

# MIM Notes



May 2006, N° 335

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

## Migrant Unity a Nightmare for Amerikans

### *GREATEST U.S. MAY DAY EVER*

International Workers Day 2006 was the greatest May Day in U.S. history. Over a million skipped work and millions demonstrated across the country—including in many places not known for any political or social activism.

“Police estimated 400,000 people marched through Chicago’s business district and tens of thousands more rallied in New York and Los Angeles, where police stopped giving estimates at 60,000 as the crowd kept growing.

“An estimated 75,000 rallied in Denver, more than 15,000 in Houston and 30,000 more across Florida. Smaller rallies in cities from Pennsylvania and Connecticut to Arizona and South Dakota attracted hundreds not thousands.”(1)

The favorite chants of the day were “si se puede!” and “un pueblo unido jamas sera vencido!” (“Yes we can” and “the people united will never be defeated.”)

The negative lesson of the day was that the Euro-American so-called workers were less than 5% of the participants if New York City is any indication. MIM gave out 1900 copies of MIM Notes to demonstrators in Union and Foley squares in Manhattan.

One comrade in MIM circles put it this way: “It was hurtful really. If you were a white liberal, what would you say? What would be your excuse?”

New York City was the unavoidable proof of white non-participation. Just two days before, thousands of flyers went out to a mostly white demonstration in New York City to oppose the Iraq war. Every single group calling itself socialist or communist was there April 29th talking

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### **No to imperialism** *No to so-called comprehensive immigration reform and dividing the proletariat using U.S. borders*

**April 22, 2006**

MIM and its circles have been among the few groups anywhere to have spoken of an “anti-migrant movement,” “anti-migrant repression,” “anti-migrant vigilantes,” and so on. The key word is “migrant.”

Looking back at statements MIM has made over the past several months, it seems that perhaps the point has not been driven home hard enough. Yes, MIM has been critical of white nationalists who have tried to distance themselves from

the Minutemen as way of putting forward their own reactionary proposals. The idea of the Minutemen, one of the ugliest expressions of the anti-migrant

movement, having mainstream support took people by surprise. It’s been several months since then and the massive popularity of the anti-migrant movement among the U.S. population, and the dominator Euro-American nation in particular, still draws little comment. What we’re hearing today, with regard to migrants’ rights demonstrations, is just “where are the whites.” But that’s another story.

MIM has come down hard on white nationalism and its various manifestations in the struggle against anti-migrant repression. But there is a reactionary trend within white nationalism that deserves further attention. Certain elements are calling for “full legalization for all immigrants” as if that were a maximum demand, some kind of radical proposal. A variation on the slogan is “full citizenship rights.” “Immediate.” “Unconditional.” The rhetoric aspires to be powerful,

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**April 23**

Thousands of people rallied in San Francisco’s Dolores Park and marched through the streets to the Federal Building today to protest anti-immigration actions by the Amerikan government. This rally was the continuation of weeks of actions uniting migrant communities of all nationalities across the united \$nakes.

Among the speakers, a womyn from the Chinese Progressive Association called out U.S. imperialism for forcing people to come to Amerika by its economic policies enforced on Third World countries. This message was repeated by other speakers including a womyn from the San Francisco Day Labor Program: “We are forced by the U.S. imperialist system to leave our countries to come here [to find work].”

A representative of the Service Workers’ Union spoke about the need for migrant labor in this sector: “without immigrant workers they would collapse.” It is true that the less desirable jobs in Amerika are taken up by migrants from Third World countries. This speaker expressed the sentiment of many of these workers: “we deserve the right to be part of the Amerikan dream.” This is the same sentiment that leads to many people at these rallies waving Amerikan flags. But the Amerikan Dream is built on slavery, exploitation, theft of land, and international terrorism by the Amerikan government. The Amerikan Dream can only exist for the few at the expense of the many. If some oppressed nations gain access to the wealth and privilege enjoyed by white Amerikans, they will join the ranks of exploiters, living off the misery of the majority of the world’s people.

Signs at the rally also reflected an unrealistic belief in this country. One read “This is a democracy” and another, “This is a free country.” Other signs demanded the government respect people’s humyn rights. While it’s good to remind people of what Amerika claims to uphold and demand it live up to principles like the international declaration of humyn rights, we should also see the Amerikan government for what it is: a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.

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## Letters to MIM

# Migrant rallies demonstrate correctness of MIM line on labor aristocracy

Dear MIM,

After seeing the massive turn out of the May 1st immigrant march/boycott I want to highlight a few things that were not mentioned in the mass media. For social progressives there are some aspects of and about the marches/boycott that need to be advanced. But for now we need only focus on what turned out to be mass participation, the largest social demonstration of our generation, and from a relatively silent element of society.

First, after such a showing I think it pretty much cleared up who are proletariat in the U.S. MIM has the correct line on this, unlike pseudo-socialist who believe the white working class are proletariat or have revolutionary potential. Not only are immigrants oppressed and exploited, if backwards ass congress has their way, these oppressed and exploited people will be criminalized.

People who have to migrate to this country usually do so because of a dominant geo-economic system that subverts and subjugates their prospective national economies. This fact was practically absent in both English and Spanish media. One interviewee started to go into how Mexico's unemployment rate has actually risen since the enactment of NAFTA, and was cut off by a meaningless reactionary question by the interviewer. As progressives well know, in-depth analysis is practically nonexistent in the media.

However, what I was surprised to see is the Spanish media, owned by U.S. conglomerates like Disney, Viacom, etc, was able to advocate for a mass march/boycott for over a month. This shows that

there is a little space to organize through the "mass media." Progressives should take notice of this.

Now what I wasn't surprised to see was all the coconut mother fuckers they paraded on TV to oppose the marchers and their aims. This was equivalent to the "million man march," at that time you saw all these Uncle Toms complaining about the march organizers. Now, just as then coconuts (Uncle Toms) are unable to see in a class divided society, unity is imperative. There is a distinction between not supporting something and actively opposing it.

Let's go into class division a little. We know that capitalism divides people by classes and is inherently cut throat . dog eat dog . and individualistic (and I say individualistic with disgust!). In capitalism there has always existed an under class. In fact, capitalism could not exist without an under class whose existence is dependent on exploiting and oppressing the under class through finance capital. The oppression that's being proposed by backwards ass congress (bill HR4437) is not new, it's just a contemporary reflection of what is essentially capitalism.

At the same time we can acknowledge that before there was capitalism there was a comprador class, a small segment of every ethnicity who willingly sells out their people for material gains. But this should not shake our resolve. We only need to point these people out and avoid them (for now).

Notes: Despierta America, Ch Univision, 9am, May 1, 2006.

- a prisoner in California, May 2006

## Oppressed sisters, don't join the military!

Dear MIM,

With the war in Iraq and in other Third World countries raging, more and more of our poor and oppressed brothers and sisters are being falsely lured into joining the military. The group that seems to be the most vulnerable, at least from my standpoint, is women. Which of course bothers me greatly. Especially given this country's military past regarding women.

According to a book I recently read, "Abuse your Illusions": "The pentagon compiled data on reported rapes in each of the services over the preceding five year period (1992-96) at the specific request of congress. The data represents only sexual offenses that were officially reported to a military criminal investigative authority. Therefore, the numbers do not include sexual assaults that were informally reported through the chain of command or rapes that were never reported at all."

\* The army reported 440 sexual assaults, of which 33 resulted in convictions (8%)

\* The Air Force reported 164 sexual assaults with 19 convictions (12%).

\* The Navy/Marines reported 412 sexual assaults leading to 32 convictions.

In comparison, in 1992 (just after the national attention to the Tail Hook scandal:

\* Of 442 reported sexual assaults in the Navy and the Marines, 80% (341) of the alleged rapists never faced a court martial.

\* Of those 422 reported sexual assaults, only 45% ended in a conviction, over 95%

(403 service members) formally accused of a sexual assault were free to go on with their lives (or stay in the Navy or the Marines if they desired).

The most recent sexual assault scandal was at the air force academy in Colorado, according to the Associate press: "The Air Force Academy in Colorado is still struggling to recover from complaints that dozens of female cadets were assaulted and then punished when they reported it. And a recent survey by the Veterans Affairs department showed that six out of 10 women who served in the National Guard and Reserved say they were sexually harassed or assaulted."

These two studies clearly show a pattern of disregard for women and even their most basic human rights in the military. I don't know the exact number of women from oppressed nations here within the united states (enlisted). But since most of the recruiting is done in our communities, I would definitely be willing to bet that we make up the vast majority. So when I see one of us enlisted in the military trying to recruit us, it deeply saddens me.

By the way, isn't it so hypocritical of this country to send people out like Karen Hughes and Laura Bush to criticize other countries about women's rights?!

I plead with our oppressed sisters to please, if you are considering joining the military, to reconsider. The benefits that they claim to be giving to new recruits are either straight out lies, or unattainable. Just look at the scholarship program. Statistics clearly show that it is particularly difficult to get that phantom scholarship.

- a California prisoner, March 2006

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## MIM Notes

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

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

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## What is MIM?

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



# Migrant Laborers Progressive, Amerikkans Not

San Francisco  
May 1

In what appeared to be the biggest political rally in the city since the renewal of bombing of Iraq in March 2003, tens of thousands of oppressed nation people took to the streets to demand legalization for migrant workers. Comrades distributed hundreds of MIM Notes and fliers demanding the abolition of all illegitimate borders, particularly the one separating the United States from Mexico.

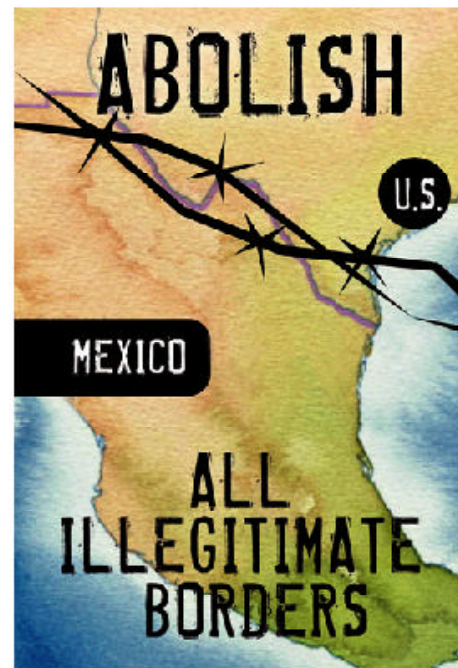
There were many differences between May Day 2006 and March 30, 2003 in San Francisco. Though the masses of May Day demonstrators clogging the streets blocked all traffic for hours, there was no concerted effort to shut down the financial district as happened in 2003. 2003 had greater stress on “direct action.” While the response to the bombing of Iraq was probably 80 to 90 percent white, May Day was closer to 90 to 95% oppressed nationals by our estimates.

The latter difference being the more decisive, we at MIM place more hopes in progressive change in the recent rise of resistance from the oppressed nations.

While there were more strong anti-imperialist sentiments being expressed at the Iraq rallies, they were accompanied with blatant amerikan chauvinism. The

main organizers of the direct actions to shut down the financial district in 2003 issued a statement for the one year anniversary actions in 2004 accusing Bechtel of “transferring wealth from the majority of the people in the US and public services to big corporations and the wealthy.” (1) The message was clear, less stolen wealth for Bechtel CEOs, more for the rest of amerikkka. Those people who chained themselves outside of Bechtel that day generally acknowledged that they had the privilege to risk arrest and felt that was their way to express resistance. The migrants that risk arrest, deportation and loss of livelihood for merely marching and demanding basic humyn rights clearly took direct action themselves.

The most advanced of the Iraq War demonstrators want to believe that only finance capital owes reparations, and mostly to white people inside Amerika. They offer crumbs to the migrant workers. In contrast, the May Day rally targetted white nation consciousness generally— Lou Dobbs, the Minutemen and the ordinary San Francisco pedestrian and driver—and held a more realistic view of the economic roots of problems, with trillions each year stemming from bloated white so-called



worker parasitism.

Here's where the scientific aspect of MIM's analysis comes in. The petty bourgeoisie which led the anti-Iraq war actions was merely fighting in its own self-interest, as the oppressed nationals on May Day 2006 were. The different outcomes stem from the very different class interests of the two groups.

While much of the leadership calling themselves anarchist, socialist, communist

or even green expressed excitement in response to the current pro-migrant movement, this was often based on empty identity politics. Their ideas of race and their integrationist goals prevent them from reaching the correct conclusions about how humynity can progress to a peaceful, equitable society. Instead they end up tailing the masses, being forced to take up the correct internationalist slogans after the reformist and religious leaders in the oppressed nations had been chanting them for months.

One man at today's rally held a sign that listed various products and where they came from such as “Coffee from Colombia” and “Cars from Japan” and then asked why not workers from Mexico. Twenty years ago amerikkans almost forced trade barriers against Japanese cars, but the international bourgeoisie struck a preferable deal to them where Japan voluntarily controlled its exports. (2) If the current pro-migrant movement began and ended with the demand for free movement of goods and labor across borders, then it would be more progressive than oppressor nation protectionism and anti-globalization movements.

MIM doesn't hate amerikkans the  
Go to 5...

## Migrant Unity a Nightmare for Amerikans

From 1...

**Amerika - free country?**

Many of the dozens of flags being carried by protestors were American stars and stripes, the rest were from Central and South American countries. There were also two dance troupes that performed music and dances from Mexico and Korea, dressed in traditional clothing. This is one signal that demonstrators at this rally are proud of their heritage and culture, and are not looking to “blend in” with the Euro-American culture.

In this city, known for its progressive activism, this demonstration was strikingly different from the many anti-war protests frequently held in this city. While anti-war protests are overwhelmingly white, this protest was overwhelmingly attended by Latinos with a significant representation of Asians. This difference may not seem surprising, considering the topic of the protest. But it is disturbing that so many white people are willing to stand up against the U.S. war in Iraq but will not stand against white nationalism here in Amerika. These are the same white people who oppose the war in Iraq because it means spending money there that they want spent at home; they don't see that this money is all stolen from the Third World peoples and does not belong to Amerikans.

One of the biggest Catholic churches in the city held a bilingual mass during the rally, after which the archbishop led the people into the streets to join the

march. This is further evidence of the divided interests of various nations in Amerika. Oppressed nations, particularly in California the Mexican people, have a life and death interest in this immigration battle. The white nation, on the other hand, benefits financially from militarized borders that keep the wealth in the country and the poverty out. And so it does not take a lot of political thinking for oppressed nations to see immediately the importance of fighting reactionary nationalism and anti-immigration. Many people will be politicized through involvement in these protests, as they see the reaction of the government and many in the country, and make connections to struggles in their own country.

At one point during the march, pigs surrounded a group of oppressed nation youth who mostly wore hoods and bandanas to cover their faces allegedly because they were carrying large sticks. About a dozen motorcycle cops quickly lined up on one side of the street as we turned a corner and another 25 or so pigs on foot swarmed in. While nothing much came of the stand off, which lasted less than a minute, the tactic was effective in isolating the youth as older Latinos in white t-shirts and Amerikan flags distanced themselves from the incident. Even greater intimidation tactics have been reported in the form of immigration sweeps by Homeland Security throughout California. The state continues to intimidate the general

population of the internal semi-colonies leading up to the May 1st general strike, while promoting splits in the movement. Speakers at this rally, however, assured that there was no split between the organizers opposing anti-migrant legislation and ensured massive participation on May 1st.

Such enthusiasm is well warranted. At this rally alone, numbers continued to grow throughout the day. After marching to the Federal Building thousands chanted NO! when asked if we were getting tired, followed by chants to deport la migra, the uS Congress, George Bu\$h and others. In the short term, signs seem to point to a growing struggle despite state tactics to defuse it. In the long term this is only a precursor to the inevitable struggles the oppressor nation in Amerika will be up against as the masses of the world demand equality and a right to livelihood.

A conscious minority of whites who attended this rally included many carrying signs proclaiming that “we are all immigrants.” At another rally supporting migrants' rights in San Francisco's gay district two days earlier, a speaker took up this theme saying that new groups of immigrants have always had a hard time in Amerika when they first start to arrive. This is partly true, but suggests that Latino migrants, who face the most significant impact of tightened immigration restrictions, are more recent arrivals to Amerika. White groups, such as the Irish, did face oppression when they first started

immigrating to this country. However, this was akin to the sort of hazing process alluded to by the above sentiments and these groups have since been fully integrated into the white nation receiving all the attendant privileges. But if the Irish and Czechs were hazed before becoming amerikans, the existing oppressed nations in amerika have generally not even been allowed on the pledge list. Mexican, other indigenous nations and even the Chinese predate white immigration to and conquering of the western united \$nakes. While Euro-amerikans killed off and pushed out indigenous people to seize the land, Chinese migrants were providing a majority of the region's wealth from production. The influx of European immigrants via the transcontinental railroad was just another wave of settlers robbing the wealth that had been built up by Mexican and Chinese people. A similar process was taking place in the east simultaneously, where Irish immigrants displaced large sectors of the New Afrikan proletariat and house servants.(1)

Today, in 2006, Mexican, Chinese, Filipino and many other Latino and Asian peoples stand together in opposition to the continuation of this white nationalism. This is the legacy of centuries of genocide and land grab coming back on the oppressor.

Notes: See J. Sakai. Settlers: The Mythology of the White Proletariat for an excellent account of this history

# GREATEST U.S. MAY DAY EVER

From 1...

about May 1st and the controversy over immigration and migration. We can say the grass tips did the politically correct thing in linking to the migrant movement, but the grassroots of the anti-war movement were not buying.

On April 29th, MIM spoke with one white who turned out to be typical. "Is there one [a demonstration]?" MIM told the persyn there were going to be demonstrations everywhere, even in New Hampshire. It's important to understand—the Euro- Amerikan did know. CNN and Netscape even announced the demonstrations in advance—a rarity. We found the flyers all over the place in New York City, but two days later, there was little overlap in the demonstrations; even though, the two demonstrations covered the exact same streets.

Across the united States we would not expect Blacks to be more than 15% anyway, but whites are about 60% in the under 40 age group and more in the over 40 crowd. In New York City, Blacks also did not show up, and that is a failure because Blacks are 25% of New York.

It appears that Asian ethnicities pulled their weight this May 1st thanks to the stout example of the Latino proletariat. 18% of Koreans inside U.S. borders are undocumented workers such as textile workers, restaurant workers and karate instructors. In total, the U.S. Government estimates that Asian ethnicities comprise 13% of undocumented workers inside u.s. borders as of 2005, despite being only 3.6% of the population total.(2)

The Korean bourgeoisie located in the textile centers of places like Los Angeles also hire Latino proletarians: "The Korean Apparel Manufacturers Association in Los Angeles sent a memo to its 1,000 members urging them to allow workers to take Monday off."(2) This is another example where actual employers are less reactionary than the Euro- Amerikan labor aristocracy exploiters when it comes to borders. In New York City, there ended up being one Asian "human chain" at lunch time to complement several Latino ones celebrating the undocumented workers.

At first glance, it appeared Blacks were 5% and whites another 5% tops at the general rally in New York City. When MIM investigated more deeply, even this turned out to be an overestimate. The persyn MIM Notes distributors had pegged as the whitest most typical suburbanite to take MIM Notes turned out to be from Latin America. One Black participant wore a Black Panther button, no surprise to MIM Notes readers, but a Black pair that took MIM Notes also were from Latin America. Too many people from the left-wing of the parasite movements do not know about Latin America's multiracial character or race in general in the world outside u.s. borders.

So going by purely visual appearance at this rally would have been a mistake. It's just another reason MIM rejects the analysis of race as primary. Going by race alone would have resulted in an overestimation of Euro- Amerikan participation in the rally. This May 1st rally was Latino to the core and that covers white, mostly brown, red and black-skinned peoples—including mixtures that would be tough to tell apart from yellow.

The best speaker we heard was a student who used the u.s. flag as a scarf. He chanted a list of countries followed by the word "power." He included Boricuan power and got down to "Argentinian power!" There were hot sales of flags from all Latin American countries plus sales of the u.s. flag.

After speaking agitatedly, the student speaker gained great applause from his listeners, at a strategic pause, when he said, "yes, I'm a Mexican and yes, I have a white friend!" His joke was to turn the tables on the white liberals, by mirroring them in a pro-Mexico way and his joke also poked fun at the typical white liberal way of individualizing politics as if having a friend could justify oppressive politics.

Another speaker in the same circle simply told her listeners "never to be afraid" and "God loves you." She repeatedly reassured her listeners and told them "to never give up." The Catholic Church has to be involved, because its newest and most devoted members are potentially from Latin America.

There were several different circles and speakers. The one with the loudest speaker equipment featured some confused activists denouncing temporary worker programs in a way to echo the Minutemen and Lou Dobbs. These supposed radicals will not achieve even their meagre citizenship slogans but allying with the right-wing of white nationalism, they may accomplish a "reform" to close the border to temporary workers. There is no "reform" at the moment that can bring just wages to the world, so the activists should just drop their focus on this one question and stick with revolutionary slogans.

Incorrect focus on the temporary worker programs is an example of how ultra-leftism works hand-in-hand with Euro- Amerikan chauvinism. Let these groups that want a "multi-racial" approach to a supposedly "multi-racial working class" stick to their demands for open borders and offers of citizenship to all who want it. They should not echo the Minutemen; even though, in truth they both represent the same privileged exploiter labor aristocracy class.

We said the same thing about school bussing for integrated schools. Of course it is not a solution, but yelling against it is reactionary. The ultra-leftists working with the fascists may achieve that demand now without getting any revolution.

The demand to offer everyone citizenship is correct and completely

unambiguous by contrast. If everyone could get instant citizenship, there would be no temporary worker program questions anymore.

Opposing temporary worker programs implies that the speaker has a piecemeal approach that opposes offering all citizenship. Otherwise, there would be no specific reason to oppose temporary worker programs instead of demanding citizenship for all. Everyone should be suspicious of the people talking about the temporary worker programs.

Larry Holmes from Workers World Party spoke last with the loudest speakers before leading off a fraction of the Union Square rally on a march. As time approached 8pm, the New York police tried to close down the demonstrations, even when protesters used the sidewalks in perfectly legal fashion. We overheard the cops saying how they were going to cut off one group, but then another group would be coming at them from another direction. An apparently Euro- Amerikan Trotskyist group with green shirts chanted at the police, "racist, sexist, anti-gay, NYPD go away!"

The few whites around thought of themselves as socialist, communist or some kind of radical. One walked around with a placard saying "land of the free and home of the hypocrite" (to mock "land of the free, home of the brave.") This is true of Americans in so many ways. 1) The original Pilgrims had no legal permits. 2) The Statue of Liberty says the borders are open. 3) Fear-mongers (not the brave) say that border-crossers are terrorists, when in truth Pilgrims killed thousands times more people than Al-Qaeda did. 4) The united States has the world's highest percentage of imprisoned people, a significant portion of which are in prison for border-crossing—some free country.

The few awake white people at the demonstrations smolder inside knowing the truth about their own country. Unfortunately, as part of the general culture of stress-relief, they often fall victim to the left-wing of white nationalism which tells them their country is not oppressive and as exploited workers they can forget about that national oppression thing. Others forget it through pseudo-feminist identities. White nationalism has always had two wings—one that is aggressive and forward and one that denies that it is white nationalist or oppressive.

Even capitalism and its ideologues say the migration issue is all about "supply and demand." According to the true capitalists, the right to do business is a humyn right. So Euro- Americans do not even honor their supposed capitalist credo, because they are so reactionary and chauvinist.

The lessons of this greatest of May Days are profound and there for the taking by anyone honest enough to admit facts. The multi-racial left-wing of parasitism talked about "divisions in our

communities," but failed to admit why this was the greatest of May Days in U.S. history.

This May Day could have happened before. It was there for the taking had enough abandoned parasitic politics and mobilized the Latino people for national liberation. The "reconquistas" are the backbone of the labor movement inside u.s. borders, even if they do not know it.

A poll by the Democratic Party pollster Zogby showed that the controversy over Mexican flags at the rallies has caused the Euro- Amerikan petty-bourgeoisie mistakenly thought of as "workers" to retaliate. The majority of Euro- Americans are so chauvinist that 65% of people polled have now literally admitted that they would rather have their economy spiral downward than let in migrants at the border!(3) 51% said the Mexican flags at rallies make them oppose guest worker programs.(3) This is the kind of labor aristocracy scum that our left-wing of white nationalism falsely calling itself socialist and communist caters to with "multi-racial" politics and specific opposition to guest worker programs.

The Zogby poll was if anything generous, as it found a higher opposition to building a wall with Mexico than other polls—69%. We should pay more attention to the Zogby poll than random white people on the street willing to lie about not having heard about the migrant demonstrations. If we do not understand that those anti-war demonstrators in New York City April 29th were petty-bourgeoisie, we might mistake what they told us as some kind of proletarian truth. May 1st showed that Zogby was right and the fuss on April 29th about building links to the migrant worker movement was just politically correct fluff that whites ignored.

When asked, the super-exploited of the Latino community do not need to be begged or cajoled into striking. They set off continent-wide activity—because there is a real and substantial Latino proletariat. All the bullshit excuses about "false consciousness" that the left-wing of white nationalism uses for itself disappeared. The real proletariat fights, large vanguard party there for it or not.

Latin America as a collection of oppressed nations is bound to play an evermore significant role in the labor movement inside u.s. borders. Mexico's boycott of the united States May 1st was just the beginning. Only the MIM line has correctly identified how the struggle must proceed. None of those other parties calling themselves socialist or communist are even close, because they do not understand super-profits or nationality: they're stuck on race within u.s. borders.

This is not the civil rights movement all over again. It is better, because it will draw in greater international participation in defeating white nationalist reaction and the current movement has a better chance of ending the system of exploitation than

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# New York Times drives wedge between Blacks and migrants

The second leading story on the imperialist New York Times webpage as of May 3rd at 11:00 pm is proof of the success of the migrant movement. "Growing Unease for Some Blacks on Immigration" treats real issues and has real facts, but suddenly we see the New York Times give it such a priority on its web page. All oppressed nations should be suspicious.

A number of talking heads on radio and some other pundits reached by the New York Times have stirred up Blacks against migrants. The line goes that Blacks paid their dues through hundreds of years of slavery and waited in line. The same is true by the way of some Mexican-Americans who feel that their hassle with the INS through legal procedures makes them superior humyn-beings to others who did not manage the bureaucratic redtape with the imbeciles intentionally assigned to the INS to restrict Mexicans to a trickle across the border. Instead of thinking the whole difficulty at the INS is intentional and divides people internationally, the new Latino exploiters think they have some kind of new virtue for getting through the crap-shoot of citizenship. They want to lord it over the people they came from.

The oreos and coconuts blame the migrants for how Euro-Americans divide people. The Euro-Americans did not have to follow any INS procedures when they stole the land from the First Nations. They did not lobby any indigenous government State Department to get let in. Those are the people in-charge of the government now, but the oreos and coconuts focus on how hard their struggles were to get a piece of imperialist pie instead of thinking that this is their chance to bring down

white nationalist domination.

There is a large sector of the Black people that is labor aristocracy, people becoming oppressor-like in their economic outlook. We saw this with Proposition 187 in California when Blacks sided with whites against Spanish-speakers. We are seeing it again now.

MIM actually agrees with the complainers that the current movement is not really a "civil rights movement." It is a movement for national liberation mixed in with some other movements, because it is often the case that it is difficult to have more than two sides in a conflict. Democrats looking to future Latino exploiter votes, employers wanting more workers around, neo-Trotskyists looking to echo the Democrats on "Black-Brown unity" and reconquistas are allied together against white nationalists, fascists and their lackeys. The New York Times is for an expanded Democratic Party vote, but it puts a brake on the process because it fears revolution. So the New York Times prioritization of their news report is a profound compliment to the revolutionary proletariat.

The Latino labor bureaucrats are siding with the Black labor aristocracy, by saying the current movement is a civil rights movement, because both groups are pursuing the "American Dream." MIM cannot deny that there is a powerful impetus to the movement coming from the dream of exploiting the rest of the world. Jesse Jackson agrees with these Latino labor bureaucrats on a joint labor aristocracy integration project for u.s. empire. The international proletariat is on the same side as Jesse Jackson and the Latino labor bureaucrats right now for

different reasons than they put forward.

Jesse Jackson is taking the "politically correct" position of perfuming U.S. imperialism with internal civil rights, but he does not carry his own people on this issue to the extent that he carries them to the Democratic Party. According to the New York Times, the Pew Hispanic Center conducted a poll that showed nearly double opposition among Blacks compared with whites on the belief that migrants cost them or someone they know jobs.

The New York Times also distorted W.E.B. Du Bois's politics.

W.E.B. DuBois, a founder of the N.A.A.C.P., and other prominent black leaders worried that immigrants would displace blacks in the workplace. Ronald Walters, director of the African-American Leadership Institute at the University of Maryland, said blacks cheered when the government restricted Asian immigration to the United States after World War I.

In World War I, Du Bois was for proving Black loyalty to Amerika and integrating into the melting pot that way.

Rejected with his people by Euro-Americans anyway, he then spent decades flipping and flopping on Black nationalism. When DuBois died, he had taken up Mao's internationalism. For that reason, his birthday became a national holiday in China under Mao.

Academic misleader Ronald Walters pointed to high urban unemployment of Blacks but he did not prove that the way capitalism works, the economy works better or hires more Blacks without migrants. Having the capitalist economy collapse generally is not going to help unemployed Blacks, so even on a reformist basis, Walters' argument is pretty dubious. Overall, Walters is falling victim to neo-colonialism—divide-and-conquer.

May Day demonstrations were great, but the New York Times gave us a reminder that even on this most successful proletarian road regarding the future of u.s. imperialism, there are many challenges ahead.

Note: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/04/us/04immig.html>

## Migrant Laborers Progressive, Amerikkans Not

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way our critics like to accuse us of. We merely interpret the facts in order to promote social change. People stuck in circular forms of thought, metaphysics and white hysteria believe that the devil placed hate in people which must be conquered by Christian love. In contrast, we at MIM observe, study and analyze first, see who is doing the exploiting and oppressing and then choose our enemies to hate. That's the difference between a dialectical materialist approach and religion. Furthermore, we support all the token Euro-Americans who are not cops or spies that showed up at the migrant rights rallies.

Globalization is nothing new: Lenin wrote about it 90 years ago. (3) Neither is protectionism; it helped bring about the Great Depression, eventually resulting in World War II, quickly vindicating Lenin's writings. Americans don't understand that globalization is here and you can't stop it. (Nor do they understand the self-defeating strategy of protectionism, but we'll let the imperialists worry about that.) Migrants on the other hand do. Speaker after speaker at the recent rallies stressed that they are here because of neoliberal capitalism as well as imperialist militarism. The May Day crowd has probably read less Marxist economics per capita than the largely student-based anti-war demonstrators; yet they understand globalization better than amerikans because that is their reality.

The best bet we have to convince amerika that it can't just boot out 12

million people from within u.s. borders was put bluntly by a KTVU San Francisco reporter covering the May Day events who said such action would result in "dirty dishes in restaurants, dirty laundry in hotels, and no one to pick fruits and vegetables. The economy would grind to a halt." Though apparently it did not occur to this reporter that the millions of people who peacefully protested today might not be so peaceful if the U.S. government passes the anti-migrant legislation. Many people in this world will fight harder for clean water, basic medicine and an education than amerikans will fight for cheap oil, even if the leaders of white nationalism don't believe it.

The united States and Kkkanada are the only countries that don't recognize May 1st as International Workers' Day according to the IWW, despite its origins with the 8 hour work day movement in the united States. The fact that it took Mexicans, Salvadoreans, Koreans, Chinese, Filipinos and many other new arrivals to the united States to return this piece of proletarian culture to this country should tell people something. The course of history will only continue to shame those white nationalists who put their hopes for progress in amerikans.

Notes:

(1) <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/sfbay/march04.html>

(2) Wall Street Journal. 2 May 2006, A1.

(3) V.I. Lenin. Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism. 1916.

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the civil rights movement which was about individual rights within the exploiter community.

In response to all this, jack-ass imperialist Senator Lamar Alexander wants to make the U.S. national anthem to be English-only by law.(4)

Pro-Confederacy activist and Senator Trent Lott also said the demonstrations went too far by striking: " 'To encourage people not to go to work or children not to go to school is counterproductive,' Lott said on CNN's 'Late Edition' program yesterday. 'And if they're there waving foreign flags, I take offense to that.'"(5) We're sure Lott will go to a German restaurant with a German flag on it, visit a hotel with a Swiss flag on it and feel no offense. Yet Lamar Alexander and Lott's phony internationalism is only for European cultures. The imperialists and their allies push around the people they think they can push around.

The real proletariat cannot help but offend the imperialists like Lott and Alexander and the proletariat is just warming up. When we say "when asked"

the Latino proletariat fights, we could refer to Lou Dobbs(6) or the Minutemen. Without those representatives of the Euro-American labor aristocracy, the proletariat might not have stirred. So we thank the pig-headed for being so reactionary.

Notes:

1. "Immigrants Walk off the job in boycott," [http://cnn.netscape.cnn.com/news/story.jsp?idq=ff/story/0001/20060501/1758752953.htm&related=off&floc=NW\\_1-T](http://cnn.netscape.cnn.com/news/story.jsp?idq=ff/story/0001/20060501/1758752953.htm&related=off&floc=NW_1-T) or <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=1912413> 2. [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-05-01-immigration-asians\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-05-01-immigration-asians_x.htm) 3. <http://www.zogby.com/news/ReadNews.dbm?ID=1102>

4. [http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article\\_84955.asp](http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_84955.asp)

5. [http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000086&sid=adXB6mgiE5nM&refer=latin\\_america](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000086&sid=adXB6mgiE5nM&refer=latin_america)

6. Dobbs was another imperialist saying the rallies were too radical. <http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/05/01/dobbs.immigrantprotests/index.html>



# No to imperialism

## *No to so-called comprehensive immigration reform and dividing the proletariat using U.S. borders*

though it reflects a mistaken view of what is fundamentally driving this debate. Although reactionaries have jumped on these slogans as usual, it is really important to understand that a slogan like “full citizenship rights for all immigrants,” or worse, “full citizenship rights for all immigrant workers” but not other migrants, is highly problematic. Such slogans are troubling when there are no simultaneous calls for open borders.

The first thing to notice is that not all migrants want to stay in the United States. Even among oppressed-nation migrants who become permanent residents or citizens, a significant number want to return home eventually. Making citizenship available to undocumented migrants in and of itself is a winnable and desirable reform under the present social and political system. However, such a reform must not be an excuse to perpetuate the repression of other migrants or abandoning migrants who don't want to become citizens. Many of those calling for unconditional legalization also support increasing border repression.

Underlying some calls for legalization is an ugly chauvinism, concealed behind friendly language but nonetheless present. One statement of a certain coalition group, proclaiming leadership of some demonstrations, reads:

“The schemes being debated in Congress only aim to either criminalize the undocumented and by extension all immigrants, or to provide an extremely limited possibility for undocumented workers to be able to live, work and remain in the country they have adopted as their own.”

Implicit in this statement is the idea that migrants leave their families and communities and come to the United States because they love Amerika, not because they are negotiating their situation under the imperialist economy and system.

People in love with imperialism are going to pounce on MIM for pointing this out and acknowledging the grain of truth in what reactionaries are saying about not all migrants wanting to assimilate into Amerikan society completely. But it must be said. Some demonstrators want to prove the worth and loyalty of migrants to the oppressor nation, but a communist party must take a scientific approach.

MIM's critics on this point simply surrender the struggle that needs to happen with the Euro-Amerikan nation to recognize and learn to live with other nations. There is nothing wrong with a people wanting to live apart from the Euro-Amerikan nation. An oppressed nation does not have to be measured against Euro-Amerikan standards—or more likely, Euro-Amerikan double standards given what it says on the Statue

of Liberty. The desire to have separate national identities from the Euro-Amerikan nation while living on the territory stolen from Mexico and First Nations is in fact correct. It is our critics speaking as the voice of super-profits and integrated global pillage. People waving the Mexican flag should go on waving the Mexican flag and bring out the contradiction between the oppressor nation and the oppressed. So-called leftists are the verbal shoehorn taking advantage of repression and super-profits to force oppressed nations to fit into the imperial schema. The white Liberals should offer to let migrants fit in their Liberal world, but we communists should also fight for national self-determination.

In an ideal world, “full citizenship rights” would mean getting rid of the repression and exclusion that creates different classes of citizens, second-class citizens, third-class, etc. But within the logic of the moment, it just means offering naturalization to undocumented migrants, and only a subgroup of them at that.

Many of those calling only for legalization for workers are simultaneously opposing every temporary-worker proposal as a new bracero program. This is a dangerous combination that threatens to exclude migrants who don't want to naturalize or even become permanent residents. Open borders would be better than border repression subject to the whim of the imperialists and the labor aristocracy, but that is not on the table in the legislative debate. Thus, “citizenship rights for immigrants” subtly colludes with attempts to strike a deal with imperialism and legalize undocumented migrants in the United States at the expense of shutting out other Third World workers.

No “legalization-only” bill has been put forth. Any proposed legalization provision comes packaged with more anti-migrant repression. Still, we can imagine such a thing standing next to enforcement-only bills in the minds of those calling for unconditional legalization for undocumented migrants. Superficially, legalization-only legislation sounds better than enforcement-only legislation, but both are confined to a legalistic discourse that ultimately accepts the legitimacy of imperialist borders and of anti-migrant repression.

The anti-migrant movement does not target just migrants and their communities in the United States. The anti-migrant movement affects proletarians and oppressed nations outside the United States, too. The anti-migrant movement is hostile to the self-determination of oppressed nations inside and outside the United States, not just opposed to their inclusion in Amerikan society and their civil and political rights under the

imperialist state. Self-determination is needed, not just imperialist citizenship rights with a promise of legal, parasitic U.S. wages, unavailable to the majority of the world's workers.

As a name for demonstrations in response to the anti-migrant movement, “civil rights movement” is therefore somewhat misplaced despite its relevance to migrants and their families in the United States. “Anti-imperialist movement” wouldn't be an accurate description either — the demonstrations are not that developed yet — but the demonstrations are in response to a wave of attacks against proletarian workers and oppressed nationalities, not just those already in the United States.

Those who insist (against all evidence about what is actually on the table in the legislative debate) that full, immediate legalization is possible within the coming months, but stop short of opposing U.S. borders, are pursuing a path that will create more division among the oppressed along the lines of imperialist borders. Why support unconditional legalization, but not open borders? This is unacceptable and represents a bourgeois viewpoint. It is also confluent with the demands of legal U.S. workers who mistakenly believe that the exploitation of Third World workers drives down U.S. wages when in fact such exploitation increases them. These legal U.S. workers are fundamentally driven by a white hysteria and reject every temporary-worker program, sometimes in lockstep with those denouncing anything that looks like an amnesty.

If one were to take away the temporary-worker provisions of the Hegel-Martinez Substitute (limited as they are), what would be left is a bill that offers naturalization to only those undocumented migrants who are willing to continue working in the United States for another six years. In other words, undocumented migrants who don't want to stay that long will continue to be repressed.

And those migrants who want to apply for legalization must have been employed for at least three years before April 2006, bringing the total to nine years. This excludes a huge number of undocumented

migrants.

This is the legislation that the American Immigration Lawyers Association has called “comprehensive,” a “missed opportunity for America to begin to fix its broken immigration system,” a “bipartisan bill that showed so much promise,” a “workable compromise.” AILA has been called “progressive” by some, but it is just another player in the so-called immigration reform debate, actually a strategic planning discussion for how to increase the repression of migrants in an effective way.

To suggest that the Hegel-Martinez Substitute, minus its temporary-worker provisions, is a solution to the “broken immigration system” is well-intentioned, but naive and neglectful, at best, and a deliberate attempt to force migrants into assimilating, and shutting out and repressing many other migrants, at worst.

Among other things, the Hegel-Martinez amendment, like Arlen Specter and the Senate Judiciary Committee's bill, would create a high-tech virtual fence along U.S. borders and help local law enforcement agencies turn over undocumented migrants to the federal government.

BuSh's “guest worker” proposal comes packaged with more anti-migrant repression. BuSh's anti-migrant critics, who feel he is being too soft on migrants, are so reactionary that some of his proposals may seem tolerable in comparison. But this whole “immigration reform debate” is reactionary.

Rather than try to turn migrant rights demonstrations into something fit for a naturalization drive or voter-registration drive, people must go on the offensive and oppose the racism, white supremacy and nationalism, and settler mentality, underlying this anti-migrant movement. Repressive policies, such as more border fencing near urban areas, that would only lead to more deaths must also be opposed.

The immigration system isn't broken — that is just a white-nationalist framing of this issue. The problem that needs fixing is the imperialist system and its repressive apparatuses. Ultimately, nothing short of revolution and open borders will solve this problem.



# Demonstrators in L.A. and San Diego support migrants' rights and oppose anti-migrant movement

May 1, 2006

On International Workers' Day today, hardly any Euro-Americans showed up at two events in Los Angeles and San Diego respectively — nothing new here. At the same time, demonstrators were more likely to identify as, or with, migrants and/or Latino or Third World nationalities, than as “workers” without any nationality. [In New York City, placards and discussion had more focus on workers.]

This was not surprising for San Diego and Los Angeles. Globally, First World imperialist countries are bourgeois, while Third World nations are exploited, and the world proletariat is concentrated there. This is how class structure manifests itself in the world. Wherever there were flags of Third World countries in demonstrations today, one should think that the proletariat was marching.

Workers simultaneously demonstrated in Mexico in solidarity with migrants inside u.s. borders. Countries all over the world had demonstrations including 1.5 million in Russia. This May Day, people inside u.s. borders are twice as many as Russians, so it is possible we had three million u.s. demonstrators and an equal May Day for once. On the other hand, if we excluded all the Euro-American petty-bourgeoisie in the united States and all the Moscow and Leningrad petty-bourgeoisie in Russia, just this once, the exploited inside u.s. borders proportionately-speaking had a greater International Workers Day than Russia!

Demonstrations in the United States that look “nationalist” can also have a proletarian aspect. Third World neo-colonies and colonies have been proletarianized, and furthermore, the proletariat has an interest in supporting Third World nationalism against imperialism.

There were multiple events in both Los Angeles and San Diego today, even multiple marches that happened concurrently in downtown Los Angeles. One early march in Los Angeles started around 11 AM and went from Olympic & Broadway to City Hall. Especially interesting were several signs, held by Latinos, opposing the Iraq War. One sign read: “No Iraqi ever called me a wetback.” Another read: “Alto a la guerra en Irak.” Text on a shirt read: “Iraq is our 51st state.” Also, there was a sign criticizing military recruitment of undocumented migrants as hypocritical. The largely petty-bourgeois antiwar movement was absent today, but demonstrators in Los Angeles spoke against the war against Iraq. Some Euro-Americans were undoubtedly too busy blaming Bu\$h for gas prices to come to any May 1 event.

One of the most common printed signs at the Los Angeles march read: “Hoy marchamos. Mañana votamos” (“Today we march. Tomorrow we vote”) —

potentially a risky strategy that could unite more Euro-Americans at the voting booth against migrants, but the slogan partly reflected the willingness of Latino citizens to resist attacks on their communities. Another professionally printed sign read: “Amnistía general.”

Legislators almost universally oppose amnesty proposals that would allow undocumented migrants to get permanent legal status if they want to, without restriction. Some so-called comprehensive immigration reform proposals offer only a difficult “earned” so-called path to citizenship for a subgroup of undocumented migrant workers. So, it was disconcerting to see few demonstrators focusing on temporary migrants except to denounce so-called guest-worker programs. There were more love-America types than open supporters of temporary migrant workers' rights.

The United States is not about to offer instant citizenship to anyone who crosses the border. So, to call for amnesty, but oppose temporary-worker programs without opposing immigration restrictions, sets up temporary migrant workers and migrants in general for continued repression. In other words, denouncing temporary-worker programs just to call for amnesty is not necessarily progressive. Some of those who are calling for “general amnesty” openly qualify their definition of amnesty, saying it should be granted only to migrants who have been in the United States for longer than a certain minimum length of time and meet other requirements. Even if unconditional amnesty were proposed, amnesty-versus-guest-worker still reflects a legalistic outlook that fundamentally accepts closed borders and anti-migrant repression. The so-called immigration reform debate doesn't represent a reformist movement against anti-migrant repression. Calling for amnesty without opposing repression is a capitulation to reactionaries.

Demonstrators singled out HR 4437 more often than any other piece of legislation. HR 4437 still serves as a rallying point for many demonstrators, but Congress has moved onto other legislation, more crafty, but still repressive. Some recent proposed “compromise” legislation would criminalize undocumented migrants as misdemeanor offenders, rather than felons, which would actually make it easier to deport undocumented migrants for certain reasons.

Archbishop Mahony had opposed people's boycotting work and school, but this writer saw a Catholic priest at the front of a small group. A Hummer, on the back of which was a banner with the name of a Catholic immigration reform campaign, “Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope,” drove around with a



Mexican flag, to the cheers of some onlookers. The Catholic Church has its own reasons for supporting migrants, and this support is limited. But it appeared that some Catholics were more internationalist than Euro-American-dominated “socialist” groups criticizing nationalism while making trite calls for working-class unity with white workers who hadn't supported migrants' rights in significant numbers. U.S. Catholic church leaders are largely united in their support for so-called moderate immigration reform legislation that would still result in more anti-migrant repression, but there has been some division over May 1 boycotts. Some dioceses have opposed the boycotts, while others have supported midday rally events.

In Los Angeles, stores along Broadway were closed. Many shops on Olvera Street were also closed.

CNN suggested that demonstrators in the United States were just calling for amnesty. Actually, many demonstrators in Los Angeles were more general, some calling for “justice” and others opposing “all attacks against immigrants.” The mainstream media is thus trying misrepresent demonstrators' demands, as if demonstrators were making an unreasonable demand on legislators. “Amnesty” is a legalistic term. Unconditional amnesty is extremely unlikely to be the outcome of the current legislative debate in Congress. For the media to suggest that demonstrations were just about amnesty, rather than

opposing the anti-migrant movement, is inaccurate as well as an attempt to frame discussions in a way that is favorable to reactionaries.

On the flip side, some media outlets have suggested that demonstrators were just opposing the criminalization of undocumented migrants as felons, which paves the way for criminalizing them as misdemeanor offenders instead. This is what the Hagel-Martinez substitute amendment would do, in addition to helping local law enforcement agencies turn undocumented migrants over for deportation. This is outrageous. The oppressed don't want people to oppose HR 4437 just to support something like the Hagel-Martinez Substitute.

Some bourgeois tendencies were evident at the Los Angeles event. One reason why Mexican flags, especially at an International Workers' Day event with so little Euro-American participation, should be seen as proletarian is that they stood in contrast to the many American flags that were there, too. Proletarian temporary migrants were probably more likely to hold non-American flags. Sometimes, the American flags were in competition with Mexican flags, for example, where there was no attempt by individuals walking together to wave both American and Mexican flags. Some of the American flag-waving was just a futile attempt to pander to critics in the white media, but there were many who just wanted migrants to have equal rights and

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# Boston demonstration supports Boycott Gringo Day

**Boston, 1 May**

Over 2,000 people gathered on Boston Common this afternoon in support of the U.S.-wide migrant boycott. As in other cities, the crowd here was majority non-white. Many high-school and college students were present. The speakers from the podium expressed a range of ideas, some of which MIM agrees with, some of which MIM strongly disagrees with, and others that MIM finds amusingly quaint.

MIM had the most agreement with a young speaker who emphasized the U.S. role in creating the “push” behind migration to the United States and other First World countries. People come to the United States for work because of the high unemployment and very low,

exploitative wages in their home countries. The United States is often directly responsible for these conditions. Amerikan companies profit from low wages in Third World countries, and the United States backs the repressive governments that smash labor unions to keep those wages low. (1) Chronic unemployment is a by-product of the capitalist organization of production for profit—exacerbated by the fact that much of the production in the Third World is geared for export to the First. It’s not that there isn’t plenty of work to be done in the Third World—there are roads to build, foods to grow, medicines to produce for local use. It’s that little of this is profitable.

Another speaker led the crowd in the chant, “Immigration built this nation.” This

chant is similar to the slogan “Peace is patriotic,” which we don’t like either (1). Both seek to build unity between proletarian forces (those against imperialist war or those in support of migrants from oppressed nations) and non-proletarian forces (the majority of the U.S. population). Amerikan companies are not the only ones who profit from low wages in the Third World. The transfer of value from the Third to the First World is so large that anybody who gets paid the U.S. minimum wage or above is receiving some of the superprofits from the exploitation of Third World labor. Rather than encourage recent migrants to integrate into U.S. society like other groups who now think they pulled themselves out of the working class—as

if the theft of a continent from the First Nations, slavery, and imperialism had nothing to do with it—we want migrants to identify with the oppressed in their home countries. They should not see a \$10 an hour wage as their god-given right, or something they could achieve in their own country if they just adopted Amerikan economic principles. Rather, they should contrast that \$10 with the \$0.50-\$1.00 per hour many Third World workers receive, and recognize that the \$10 wage for Americans is only possible because most of the rest of the world is exploited.

Finally, one speaker unintentionally got MIM to laugh when he suggested in all seriousness that to increase the

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## Demonstrations in L.A. and San Diego

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equal privileges with Americans. Due to attempts by the Euro-American nation to deny Latinos cultural and educational self-determination, many Latinos and other oppressed nationalities see themselves as part of the mythical “multiracial” Amerikan nation.

One unusual flag in Los Angeles was the Soviet flag, with the hammer, sickle, and star. Another was a large Israeli flag flown high. This writer overheard someone on the street making an anti-Semitic remark about it. For demonstrators, wanting to defend migrants and their communities from repression, to align themselves with fascists is confused and wrong. Anti-Semitism is evil and must be struggled against wherever it rears its head. Anti-Semitism dangerously distorts the struggle against imperialism and encourages alliances with U.S. imperialism. At the same time, supporters of migrants must recognize that, even though there are thousands of Israeli migrants in the United States, the flag of Israel represents a settler imperialist state that represses migrants who are in their own land. Israel claims Jewish heritage just to legitimize itself. There are other symbols of Jewish people than the Israeli flag. Many Jews have taken part in and organized migrant rights demonstrations in the United States without pointlessly defending Israeli imperialism.

In the morning, Geraldo Rivera showed up briefly and then left on a motorcycle. Some demonstrators gave him hugs, but one Salvadoran woman wanted him to go away. This was really interesting because Rivera didn’t seem to be there in connection with Fox News, and he has been critical of obnoxious anti-migrant advocate Lou Dobbs. This writer can understand why many would like Rivera. Unlike most Americans, Rivera, also known as a former lawyer for the Young Lords, at least has a track record of denouncing the Minutemen and Lou Dobbs; although, some critics of the

Minutemen and Lou Dobbs still support repressive border and migration policies. Rivera in a post on his blog today opposed the nationalism of Mexicanos and even added his voice to those who are hysterically denouncing a Spanish-language version of Americans’ imperialist national anthem ([http://www.eraldo.com/index.php?/archives/79\\_Chain\\_Reaction.html](http://www.eraldo.com/index.php?/archives/79_Chain_Reaction.html)).

Based on counts in the mainstream media, the number of demonstrators throughout the day in Los Angeles, in various marches, etc., appeared to be lower than during the record-setting March 25 demonstration. Not everyone being able to miss work is certainly one factor, but the white media in the days leading up to May 1 gave the impression that demonstrations could turn violent, which possibly discouraged many from attending. Were it not for the systematic and widespread effort to discourage boycotting, the turnout today probably would have exceeded the March 25 one. Tonight, a local TV station in San Diego, suggesting that demonstrators were drunk, paid a disproportionate amount of attention to alleged violence at a demonstration in San Diego County.

It’s hard to draw a comparison between evening and midday demonstrations based on just two small events, but there were some differences between a San Diego event and the early Los Angeles march and rally. An evening march in San Diego turned out to be more powerful in some ways. In Balboa Park in the evening, near 6th & Laurel, there was a rally with the theme “We are America.” (There was another event early in the day at the Tijuana-San Ysidro border crossing.) Some held lit candles for a vigil. But people wanting to march paraded through the rally, and around 7 PM, at least several hundred people poured onto 6th Avenue and started marching, seemingly spontaneously. Marchers reached the Washington Mutual Tower and then the ritzy Horton Plaza shopping mall, and then returned to Balboa Park. In this march

and even at the rally, there seemed to be relatively more Mexican flags than in Los Angeles despite the narrow theme indicated by the sign on the stage at the Balboa Park rally.

Many demonstrators were there in the evening because they had a day shift and couldn’t miss work. Throughout the United States, corporate and Euro-American employers threatened to fire workers who walked out or didn’t show up for work. Many people who attended May 1 events later in the day were some of the least privileged workers.

Marchers were very energetic. The march surprised marchers themselves and others, including diners and revelers who were eating and drinking at places for whites in downtown San Diego. There were several police officers at the Balboa Park rally. They protected anti-migrant activists, with signs such as “crack down on illegal alien,” who showed up to harass ralliers. One marcher said people who marched were angered by the reactionary counter-demonstrators. The police later prevented marchers from spilling over into adjacent streets.

There weren’t many people claiming to be march/rally security, with official-looking T-shirts, etc. One Latino youth, who didn’t appear to be affiliated with any group, directed marchers away from sidewalks and store fronts. It is often claimed that police serve a public safety function at marches. But the pigs aren’t needed for that. If organizers and marchers want security volunteers, they can provide them.

Not surprisingly, on this International Workers’ Day, hardly any Euro-American so-called workers, actually bourgeois parasites on migrant proletarians and Third World workers, showed up in San Diego either. Most Euro-Americans who attended or stood observing the rally were “middle-class” types, people associated with Indymedia or Infoshop.org, or intellectuals, academics, etc. (The vast majority of Euro-American workers are

petty-bourgeois; the Euro-Americans at migrant rights demonstrations are just more wealthy in general.)

As angry responses to the anti-migrant movement intensify, “Hispanic leaders” such as Antonio Villaraigosa, not to mention New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, and various imperialist lackeys brought on as guests by the white media, are distancing themselves even further from demonstrators. “Earned” legalization advocates are talking tough on border security and making snide remarks about temporary migrant workers and any migrant who is less than a “hardworking” “immigrant” who doesn’t use “welfare.” This, combined with the blatant racism of the supposedly “liberal” white media, and police repression and provocations at demonstrations, will politicize people more.

Several people at Balboa Park, unaffiliated with any organization, clearly were critical of more than just the Minutemen and HR 4437. Beside signs critical of borders, colonialism, and fascism, one sign criticized CNN’s Lou Dobbs. Another expressed frustration with the legislative debate and political grandstanding, saying, “Stop the politics.”

One sign said the land should be shared by everyone. Ultimately, property systems are oppressive, but opposition to the anti-migrant movement is partly a question of self-determination and reparations in relation to territory. The Euro-American settler nation has no right to continue dominating the Americas. Indigenous peoples’, Mexicanos’ and Latinos’ struggles for land are just.

During the march, beside common chants heard at other demonstrations, some started chanting, “México, U.S.A.,” at one point. As people learn more about the different forces involved in this struggle against repression, and progressive organizing advances, more will realize the drawbacks of trying to unite with the class and national interests of Euro-Americans.



# U.S. Catholic church attempts balancing act, opposes May 1 boycott

By a comrade, April 17, 2006

At the recent country-wide demonstrations in defense of migrants' rights, there have been more banners with images of Our Lady of Guadalupe than white workers proclaiming support for their "immigrant brothers and sisters." And although, for a variety of reasons, the organizers, official leadership, and even the most visible signs, slogans and flags, don't necessarily define the class and national nature of these demonstrations, Catholics and Catholic clergy have played a significant role in mobilizing people for these demonstrations. This requires an explanation. One could chalk it up to the Catholic Church's dominance in Latino and indigenous communities, and historical or other demographic factors, but the Catholic Church's current teachings on migration may also be at play.

On paper, there doesn't appear to be too much difference between American labor bureaucracies and the U.S. Roman Catholic bureaucracy over migrants. Both support "comprehensive immigration reform" and "securing the border." Like CNN's anti-migrant pundit Lou Dobbs, who wants to seal the border, both claim to support "humane" immigration reform. Consequently, both take part in the discourse created by the anti-migrant movement. In and within this "immigration reform debate," actually a planning discussion on how to increase the repression of migrants without affecting different economic interests, nobody is effectively opposing the repression of migrants across the board or openly supporting a relaxation of the laws that limit the number of migrants who cross the border. In contrast to these groups who negotiate, for supposedly pragmatic

reasons, with white nationalists working to step up the repression of migrants, MIM resolutely opposes white nationalism and puts forward the interests of the world proletariat and the majority of the world's people who live under imperialist dictatorship. Unity with Americans who want to increase immigration levels for economic reasons is possible. However, pandering to white nationalism, and going on the defensive whenever anti-migrant sentiment arises, reinforces anti-migrant movements in the long run.

One area of disagreement between the dominant labor unions and the Catholic hierarchy has been immigration and border legislation containing temporary-worker provisions. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has openly endorsed the so-called Kennedy-McCain bill, which would increase border repression while creating a temporary-worker program and an arduous so-called path to citizenship requiring fine payments and knowledge of English. Some major American labor unions have supported the same bill and similar legislation, such as Arlen Specter's Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006. Most of these labor unions, though, have been highly critical of such legislation and would rather see a bill passed that would intensify anti-migrant repression without there being any temporary-worker program. They oppose temporary-worker programs, but do not support increasing the legal immigration level to compensate for more border repression.

Despite paying lip service to the legalization of undocumented migrants or calling for legalization for tactical reasons to control undocumented workers' perceived impact on U.S. citizens' living standards, the labor unions want to further

restrict the overall immigration level. This points to a further difference between the labor bureaucracies and the Catholic bureaucracy. Catholic News Service is a division of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The news service is used by Catholic media throughout the United States. CNS recently published an article criticizing the concept of illegal immigration.(1) CNS, based on information from Doris Meissner of the Migration Policy Institute, suggested that talk of Americans' ancestors being legal migrants is misleading because, in fact, hardly anyone was turned back in the late-19th and early-20th centuries except for Chinese migrants and other groups. The CNS article points out that the United States is far less welcoming to migrants than it used to be, and that so-called "illegal immigration" is a function of restrictions on legal migration. This resonates with something MIM has said repeatedly about the aim of the anti-migrant movement.

The numbers reported in the CNS article point to an additional fact. The current immigration level, documented and undocumented, relative to the size of the U.S. population, is actually lower than it has been at points in the past. This is a well-known fact among demographers and is something that MIM, libertarians, and others, have pointed out for different reasons. The Catholic Church's seeming implicit support for increasing the immigration level puts it at odds with most labor unions.

MIM Notes has said that there is some basis for unity between proletarian internationalists and open-borders Catholics, Buddhists, Jews and other religionists at this point in time. Obviously, this presumes that Catholic open-borders advocates exist. They do, even though the Catholic Church bureaucracy officially and explicitly opposes "open borders." This defensive statement, from the Web site of the USCCB Office of Migration & Refugee Policy is typical:

"Does the Catholic Church believe in 'open borders?' No, Church teaching supports the right of the sovereign nation to control its borders. This is necessary to ensure the common good. Enforcement of our borders, however, should include the protection of the basic human rights and dignity of the migrant and not place lives at risk."(2)

In a March 1, 2006, letter published in the Washington Times, USCCB Executive Director Migration and Refugee Services adamantly denied that the USCCB supported open borders. "The bishops do not advocate 'open borders,' but rather acknowledge the responsibility of nations to control their borders." At their Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope campaign Web site, the USCCB denounces the accusation that it supports

open borders as "an attempt to discredit the Church's voice."(3) The Church buys into the idea of "open borders" being a swear word. It has acquiesced to ultra-reactionaries such as National Review. Playing the diplomat, the Church (San Bernardino Bishop Gerald Barnes) has also said that the authors of HR 4437 are well-intentioned and worthy of "great respect."

Globally and domestically, the Catholic Church is itself a reactionary organization that seriously impedes the political development of the oppressed while regularly rubberstamping — and facilitating — imperialist policies, economic, social and military. Communists' differences with the Church's imperialist leadership are deep and irreconcilable. Yet, it must be pointed out what a sad state the "labor movement" of the bourgeoisified, parasitic Euro-American working class is in if it doesn't have a more progressive line on migration than this throwback to feudalism, the Catholic Church.

Individually, some pastors in the United States have supported open borders. On the other hand, the USCCB and several dioceses, including the Archdioceses of Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles and New York, have published their own statements specifically calling for comprehensive immigration reform and improved border security. Catholic Church leaders imagine that the effectiveness of border repression measures can be increased while simultaneously enhancing dignity for migrants. Supporting repressive proposals that could be used to further restrict migration is an extremely dangerous gamble when the Euro-American oppressor nation desires to stop the movement of migrants. In its argument to relax immigration restrictions, however, one can identify some relatively agreeable ideas in the Catholic Church's recent teachings on migration compared with the labor aristocracy's thinly concealed white hysteria.

## BOSTON

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transparency of American government, the minority party in congress should be able to name all bills. Our heads are still spinning at how many bourgeois and peculiarly American assumptions are built in to that proposal: it takes the two-party system as a given, assumes the majority of Americans were opposed to invading Iraq or oppose anti-migrant goons like la Migra and the Minutemen, and generally has a narrow, American-electoral-politics-first focus. This same speaker made a big deal about the fact that the American flag he was carrying did not have a star for Texas. Apparently he thought this would get a big cheer from the crowd, because he paused for a reaction—and got nothing but proverbial crickets (in contrast to the cheers the crowd gave

the earlier speaker who talked explicitly about American imperialism). His legislative-reform proposal also drew no response from the audience. MIM takes this as promising evidence that most of the hundreds of thousands of people who took to the street on May 1st view migrant rights as something more than a partisan electoral issue. It's not about George Bush; it's not about republicans versus democrats. It's a system; a system that extends beyond U.S. borders and links the struggle for migrant rights with the struggle against U.S. imperialism in their home countries.

MIM distributed several hundred copies of MIM Notes to the crowd in less than an hour.

Notes:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/gender/nowapril2906.html>
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mt/imp97/index.html>

**Read the rest of this story:**

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/gatekeeper/>



### Medical care denied

Right now I'm not in General Population, I'm doing an indeterminate SHU since 1995. Recently I went through what is called "inactive/active" status and, as expected, I was denied [release from the SHU].

I was diagnosed in 1973 as having severe epilepsy. Since I've been here at Tehachapi I've filed an Amerikkans with Disability Act form requesting to be transferred to a medical facility, like Vacaville since they have trained and experienced staff. Again, as expected, I was denied. I've raised the issue that I'm in a cell by myself and surrounded by sharp objects and their outlook and attitude is "welcome to the bowels of the beast."

I take my medication daily, so as long as I keep my condition in check then all's tolerable. It'll never be "all good" under these circumstances as it stands now.

- a California prisoner, April 2006

### Stuck in reception, no education

I am currently housed in North Kern State prison and have been for 4 months and 2 weeks. The yard I am on is a reception yard. I am only supposed to be in reception for 60 to 90 days and then transferred to another prison where I could have a program to better myself while in prison. Well, after being here for 4 months and 2 weeks I still can't go anywhere. We have no access to a phone to talk to loved ones, and I haven't seen the library clerk but once in the time I've been here. The system has cut the means of educating; using the excuse that it is a reception yard. I still haven't found an honest answer if we can have books sent in or not. Most days we run 23 hours in the cell, 1 hour out. Twice a week yard is for 1.5 to 2 hours. Wednesday is 24 hour lock down except 15 minutes for breakfast and 15 minutes for dinner. North Kern State prisons medical situation is horrible. It takes between two and three weeks to be seen if that happens at all.

- a California prisoner, April 2006

### Sickened by slave camps

I've existed for the past 14 years in the modern day capitalistic slave camps. It sickens me how I have watched the revolutionary spirit and fire that once raged in these brother's all but slowly die. Those like myself who try to educate and awake that sleeping giant through reading, dialog and overall examples must do it under the cloak of darkness because any conscious uplifting or unifying of inmates CDC is quick to label you with some sort of prison gang. But for those who yearn and seek the truth I will never shrink from my responsibility.

One of the biggest problems in California prisons is these so-called gangs and organizations who instead of feeding the mind they destroy it, instead of teaching unity they teach these young dudes separation. Regardless to Black, Hispanic or white, our main goal should be to band together for what's important and that's the betterment of our conditions under these extreme, sadistic and debasement conditions.

As you go through history you will find revolution will only start when an oppressed people are tired of the unjust conditions of dehumanization on every level imaginable. If I compiled a list of the horrendous atrocities that CDC has subjected us to my pen would surely run out of ink, but the question is why? Because we inmates have allowed it! When we are busy attacking each other over petty meaningless nothingness and we are unfocused on the cause of our real true enemy, they sit back and laugh. When will we

# Under Lock & Key

## News from Prisons & Prisoners

as a population wake up, open our eyes, and see what's right in front of our faces? Things will only change when we change them.

The CDC has taken steps to destroy all family ties, family bonds, by taking family visits. They take more than half of the money your family sends you, anything over 50% in taxes or restitution is illegal. There are no jobs or trades here on B-yard at New Folsom so ho much more are we willing to take before we finally say enough.

- a California prisoner, November 2005

### Racism in death penalty and sentencing symptom of capitalism

There were two studies recently published that dealt with racism and minorities in the united states criminal justice system. The first study which was first published in the Santa Clara Law Review mainly focused on our brothers and sisters on death row. It gave us a first ever detailed accounting of how racism plays a significant role on who gets the death penalty here in the state of California. The study focused on 263 California death sentences in the 1990s (there were 302 death sentences issued during that time.) The study illuminated 39 cases where a person was sentenced to death for multiple murders that took the lives of victims from different races or ethnic groups. Of the 263 sentences, 142 were handed down for killing whites; 44 rendered for murdering Blacks; 52 for Latinos; and 25 for other races. During that time period there were 8,136 whites killed; 9,338 Blacks; 14,089 Latinos, and 2,037 victims of other races.

The second study focused on "sentencing" and how we as minorities receive longer and harsher sentences opposed to whites who enter the criminal justice system. The study went on to speak about the juvenile justice system as well. And the numbers were extremely disparaging for us. The number of teens incarcerated was overwhelming. However, what was the most alarming thing was the number of teens who were given life terms.

So as we can see, racism does in fact play a major role in the criminal justice system here in this country. However, we as a whole cannot continue to just solely focus on racism as being the sole purpose of our oppressive conditions. Racism is but a symptom of a much more deadly disease, a disease that has many different symptoms such as militarism, prostitution, slavery, colonialism, drug addiction, and racism, to name but a few. Many of us have unfortunately been under the misconception that we could deal with racism and other such issues in an individual and separate basis. However, as we can clearly see, this approach is completely and utterly useless. Not to mention detrimental to our cause. The only way we can truly and effectively rid ourselves, brothers and sisters, of this sickness, is to attack the sickness at its core. We have to understand that the thing that's breeding these oppressive conditions for us is none other than capitalism.

Capitalism is the sickness that I speak of. Our social, political and cultural situation

revolves and is dictated by our economic situation, which in turn is dictated by our oppressors. They have total and complete control over us, so long as we continue to allow them to impose this dreadful and deadly capitalist/parasitic system on us. The only way we will ever shake loose these shackles around our feet and neck is through revolution and the installment of a dictatorship led by the proletariat. Comrades, it's time that we as a whole start raising our social and political consciousness. No longer should we depend on the whites to deliver us, because that's never going to happen. Like MIM correctly pointed out in their theory journal #7 about revolutionary nationalism, "whites have absolutely no material interest in seeing racism come to an end." Their so-called democratic institutions weren't set up for us. In fact these corrupt institutions only help to hinder us and our struggle towards true freedom. Raise up comrades and let's fight back for what's truly ours. Freedom, justice, honor and humanity.

If change is truly going to come about, it is us the oppressed nations within this country who must bring it about.

- A California prisoner, October 2005

### Punishment common for no reason

I have not heard from you in a couple of months [letters were sent to him]. I have no evidence of mail censorship, however I have noticed a delay. I'm beginning to believe that this may be in connection with the fact that I, along with a few other prisoners were placed in ad-seg for "participation in a work strike." The evidence did not substantiate the charge and subsequently we were released days later. Found guilty of merely "disobeying a direct order." Our jobs were taken, and "privilege" status lowered. It is, or was, rare that this punishment be used for such a petty offense, but not surprising, here at Centinela State Prison which seems to operate by its own rules.

As I write you this letter I find myself placed on lockdown status not because of anything I did or those that I affiliate with did, but because CSP's policy is to lockdown individuals based on race and not affiliation. Which is in clear violation of the law passed recently which states CDC shall not racially segregate prisoners. In my particular situation, CDC has me classified as "other" (a politically incorrect term), housed with a Hispanic (at my own request). Yet when lockdowns occur I am punished for being in an integrated cell. For example: Hispanics go on lockdown then so do I, "others" go on lockdown then so do I! This is racial discrimination at its finest brought to you by CSP.

- a California prisoner, October 2005

### Reduced environmental stimulus, sensory deprivation

Inside control units or SHU (Security Housing Units), as they are called on a daily basis, those who are confined there are subject to denial of environmental stimulus, the methods which this takes place can be

cells with a window which is painted, or a cell with no window at all. There are cages which have no mirrors so you can't even see your face. While captive in such housing sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell are severely limited. The food is tasteless. After a while in these conditions it damages the spirit of human being retarding the natural states of interaction. Some adjust to these conditions by becoming depressed, suicidal, taking psych medications, or becoming paranoid. Some maintain by exercising, reading and trying to maintain balance. Despite best efforts none go away unaffected by being subjected to unnatural conditions.

Often politically active prisoners are held in these conditions to disrupt activities of organization and solidarity. The public should be aware that the crime-think newspeak apparatus is constructed to relay misinformation. To keep the public in fear just as the war of terror is to rally support for the continued occupation of Iraq. The mechanisms of press, media, cinema, aid the government agenda for whatever plans they unroll. In a society that claims to have a war on crime, why is there such a need for

## 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.



depictions of murder, violence, robbery, rape, etc., in cinema, TV and press. What is the effect of long term desensitization to violence? What about buying into the dehumanizing stereotypes that are daily projected; are these not hate campaigns, exploitations of the populace. Did not Hitler utilize similar methods to annihilate millions?

As knocentration kamps continue to saturate the landscape of the United States, corporations go outside the u.s. to get cheap labor. The clearest signs of declining are seen in what corporations are doing. The comfort that capitalism, imperialism and colonialism has brought America and its citizens over the last century has rocked many to sleep but what's coming is sure to make all face the reality that freedom, democracy, and liberty are all paper freedoms.

Politicians without wealth and influence are nothing more than mere puppets being controlled by lobbyists who have contacts with corporations. Those politicians on the hill are crooks stealing all they can get their hands on. Monopoly capital can get whatever it wants by having a financial war chest. If only the masses could see that there is a significant degree of manipulation going on misinforming them as to the future of this country. What's being set up is a twenty first century holocaust. With every approaching day we are coming closer to martial law state wide: the suspension of the constitution and a totalitarian rule. Currently America is \$7 trillion dollars in debt. There is a economic collapse coming and mass genocide if not outright invasion is surely to follow. No doubt this is a powerful country but many nations seek the destruction of this philosophy of vampirish capitalist, imperialist greed where the privileged class hordes all the wealth and denies the right to life of the lower classes of people.

For all amerikkas ventures of modern colonialism what has it reaped? Resentment, hatred, and thoughts of revenge are directed to the centuries of lies America has told. But never the less the lies continue to the very end. It's as though the politicians believe the doublespeak but in their hearts they know that the time is near but stay committed to the lie. These companies, politicians, and profiteers need to be exposed for what they are. Now is the time for action, not complacency.

- a California prisoner, September 2005

### Criminal neglect of prisoner health

Dear complaint unit,

I am a prisoner of the state and am housed in the Security Housing Unit (SHU) at Pelican Bay State Prison (PBSP) in Crescent City, California.

If these facts give you pause then you are confirming that which this letter hopes to convey. That is, our health care providers do not identify prisoners as patients. Even

though I can provide documentation of a specific complaint, involving specific medical providers, I'd rather, at this time, attempt to bring to light the mindset as mentioned above. This fixed way of thinking (read: us vs. them) I believe leads to misconduct and negligence here, by licensed health care providers.

And even though a federal district judge, in Plata v. Schwarzenegger (#C011351) is in the process of appointing an outside receiver, to take over the prisons "horrifying" medical system, I believe nothing will change unless the mindset is addressed. If not, the "extreme indifference" unearthed in Plata will continue.

The attached regulations are from the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 15. These examples of regulations are enlightening, and sadly so, insofar as being written, as the others, in the negative (no, not, never) tense. I believe the negativeness sets the stage and mind of providers, for "indifference to the point of callousness," as revealed in Plata.

Granted, prisoners and prison invoke little empathy, let alone sympathy, from the public at large. And, unfortunately, this is so even when it is widely known the prominence class and race plays in the system. Nevertheless, to the best of my knowledge, no prison sentence excludes medical care and no prison sentence includes medical care that only harms and never heals.

Furthermore, health, as you are more aware than I, involves both body and mind. However, the rigors of SHU and its unnatural environment, especially long term use, are not factored into our health care.

Example, our diet. We are on something called "a heartsart diet." Which leaves us, me at least, hungry and not very smart.

When this and noticeable weight loss is brought to the attention of our health care providers, the first thing said is "that's because you exercise too much."

Luckily, pun intended, I suffer from neuropathy (nerve damage) in both legs. So excessive exercise can easily be ruled out in my case. However, I'm not everyone. But suppose someone does exercise a lot. Exercise is a part of one's health, especially in a stressful and unnatural environment such as the SHU. And if someone is exercising to excess, it is not a dietary problem. It could be a psychosis, a neurosis, or just someone's way of dealing with the SHU.

So again, this is another example of the negative tense. Instead of encouraging exercise or discussing an appropriate regimen, we are told no, not, never. Moreover, in a nutshell, it's believed our diet is being used as behavior control, designed to leave us weak and not very smart. Passivity, in a word. A medical issue becoming one of corrections. Turning health care providers to jailers, who mete out justice (read: punishment).

Believe it or not, I could easily continue, but I just hope I've made some sense of a

very senseless situation. And as mentioned, I could provide documentation regarding my belief, of a specific case of negligence or write more on the overall picture.

I close with a final fact and thought: "At midyear 2003 the nation's prisons and jails incarcerated 8,078,570 persons" . . .and in "California" [at midyear 2003] its prisons and jails population stood at 163,361." And those that undervalue others will oppress them.

- A California prisoner

### My Patience Strong

by a NY Prisoner

Who's thoughts are these that..  
Cloud my mind  
and give me thoughts of  
Su-I-cide  
These chains that bind  
no one can see- I only know  
I must break free!!

Mistake me not!  
For one that's tamed  
A captive- yes! But not a slave!!  
My Patience Strong  
Not known to yield  
I've suffered many wrongs & ills!

Disinherited  
My Shield like that Dark Knight  
Sustains me in my endless fight.  
Not all can know the pain I feel  
for:  
These chains that bind  
not all can feel!

This cycle- full of Misery-Pain  
Conflicting thoughts  
Drive me Insane!!

To live, to die or just exist.  
To right past wrongs or be a misfit  
to  
Live a lie or suffer wrongs  
a negro  
or one Warrior Born

Hao! Inolunda  
A man indeed  
These chains that bind on one can see.

E-c-h-o-s  
from the distant past  
with links like steel  
from the very first to the very last!

My people  
are a nation strong!  
who've suffered may ills & wrongs!  
What was done to them  
is still...  
Done to me!!

I only know  
I must break free!!

## 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.



## El gobierno estadounidense espía, tortura y mata: nada nuevo en la Guerra contra el Terror

5 de febrero de 2006

En los últimos meses el público estadounidense ha sabido que el Presidente Bush ordenó a la Agencia de Seguridad Nacional (NSA por sus siglas en inglés) intervenir llamadas telefónicas sin autorización, práctica ilegal según muchos críticos. En teoría, la Ley de Vigilancia e Inteligencia Interior (FISA por sus siglas en inglés) prohíbe al gobierno dichas intervenciones sin permiso de un tribunal especial: la Corte de Vigilancia e Inteligencia Interior. Mientras es ciertamente útil precisar que el Presidente de los Estados Unidos violó sus propias leyes, incluso la intervención legal de llamadas en el país es un problema para el MIM. El requisito para conseguir el permiso de una corte especial para la intervención, una corte que es llevada por el gobierno estadounidense, no debería proporcionar a la gente ningún confort de que el gobierno está respetando la libertad de expresión (tan limitada como está en una sociedad en una sociedad donde grupos de personas tienen poder sobre otros grupos) o la protección contra búsquedas y detenciones irrazonables: derechos supuestamente protegidos por la Constitución.

Los Estados Unidos tiene un largo historia de espionaje a la gente que se opone al gobierno — violando sus propias leyes de forma descarada en el proceso — y más agresivamente a los radicales que se oponen de manera efectiva a lo militar y la violencia de cada día, y el horror del imperialismo. Este no es nuevo, y no es exclusivo a Bush.

Tras los ataques en los Estados Unidos ocurridos en el 11 de septiembre del 2001, el Congreso dio a Bush autorización plena para acudir al uso de la fuerza militar, espionaje, prisión, y “usar toda la fuerza necesaria y apropiada contra aquellas naciones, organizaciones o personas que él determine que planean, autorizaron, cometieron o ayudaron en los ataques terroristas” (Autorización para el Uso de la Fuerza Militar, aprobada por el Congreso el 18 de septiembre de 2001). A causa de esta y otras razones, hay escasos motivos para creer que el Congreso o cualquier otra parte del gobierno está mucho más interesado que el gobierno de Bush en proteger los derechos de los estadounidenses, mucho menos las libertades y vidas de las personas del Tercer Mundo.

Tras la aprobación de la autorización para el uso de la Fuerza Militar, el Congreso aprobó la “Patriot Act”, que fue un ataque incluso más fuerte contra las libertades civiles, dando al gobierno plenos poderes para intervenir conversaciones

por teléfono y mensajes de correo electrónico. Usando la “Patriot Act”, el FBI ha obtenido las listas de lecturas e información privada de usuarios de bibliotecas y clientes de librerías. La “Patriot Act” fue co-aprobada por John Kerry, un prominente Demócrata, un hecho que debería dejar claro que Bush y los republicanos no son el único problema.

La “Patriot Act” dio forma a lo que fue un hecho en un largo historial de espionaje dentro de los Estados Unidos. El Comité de la Iglesia fue monitoreado por la NSA, el FBI y la CIA durante los años 70. Ésta vigilancia fue usada para atacar a grupos revolucionarios. Por ejemplo, el Partido de las Panteras Negras y el Movimiento Indio Americano. Desde ese momento, el espionaje dentro de las fronteras de EEUU, particularmente de activistas políticas, no ha parado. Según la Ley de Libertad de Información, los estadounidenses pueden pedir una copia de su archivo del FBI. Muchos lo han hecho, encontrando que el gobierno mantiene un seguimiento cerrado de sus actividades pese a que todas sus actividades sean completamente legales, pero de alguna manera opuestas al imperialismo o incluso sólo a políticas particulares del gobierno de EEUU.

La así llamada guerra contra el terrorismo es sólo otra excusa

La Guerra contra el Terror ha sido una excusa conveniente para el gobierno estadounidense para invadir países, torturar prisioneros y detener a sospechosos de terrorismo indefinidamente, y ahora el gobierno está intentando justificar las intervenciones telefónicas sin permiso judicial. Algunos activistas políticos en Estados Unidos argumentan que Estados Unidos está rápidamente cayendo en el fascismo. Algunos de estos activistas que recientemente hablaron sobre el fascismo tienen la percepción de que el gobierno estadounidense se ha convertido en una amenaza para los blancos estadounidenses, e ignoran la represión fascista que los Estados Unidos está ya realizando contra las personas de las naciones oprimidas del Tercer Mundo de manera diaria. Pero, para aquellos que han estudiado algo de historia y ponen los acontecimientos actuales en un contexto histórico, la Guerra contra el Terror se parece demasiado a la Guerra contra las Drogas durante los años 80. Con ataques a naciones del Tercer Mundo, así como intentos de subvertir la Constitución en el propio país — la guerra contra el Terror es tan sólo otra excusa para el militarismo imperialista.

La Liga Anti-Imperialista Revolucionaria (RAIL por sus siglas en Inglés) brevemente y de manera acertada explicó ésta historia en su declaración sobre la Guerra contra el Terror:

“La Guerra Fría tuvo un enemigo real — el movimiento comunista internacional — aunque la forma en que EEUU percibió a ese enemigo fue a menudo errada y engañada. El comunismo nunca estuvo orquestado desde Moscú como la teoría monolítica del comunismo prevista. Ni siquiera una persona como Jacobo Arbenz, quien fue expulsado de Guatemala en 1954, era comunista, como la administración de Eisenhower afirmó. La totalidad de la propaganda de la Guerra Fría estaba describiendo una parte del imperialismo y llamándolo comunismo. Esto era un juego de percepciones.

“Cuando la Guerra Fría acabó, los EEUU aún necesitaban una manera para eliminar los movimientos guerrilleros que amenazaban a los gobiernos clienterales alrededor del mundo. Para proteger los intereses de los bancos y negocios del primer mundo, creó la Guerra contra las Drogas, que justificaba el incremento en el gasto militar. La Guerra Contra las Drogas fue política, debido a que el poder estadounidense es político, pero su fachada fue una cruzada moral. El carácter ascético puritano de Estados Unidos justificaba su continuo asalto a las gentes del Tercer Mundo.

“Tras los ataques del 11 de septiembre, un nuevo enemigo ha sido erigido. El terrorismo es un enemigo invisible, y cuando se llega a la verdad de la historia, no se llega al enemigo real. Los enemigos existen en cualquier sistema basado en la opresión de las personas, el hurto del trabajo extranjero, los recursos naturales, la dominación del capital extranjero, etc. No hay forma de que el imperialismo estadounidense pueda continuar creciendo sin crear más amargos oponentes — produce una lucha dialéctica, y llama a sus oponentes terroristas. Esta nueva guerra contra el terrorismo es el resultado de la opresión continua de la gente del mundo. Así como de la sobrestensión del poder militar estadounidense alrededor del globo. Su enemigo es vago y su meta muy inestable. La degeneración desde una alta política a una cruzada moral, ahora a un vago ataque sobre cualquier reacción al imperialismo de EEUU, es un siglo de cultura intelectual débil. Así como de una desesperación creciente de los imperialistas de EEUU al sostenerse sobre sus inversiones extranjeras usando la fuerza militar. La Guerra contra el Terrorismo es un signo de flaqueza. El

imperio estadounidense ha golpeado posiblemente ya su zócalo, y está ahora en la declinación permanente. Que esto signifique la recesión o recuperación tras el fin del largo crecimiento, está aún por ver.”

Los Estados Unidos declararán la victoria en la Guerra contra el Terror solo cuando haya alcanzado la dominación completa en el Tercer Mundo y haya aplastado toda resistencia al imperialismo de EEUU allí. Pero esto es una meta imposible, porque la represión alimenta a la resistencia, y hay mucha más gente en el mundo dominada por el imperialismo que beneficiada por él — a pesar de que la mayoría de estadounidenses, en particular la nación euro-estadounidense, se beneficia del imperialismo económica y políticamente. De esta manera, los Estados Unidos han elaborado una guerra que no puede ser ganada, pero que proveerá una justificación constante para la vigilancia y el encarcelamiento, y el militarismo agresivo.

La respuesta a esa “nueva” guerra no es atacar sólo a Bush ni sólo a los Republicanos durante el proceso, dando legitimidad a los esfuerzos imperialistas para elegir a una personalidad más efectiva. Algunos Republicanos sienten que Bush supone una amenaza a las prerrogativas del Congreso como un ámbito independiente del gobierno, y se están distanciando actualmente de él aún cuando sólo tienen desacuerdos menores. Están trabajando para hacer más seguro que cualquier reducción en el poder de Bush deje al sistema imperialista intacto y más estable.

En Estados Unidos, la respuesta a las cambiantes excusas de países para atacar a las naciones del Tercer mundo es exponer la opresión y represión que se produce bajo el imperialismo, y trabajar para poner fin a este sistema depredador y vicioso en el que grupos de personas se benefician de la dominación, opresión y muerte de otros. Es también necesario exigir que la mayoría de estadounidenses típicos se sumen a la Constitución que afirman apoyar, y dejen de ser indiferentes cuando la Constitución se pasa a aplicar a grupos o ideas impopulares.

