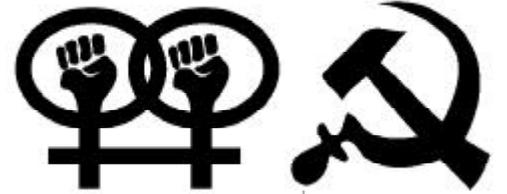


MIM Notes



April 1-15 2006, N° 333

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Hundreds of thousands rally for immigrant rights in L.A.

THERE IS NO IMMIGRATION 'CRISIS'

OPPOSE WHITE NATIONALISM NOW

March 26, 2006

The mainstream media and even some outlets claiming to be independent have portrayed the immigration reform debate and legislative wrangling as a struggle between two supposed diametric opposites: amnesty advocates, on the one hand, and those who want to deport undocumented migrants and support new immigration restrictions. There are "tough" or "draconian," and "reasonable," "sensible" or "comprehensive," immigration reform proposals. Mimnotes.info has been saying for almost a year now that this a myth. The extremely limited amnesty provisions and so-called circulation migration incentives in some proposed legislation are mainly a way to make further immigration restrictions, more border fences, more surveillance and monitoring, additional Border Patrol agents, etc., more palatable. Liberals agree with conservatives that the immigration system is "broken" because of so-called "illegal immigration." But there has always been undocumented migration. The perception of brokenness, and the whole immigration reform debate, stem from an anti-immigrant movement that arises in a certain historical context, one where Euro-Americans perceive migrants to be an economic, cultural and political threat; reactionary Euro-American nationalists are unsatisfied with their initial living standards during globalization; and the Euro-American so-called working and middle classes treat xenophobia, and also



Photos by mimnotes.info

wars of plunder, as a solution to their economic problems, real and imaginary.

Some say the immigration system is broken because second-class citizenship

f o r documented and undocumented migrant workers adversely affects their conditions. This is absolutely true, but

to say the immigration system is broken as a way to get a foot in the door and have a dialogue with reactionaries is a dead end. There is no real basis for debate between supporters of migrant workers' rights, and those who say migrants are terrorists who should be rounded up at demonstrations because they have brown and yellow skin. The immigration system isn't broken. It is part and parcel of the imperialist repression machine that represses migrants in order to reinforce their economic exploitation and national oppression, whether inside or outside the

Go to 4...

March 25, 2006

The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 4437 in mid-December. Days before the Senate is expected to discuss the same resolution, more than half a million people gathered in downtown Los Angeles to protest the repressive anti-immigrant legislation. The draconian Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005 would, among many other things, make a criminal out of anyone who crosses the border without permission, turn anyone who is in the United States without authorization into a criminal and potentially an "aggravated felon," criminalize anyone who assists undocumented migrants, and build a high-tech, reinforced barrier all along the southern border.

H.R. 4437 contains provisions that would make admission to the United States, and naturalization, more difficult, and deportations easier to carry out. For example, someone who is apprehended for drunk driving and whom the officer has "reasonable ground to believe" is an "alien" (documented or undocumented) could be detained right away if found to be undocumented, and deported. H.R. 4437 would work retroactively. An offense not considered an aggravated felony, for immigration purposes, before H.R. 4437 could get someone deported or denied admission even if they were convicted for the offense years ago. The Senate may not pass H.R. 4437 in its current form, but it could incorporate some of its elements in other legislation.

When antiwar protesters marched in Los Angeles last September, some explained the low turnout of 10-20 thousand people by saying Los Angeles wasn't an activist town, didn't have a big activist scene, etc. The half-million-plus protesters in Los Angeles today show that the fault is squarely on the antiwar movement's leaders and also genuine progressives who haven't stepped up to take leadership. Numbers aren't decisive, and some of the messages at today's march and rally were problematic, but the potential strength of Latino nations was clearly expressed today.

Spanish-language radio and television media did much of the promotion for the protest. The protest was coordinated with

Go to 4...

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Supreme Court puts military recruiting first, before First Amendment

March 10, 2006

Liberty is not an inalienable right, according to the U.S. Supreme Court. Colleges can sell their First Amendment freedom of association in exchange for student loans from the federal government. On March 6, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled by a unanimous 8-0 vote that colleges and universities can be punished by the government through withholding funding, including funding in the form of student loans, for refusing military recruiters.(1)

Some private universities correctly banned military recruiters for banning gays — the discriminatory policy of the U.S. military. MIM does not want gay people, females, or anyone else, to join the military, but we approve of the former ban on military recruiting enacted on some college campuses.

Colleges argued that discrimination should be illegal, but they also argued that, as private “individuals” in corporate-speak, they can associate with whomever they choose. The freedom of association is supposedly part of the highest law of the land, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Yet, the Supreme Court let a podunk Congressional funding bill knock down the freedom of association.

Increasingly, even the richest private universities are extensions of the government, with secret military intelligence operations masquerading as academic work, and missile research supplanting things like solar power research. The ever-diminished independence of the academic world likely generates sterile bourgeois minds, and this may explain why university-

educated Supreme Court justices allow schools their rights in exchange for student loans.

The next innovation will no doubt be a tax refund check in which the check endorser surrenders the entire Bill of Rights. So much for the famed U.S. rhetoric from the “Declaration of Independence” about “unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

On the other hand, now that the Supreme Court has ruled that universities are an extension of the government, perhaps taxpayers will be able to show up on campus without being arrested. On second thought, perish the thought of consistency. Imperialism does whatever it wants. To hell with principle.

In the capitalist system, the proletariat fights for freedom and the independence of universities. What we have now is the worst of both worlds — systematic profit-seeking motivations for evil, combined with a lack of freedom to criticize them. MIM is working for a long-term solution to eliminate the causes of evil humyn behavior so that political speech will be unnecessary to root out scandal etc., but in the meantime, the bourgeoisie attacks us for favoring dictatorship and “totalitarianism,” while it does not adhere to its own principles.

Notes:

1. Eric Resnick, “Colleges must allow recruiters or lose money,” 10 March 2006, <<http://www.gaypeopleschronicle.com/stories06/march/0310064.htm>> (10 March 2006).

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MIM Notes

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

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

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

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

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What is Mimnotes.info?

<http://mimnotes.info>

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

Knowing the world and conditions inside the belly of the beast is key. Equip yourself with mimnotes.info and write for mimnotes.info.



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.

MIM fined \$3,000 for political posters in San Fran

March 13, 2006

MIM was recently sent citations from the city of San Francisco amounting to more than \$3,000 in fines, with 23 individual citations for \$150 each. These citations were sent on forms that contained no explanation beyond a street address and the notation "Prohibited acts" with a violation code of PWC184.57b. Because of an e-mail we received from someone with the city, we know that these fines are for posters that advertised a conference held in October. This city employee wrote that she was contacting us "regarding some illegal sign posting that happened along the Mission corridor for a show you had at Cellspace on Oct 8, 2005 regarding Unlock The Box." The Unlock the Box conference was sponsored by the United Front to Abolish Security Housing Units.(1) MIM was sent these citations (five months after the conference) despite the complete lack of evidence that we put up these posters.

Targeting MIM without evidence

The citations were originally sent to the location where the conference was held, Cell Space. The Cell Space staff provided the city with a copy of the contract to rent the space as proof that they should not be fined. Because MIM reserved the room at Cell Space, the city then moved on to sending the citations to MIM. Cell Space regularly hosts public events and shows, and advertising posters are frequently seen on city poles. One Cell Space employee said they had never seen so many citations issued for posters advertising an event, and suggested that this was deliberate targeting of the political message in the poster.

Clearly, the posters in question (which MIM has yet to see evidence of) did not list MIM as contact information since the city went to Cell Space first with the citations. The conference was sponsored by more than 9 organizations, and endorsed by 13 more groups. In addition, many individuals volunteered their help to organize the conference. There is no way to know who put up these posters in question. Therefore, we can say for certain that there is no legitimate way to hold MIM responsible for the fines, which are completely illegitimate in the first place for a government claiming to uphold free speech. Surely the act of reserving a room for an event does not implicate an organization in the publicity for that event, especially not when the event is clearly organized by so many groups and individuals.

The specific section of the Public Works code relevant to identification of people posting illegal signs reads:

"SEC. 184.65. IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR POSTING OF SIGNS. In any civil action seeking recovery of a civil penalty and/or costs of removal of a Sign for violation of any of the provisions of this Article proof that the Sign posted contains the name of or in any other manner identifies a Person shall give rise to a rebuttable presumption that the Person caused such



WHICH GETS YOUR GOAT? The eyesore is in the eye of the beholder (the beholder's class, that is).

Signs to be posted or to remain posted. (Added by Ord. 116-99, File No. 982076, App. 5/14/99)"(2)

The citations issued to MIM are for posters that do not identify MIM in any way, and so even within the city's rules, we should not be held accountable for the posters. But this section is insidious because it opens up the possibility that organizations are suddenly held responsible for the illegal posting of anyone who picks up a poster for their event and puts it up on a pole, believing they are helping out with publicity. This also allows agents of the state to undermine an organization by putting up posters illegally, "helping" with event publicity, to implicate that organization.

The citations allow for an appeal by requesting a hearing. But this means MIM would have to send a representative to this hearing, possibly allowing the city to pin the fines on an individual for whom they could then cause further financial and legal hardship. MIM appealed the citations with a letter explaining that there is no legitimate way to link MIM to the posters in question.

The violation on the citation reads: "Except as expressly provided in this Article, no Person, except a duly authorized public officer or employee, or a contractor with the City, the State of California, or the United States Government acting to promote the purposes of that contract, shall erect, construct or maintain, paste, paint, print, nail, tack or otherwise fasten or affix any Sign, or cause or suffer the same to be done, on any Lamp Post, Utility Pole, traffic control sign or signal, curbstone, bench, hydrant, wall, span wire, sidewalk, bridge, tree, fence, building or structure owned or controlled by the City."

San Francisco Code limits freedom of speech

The San Francisco Public Works Code governing the posting of signs opens with the following: "The City has a compelling need to prohibit the posting of Signs on



public property in order to prevent the visual pollution caused by such Signs and the resulting contributions to urban blight." The idea that advertisements for public events contributes to "urban blight" is an idea promoted by people who believe that free speech is only needed for the wealthy. The city's approval of giant billboards closely spaced along San Francisco's freeways expose this hypocrisy. While those with money can buy advertisements that are deemed legal by the city, groups putting on events most needed by the public, namely political events, usually cannot afford them. These groups are forced to resort to advertising methods that are often restricted by the state. It is no surprise that the voice of the oppressed is left unheard when expression comes at such a high ticket price.

The Code goes on to offer some hope to would-be posterers: "Moreover, the placement of Signs on public property causes damage to such property and, when Signs are placed on or near traffic or directional signs or similar objects, threatens the safety of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. However, the Board is mindful of the importance of providing a forum for communication among citizens. While Lamp Posts and Utility Poles can provide such a forum, unrestricted use of Signs would interfere with the clear view of traffic safety signs and signals by motorists and with the unobstructed use of public streets and sidewalks. In addition, unrestricted use of Lamp Posts and Utility Poles would permit the placement of numerous Signs of widely ranging sizes and shapes which protrude beyond such poles, thereby creating an aesthetically displeasing clutter of objects on and over public streets and sidewalks. A limitation on the size, duration, and placement of Signs on Lamp Posts and Utility Poles will eliminate unsightly clutter, ensure traffic safety, and provide an opportunity for a greater number of Persons to communicate by this means."

So let it be known that San Francisco

values "aesthetics" and limiting "unsightly clutter" over political debate and the struggle to end oppression and exploitation.

The Code goes on to allow posting of signs on "non-commercial streets": "Exceptions for Non-Commercial Streets. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection (b) of this Section, a Sign may be placed or maintained upon, or attached to, any Lamp Post or Utility Pole on a Non-Commercial Street provided that the following regulations are adhered to." This basically means it is legal to put up posters, but only in predominantly residential areas, in other words, only in areas where there is little foot traffic.

Even in residential areas there are regulations that people must follow, including that individuals doing the posting must register with the city and include their registration number on every poster if it is larger than 11 inches, and posters must always contain the date posted. In addition, there are restrictions on putting up posters on "historic and decorative lamp posts," which cover most of the high foot traffic corridors of the city (a seemingly redundant restriction since these are also on commercial streets).

MIM still does not know how the posters in question specifically violated the code. They may have been on "historic lamp posts" or may have been affixed to the pole incorrectly, or may have been on a commercial street, or may have been missing a date of posting, or possibly were too large, with no registration number, or something else. Regardless of the reason, it is clear the city is pursuing MIM without any justification.

Setting up so many hurdles to legal posting of signs is something that a society does to prevent free speech for those who have the least access to it. Rather than attacking those who put up posters for advertisement, the city should be looking at ways to increase access to free speech for people who resort to posters. There are virtually no public bulletin boards in the city of San Francisco. The city could require free publications (which take up city space with their distribution boxes on all corners) to allow free listings in their calendars for all events in the city.

Profit motive is the real eyesore

If anything, capitalism reinforces the idea that posters are an eyesore with its constant barrage of advertisements for profit. Groups that have money (those who the advertisers target) have become accustomed to this and react by putting up blinders and being turned off by such ads. MIM has seen the blinder effect in action and how it affects different groups based on their marketing potential.

But please don't throw out the baby with the bath water. The sterilization and homogenization of american cities will not decrease the number of advertisements; it will only decrease the number of people who have access to them. Monopoly

Go to 5...

Hundreds of thousands rally for immigrant rights in L.A.

From 1...

protests in other cities, but the Los Angeles protest was by far the largest, larger even than the massive Chicago protest two weeks ago. By some estimates, more than one million people protested in Los Angeles. It was the largest organized protest ever of any kind in the history of Los Angeles. The march spilled over into adjacent streets, and hundreds of protesters held signs over freeway overpasses to the sound of an endless honking of horns.

Many of the usual suspects at antiwar protests were conspicuously absent today. There is a reason for that. The U.S. antiwar movement is not a monolith. It contains different tendencies, some which have an unmistakably reactionary character and reflect an oppressor-nation movement. Some U.S. antiwar activists put forward the narrow economic demands of petty-bourgeois Euro-American workers while they protest the war. They are often protectionist and criticize free trade and globalism/globalization without criticizing imperialism and imperialist-country privilege. Some of these advocates for the labor aristocracy openly attack migrants, oppose internationalism (whether bourgeois or proletarian internationalism), sow division among the oppressed working class, and pit oppressed-nation workers in the United States against migrants. To the extent that these reactionaries' opposition to war is genuine, war is seen as benefiting just a handful of U.S. capitalists, and not the

majority of Euro-Americans who live off the backs of harshly oppressed and repressed Third World workers.

Another part of the oppressor-nation antiwar movement is just pragmatic about the long-term success of the war, casualties, international public-relations image, various costs, etc. They may oppose some wars, but support others. It is the kind of vacillation that progressives in the United States have to work with and make use of, but because the nature of this vacillation is reactionary and based in Euro-American nationalism and white-worker chauvinism, it is hardly surprising when many in the antiwar crowd don't show up at immigrants-rights demonstrations, even if only to recruit for their organizations and peddle their reactionary demands.

The Euro-American-dominated antiwar movement has marginalized the voices of migrants and Third World workers. Still, there were some indications of antiwar opposition in the Los Angeles H.R. 4437 protest today. Signs singled out Bush, calling him a liar. Writing on an American flag said the Iraq War was something out of George Orwell's 1984. The U.S. government has targeted Latino youth for military recruiting.

White-unity with migrants and oppressed-nation communities appeared to be based on religion more than anything else. Euro-American Catholics stood alongside predominantly Asian and Latino protesters with signs such as "Love Thy Neighbor." Religiously based alliances

can be weak and have a limited effect in the United States. However, the character of the Euro-American participation in the H.R. 4437 protest shows that reaching out to whites on a civil rights and human rights basis is more effective than pandering to white workers, fueling fantasies about a white revolution against the U.S. government, and talking about "working-class unity" with the reactionary, non-proletarian Euro-American working class. Protesters said H.R. 4437 was unconstitutional as well as unchristian.

Other signs at the protest read "We didn't cross the borders, the borders crossed us" and "Unidos venceremos al racismo, imperialismo y discriminación económica." Signs compared the anti-immigrant movement to Nazism, while other signs and banners denounced white racism, racist politicians, and racist vigilantes. "Nuevo Holocausto. Antes Judios. Hoy Latinos. El espíritu de Hitler volvió." Argentines said H.R. 4437 was the beginning of a dirty war in the United States against politicized immigrants and oppressed-nation people. Protesters expressed internationalist solidarity with people in different countries; although, open, vocal solidarity with anti-imperialist peoples in Asian and other Third World countries was limited.

A few protesters held signs criticizing la Migra, not just vigilantes. When more police arrived, terrifying protesters who weren't used to seeing armed police

formations, some young protesters chanted "f- the police."

Openly anti-imperialist signs and chants were rare. Many protesters for different reasons held American flags, sometimes while waving Mexican flags. This sign text represented a typical sentiment: "Mr. Bush, we are just as American as you. We are workers. We are not terrorists." Protesters said anyone in the Americas is an American. (On the contrary, reactionary Euro-American Bush is just an occupier of the Americas. And the American economy was and is built using the labor of slaves and oppressed-nation workers, not mainly the Euro-American nation.) Signs reading "Recognize our contribution" etc. pandered to Euro-American economic nationalists. The protest was contradictory in these ways, but protesters were united against H.R. 4437. "Amnesty" and the legalization of undocumented migrants in the United States were also frequent demands.

The people's anger against the fascist anti-immigrant movement is righteous. It must not be channeled into accepting and being content with legislation that offers only limited legalization while stepping up the repression of migrants. Resistance to vicious, repressive anti-immigrant proposals is progressive, and cutting down on some immigration restrictions and repression is a winnable reform even under imperialism, but the imperialist system always poses a threat to migrants. National self-determination and an end to imperialism are needed.

THERE IS NO IMMIGRATION 'CRISIS'

From 1...

United States. It is society that is broken, and the fix is to organize for revolution and work to end this predatory, parasitic and decadent system.

A handful of liberal and some conservative Euro-American nationalists believe open borders are a way to strengthen the United States and, as imperialist-nation nationalists, are united at some level with imperialists. However, there is no common ground between anti-imperialist open borders advocates and reactionaries calling for mass deportations and even mass apprehensions, at immigrants-rights demonstrations, of people believed to be undocumented. The immigration reform debate has no anti-imperialist pole. And bourgeois open-borders advocates in the government are too weak and ideologically bankrupt to consistently oppose repressive and restrictive proposals from within the immigration reform debate.

The so-called immigration reform debate is in response to a perceived and

imagined immigration crisis and reflects the viewpoints of different reactionary groups in the Euro-American nation. Even some of those calling for some level of legalization see the legalization as a way to control migrants already in the United States and want more border and immigration enforcement. The immigration reform debate is an oppressor-nation debate in which almost all sides are united in seeing undocumented migrants as a problem to be solved without ending closed borders and getting rid of the repression that turns people into undocumented migrants.

The immigration reform debate is white-nationalist to the core. Reactionaries say the debate is between border security advocates and open-borders advocates. In reality, the goal of the immigration reform debate is to solve the "immigration" problem and make the imperialist state's repression machine more effective and efficient. For the debate participants, undocumented migrants are a sign of unsuccessful

immigration restrictions, rather than a sign of an unjust policy of repression and socioeconomic exclusion, and an unjust system. Even many of the left-wing opponents of the patently mean-spirited H.R. 4437 see even documented migration as a problem. And nobody in the government involved in the debate is seriously proposing an overall increase in the number of immigrants, or transforming all undocumented migration into an equivalent level of documented migration.

The immigration reform debate exists to step up the repression of migrants. In this sense, it is more of a movement or a campaign than a debate. Disagreements arise over the best way to reach a goal. There are some differences over how to implement immigration restrictions in an economically sound way that doesn't disrupt the American economy, but the end result is the same: more repression. Since the political parties closely involved in the legislative debate have constituencies, divisions also arise that are connected to not wanting to alienate

voters. However, the dynamics of conflict within the immigration reform debate have led to increased acceptance of its nationalist premise, an entrenchment of the common underlying assumptions of white-nationalist ideologies, putting forth the interests of the Euro-American nation, and putting imperialist-nation groups, rather than the world's exploited and oppressed, first. In addition, few people in the government have openly criticized white nationalism and supremacy, and there has been little effective resistance to these. Now, the Democratic and Republican parties are competing for the white vote. Euro-Americans are increasingly anxious. And they are increasingly willing to switch parties, as politicians and candidates themselves openly acknowledge. The white nation is exercising its political power as the majority, and politicians are responding to that. Concurrently, the Euro-American nation, in a divide-and-conquer strategy, is pitting oppressed nations in the United

Next page...

San Franciscans protest war, support fight against city censorship

March 18, San Francisco

Thousands of people gathered to protest the war on Iraq with a rally in the Civic Center and a march through the streets of the city. The crowd expressed a wide range of politics, including limited anti-Bush politics that verge on supporting the Democratic Party, anti-imperialism, and different internationalist tendencies proclaiming support for the struggles of the Palestinian people, the Filipino people, and other national-liberation struggles around the world.

A small pro-Amerika and pro-Israel counter-protest gathered across the street representing the imperialists and proclaiming the need to plunder nations around the world to support Amerikan freedoms. If Amerikan “freedoms” require oppression of whole nations of people, mass murders, and theft of land and resources, then they aren’t real freedoms.

MIM and RAIL activists at the rally distributed MIM Notes and flyers about the city of San Francisco fining MIM for

posters on city poles. We asked people to sign a petition demanding the retraction of these fines and a reversal of laws that make posterizing illegal in the city. The petition reads:

“The City of San Francisco fines organizations and individuals whose posters are found on poles in the city. The laws prohibiting hanging posters claim to be preventing “urban blight” but are really just preventing free speech. Those with money can buy billboards and ads in newspapers, and those without can’t even put up posters to advertise events.

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) was recently fined over \$3000 for posters hung in the city that did not identify MIM in any way — MIM was sent the fines because they reserved a room for the event advertised on the fliers, an event sponsored and endorsed by more than 20 groups.

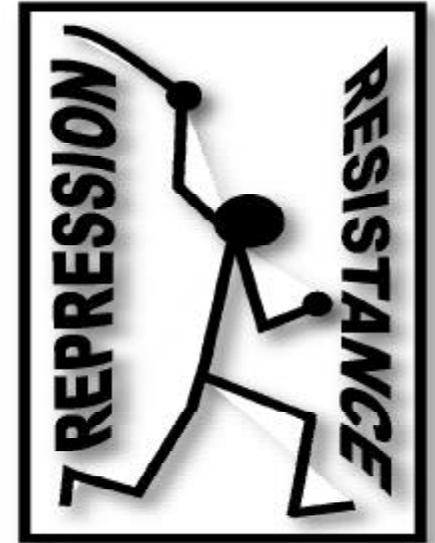
“We demand that the city of San Francisco revoke the fines sent to MIM and stop fining organizations and individuals for posters found hanging on

poles in the city. San Francisco should be promoting free speech, not preventing it: The city should either make it legal to put up posters on poles, or put up bulletin boards throughout the city for legal poster hanging.”

People at the rally were very friendly to this message, complaining that San Francisco should not pretend to be a progressive city while denying its population free speech. A number of people expressed surprise that posterizing is actually illegal in San Francisco. Many of these people are activists who put up posters frequently in the city. Activists have a responsibility to be aware of the laws related to their organizing work. The government does all it can to make political activism difficult in Amerika, and illegal actions make their job easier.

Some people who stopped to sign the petition told MIM about their recent experience on city property at Fort Mason where they were standing with a protest sign. Police threatened to arrest them for being outside of the “free speech zone”

— free speech is apparently not something allowed just anywhere in Amerika. When the protesters offered to move to the “free speech zone,” the police told them they could not because their sign was too big. So, they stayed put and were arrested by the cops.



MIM fined \$3,000 for political posters in San Fran

From 3...

capitalism functions better with a monopoly on ideas as well. Rather than supporting repressive regulations to reduce access to advertising, we invite people to help us make poster-covered poles an asset rather than a blight. Demand more legal posterizing space from your local government. Then download your favorite fliers from RAIL’s flier archive online(3), or create your own, and post them to demonstrate what posters can be. It is only through such political dialogue and struggle that we can develop solutions to society’s problems.

Rather than being a public blight from

which one must avert one’s eyes, walls of posters attracted crowds and stimulated meaningful debate in socialist China. When the “big character posters,” which usually served to criticize or challenge certain leadership or policies, covered a wall, new rice mats were erected to provide more space for them. San Francisco and the rest of Amerika should take a lesson from the Chinese on what it means to promote free speech.

MIM and RAIL comrades have been yelled at, forced out, fined and arrested for distributing political propaganda for decades. Comrades in United Struggle

from Within (USW) have been deprived of medical care and food, beaten and thrown in isolation cells for the same. And this is only the kid-glove approach that the US government reserves for situations in which it has the power advantage. In the Philippines, the u\$-Arroyo puppet regime is arresting and disappearing those promoting new democracy, and in the Middle East, the united \$tates has tried to target Al-Jazeera with missiles.(4) As long as there is class struggle, free speech will be denied to those without power.

Notes:

1. www.abolishcontrolunits.org
2. See San Francisco’s Public Works Code in the Code Library at <http://www.amlegal.com/>.
3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/rail/fliers.html>
4. MIM International Minister, “Uncle Sam as usual labelling the good guys as bad guys,” <<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/countries/phil/freebeltran.html>>.

“Freedom of the press is a joke: United \$nakes wanted to bomb critics in the media,” [mimnotes.info](http://www.mimnotes.info), 1 December 2005, <<http://www.mimnotes.info/news/20051201freedompress/>>.

From last page...

\$tates — even documented and undocumented Latin American migrants — against each other in order to dilute opposition, at the ballot box and elsewhere, to anti-immigrant proposals.

Narrow anti-Bu\$h bashing, letting other imperialists and reactionaries — indeed, the majority of Euro-Amerikans — off the hook, is directly complicit in the present situation. The simple fact is that people singled out Bu\$h more often at Saturday’s immigration-rights demonstrations and H.R. 4437 protests than any other imperialist even though Bu\$h is not at the cutting edge of the fascist anti-immigrant movement. Bu\$h lying has nothing to do with James Sensenbrenner’s H.R. 4437, and simplistically equating H.R. 4437 with Bu\$h represents confusion, manipulation, and disinformation, by reactionaries trying to neutralize the U.\$ internal semi-colonies’ righteous anger at the Euro-Amerikan nation. Bu\$h’s lies have only and mainly been a rallying point for assorted white nationalists who see

Bu\$h’s brand of neo-conservative imperialist policy as detrimental to their oppressor interests. Liberals trying to drive people into the Demokkkratic Party, the same party that helped pass H.R. 4437 in the House of Representatives, have, like a broken record, attacked chronic liar Bu\$h over immigration, but this ignores broad, majority Euro-Amerikan support for more anti-immigrant repression.

The responsibility does not lie solely with Bu\$h or his administration, or his Republican constituents for that matter, but Bu\$h offers little hope in the face of politicians and forces more reactionary than himself. Bu\$h recently reiterated his proposal for temporary legal status for certain migrant workers.(1) Bu\$h portrays himself as the voice of reason and moderation; yet, his immigration and border enforcement proposals and actions, shutting out more would-be migrants and making life more difficult for migrants in the United \$tates, show that he is no defender of migrants’ rights. In fact, temporary legalization proposals

like Bu\$h’s could be made compatible with vicious enforcement and immigration restriction proposals. Bu\$h is a voice of Euro-Amerikan economic rationality in the immigration reform debate, but he has done nothing to reject the repressive aim of this debate/effort. In the scheme of things, Bu\$h is just raising some things for consideration in an anti-immigrant movement that is wildly driving forward.

The anti-immigrant movement is out of Bu\$h’s control, and it wasn’t his movement to begin with, but a typically reactionary movement of the labor aristocracy, made up of Euro-Amerikan so-called workers, and imperialists more reactionary than Bu\$h.

Bu\$h is no savior, but to criticize just the Bu\$h administration over H.R. 4437 and similar proposals is heading down the wrong path. Now, more than ever, Euro-Amerikan nationalism in all its forms and manifestations must be denounced and struggled against. There can’t be any compromise. Democrats and increasingly fascist Euro-Amerikans have exposed

their complicity and role in this wave of anti-immigrant reaction. Pressuring Euro-Amerikans to remain committed to civil rights, humyn rights, and the Constitution (keep what little commitment they have left), is urgently necessary, but there must also be an open struggle against white nationalism and supremacy. In this way, some of the motivation for present and future anti-immigrant and fascist movements will be undermined, while laying a basis for national liberation struggles to end imperialism. The anti-immigrant movement has pitted oppressed nations in the United \$tates against each other. It is important to target the nationalism of the imperialist Euro-Amerikan nation for this reason, too.

Notes: 1. Nedra Pickler / Associated Press, “Update 7: Bush Urges ‘Civil Debate’ on Immigration,” *Forbes.com*, 24 March 2006, <<http://www.forbes.com/business/feeds/ap/2006/03/24/ap2618831.html>>.

Who is Phyllis Chesler? Pseudo-feminism leads to war

Wham, the George W. Bush/Condoleeza Rice/Phyllis Chesler/David Horowitz/RCP=USA alliance attacking Iran on International Wimmin's Day March 8 hit a large part of the U.S. public as if a blow from behind. Others took the blow as if asleep. There are many aspects of the attack that seem new to the public but which have brewed for years and even decades.

Since when did George W. Bush start making International Wimmin's Day statements, an Amerikan very well might wonder. It's not exactly a Hallmark greeting card day in the united States. What next, May 1st parades in Washington, DC? A review before the Washington monument? Since when do feminists have conversations like this on International Wimmin's Day like Phyllis Chesler did?

Lopez: Is it shocking to you that "feminism" can't give President Bush any credit, at least, say, for removing the Taliban from power?

Chesler: Yes. I published a letter in the New York Times congratulating him for doing so.(1)

Yet, the State Department does seek to manipulate public opinion globally. The people there do know the fine details of international public opinion and it is best that we not tolerate those who think of everything in the Bush administration as hopelessly ignorantly done. Thinking of them all as "stupid" in the Bush administration sets us up for an attack from behind.

The media may not emphasize International Wimmin's Day much, but the State Department knows how to play the game. The trouble is that most of us in the anti-war movement and even in supposed Marxism-Leninism-Maoism are lagging. The truth is that Bush's International Wimmin's Day move does get him traction for war both in the united States and in places as far away as India. What we saw on International Wimmin's Day was a dry run, an establishment of the beacon to which the imperialists will now try to summon people globally. In the beacon stages of this struggle, intellectuals play the leading role, so the heavy guns at "National Review" came out for the attack, Chesler for tenured professors in Wimmin's Studies and RCP=USA for the vanguard of the labor aristocracy. They united on singling out conditions for wimmin in Iran and not calling for war at this moment, just building the climate for war.

To understand Bush's move, we should look at the social forces behind it. Symbolizing the gender aristocracy for war is Phyllis Chesler. Her new ally is the labor aristocracy for war, the supposed "Revolutionary Communist Party" (RCP=USA).

Phyllis Chesler's first claim to fame is the book *Women and Madness*. MIM has previously promoted and defended this book, especially in connection to understanding why our prison work is

mostly with men. MIM will have to think twice from now on about recommending books that do not show readers how to compare across countries.

Today Chesler is among the legions of wimmin with graduate degrees we have to wonder about from time to time when we see a lack of revolutionary feminism. At 65, Chesler now claims pioneer status. This article could be titled "the revenge of June Cleaver," because that TV show was real-life when Chesler was a young womyn. Now from her assorted racist and national chauvinist militarist rantings, we can see that there was always the danger that White Studies-educated people like Chesler would never get beyond refining their nationalism. The academics who do work on U.S.-only topics have to be especially suspect: do they have any capability of looking for causation and effect in a cross-cultural context? Do they go abroad like Chesler and so many other Euro-Amerikans and say "This bad, bring Marines!"

After *Women and Madness*, Phyllis Chesler built her feminist credentials. NOW lists her as a veritable part of herstory itself.

For more than a decade MIM has warned about pseudo-feminism. The example of the credentialed Chesler makes it crystal-clear that everything MIM said is in fact present in pseudo-feminism. Feminism is subject to hijacking just like Marxism.

With the publication of her book *The Death of Feminism*, we learn that Phyllis Chesler was always an Amerikan nationalist(2) and Zionist, just as MIM has charged pseudo-feminism all along.

It was not that Phyllis Cleaver suddenly went on Bush's payroll and endorsed him for president in 2004. Just because she started writing for David Horowitz's magazine *FrontPage* in recent years does not mean she did not hold the same basic opinions all along. The problem is that no one, not in all the various conferences, academic discussions or political debates—no one succeeded in exposing her views for what they really are and thus preventing others from the same fate. Those that issued criticism of Chesler did so and then retreated into the shadows. What is necessary is systematic and condensed ideological preparation for pseudo-feminism's attack.

In 1980, June Chesler told an Iranian that she would not go to Iran on a speaking invitation: "I'd only come as part of an American Marine force."(3) That turns out to be exactly what we need to know 26 years later. How was it possible for the legions of pseudo-feminists lapping her up to miss that? We have to train ourselves to distinguish white nationalism from feminism and ferret it out. The united States is the most dominant power and it gets to be so through divide-and-conquer internationally. People siding with u.S. imperialism favor the division of wimmin, period.

In her latest book, Chesler admits to agitating for an invasion of Afghanistan a

long time. "Neither did these feminists want to launch a military invasion of Afghanistan on behalf of women. I know—I raised the idea many times."(4)

By the standards of David Horowitz, Chesler is still a failure because most pseudo-feminists will vote for Democrats with the same determination as Blacks. But because Democrats are also a party of imperialist war, we in the proletarian camp do not use Horowitz's standard to evaluate the headway that Chesler makes. By anti-war standards, Chesler is a big challenge, an opponent on the other end of the rope in a tug-of-war. Which way will NOW go for instance? This is a tug-of-war we do not want to lose.

Along with Chesler, we now see more enemies—including Shulasmith Firestone and Kate Millett. Millett wrote a favorable blurb for Chesler's book and owes Chesler persynally for phone calls on her behalf when she had trouble in Iran. Who did she call, CIA? MI6? MIM already warned the world about where Millett was going more than a decade ago. Lesser names lining up with Chesler include Vivian Gornick, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, Susan Griffin and Deborah Tannen.(5) It's probably no surprise that Chesler is repeatedly giving Azar Nafisi props as well.(6)

On the men's side, what did we expect? Chesler is giving props to Meir Kahane and pins his death on "Islamist" El Sayyid Nosair. Of course she is working with Daniel Pipes, who she says is "brilliantly and aggressively documenting jihadic activities."(7) Lately, Chesler writes over and over again that "A strong resistance to the totalitarian Islamists will prove essential in the war of civilizations that is upon us."(8)

For crying out loud, the last page of Chesler's book is openly about how to improve Western intelligence agencies! Down with the pseudo-feminists! Shame



Chesler: Sitting down.

on anyone who stands with the fake "Marxist-Leninist-Maoist" RCP=USA! No real Marxist-Leninist-Maoists are in bed with Phyllis Chesler!

Notes:

1. <http://www.phyllis-chesler.com/articles/witness.htm>. Chesler's letter, on 16 Nov. 2001, said in part: "Most feminist leaders have been uneasy if not disapproving of America's invasion of Afghanistan. They cannot bring themselves to congratulate President Bush and the American military on their swift and decisive actions against the Taliban. Let me do so."

2. Phyllis Chesler, *The Death of Feminism* (NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), p. 8.

3. Phyllis Chesler, *The Death of Feminism* (NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), p. 112.

4. Phyllis Chesler, *The Death of Feminism* (NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), p. 7.

5. Phyllis Chesler, *The Death of Feminism* (NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), p. 67.

6. Phyllis Chesler, *The Death of Feminism* (NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), pp. 57-8, 138.

7. Phyllis Chesler, *The Death of Feminism* (NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), p. 175.

8. <http://www.phyllis-chesler.com/articles/appeasement.htm>



*Will the real
INTERNATIONALIST
feminism
please stand
up?*

Sex slavery depends on closed borders

Opening borders a prerequisite for real feminism

Kanada and England recently received the grade of “F” on sex slavery and sex trafficking from a report that journalists noted March 2nd.(1) Benjamin Perrin reportedly said:

“What Canada has typically done is detain these victims without medical care, then deport them. It’s a practice that we’ve seen in some authoritarian and despotic countries and it has no place in a civilized, just society like our own.”(1)

The implication that the rest of the world is uncivilized is typical in imperialist countries, and it’s an example of how gender serves neo-colonial purposes in most alleged feminist discussion.

There seems to be universal agreement that the leading cause of sex slavery in rich countries is closed borders. The National Organization for Women (NOW) admitted as follows about the United States’s importation of 50,000 sex slaves annually:

“Traffickers use a variety of methods—from physical force to tranquilizing drugs—to make these women prostitute themselves. Most often, though, traffickers use powerful threats, telling the victims that if they try to run away their families will be harmed or that U.S. authorities will capture, torture and deport them. The women are often subjected to beatings and even forced abortions.”(2)

The U.S. Government has made a major point of imprisoning more so-called “immigration offenders.” “The number of immigration offenders serving federal prison sentences increased almost ninefold between 1985 and 2000— from 1,593 to 13,676 adult men and women— more than twice the rate of increase for the entire federal prison population.”(3) according to the Government itself.

Here lies the problem for the National Organization for Women. NOW’s very name implies that it is about dividing wimmin internationally. This is nowhere more evident than in issues where the world’s most powerful country engages in war and allows sex trafficking. In the Philippines there is a nationalist mass organization for wimmin, but it has no agenda of divide-and-conquer and more importantly, it could only enact one by becoming a lackey of u.\$ imperialism.

Here in the united States, it is intuitive for females to use feminism as a guise to attack other wimmin and divide the world’s wimmin. We have problems like this in our Marxist movement too. Starting from the vantage point of the international proletariat and then analyzing conditions country-by-country has proved too much for those Marxists who find it easier to slide into nationalism. Likewise, NOW has to decide whether it is really a “Nationalist Organization for Whites,” because wimmin are an international group, no matter how hard and challenging that truth may be. NOW can be a group struggling for higher white unity or it can start from the internationalist vantage point.

What NOW is doing is drawing connections, but only in a neo-colonial way, not an overall way. NOW draws the connection to Iraq, but it does so piecemeal in such a way as to become an in-house critic of a colonial constitution writing process.

NOW has also drawn an advanced connection to immigration and the Patriot Act. The Patriot Act allows deportation of people to places where they will be in danger.

“Obviously, this and other parts of the Act pose a serious threat to battered immigrant women who are fleeing violence by seeking asylum in the U.S. NOW and other anti-violence groups have worked over the years to improve immigration law and regulations to protect battered immigrant women.”(4)

It’s important to understand how this plays out. Pakistan’s president recently accused feminists of degrading Pakistan’s image in order to get green cards. So the net effect of selectively bringing forward stories of international abuse of wimmin is neo-colonialism. It will always be a tool of the imperialists seeking to build a war climate against this or that country; even though wimmin are battered pretty much everywhere in the world. Even where neo-colonialism does not contribute to a war climate, the State Department and INS use the immigration issue to divide Third World people, by selectively favoring this or that nation for more immigration and more visa rights.

The way to fight Pakistan’s president is not by becoming indignant but by changing NOW’s demands. If the border were open, there could be no issue. There could be no elaborate ruses to obtain green cards. The United States would become one sure place where wimmin internationally could flee if they needed to. So if NOW wants to alleviate the conditions of wimmin internationally, the best thing NOW can do is provide Third World wimmin with greater “choice,” choice of place to live. This will also have the effect of increasing wimmin’s leverage in their home countries.

What we need to do is change sex slavery to dating. Here it is important to raise the idea of “mail-order brides” to bring out why pseudo-feminism never gets anywhere. Some pseudo-feminists have opposed mail-order brides out of nationalism.

The same people who want “choice” in the reproductive sphere and an absence of government interference in dating “choice.” The current law is opposed to dating “choice.” It allows migrants visas to the united States only if there is already a marital engagement, a practice that itself is going to tend to promote false weddings and sex slavery-like conditions. If NOW is for reproductive choice, it should also support dating choice for men and wimmin regardless of G/L/B/T. When

pseudo-feminists oppose “mail-order brides” the wrong way, they contribute to the conditions of illegality that allow for coercion of wimmin. If the borders were open, wimmin internationally would be taking fewer risks on a lot of questions, and that is to leave aside the threat of deportation or imprisonment at the hands of rich country governments.

The gender aristocracy opposes dating “choice” for Third World people, because the gender aristocracy is really about becoming men in the united States. The gender aristocracy opposes open borders and only makes exceptions where exceptions advance neo-colonialism—the same way Bu\$h opposes stoning in Iran. We have the same thing in class, where the labor aristocracy restricts the border in order to have a monogamous relationship with imperialist employers.

While we think it is fine for a Filipino feminist organization to point out the benefits of not going to the united States, feminists in the united States should favor dating choice internationally. When pseudo-feminists selectively tell tales of their disgust for “mail-order brides,” they usually do something counterproductive to the problem and end up supporting white nationalism. The solution is not to restrict dating choice to both males and females within u.\$ borders but to broaden it for both groups regardless of G/L/B/T. It’s time to recognize that certain forms of opposition to “mail-order brides” are a disguised cattiness, a cattiness divisive of wimmin as a group internationally. If the borders were totally open, there would not be “mail order

brides” anymore.

The difference between a nationalist and a feminist is that a feminist takes the overall perspective in a thorough way. Feminists do not use wimmin’s oppression selectively to divide wimmin by nationality. That is the job of the male chauvinists. Feminists require the international unity of wimmin achieved through painstaking study and action based on conditions in each country.

There is a strange thing going on where oppressor nation people are acknowledging the causes of sexual slavery but failing to take the overall stand required to deal with it. Right now only “extremists” at MIM are unequivocally and totally for open borders, and that is another reason MIM says it is the only feminist organization inside u.\$ borders. There should be more feminist organizations. Hopefully we have made it clear that there is only neo-colonialism, not real feminism without the demand for totally open borders.

Notes:

1. <http://winnipeg.sun.com/News/Canada/2006/03/02/1469076-sun.html>

2. Worldwide Tragedy: U.S. Not Immune to Sexual Slavery by Jennifer Wright, Publications Intern <http://www.now.org/nnt/summer-2000/slavery.html>

3. “IMMIGRATION LAW PROSECUTIONS DOUBLE DURING 1996-2000,” <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/press/iofc00pr.htm>

4. <http://www.now.org/issues/right/12-17-05patriot.html>

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.

Red Wedge boycotts election in Belarus

Our comrades in the Red Wedge of Belarus have issued an update of their web page. On March 20th, Belarus held elections and President Lukashenko claimed his third term. The West tried to stir up another “Orange Revolution,” but appears to have failed. Some Western news agencies admitted that President Lukashenko was polling 60% before the election, despite being most reviled by the united States and the European Union.

The comrades of the Red Wedge have reported their opposition to both Lukashenko and his electoral opponents such as Milinkevicha and Kozulina. In general, Red Wedge condemned electoral politics as a trap in Belarus. Red Wedge correctly predicted weeks in advance that the opposition politicians would not win.

According to Red Wedge, the nationalists of Belarus do have majority support including the 45% of the hired population that is proletariat. 55% of the hired people are in the unproductive sector.

The majority of people in Belarus are not employees. 21.2 percentage points out of the 54.5 that are not employees are pensioners.

Another substantial political grouping is the Liberals seeking Westernization. The Liberals come from the average bourgeoisie according to Red Wedge. There is also a 1 or 2% of the population in the state apparatus as bourgeoisie. Then there are the national-liberals and pseudo-leftists, mostly anarchists, but these are marginal organizations.

The Red Wedge comrades take the Russian Maoist Party’s program as their basis. The Red Wedge comrades conclude their article for the red banner of “Marxism-Leninism” with the phrase, “may Stalin and Mao look upon us.” Apparently, Red Wedge regards Stalin and Mao positively but sees them as practitioners of Marxism-Leninism. Thus there remains some struggle on that point. We can say that Red Wedge explains the origins of the bourgeoisie in the Soviet party, so there is no disagreement there.

MIM will add only the following comment and hope to hear more from our comrades in Belarus. To our knowledge, the Belarus case is one of a very interesting formation of gender aristocracy. In the united States it is nearly impossible to picture any but a migrant

as joining the gender aristocracy without being petty-bourgeoisie first. In Belarus, class and gender separate a little more. Lukashenko offered models inside Belarus a classic gender aristocracy deal. He told them they would not be allowed to work outside Belarus as “models,” which given their economic status would only mean prostitution in other countries. So Lukashenko does not let wimmin out of Belarus, but he also closed off advertising to foreign models. So now models sing his praises, saying they are well-paid and well-regarded within Belarus—big fish in small ponds.

Strictly-speaking, we should imagine that the patriarchy could see its interests differently in Belarus. The typical male chauvinist pig should have no problem in seeing as many different models as possible, including imports. However, what Lukashenko does is offer the gender aristocracy a deal without threatening the patriarchy. In fact, the gender aristocracy appears to have supported Lukashenko in the election.

It would be a mistake to say that what Lukashenko does is for the benefit of

wimmin, because wimmin are an international group and Lukashenko closed the borders to most wimmin. The wimmin outside Belarus who would have been featured in advertising in Belarus lost out. So neither the male chauvinist pigs seeking access to all models and nor wimmin exactly gained from the move to close the borders of Belarus. We’d say it was an in-between solution, the attempt to form a gender aristocracy.

The other point that Belarus reinforces is something we stressed in being able to recognize the position of Amerikan female as man on the social scale. Namely, most countries are not comfortable letting their wimmin out into the world, served naked or semi-naked on a platter. Belarus cracked down on letting models out of the country, and we can see the reasoning. Although all people have problems and fears in travelling to other countries, Amerikan females have fewer than Belarussian females. We suspect that if Bush closed the borders to Amerikan models trying to leave the country, there’d be a major commotion just over that.

Milosevic dies under Western prison health care

March 15, 2006

A prisoner complains to prison authorities that he is not well. The prisoner says that medical authorities are not tending to him correctly. No one listens. The prisoner dies. That was the basic chain of events for ex-President of Yugoslavia Slobodan Milosevic, kept prisoner at an international court referred to as the Hague Tribunal. MIM has seen it too often in U.S. prisons, but we would not have expected the same thing to happen in the prisons for famous alleged war criminals.(1)

Prison authorities holding Milosevic knew that he was dying. The New York Times has seen the notes that Milosevic wrote as he was dying over a period of days. Milosevic contacted Russia in writing.

The Dutch autopsy admitted that Milosevic died of poisoning. The Russians asked for another autopsy to back up the three professionals who already concluded on a role for poisoning.

Because Milosevic contacted Russia, prison authorities now expect us to believe a James Bond-style story where Milosevic poisoned himself despite his documented complaints. That is not acceptable. When a prisoner dies in a prison’s custody, the prison has to accept blame, period.

The Hague tribunal has made itself a joke, even if the Milosevic war crimes are entirely true. The monstrosity of a prisoner cannot legitimate a prison, cannot excuse its own crimes. According to Slobodan Milosevic’s wife, Mirjana Markovic, the prison authorities never turned off the light in his cell, which is a

form of torture.(2)

For the story on Milosevic’s life, we refer our reader to the Partija Rada and the people of ex-Yugoslavia themselves. All MIM can say for sure is that the people have yet to find the path to ending intra-proletarian conflict. Some would say that, as the closest-to-dominant ethnic group, the Serbians are to blame. On the other hand, we cannot discount the role of u.S. imperialism in stirring up ethnic strife as we see in Iraq again today.

The timing also stinks. Milosevic had just subpoenaed Bill Clinton and said that Clinton had more responsibility for deaths in ex-Yugoslavia than he did. Now we will never know the secret inside story that Milosevic knew.

Milosevic claims that he made peace overtures that Clinton managed to subvert — just as Clinton invented the failure of Saddam Hussein on weapons of mass destruction, we might add. Suddenly, after asking for a face to face with one of the intriguers in ex-Yugoslavian politics, Milosevic ends up dead.

The verdict of the international proletariat on Milosevic is not settled. The Serbian and Russian people do not entirely agree with a simple view of Milosevic as war criminal. The understanding of intra-proletarian bloodletting in Eastern Europe remains to be united.

While scores of bodies keep turning up every day in Iraq, the New York Times of March 14th put Milosevic’s war crimes pages ahead of the deaths in Iraq. The Hague tribunal needed to have Clinton and Bush in the dock for major credibility. As it stands right now, the united States openly flaunts the Hague tribunal as an



Milosevic on trial.

international court. This is another reason we believe that the Bush administration was probably not unhappy to see Milosevic poisoned and the Hague tribunal’s legitimacy thereby decreased. The United States itself has been fighting diplomatically and successfully to exclude u.S. troops from the Hague tribunal’s jurisdiction.(3) Hence, the crimes at Abu Ghraib are not subject to war-criminal prosecution, but people like Milosevic somehow are.

It will not be possible to have international justice until we are done with the self-interest of capitalists to stir up bloody national conflicts for weapons-sales profits, control of resources, or just to weaken the international proletariat through divide-and-conquer. The failure of the Hague tribunal even to finish the trial and keep Milosevic alive is just one further proof that imperialism prevents international justice.

Notes

1. On the other hand, there has been

an academic study on how even upper-middle class subjects will replicate the same patterns found in ordinary prisons — when those upper-middle class subjects are both prisoners and prison guards. See, for example: <http://www.prisonexp.org/>.

MIM tends to believe that might be true in any class society — that it manages to imprint everyone with the same basic sickness.

2. “Serbia: Milosevic’s widow alleges tribunal tortured her late husband,” Adnkronos International, 13 March 2006, <http://www.adnki.com/index_2Level_English.php?cat=Politics&Ioid=8.0.274981794&par=0>.

3. For the Republican Party Policy Committee in the U.S. Senate defending the Bush administration on this point, see: “Protecting U.S. Troops from the Reach of the U.N.’s International Criminal Court,” 17 November 2004, <http://rpc.senate.gov/_files/ACF4ECD.pdf>.

National oppression alive and well in Amerika

March 20, 2006

National oppression arises when one nation has power over another nation. One form this takes is systematically depriving the oppressed nation of opportunities that are available to the dominant nation. Under imperialism, national oppression is obvious when looking at the way imperialist countries like Amerika treat their neo-colonies. For instance, Amerika enjoys significant military and economic benefits from its relationship with countries in Latin America, but the people in those countries live under militaristic regimes with few economic opportunities, with most people facing poverty and disease. Within U.S. borders, national oppression is also a reality for the Black, Indigenous and Latino nations. Although North Americans in general are privileged compared with the rest of the world's people, these groups within the United States do not enjoy the same economic and educational opportunities that are available to the dominant Euro-American nation.

Citing several new books and studies about the plight of Black men in Amerika, the New York Times recently summarized some key research findings that demonstrate that national oppression is alive and well in the United States, and that conditions for the Black nation have worsened in recent years.

No jobs for Black men

"The share of young black men without jobs has climbed relentlessly, with only a slight pause during the economic peak of the late 1990's. In 2000, 65 percent of black male high school dropouts in their 20's were jobless — that is, unable to find work, not seeking it or incarcerated. By 2004, the share had grown to 72 percent, compared with 34 percent of white and 19 percent of Hispanic dropouts. Even when high school graduates were included, half of black men in their 20's were jobless in 2004, up from 46 percent in 2000."

Economics are at the core of the quality of life for any people. In this case, the economic situation for Blacks is worsening. Many apologists for the labor aristocracy, defending imperialist privilege, like to combine statistics about the economic conditions for Blacks and whites to make it look like everyone in Amerika is doing worse. The reality is that conditions have stayed the same or got better for whites, while they have got worse for Blacks.

MIM pointed out in January 2000:

"If there is any group in the US (besides First Nations and undocumented immigrants) that is taking it on the chin in the last 20 years, it is Black men. All of the top-five occupational groups for young Black men have had falling earnings in the last 20 years, with the most common occupations having the largest losses. In 1978, the top two occupation groups for young Black men were high-

skilled blue-collar jobs — such as machine operators, inspectors, precision production, and the like. In 1998 the biggest category is the low-level blue-collar jobs paying \$12,351 per year. While white men in the professions have had a 15.2% increase in earnings, and white wimmin professionals have had their earnings go up 24%, Black men in these occupations have just treaded water. With or without college degrees, young Black men are earning about 7% less than they were in 1978. Underlying all this — and absent from this government data on the 'labor force' — is the prison boom, which is the cite of exploitation of labor on a large scale, especially for Black and Latino men. The real average earnings of Black men are lower than those reported here because of prisons."(2)

Prisons instead of education for Black men

"Incarceration rates climbed in the 1990's and reached historic highs in the past few years. In 1995, 16 percent of black men in their 20's who did not attend college were in jail or prison; by 2004, 21 percent were incarcerated. By their mid-30's, 6 in 10 black men who had dropped out of school had spent time in prison."

MIM has been talking about the rising incarceration rate for years. Locking up Black men is effectively removing more economic opportunities from Black families. At the same time, the length of prison sentences is increasing, taking away lives from Black men who have done nothing more than petty drug or property crimes.

"In the inner cities, more than half of all black men do not finish high school. By 2004, 50 percent of black men in their 20's who lacked a college education were jobless, as were 72 percent of high school dropouts. These are more than double the rates for white and Hispanic men."

"Among black dropouts in their late 20's, more are in prison on a given day — 34 percent — than are working — 30 percent — according to an analysis of 2000 census data. Dropout rates for Hispanic youths are as bad or worse but are not associated with nearly as much unemployment or crime, the data show."

There is a direct relationship between education and economic success under capitalism. Black men are concentrated in inner-city areas where schools lack basic necessities and offer inadequate educational opportunities. This lack of education is also perpetuated by poverty; in families with relatively little money, there is pressure on youth to get a job, or take care of siblings, or attend to other responsibilities that take away from schooling. Black youth can look around and see their chances of success are slim, making them less motivated to even try to finish high school.

Gender oppression connected to national oppression

The New York Times article speculated

about the reasons for what they found. Although they missed the underlying cause — imperialism — the article did offer an interesting theory about the effects of child support on Black men: "The second special factor [resulting in less Black employment] is related to an otherwise successful policy: the stricter enforcement of child support. Improved collection of money from absent fathers has been a pillar of welfare overhaul. But the system can leave young men feeling overwhelmed with debt and deter them from seeking legal work, since a large share of any earnings could be seized." "About half of all black men in their late 20's and early 30's who did not go to college are noncustodial fathers."

This is a case of intersection between national and gender oppression where gender oppression indirectly affects Black men. In general, the movement for child support is progressive because historically men have earned more money while wimmin stayed home with the children, leaving wimmin with children and without resources in the case of divorce. But these child support laws were written with the typical white Amerikan family in mind, where the husband has a solid job and can afford to support his family while maintaining a comfortable Amerikan parasitic standard of living, but he has left that family (presumably for something more fun). In light of the statistics on Black male unemployment, enforcing child support leads to destitution, and can actually be a discouragement for low-

income men to even get a job. This means both the wimmin and men suffer.

Black nation: history of oppression continues

The story in these latest statistics repeats a long history of oppression of the Black nation. Many in Amerika try to pass off national oppression as simply racism. But racism, a belief in the inferiority of a race and power relations connected to that, is only a part of the ideology and relationships of national oppression. There is more to the problems confronting the Black nation than racism: Amerikan imperialism has systematically oppressed Blacks, from the days of slavery up to today. The form of oppression has changed: today, Black people enjoy the same rights as whites on paper, but this paper equality has not turned into reality. And not only do Blacks have fewer imperialist-country privileges, this exclusion is connected to a lack of political, cultural, social and economic self-determination for the Black nation, preventing it from having an existence independent of imperialism. Only through national-liberation struggles can imperialism be brought to an end.

Notes

1. "Plight Deepens for Black Men, Studies Warn," New York Times, 20 March 2006.

2. "The changing economy and class structure: No sign that the white working class is hurting as labor aristocracy claims," MIM Notes 201, 1 Jan 2000, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/>.

Fog of war surrounding Nepal gets denser

Reports from Nepal indicate that the monarchy may be finished off in April following the absolute monarch's weak showing in his own fake elections excluding the top parties of Nepal. U.S. Ambassador Moriarty is on the scene expressing the usual U.S. fear of communists, including an organization that made the U.S. terrorist list. Someone tell Mr. Moriarty that communism has been popular in Nepal a long time with majority support. Nepal ain't Alabama.

MIM gives it to people straight. We are wildly unpopular here in the United States, but the majority of people of Nepal have shown year after year that they would like to follow the road of Mao. Democracy demands that we respect that desire. The more Moriarty opens his mouth, the more MIM is going to expose what he is saying. He is calling "terrorist" the Maoists who have the support of the majority of people in Nepal. Even George Washington did not have that level of support when fighting England.

We find it interesting that Ambassador Moriarty's words do not appear on "Voice of America"'s website. Apparently the meaty statement that we are supposed

to read by Donald Camp is available on the U.S. Embassy's website.

Rumors of dirty deals are flying in all directions involving all possible political actors in Nepal. One rumor holds that the king himself encouraged the Maoist activity to restrain the power of the Congress Party in politics. Another rumor within a rumor says that Maoists encouraged the king to seize power in the first place. Now the fighting is over who really wants to take down the king and how to handle the damn Yankees.

There is a rumor that India has dropped its formula whereby it supports having a king in Nepal. If true, it would tend to point to the possibility of only a remaining double-game played by the United States.

Some of the same dirty hands associated with the collapse of the Maoist struggle in Peru are also evident in Nepal. When the RCP=USA finished with its wrecking role in Peru, it ran off to emphasize Nepal. At the moment, it appears to be running off to help Bush's campaign against Iran. We've seen it all before that where the RCP=USA goes, Trotskyism and peace accords follow.

Go to 12...

Standing up brings retaliation in Oregon

Unfortunately, with this letter comes torment and serious hostile repression which started on the 26th [Jan 2006]. In the morning I was escorted by 8 correctional officers and STG captains. I was escorted out of IMU and then DOUBLE belly-chained around my waist with 4 handcuffs (I immediately verbally resisted). 4 handcuffs & double belly chains is unheard of!! I was slammed in to the IMU wall, then double shackled from one ankle to the other (as tight as they could get them). I was then paraded through the general population area of the prison.

I was then thrown into a chain link cage and a video camera was rolled in front of the cage, along with a TV on wheels. Shortly thereafter I was told to state my name. I could see the judge on the screen and I'm assuming he saw me because he commented on my facial tattoos. When given the opportunity to speak, I said, 'As you view me from within this chain link fenced cage and see me dressed in these prison garbs I'm sure instead of the tattoo that read "Fuck Cops" across my face, what you're really telling me is you see "Guilty."' At that point I showed my shackles and chains to the Judge and said, "Your honor, do you see all these shackles and chains?" He kinda leaned forward in his chair and said yes. I told him this is the world right now. As I stand before you in chains, so do all my oppressed peoples that you and your corrupt system is destroying. He was hot. His face got all red and he said, "This hearing is finished, I'll see you Mr. Brown in court on March 2nd." Then the TV went black.

Well, the Correctional Officers took that as disrespect and when I got back into IMU I was stripped down butt naked and left in an "intake" cell for 8 hours. And after they and the next shift got tired of my kicking and yelling I was in thrown in this current cell. I have no running water, and THEY flush my toilet twice a day. I am forced to use the restroom when they say or I will be stuck with urine and feces in the cell for hours until flush time!

- an Oregon prisoner, January 2006

OR guards lie, steal

At TRCI they threw away (or "lost") my mail I got before I went to the hole. They also "lost" some of the mail I got while in Disciplinary Segregation Unit that I had them put into my property. I've kyted everyone possible regarding this issue. They either pass the buck or say I got all my property. I'm missing over 150 letters, over 30 post cards and over 20 cards. They were all in 1 bag with my info on it. They refuse to look for it even.

I had some important mail in it. It had my first letter from my father. Another was an apology letter from the guy that pressed charges against me. He admitted doing what he did and I hit him for. It would have helped to have this letter to show the judge. I'm filing a Tort claim. They shouldn't be able to get away with this. I bet I'm not the only one this has happened to. But it NEEDS to stop.

Another thing that happened at Two Rivers Umatilla Prison was something that blew my mind. My father called TRCI inquiring about me. He asked the guard on the phone what my charges were. The guard told my father I was down on a 'rape' beef. I'm down for Burg I and have never been in for a sexual crime in my life. This is slandering my name and very unprofessional of this person.

- an Oregon Prisoner, February 2006

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

Cal. prison conditions cruel and oppressive

Conditions at High Desert State Prison (HDSP) are cruel, racist and oppressive. Struggle is not only necessary but incumbent in regards to HDSP administration and their blatant abuse.

Rights afforded by the CDC are denied with prejudice. For instance, the right to be located near immediate family who are unable to travel long distances due to disability or illness. Although confirmed and verified by a physician, HDSP denies inmates who qualify for these transfers.

Furthermore, HDSP has recently installed timers on the toilets all owing only 2 flushes per hour. This ploy is cruel, unusual and unsanitary. In response to this action, inmates participated in a mass demonstration (non-violent) against HDSP administration. However, reprisal was immediately taken by HDSP in the form of lockdown and searches to smash any further resistance.

Annually since arriving at HDSP on 2-12-03, Black inmates were subjected to extended lockdowns for allegedly plotting to assault corrections officers. However, assaults never occurred, isolated or orchestrated.

HDSP segregation unit (Z unit) where I am currently housed, keeps inmates from transferring by fabricating rules violation reports (115s). Intentions are to leave inmates in Z unit for the duration of their security housing unit term (SHU term). HDSP will then release the inmate from Z unit and place them in their "new" program, behavioral management unit (BMU). Once inmates are housed in BMU, they are on no work, no privilege status. HDSP will then force inmates to send all of their personal property home. Moreover, inmates will then have to reorder all appliances at CDC and pay imposed restitution by CDC of 44%.

HDSP has not censored MIM as of yet, however the Source magazine is censored because of their in-depth politics. Brothers in the struggle, the only way to change this corrupt system of avaricious, racist upper level administration is to stop laying down and accepting this treatment. We need more examples of mass demonstration and to fight for the rights we possess.

- a California prisoner, March 2006

Payback for lawsuits

I am repeatedly being tortured with restraints, threatened, harassed and assaulted as a form of reprisal by High Desert State Prison personnel for filing grievances and lawsuits against adverse prison conditions.

In October 2005, Sgt A. Amero was served a copy of a civil complaint by the Lassen County Sheriff Department that I filed. A few days thereafter, he threatened to retaliate against me in front of the Facility B law librarian and about ten fellow prisoners. Also, he told other officers to watch my every move for "counter suing."

On November 4, 2005, while exiting the infirmary from a physical checkup, I entered the mess hall to leave. Upon arriving at the

food port window, I heard staff personnel yell "get down," which prompted me to sit on the floor. Five minutes after the two man fight on the yard was suppressed, I asked one of the tower officers, A. Flemming, if I could retrieve my food tray in order to eat my food at a table. In response, the said officer told me to eat on the floor. I countered by telling him that I wasn't a dog to eat food on the floor, and he responded that I was a dog, so I called him a dog in return.

After about another five minutes elapsed, I asked officer Flemming could I get up from sitting on the floor to eat at the table, which prompted him to threaten to shoot me in front of thirty fellow prisoners, while waving the gun in his hands, telling me to get up in order to see what will happen. Since I did not get up the said officer radioed Sgt Amero with lies saying I was causing a disturbance among Blacks inside the mess hall.

Moments later, Sgt. Amero, Officer D. Thomas and Officer R. Ross entered the mess hall. As they approached, officer Ross told me to stand up and face the wall in which I complied. When he put handcuffs on my left wrist to bring my arm behind my back, I told him that I had a medically prescribed waistchain chrono, but before he was able to respond, Sgt. Amero stated that he didn't give a fuck, as he twisted my right arm behind my back with great force, then slammed me with his body against the wall. After being cuffed behind my back, I was escorted from the mess hall by Officer Thomas and Officer Ross to an awaiting cage in the program office. In the presence of four other COs they kept me cuffed in the above fashion for well over an hour inside the cage. When an medical training assistant (MTA) arrived, he ordered the Officers to lift me off the cage floor and to remove the handcuffs for medical evaluation, as a criteria before being placed in administrative segregation.

After taking my clothes off for body inspection, the officers kept my coat, shirt, pants, shoes and socks, while opening the outer door to the program office for me to freeze in my underwear for over five hours. I was then forced to walk a mile cuffed behind my back from B-Facility to administrative segregation per orders of Capt. Gower, Lt. Plainer and Sgt Amero, who fabricated a lock up order and misbehavior reports with the help of Officer Fleming saying that I was inciting Blacks in the mess hall.

On November 23, 2005, I was released from ad/seg status by the Chief Deputy Warden pending the outcome of the above mentioned reports in which he sent me back to general population on B-Facility. Immediately thereafter, Sgt. Amero and Officer Hongland began to harass me by making me take off my coat and shirt in the freezing weather under the pretense of conducting a search, while I was in route to the law library and later on exiting.

I informed the Chief Deputy Warden of the ongoing harassment, but he failed to respond to my correspondences. The fabricated charges written against me by Officer Fleming were dismissed with a warning that I would be found guilty of the charges orchestrated by Sgt. Amero at a later date, which prompted

me to compose a list of staff personnel and fellow prisoner witnesses for the hearing. A copy was mailed to Chief Deputy Warden McDonald, Capt Gower and Lt. Chapman as a form of protection to validate my claim of those present at the time of the aforementioned incidents.

On December 16, 2005, I was summoned me to the office in housing unit B-2 for a mocked disciplinary hearing on the report written by Sgt. Amero. Upon entry in the office I handed Lt. Rath a copy of a list of witnesses to testify on my behalf, but instead of looking at it he balled it up and threw it on the floor, saying that he wished it was the old days when it was easier to kill a prisoner and get away with it. After repeatedly protesting against his presence he said that I forfeited the hearing due to filing a lawsuit against his friend Counselor C. Beckman. He further stated that he was the only wise ass in the institution as he falsely charged me with threatening him and Sgt. Amero. Since my left arm was in a sling and my right arm under a crutch, Sgt. Amero placed waistchains on me for escort across the yard for placement in the program office cage in route to

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

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

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

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

administrative segregation.

While in the rotunds of B-2 housing unit waiting to exit, both Lt. Roth and Sgt. Amero started planning their story of how they were going to frame me on charges of threats. In response, I told them how I would inform the Director of Corrections of their misconduct. In response Lt. Roth pushed me hard into the wall, telling me to watch my New York ass, as Sgt. Amero stood on top of my left foot, which was inflicted with gout from being on a hunger strike. When the outer door to the rotunda opened they escorted me half way across the yard to be relieved by Officer Houglan and Officer Alexander. Upon touching my left hand, officer Houglan bent it inward causing excruciating pain, calling me sexual names and telling the small body of fellow prisoners on the yard that I was a troublemaker.

Immediately after being placed in the program office cage, I was released by Capt Gower and Lt. Plainer who both saw the alleged threat charge as a hoax. I was sent back to my housing unit after the incident was covered up.

On December 17, 2005, Lt. J. Cummings and Sgt. Patton placed me in ad/seg for going on a hunger strike while claiming general conspiracy among forty staff personnel. On December 21, 2005, I was admitted to the Correctional Treatment Center (CTC), then discharged later that afternoon to be forced to limp 1/2 mile from CTC to Ad/seg, while handcuffed behind my back in a blizzard of freezing rain and snow, wearing only underwear and sneakers.

The aforementioned harassments, torture, threats and assaults are a constant nightmare of organized abuse with the awareness and consent of the Direction of Corrections, Inspector General, Attorney General, Lassen County District Attorney and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

My appeal is for general support to expose genocidal conditions here at High Desert State Prison, which is surrounded by silence on many levels of abuse that is commonly known as underground rules.

-A California prisoner, January 2006

Fighting double celling at Pelican Bay

Since 2002 I've refused to be double celled (housed with a cell partner). When I arrived at Pelican Bay I told prison officials at classification committee that I would not double cell. This was May 2005, circumventing all disciplinary procedures, committee placed me illegally in what they call C over C (c/c).

In June 2005 I was issued all my personal property with the exception of my TV set, their reason: I was not allowed appliances while on c/c. In July all my property was confiscated and I was housed in the

orientation unit as a punitive measure for refusing to double cell. Orientation unit is for the sole purpose of isolating new arrivals until they are screened and classified. For that reason, orientation unit prisoners are not allowed personal property, access to exercise yard, canteen, law library, visits, work, vocation, religious program, general library books, packages, telephone, hair clippers, or laundry exchange. In short, you get nothing. The only out of cell time is three times a week, for a 10 minute shower.

Ad-seg (administrative segregation) and SHU (security housing unit) prisoners get much more than prisoners housed in orientation. If a prisoner is not a new arrival awaiting screening and to be seen by classification committee, he should not be housed in orientation unit. Prison officials house prisoners in orientation for punitive, retaliatory reasons, which are illegal. It allows them to subject a prisoner to cruel and unusual punishment, while circumventing all the procedural safeguards and due process a prisoner is entitled to when housed in a more restrictive unit such as ad-seg or SHU.

Prison officials claimed that my placement in the orientation unit was temporary until bed space became available in General Population, where they had removed me from to begin with. In August 2005 I was housed in GP for 8 days when I was returned to orientation unit again. Then I was moved back to GP a few weeks later.

In September a Sergeant threatened me with confiscation of my property if I didn't withdraw an administrative appeal I had filed. I filed a retaliation/harassment appeal on him. And the next day he retaliated by ordering me to be moved to another facility and housed with a prisoner of a different race. I refused so I was sent to SHU to sleep overnight in a holding cell. Then I was taken to the same facility where they again tried to house me with another prisoner of a different race. Again I refused so they falsified a lockup order and had me placed in ad-seg. Later I was found guilty of two rule violation reports for refusing to double cell.

From 2002 - 2004 I was on single man cell status due to my history of out of cell and in cell violence. Prison officials know that to house me with another prisoner will result in violence, yet they continuously try to. In California, prisoners in maximum security prisons do not cell with prisoners of a different race. That only happens in extreme cases and both prisoners have to agree. The reason is racially motivated gangs and prison officials who set up situations to create racial riots that result in more race hatred and separation, which benefits the prison officials (the oppressors).

If only prisoners would wake up and begin refusing to be caged with another man, refusing to create/give the oppressor the

space to cage another man while they get profits for keeping that extra body in prison. The system is my enemy, it will always try to kill me, just like it has been slaughtering my race since 1492. I will never help my enemy.

- a California prisoner, November 2005

COs 'find' razors in cells at Pelican Bay

Thanks for opening up my eyes on what's taking place on the other side of these walls and around the world. I received two sets of newsletters. A few weeks after receiving them I was subject to a cell search by a special corruption officer (CO) who works as a 'Security Squad.' He alleged that he found a razor blade in my locker. Razor blades are a controlled item here - Pelican Bay State Prison (maximum security prison). If found in a cell, the inmate is subject to a disciplinary action, charged with 'possession of a deadly weapon' with administration segregation unit (ASU) issued time and/or a Security Housing Unit (SHU) issued time, from 6 to 15 months.

Here in ASU the mail takes a whole month to receive after your family/friend mails it off, the walls sweat (leak water), we have cold water showers, cell vents are constantly blowing cold air, and "table" and bunks are concrete in 7 x 7 cells.

When I first arrived in ASU it took me 10 days (confined 24 hours, 7 days a week in cell) to be cleared for yard (total of 10 dog cages) to get direct sunlight and fresh air and took 17 days to receive my legal paperwork with personal property (4 soaps, 2 deodorant, 2 toothpaste, 1 shampoo).

I went to my initial disciplinary hearing in December and was found guilty of the charge 'Possession of a deadly weapon.' At my next hearing I will be informed how much SHU time I will get.

In this maximum security prison, razors are a controlled item, COs pass them out and pick them up. Third watch (shift from 2pm to 10pm) has been "losing" razors continuously for weeks on, but they failed to report this matter so proper actions could be taken. COs kept program running and kept passing out razors and kept "losing" razors. This is leeway to set up inmates. For a prisoner to have possession of a razor without COs awareness is hard to find true, since razors are known to be a safety concern and are controlled by COs at all times. The COs take no responsibility for "losing" the razors and failing to report the incident, thus violating policies. This case strongly shows a corruption (set up and planted evidence) and COs negligence.

- a California prisoner, December 2005

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.

Young spoken word artist in New York attacked for telling the truth about white nationalism

March 16, 2006

A popular young spoken word artist from Mount Vernon, New York, recently read a poem at a Black History Month event in a Westchester town. Contention over the poem has drawn the attention of politicians, leaders, and the media. About two weeks ago, the young artist told middle and high school students that white nationalism put the Black people in bondage, and exploited, repressed, indoctrinated and misled them. She also said white nationalism stole Black land, denied Black people their own history, and brought alcohol to Black communities. "Nothing has changed take a look at our streets." Overall, the poem was a good, progressive criticism of white nationalism and correctly pointed to Euro-American nationalism as the main reactionary tendency confronting the Black nation.

Just for that, Autum Ashante was "unofficially" banned from performing anywhere in the school district, according to the teacher who invited her to perform.(1) The school district superintendent later said that particular poem was just inappropriate and shouldn't have been read. In any case, school officials sent a recorded apology to hundreds of parents by phone, apparently because Ashante led the Black Child's Pledge. The teacher who invited Ashante conceded that the poem "might have been a little too aggressive for what the middle-school kids are ready to handle."(1) Students even in some rare U.S. public schools learn about Malcolm X, Huey Newton, and Assata Shakur, though, and middle school students are regularly

subject to aggressive reactionary propaganda in the mainstream media.

In a frenzy, reactionaries on the Internet accused Ashante of being racist, hateful, brainwashed and even unoriginal, asserting without evidence that someone else had written the poem. Among critics, ad hominem attacks were more common than rational discussion of Ashante's ideas. There is nothing racist in Ashante's poem. There isn't even a criticism of whiteness, just white nationalism. Also, Ashante singled out only a handful of Europeans, though the vast majority of Euro-Americans are oppressors and exploiters.

Some of Ashante's disingenuous detractors have suggested that just because there is racial integration in the school district, there is no need to criticize white nationalism.

Reactionary writer, blogger and honorary white man Michelle Malkin called Ashante "the natural offspring of militant multiculturalism and government-sanctioned identity politics." The warmonger who has defended racial profiling made sure to point out that Ashante was fluent in Swahili and Arabic.

At the late-February event, Ashante asked oppressed-nation students to recite the Black Child's Pledge, popularized by the Black Panthers, for unity and against violence among oppressed people. Ashante's detractors have totally taken this out of context, accusing the seven-year-old poet of unnecessarily segregating older Black and white youth while on some kind of power trip. Actually, Ashante asked different people of color

to stand, according to the New York Post.(2) Reportedly, fights had recently taken place at the high school, making the Pledge particularly appropriate.

White supremacist Amerika believes Black youth are incapable of speaking intelligently, and unable to grasp radical political ideas. The Euro-American nation also prevents effective youth leaders from teaching and counseling each other about intra-oppressed violence on their own terms. Euro-American adults have a monopoly on so-called freedom speech, especially in schools, but even that is not enough for them. They try to intimidate youth who speak the truth, resist indoctrination, and dare to use whatever few platforms they're given to serve the oppressed.

The Euro-American nation is built on slavery, exploitation, the theft and alienation of land, and the oppression of First Nations peoples, Asians, Blacks, Latin Americans, and many other oppressed nationalities. The oppression is ongoing. The imperialist-patriarchal system and state want to silence youth who righteously speak out against oppression, but this decadent system won't last forever. The patriarchy belittles and dismisses radical youth, but their words and actions stand on their own.

Notes:

1. "African-American Poet Prodigy Banned in Peekskill," Mixed Signals, 16 March 2006, <<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5284018>> (16 March 2006).

David Andreatta, "Better or verse,"



New York Post Online Edition, 13 March 2006, <<http://www.nypost.com/news/regionalnews/60921.htm>> (16 March 2006).

2. David Andreatta, "Child poet: I was write on," New York Post Online Edition, 15 March 2006, <<http://www.nypost.com/news/regionalnews/65294.htm>> (16 March 2006).

Fog of war surrounding Nepal gets denser

From 9...

There's a particular style behind the infiltration.

Now there is even a rumor that the leadership of the Maoist party and two leaders expelled recently both support the electoral road to power to the point of disarming their own people. It's important to understand that even if that is not true, the enemy is going to say it is true to create an aura of inevitability.

It appears possible that at least portions of the Indian bourgeoisie believe it is impossible to bet on a losing horse, the king. Hence there may be no alternative but infiltrating and "mainstreaming" the Maoists. MIM speculates the u.s. imperialists may be thinking the same thing though they cannot admit it publicly, because of u.s. public opinion on communists.

The rumors feel like a bad deja vu, but there are positive signs of struggle coming from Nepal. In fact, the fog is a profound compliment to the people of Nepal, that all these swirling rumors are necessary as a last ditch effort to save a shaky

regime.

The question will be if the communists and masses trying to go down the road of Mao can get through the fog and obtain what they want. MIM itself is walking through fog on this question. We must not let all the rumors and Great Power tricks break our wills.

In the united States, MIM comrades work at arm's length with the public and each other. That is partly on account of the fog thrown up by the enemy—all the tricks and double-games. Through it all, we have to keep working for revolution. Some day revolutionary justice inside u.s. borders will demand an open and accountable structure, just as revolutionary government will be in Nepal, maybe soon.

The United States claims it wants to separate the seven exploiter parties from alliance with the Maoist People's War. For this reason we may soon see the seven exploiter parties betray their agreement with the People's War and try to strike a new deal with the king. The question will be if the masses will put up

with that, especially given the exploiter parties' own previous words opposing autocracy.

"Terrorism" and "communism" are the buzzwords for U.S. public opinion. This much is sure, but beyond that we cannot be sure of the strategic goals of u.s. imperialism inside Nepal. Strictly from gauging u.s. public opinion and the benefits of keeping that stoked up for war and anti-terrorism so-called security, u.s. rulers may be willing to keep Nepal in civil war indefinitely. The u.s. rulers feel compelled to oppose so-called communist terrorism, but they find themselves without a democratic figleaf to use. The same problem exists with Hamas in Palestine, another organization labelled "terrorist." Perhaps the united States is still backing the king, because it would not be able to stand another Hamas-style upset. On the other hand, u.s. imperialists would also infiltrate communism in Nepal to "set an example" for China. The New York Times has reported extensively on Israeli aid to Hamas in the past. Hence, we do not believe the people of Nepal

should ever think that by disposing of the king, they risk the wrath of U.S. imperialism. That risk is ongoing. U.S. imperialism goes ahead with infiltration schemes regardless of the political situation. That does not mean Nepal cannot end its civil war by getting rid of the monarchy and getting on the socialist road.

U.S. power is distorting Nepal's politics in all directions. Rumors arise about everybody in all directions, because secret agendas become more secret because of U.S. power. We rather agree with one idea in Nepal that through it all the people of Nepal must study politics and ideology independently. If all the Great Power maneuvering in Nepal results in an increased study of politics by the exploited, a bad thing can become a good thing. If the People's War continues, and the people hold on to their weapons and maintain their own security, there is every reason to hope for a positive outcome of Nepal's revolution.

Note: http://nepal.usembassy.gov/sp_03-16-2006.html