldsun.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5478,17599490%255E662,00.html

4. Several of these communiques can be found online, for example: "The right to leave

Australia," http://www.eurekacouncil.com.au/Editorials/New_Folder/right_to_leave_australia.htm

5. Malcolm Brown, Les Kennedy, Jared Wormald, and Robert Wainwright, "Armed gangs on rampage," Sydney Morning Herald, 13 December 2005, <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/armed-gangs-on-rampage/2005/12/12/1134236005902.html>

6. Kim Camberg, "Long-term tensions behind Sydney riots," BBC News, 13 December 2005, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/4525352.stm>

7. Eric Hobsbawm, Age of Empire: 1875-1914 (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1987), <http://lincoln.pps.k12.or.us/jcurry/20thcent/hobschap3.html>

“King Kong” remake dazzles, but reinforces the oppressive class and patriarchal status quo

By a correspondent
December 21, 2005

Directed by Peter Jackson
Universal Pictures, 2005
www.kingkongmovie.com

It's not everyday that moviegoers get to feel bad for a gigantic gorilla that takes out a few Amerikan military airplanes; although, armed struggle within Amerika at this point in time is doomed to failure in almost every circumstance. Unfortunately, “King Kong” portrays Kong's last fight as something of a misunderstanding or communication problem between Kong and those who don't know that he really is caring deep down inside and can be gentle. Thus, the images of Kong's destructive rampage in New York won't be that controversial even post-9/11. Overall, the movie takes a few swipes at capitalist decadence around the time of the Great Depression, but instead of confronting the class system

head-on, “King Kong” quickly becomes an escapist movie promoting the romance culture.

“King Kong” is not merely a souped-up romance-slash-sci-fi movie with extraordinary special effects. The way it abstracts intimate relationships and turns love into something transcending not only the class and patriarchal systems, but humanity itself, fits squarely within the patriarchal myth of love. This myth obscures the fact that power relations profoundly shape and influence intimate relationships in the patriarchal society “King Kong” portrays, which oppresses wimmin and youth. “King Kong” also works to reinforce the capitalist and imperialist status quo.

One of the most interesting things about “King Kong” is how it mocks its own racism. The indigenous people on Skull Island are portrayed as menacing, literally prehistoric zombies — they live among dinosaurs — who reject movie director Carl Denham's (Jack Black) offer of an

Go to back page...



From last page...

utterly reactionary comments such as: “They should kill every single [sic] one of those little f***ers.” “These little turds oughta be hosed with tear gas or noise weapons and their parents should be beaten bloody with the rocks they let their kids throw.”

One message board user also thought the youths should be disciplined, but by the imperialist soldiers. Of course, this had nothing to do with saying what resistance strategies Iraqis should follow. “I don't think they should have been able to shoot the little bastards, just hop out of the hummer, grab one or two of them and turn them over your knee like their fathers could do if they weren't too busy blowing up innocent civilians.” Another prejudiced user said: “Little f***ing insurgents in the making.”

Amerikan and British soldiers visit Wilson's site frequently, and several soldiers or ex-soldiers claiming they were stationed in Iraq have made revealing comments. One user, who said he was in Iraq in 2004, evoked images of abuse at Abu Ghraib and suggested that instead of throwing rocks back, “[m]aybe we should have female soldiers spank their asses in front of all of their friends.”

Another user, in a post with the subject line “F*** the little bastards,” said:

“The way we always rationalized it was shoot first ask questions later. We new when we were gonna have rocks thrown at us. We'd shoot the first little bastard to raise his hand. That would make the rest of them stop and think for second at least. Our commanders policy, ‘If it's big enough to hurt your vehicle or yourself, it's big enough to be a hand grenade. Shoot the little f***ers before they let it go.’ “

A different user, identifying himself as a soldier and saying he was “over seas,” recently said:

“[I] think you guys need to call the army and say givbe [sic] our soldiers some paint ball guns and then we could shoot those little guys and [I] bet within a month they'd stop with the rocks.”

And yet another user recently wrote: “Shit I was there, and when those little f*ggots threw rocks at us we threw them roght [sic] back. Along with flares and anything else I could find to f*** them up. You little Hippy f*ggots here in the comfort of the United States sit back and talk so much shit about how f***ed up America is. Take your little asses to Iraq and get the shit beat outta you and come back with the same shitty ass sympathy for those f***ing cowards. Kids or not, I f***ed people up indiscriminantly (sp). Its ALL about ME and my guys coming home, so f*** them!!!”

Imperialist armies fighting unjust and reactionary wars have no right to use any level of force against anyone, whether they are under eighteen or not. But Amerikans' degrading remarks about Iraqi youth, as well as other Iraqis, give the lie to the notion that Amerikans are leading a liberation struggle. As the video of the stone throwers shows, many people, including young people who aren't fooled by Amerikan soldiers' offers of candy who later say they want to attack the “little f*ggots,” know who their enemy is. And they are taking advantage of a situation to make it slightly more difficult for the oppressors to carry out their war and occupation.

Instructions not to shoot children throwing stones no doubt exist mainly to

limit bad publicity about the imperialist war against Iraq. The United States has held youths younger than eighteen years of age in Abu Ghraib prison, and there are reports of U.S. soldiers abusing youth prisoners. Numerous youths have been killed in battles with imperialist soldiers. Hostility by U.S. soldiers to Iraqi youths is not surprising and is part of a larger, deeply ingrained hostility toward Iraqis in general. However, the video of the Iraqi youth stone throwers also illustrates how demeaning and degrading remarks about youth can be used to weaken inhibitions against committing violent acts against them. The consequences are even worse in wars against oppressed nations. One may also point to a possible connection between homophobic remarks about Iraqis and reports of sexual assaults by Western soldiers against Iraqi youths. Homophobic remarks have even been made about dead Iraqis appearing in photos on another Web site.(3)

Mimnotes.info does not single out the people at Chris Wilson's Web site, even the soldiers. Indeed, similar comments have been made on other Internet sites by ordinary Amerikans. There are certain reasons why it is frequented by overseas soldiers, but Wilson's site is just a concentrated expression of the pervasive pornographic culture and rape culture of the First World, which oppresses its own youth and youth throughout the world. Truly, the soldiers, the pigs on the ground carrying out military repression with the support of the whole Euro-Amerikan oppressor nation in one way or another, are “Amerika's finest.” The First World as a whole is the greatest prop of the patriarchal social system that oppresses

wimmin and youth. Nothing short of revolution, led by the world's exploited and oppressed concentrated in the Third World, can end this oppression and the imperialist system.

Notes:

1. mimnotesinfo1@mimnotes.info, “Amerikan soldiers humiliate Iraqi occupation dead,” 28 December 2005, <http://www.mimnotes.info/news/20050927amerikansoldiers/>
2. mimnotesinfo1@mimnotes.info, “CNN and New York Times cover occupation porn Web site, distract attention from political questions,” 28 September 2005, <http://www.mimnotes.info/news/20050928mainstreammedia/>
3. mimnotesinfo1@mimnotes.info, “U.S. Army claims soldiers not responsible for amateur occupation snuff pictures,” 1 October 2005, <http://mimnotes.info/news/20050929usarmy/>
4. “Supreme Court Refuses Bail For Website Owner,” 26 December 2005, <http://www.northcountrygazette.org/articles/122605BailRejected.html>
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http://www.aegisiraq.co.uk/images/American_convoy_kids_throwing_rocks.wmv
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<http://www.theync.com/childrenvideo.htm>
6. http://www.nowthatsf***edup.com/bbs/ftopic57732.html

Neo-Nazi's free to organize in prison

Amerikans are so afraid that the downtrodden and disenfranchised are going to demand their rights that they throw more and more in prison. (According to the Summer 2005 issue of FAMM Gram the Federal, Texas, California, Florida and New York prison systems account for 663,702 people in prison. How many more on probation?) Once in prison, if a young brother or sister wants to gather with others to learn of her/his own heritage, all they meet is opposition from prison authorities or other inmates.

Most Amerikan prisons will not allow two or three inmates to gather for any sort of education without considering the gathering a gang. And if you try to seek some sort of approval from the authorities, they will not grant it because they will say it's racial in nature. But that is a contradiction! At a Florence, CO prison, Aryan groups are allowed to come together under the guise of religion. They call themselves "Odenists" or the "Church of the Creator" or "SAC" (Soldiers of Aryan Culture). They only preach and teach hate. Yet this is approved by prison authorities? No other group is given such a right.

I was run to the SHU by two neo-Nazi gangs because I am Rastafarian, mulatto, and because I was starting an African-American study group. Why are we not allowed the same rights and privileges afforded the Nazi/Aryan groups? Why do we simply sit down and take it?

If you are in prison, start the [institutional remedy] process before going to court, and take these issues to court. Write local and national media. Make others aware of what we go through.

— a Colorado prisoner, 13 December, 2005

Texas SHUs: violence and repression

At this moment I'm part of a program for mentally ill aggressive offenders. I have to be mentally ill because I rebel against an unjust system, inhumane conditions and most importantly being held hostage from my loved ones. And on top of that forced to do free slave labor or I'm put in solitary and given a disciplinary infraction and the possibility for parole is like catching smoke in the air. So instead of being some passive mindless robot I use my rights of freedom of speech and the right to organize to change my situation and my conditions. And for this I'm mentally ill and not a true Amerikan. Fuck Amerika.

Amerika is putting up these SHU's here in Texas, where you are placed in a cell with no windows, you shower right there in the cell, and you're blessed if you get one day out of a week for outside recreation. So what else are mostly uneducated prisoners to do but continue on the path of their environment. Trapped

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

together like slaves on a ship coming across the Atlantic, there is no privacy. We can't put up a shower curtain or that's a disciplinary infraction, so you can imagine how many fights and rapes have come about in this homophobic world.

They have stopped a large majority of literature coming in to the system related to our culture, which is the non-white, using the excuse that it is sexually explicit material. And the Amerikan media has the audacity to say that socialist societies are repressive. That is why MIM Notes are needed inside these cages, to assist in our progress to better serve humanity.

- A Texas Prisoner, December 2005

Officers assault prisoner at High Desert

I am a three striker inmate housed at High Desert State Prison in California. On April 14, 2005, while on lockdown "due to rumors of inmates planning attacks on officials," my cellie and I were taken out of our cell in handcuffs and slammed to the floor by officers. On that day, before shift change, I was doing my weekly cell cleaning. As always, since we were on lockdown, I had some reading books and educational books I didn't want to throw away. So I put them neatly in plastic bags and slid them under my door because usually the officers would pick them up and put them on the podium so others could read.

Well, this one officer (a regular) came to work with a major attitude. He was getting smart with inmates, cursing them out because they're asking him simple questions. Well, he came to my cell, started shouting, saying "why the fuck are you throwing shit on my tier." I tried to explain that those were books I bagged up so others can read. He left, and came back, told me and my cellie to cuff up. We cuffed-up and were escorted to the office. All the while he's snatching and jerking me in every direction. While in the office, he's cursing us out, calling us all types of bitches. I then stated that I'm done with the conversation, either I be placed back in my cell or I go speak with the sergeant.

He got in my face, so knowing I was cuffed up, I backed up cause I see where this is going. He then snatched me by the arm, and slams me into the side office window.

I stated loudly so others could hear me "what do you want me to do?" because I see he's trying to provoke me. He said "I want you to face the fucking window and shut the fuck up." He then snatched me off the window by my neck and slammed

me on the floor. The other officer then slammed my cellie to the floor. The alarm was finally hit, and other officers came in and escorted my cellie and I to the program office where we were placed in a cage for a few hours while we were being written up for resisting staff.

I tried to explain to the lieutenant that if I wanted to resist, I would never have agreed to be handcuffed in the first place. The officer that slammed me to the ground lied, saying that I was cursing him out, trying to incite others, and I resisted him.

My cellie and I were moved to another building, two weeks after that, we were moved to another yard which is a level IV. We both received a write up so they couldn't take any credits, but I was still found guilty and was given 6 points. My cellie's write-up was dropped to disobeying a direct order.

Now get a load of this, the same officer that slammed me on the floor, is now working as a regular on this yard. Every time I come in off the yard or we're going and coming from dinner, he's standing in my building just starting at me. I always see him whispering to other officers and they watch me. I feel very uncomfortable and don't trust him.

There are a lot of inmates who are being mistreated by staff, and are being charged with assault and resisting staff. When inmates complain, nothing is being done. I always ask myself "who are the real criminals?"

- a California prisoner, October 2005

Call for unity to fight conditions in prison

I am writing to you from CCI Tehachapi SHU, or as I often refer to this place, the catacombs. The "norm" is that each inmate is issued only half a state bar of soap every week. This half bar is to last 7 days. So what they do is give 1 whole bar every 2 weeks. Now the COs are willing to sneak an inmate a bar when he runs out, but even this takes a couple days due to supposedly non-existent supplies. Also with toilet paper, only one roll is to last you 7 days. It seems as if the CO is risking his/her own career should they have to bring you more toilet paper, and it's usually just a tenth of a roll.

They have discontinued giving us salt and pepper so the food is tasteless. The lunch meat is so disgusting that I'm thinking of going vegetarian. They are taking out real meat and replacing it with some factory manufactured meat that smells like rotten something. As a matter of fact a lot of inmates are going vegetarian in order to keep the poison or

whatever they put in the meat out of their systems. The meat sticks offered on canteen are often outdated and look like rot is growing inside the package. They attempted to take coffee from us but did not go through with it.

Any complaining or asking the COs to stop operating in violation of Rules and Regulations is met with the turning off of electricity for a couple days and delayed yard release, if any. Just this last week our entire building did not receive any yard due to what they say are rainy conditions. They just don't wish to sit outside and have to monitor us in our dog cages. When the COs are feeling grumpy they accuse inmates of violating rules and take away their yard, such as touching the fence or stepping on the toilet.

And asking for a book is like asking for a murder weapon. I remember asking a CO for a book and after a few days she brought me one while making a sneering comment. "Why the hell do you want to read for?" Obviously "corrections" should

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

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

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

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

be omitted whenever speaking of the CDC. They have eliminated all educational programs in SHU facilities such as GED. You can read books and study but you can not take the test until you either parole to the streets or return to the mainline, which is tough for those serving life terms locked up indeterminately in the catacombs.

Not to mention the books are outdated and do not meet modern day requirements. I'm talking about books that are 15 to 20 years old. As far as the law library, the forms that are carried are outdated. There have been new federal filing fees implemented by the federal courts. It took me a lawsuit to find out it was changed from \$150 to \$250. I attempted to abreast the legal office and was met with a "I don't care" response. So I appealed and then they opted to operate by law.

It's amazing at the level of resistance offered by CDC to keep us from receiving basic human needs, let alone trying to get them to abide by the law. Any policy changes are being fought against by the CDC regarding "validated" inmates serving indeterminate time in these catacombs.

I myself have been kept in segregation since 2002 for "associating" with alleged prison gangs. I am currently enrolled in paralegal school where I am learning a lot. Helping other inmates with their cases and teaching them what ever I can. All my MIM materials disappear from my cell. After I read books and essays I quickly pass them to other inmates yet the authority is quick to uncover any revolutionary thought material. It does not last quickly in our hands. Lately they have left me alone. I think it's due to the dusty Christian bible that sits on my locker. Its like a force field, keeps them from thinking I'm up to anything. I've recommended others to try this and it seems to be working. We've even received extra food trays - with the extra food we bag it and distribute to all the inmates in our reach.

Teaching and showing these inmates how to conduct themselves so that they get out of these catacombs and prison is hard. They have that "anger quick" attitude. But advancements are being made. A lot of these inmates are starting to see that even though we are here and come from different prior associations, we are still in this together and still must struggle for complete social change. A

lot of inmates are for the real struggle while others do not wish to engage in struggle anymore. Some do not understand what real struggle is. Some claim revolutionary status yet commit acts which serve contrary. Some wish to make that necessary leap yet are afraid of what present affiliates might think. They may even possibly be victimized.

A lot of groups have achieved a certain level of unity and organization such as the Southsiders, Northsiders, Bloods, Crips, whites and Asians. Yet there still remains a lot of needed advancement and change that these groups are not willing to make. Drugs, extortion, the gang banging mentality still exists and serve as a tool which continues to be utilized by prison administration and the government in order to continue its oppression on our youth. Divide and conquer is a tool continually being used by the capitalists, yet these groups continue in their ways.

The unity of struggle achieved recently in Oregon is a great accomplishment, yet more must be done if true revolutionary unity is to be made and maintained.

- a California prisoner, October 2005

High Desert prisoners protest toilet flushing limit

As of November 30, prisoners here at High Desert State Prison on D Facility Level IV are on lockdown due to a peaceful protest. Officials are placing timers on the toilets in the inmate's cells that would limit the flushes of the toilets to two flushes per hour, some say two flushes every fifteen minutes.

The prisoners received word that it was happening because officials, without telling prisoners, started placing timers on the toilets in C section on D-1 facility.

Prisoners here are housed two per cell, and placing the timers on the toilets will force the prisoners to have to smell his cellie's shit because mates have rules called "down one - drown one", meaning as soon as the 'turd' comes out, it must be flushed and you must keep flushing the lingering smell. Prisoners also use the toilets to wash our personal clothing because we cannot send our personals to the laundry, only state clothing.

So on November 30 when the prisoners received word on what was happening to the toilets, all inmates/all races on D-facility got together, united and agreed to board up the cell windows during 1600

hour institution count time to protest the inhumane situation.

When I was being handcuffed and escorted to the shower, I asked the officer how long will we be on lockdown. He said "it's going to be a long time because you guys pissed off the new director of prisons and that's a female..."

As it is, we are forced to be double celled in these cramped up cells, and now they are trying to force us to smell each other's defecation by placing timers on the toilets. I finally get it now. Since we are prisoners, we are not allowed to stand up for our rights, and even though it's inhumane for them to place timers on our toilets, we are just supposed to accept it.

- a California prisoner, December 2005

Hunger strike at CMF to protest isolation

I am a state prisoner at California Medical Facility, engaged since December 16, 2005 in a hunger strike. This protest is intended to draw attention to the reprisals I have incurred as a result of my legal activism; i.e. being placed in Administrative Segregation indefinitely, pending the outcome of a contrived disciplinary report. During the month I have been in isolation, I have been allowed no access to the law library whatsoever - effectively sidelining me from my attempts to advocate on behalf of those injured by medical negligence at this prison.

If anyone reading this letter would like to express their concerns, please contact the warden at the address below:

Martin Veal, Warden California Medical Facility 1600 California Dr. Vacaville, CA 95696

- A California prisoner, December 19, 2005

Update on Corcoran fasting protest

The November 30 fast went well, about 300 prisoners joined me in the fast. The solidarity was awesome, I am currently educating the prison indeterminate SHU population on their legal rights and the importance of getting our families and friends involved in this struggle. That's looking positive. What I would like to do is organize a large demonstration in front of CDCR headquarters. At least 500 people consisting of our families, friends

To next page...

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.

“King Kong” remake dazzles, but reinforces the oppressive class and patriarchal status quo

From page 9...

oh-so-modern, yet strangely vintage, Nestle chocolate bar. At one point, the ship crew is prepared to shoot and kill scores of Skull Island natives with machine guns in order to save just the actress taken by Kong. Back in New York, Denham tells of the indigenous people’s “savage ritual” of offering up people to Kong and sacrificing them. Famed actor Bruce Baxter (played by Kyle Chandler) appears onstage at Kong’s New York debut with a seduced womyn in his arms who is supposed to be one of the Skull Island natives.

On this point, however, “King Kong” fails to go beyond comedy. It is supposed to be something funny when Baxter chidingly tells Denham not to bother the “natives.” In fact, instead of seriously dealing with racism, the movie reinforces the myth of racial harmony in Amerika. First mate Hayes (Evan Parke) is lookout Jimmy’s (Jamie Bell) mentor. Deckhand Choy (Lobo Chan) is mourned by a European shipmate. “King Kong” goes out of its way to put these relationships in the foreground and does so to the point of seeming to have too many subplots.

Starting out with a strangely nostalgic montage of scenes from the Great Depression, “King Kong” harkens back to a time when there was a greater

number of proletarian European workers in Amerika. During the Great Depression and beginning before that, many European workers, particularly immigrants, were politicized and even radicalized and sought tactical alliances with oppressed-nation workers. “King Kong” glosses over the complications of these movements, however, and presents an uncomplicated picture of the limited interracial, actually international, working-class unity within the United States. Thus, it promotes an inaccurate view of history. The consequences of this error are even worse today at a time when the European working class in Amerika as a whole is clearly not proletarian, but in fact a bought-off, bourgeoisified working class that exploits Third World workers.

One of the redeeming qualities of “King Kong” is its portrayal of the relentless movie director Carl Denham. He starts out visionary, but ends up being a crass profiteer who will do anything to make a buck. Denham’s young assistant, Preston (Colin Hanks), looks on with disgust, and one even wonders whether he had something to do with Kong’s escape in New York in this remake of “King Kong.” We get the feeling that Preston has become disillusioned by the end of the movie, but this point isn’t really developed.

“King Kong” is also interesting from the viewpoint of gender. If it is true, as other reviewers have claimed, that the sexual aspect of the relationship between Kong and struggling actress Ann Darrow (Naomi Watts) is less pronounced in this remake, then this “King Kong” is merely disguising the power relations at play in the Kong-Darrow relationship as pure romance. Beside perpetuating a white beauty standard — Kong eats dark-skinned natives, judging by skeletal remains, but not the actress — “King Kong” also perpetuates the rape-culture idea that wimmin play hard-to-get. And the movie portrays different kinds of masculinity in a way that reinforces the decadent and oppressive romance culture. Famous actor Bruce Baxter is vain and full of himself. Playwright Jack Driscoll (Adrien Brody) is the so-called good guy, who is initially insulted by Darrow but falls in love with her. Kong himself is enigmatic, hypermasculine yet secretly gentle, but things could never work out with him — despite Darrow’s attachment to Kong even after he toys with and hits her. “King Kong” emphasizes personality differences, distracting from the reality that intimacy in patriarchal society cannot be disentangled from oppressive power relations.

When Darrow ends up with Driscoll, that is supposed to be part of the movie’s bittersweet ending. But there is nothing sweet about this. While First world people have relationships, others are ruthlessly oppressed, even killed, under imperialism, and the patriarchal system that oppresses wimmin and youth. Movies extolling the possibility of romantic happiness under these oppressive social systems do nothing, in fact worse than nothing, when it comes to paving the way for the revolutionary transformation of society. Far from being liberating in any way, movies such as “King Kong,” dazzling and subjectively enjoyable as they may be, only spread confusion.

The symbols in “King Kong” are obvious. The basic plot will be familiar to those who have seen the original “King Kong” (1933) or the 1976 remake. A gorilla living among dark-skinned people takes a white womyn, who, confused, becomes attached to him. The gorilla is defeated by white men, Amerikan soldiers. Order is restored when figurehead white conqueror Driscoll rushes to rescue Darrow and comfort her. Comedian Jack Black cracks jokes about the situation, but will the majority of Amerikan moviegoers get it even after this third time around? It’s doubtful.

Under Lock & Key News from Prisons & Prisoners

From last page...

and supporting organizations like yourself. Making simple demands that are supported by law. The Department and Corcoran prison have a habit of disregarding black letter law. Their attitude is “we are above the law.” Yet, they enforce the law when it’s against us prisoners. So I feel a large demonstration with media support exposing their arbitrary decision making and abuse of authority will be extremely effective resulting in compliance with the mandate of law.

- a prisoner at Corcoran, December 2005

Help for Comrades with 3 Strikes

I must say that it’s truly an honor for me to be a part of this movement that sees things for what they really are and not what they present themselves to be.

When I received and read my first copy of MIM Notes I immediately realized that, for all of us held in captivity and all other oppressed people throughout the

world, MIM is a vital element in our struggles. MIM has blessed us with a forum to share knowledge and information (e.g. MIM Notes), and it provides us with a channel to organize somewhat (e.g. between the lines of Under Lock and Key).

Under Lock and Key reveals our experiences. Notably, in every state in this country, in every one of these United Snakes prisons, we are all having the same experience. We are all witnesses to and experiencing torture, beatings, beatings while being handcuffed, sexual assaults, the planting of weapons and other forms of so-called contraband on us, the placing of false charges upon us, etc.

Just recently the rest of the world also got a glimpse of the daily horrors we in America’s criminal system of justice are subjected to in the Abu Ghraib (Iraqi Prison) scandal. Of course, the government line was that Iraqi prisoner abuses were rare “isolated incidents.” However, when the same torture, beatings and abuses occur daily in every

one of the prisons we are in, this evidence tells a different story.

The evidence tells us that the imperialists are well organized and that they run their prisons throughout the world according to a well thought out plan. In their prisons, as well as in all of their institutions, the imperialists clearly aim to oppress, repress, exploit and abuse us for all eternity. It’s our duty, in order to become a formidable force, seize power, and regain our freedom and liberty that we unite and organize. We must fight fire with fire: Force with Force!

Finally, in the MIM fight against the injustice system and campaign to end “Three Strikes Laws” I share with you the following legal info:

If you have pled guilty or were found guilty and received a life sentence because the trial judge found an aggravating circumstance, you may have an appealable issue because of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *Apprendi v. New Jersey*, 530 U.S. 466, and *Ring v. Arizona*, 536 U.S. 584, (see also *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 U.S. 296).

In *Apprendi*, the Supreme Court looked at a state statute requiring a judge to impose a longer sentence if the judge found, by a preponderance of the evidence that the crime was in the nature of a bias crime. The court held that the statute violated the defendant’s due process rights, holding that “other than

the fact of a prior conviction, any fact that increases the penalty for a crime beyond the statutory maximum must be submitted to the jury and judged against the reasonable doubt standard.” *Apprendi*, 530 at 469.

In *Ring*, the court struck down a death penalty statute that allowed the sentencing judge to decide whether certain facts had been proven. The Supreme Court held that, if an increase in a defendant’s punishment depends on a finding of fact, that fact must be found by a jury beyond a reasonable doubt. *Ring*, 536 US at 586.

In summary, the court’s position is that juries, not judges, must find the facts that permit a court to impose enhanced sentences, and such facts must be found beyond a reasonable doubt.

- a NY prisoner, August 2005

MIM adds: We thank this comrade for sharing this legal information with Under Lock and Key. Contributions like this help us build a Prisoner’s Legal Clinic to serve our comrades behind bars.

While these cases may be helpful for some, we of course oppose any forms of “3 strikes” or double jeopardy regardless of who gets to make the decision. For more info on our campaign to stop 3 strikes and other prison related campaigns visit the agitation section of our web page.