



Mounting U\$ casualties scare off allies

The number of U\$ troops killed in Iraq since the beginning of the land war in March topped four hundred as the Pentagon and CIA began dropping hints that the U\$ position in Iraq is worsening. Resistance fighters shot down four American helicopters in the first two weeks of November, killing more than 30 Americans. Fighters also killed 18 “coalition” troops in a bomb raid on an Italian barracks in Nasiriyah (1).

As a result of these developments, a number of America’s allies backed off of their promises to send troops to Iraq. Japan announced it would not send any troops the day before U\$ “Secretary of Defense” Donald Rumsfeld visited the Tokyo (2). South Korea also said it would not send any more troops, and Spain and the Netherlands have recalled their diplomats (3). This shows that determined resistance to imperialist aggression in one country can have global repercussions.

According to Reuters news service, the number of American soldiers killed in Iraq now surpasses the number killed in Vietnam from 1961 to 1964, namely 392 (4). This figure is somewhat misleading, as there are more American troops in harm’s way in Iraq than in early-sixties’ Vietnam. The population of Iraq is also larger than south Vietnam’s was, so arguably U\$ troops are already spread more thinly in Iraq. Comparable casualty rates (per thousand troops, per million population, per year) are .18 for Iraq and .49 for Vietnam in ’61 to ’64 (see table on page 5).

These casualty rates may be different because the Vietnamese had a number of political and military advantages that the Iraqi resistance in 2003 does not. The Vietnamese national liberation movement was united behind a Communist party committed to revolutionary land reform and anti-imperialism. The Communists and their allies had decades of experience in guerrilla war, first against the Japanese and then against the French. The southern Vietnamese had the support of their comrades in the north, who controlled their own economy and had a strong regular army (5). The Chinese Communists and Soviet Social-Imperialists also aided the Vietnamese.

However, if we consider the population of Vietnam as a whole—justifiable, considering the people of the north also participated in the struggle against U\$

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As American casualties mount, U\$. Commander Tommy Franks visits a wounded G.I who took one for the home(wrecking) team..

Self-centered Revolutions ignores majority of humanity

Matrix Revolutions 2003

Matrix Revolutions is packed with kung fu fights, machine gun battles, computer generated special effects, and pop philosophy that made the first two installments of the trilogy box-office hits. Yet Revolutions spends little time developing what was perhaps the most interesting aspect of The Matrix and Matrix Reloaded: the matrix itself.

In the original Matrix we learn that almost all humynity is unknowingly participating in a virtual reality simulation, called the matrix, in order to keep their brains busy while their bodies are used as a heat source to power the machines that have taken over the planet. Morpheus and Trinity are among the small percentage of humyns, headquartered in the underground city of Zion, who have managed to break free from the matrix. They free Neo, who they believe will be

“the One” to finally give them victory in the war against the machines.

In the sequel we discover that it is not only humyns, and machine-controlled agents like Agent Smith, who inhabit the matrix. It also contains programs that rebelled instead of performing their intended function, such as the Keymaker and the Oracle. These exiled programs look and act like humyns, raising the question of whether they have somehow gained self-awareness.

Will Neo save the billions of humyns connected to the Matrix and free them from the enslavement of the machines? Are the exiled programs somehow alive, and will they too be liberated from the matrix? Unfortunately the Matrix Revolutions does not give decisive answers to these questions. Instead, Neo and company seem only to be concerned with defending Zion. Even after the matrix

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U\$ COURT HOUNDS PALESTINIAN ACTIVIST OUT OF COUNTRY

We run this timely article by The Amer Jubran Defense Committee (a mass organization not affiliated with MIM) because it exposes the American government’s legal harassment of immigrants—especially those who are politically active anti-imperialists. It shows that the American government is not willing to grant non-citizens the rights its own Founding Fathers struggled to attain.

Boston

Today’s proceeding—the long-delayed and final hearing in the case of Amer Jubran—saw the complete collapse of all pretenses to fairness, justice and objectivity. Despite the government’s insistence to the contrary, this case has always been an effort to silence voices that speak out for Palestinian liberation and against the policies of the United States and its client state Israel. Nothing about today’s proceedings has succeeded in silencing those voices.

After being denied adequate time to review 50 pages of government documents submitted a week before his final trial (and four months after the June 24 deadline for disclosing evidence), after being denied his fundamental right to be represented by effective counsel, and after being compelled to testify without any legal representation at all, after realizing there is no possibility for due process in this court, Amer decided to request of the court that he be granted “voluntary departure” from the United States. In March 2004, unless the government continues its persecution of him, he will return to his home in Jordan.

Amer was offered three choices at today’s trial: proceeding with a lawyer that he did not trust to represent him, representing himself despite his lack of legal expertise, or submitting to direct questions from the judge without any legal

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Letters: Some slave masters wear robes

To MIM:

In MIM Theory 6, The Stalin Issue [see advertisement on page 6], the section on pre-scientific intelligentsia really caught my attention. Especially since so many of my people are being oppressed by these slave masters dressed in “robes”. I was doing some research and I ran across this in “Revolution in Central America” by Daniel Fogel.

“The catholic church eagerly participated in and profited from the Spanish colonial campaign of genocide, enslavement and land expropriation of the indigenous peoples of ‘Latin’ America. In today’s capitalist world, the Vatican has become a modern capitalist/imperialist institution, cleverly blending a kaleidoscope of bourgeois ideology including liberal humanitarianism and pacifism with its old feudal ideology of the corporate self-owner. The Vatican maintains and works to expand its financial, landowning empire, through its transnational bank and its well-heeled church holding companies around the world. Small wonder that its leading propagandists, the cardinals and archbishops, robed ‘chairmen of the board’ of the holy capitalist corporation, tend to uphold the established social order and oppose the new heresy, liberation theology. But the Vatican no longer has its own military arm and judicial network of prisons, torture chambers, inquisition chambers and execution plazas to enforce its reactionary ideas. In this

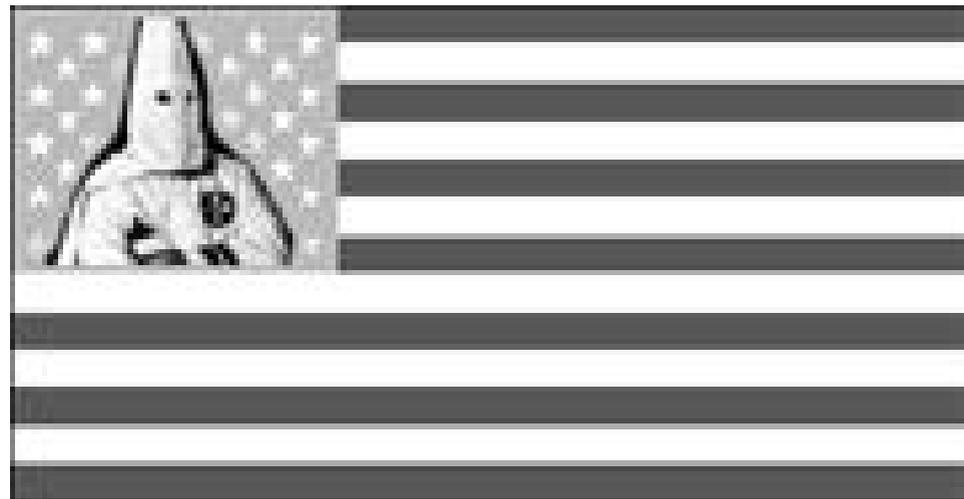
respect it has stepped aside to make room for the secular institutions of modern imperialism, centered in Washington and Wall Street. This has bought a big moral advantage to the Vatican: It’s hands are no longer directly covered with the blood of the hundreds of thousands of oppressed people slaughtered by the empire of propertied wealth. The death squads and counterinsurgent armies of El Salvador and Guatemala are not under the command of the Vatican, but of local ruling cliques supervised by the Pentagon, the CIA, Chase Manhattan Bank of America. So the Vatican can posture as an ‘independent’ spiritual force ‘rising above’ the fierce struggle between imperialist reaction and the people’s revolution. Preaching ‘universal’ love, disarmament, and a purely spiritual ‘revolution’ on the basis of the existing social order, the Vatican serves the aims of imperialism in urging the insurgent masses to lay down their arms and submit once against to the tyranny of their rulers.”

— a California prisoner, July 2003

MIM adds: Of course, Catholicism is not the only Christian denomination waving incense over the stinking crimes of the oppressors. The bizarre Amerikan blend of Protestantism and hyper-individualism props up the patriarchy, especially the oppression of children (see article on page 3). Nor is Christianity solely to blame. The Hindu Ghandi

effectively sanctioned the everyday violence in capitalist India (including some of the worst famines in 20th century

history) by scolding Indian workers and peasants for taking up arms against the capitalists and landlords.



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

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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.

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What is MIM?

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) is the collection of existing or emerging Maoist internationalist parties in the English-speaking imperialist countries and their English-speaking internal semi-colonies, as well as the existing or emerging Maoist Internationalist parties in Belgium, France and Quebec and the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist Internationalist parties of Aztlan, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.S. Empire. MIM Notes is the newspaper of MIM. *Notas Rojas* is the newspaper of the Spanish-speaking parties or emerging parties of MIM. MIM upholds the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and is an internationalist organization that works from the vantage point of the Third World proletariat. MIM struggles to end the oppression of all groups over other groups: classes, genders, nations. MIM knows this is only possibly by building public opinion to seize power through armed struggle. Revolution is a reality for North America as the military becomes over-extended in the government’s attempts to maintain world hegemony. MIM differs from other communist parties on three main questions: (1) MIM holds that after the proletariat seizes power in socialist revolution, the potential exists for capitalist restoration under the leadership of a new bourgeoisie within the communist party itself. In the case of the USSR, the bourgeoisie seized power after the death of Stalin in 1953; in China, it was after Mao’s death and the overthrow of the “Gang of Four” in 1976. (2) MIM upholds the Chinese Cultural Revolution as the farthest advance of communism in humyn history. (3) As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM has reiterated through materialist analysis, imperialism extracts super-profits from the Third World and in part uses this wealth to buy off whole populations of oppressor nation so-called workers. These so-called workers bought off by imperialism form a new petty-bourgeoisie called the labor aristocracy. These classes are not the principal vehicles to advance Maoism within those countries because their standards of living depend on imperialism. At this time, imperialist super-profits create this situation in the Canada, Quebec, the United States, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Israel, Sweden and Denmark. MIM accepts people as members who agree on these basic principles and accept democratic centralism, the system of majority rule, on other questions of party line.

“The theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin is universally applicable. We should regard it not as dogma, but as a guide to action. Studying it is not merely a matter of learning terms and phrases, but of learning Marxism-Leninism as the science of revolution.”
- Mao Zedong, Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 208.

Jessica Lynch story exposes media and military lies

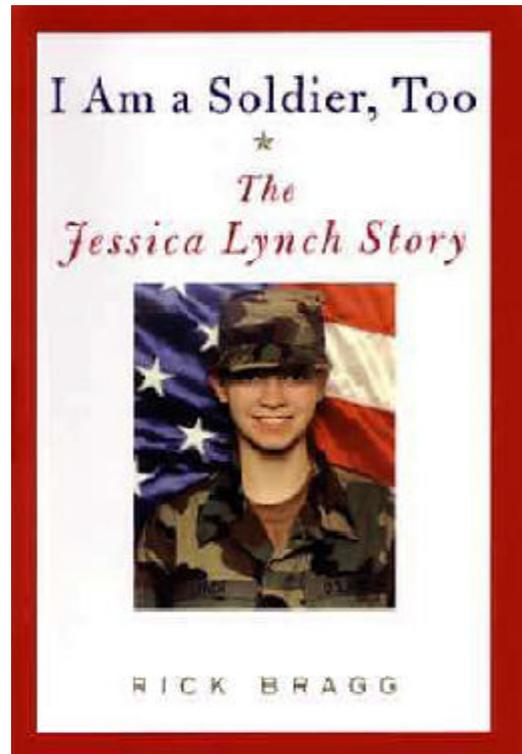
Jessica Lynch, the U.S. army private who was captured in Iraq, recently denounced the American military's lies about her treatment and escape in Iraq. The Pentagon used her rescue by special forces to build American sympathy for the war on Iraq. In an interview with ABC news she said about the Pentagon: "It hurt in a way that people would make up stories that they had no truth about."⁽¹⁾ The story got even better in November's made-for-TV movie "Saving Jessica Lynch" that dramatized her capture and rescue. This show began with a disclaimer that scenes and events were re-written or completely fabricated for the sake of the drama.

In reality Lynch's "rescue" is an example of the American propaganda machine, run by the government and lapped up by the mainstream media mouthpieces for imperialism.

Lynch was captured in March of 2003 after her company took a wrong turn near Nasiriya and was ambushed. Eleven people with her were killed and she was taken to a local hospital. Initial reports said she went down fighting, but in truth her gun jammed and she went down praying. The Pentagon reported Lynch was stabbed, shot, and violently interrogated. Then, again according to the Pentagon, the Americans got a tip about where Lynch was being held and they sent in the Army Rangers and Navy Seals to carry out a daring rescue under fire. The military filmed her rescue, using the footage to promote the military operation in Iraq.

In spite of pervasive media reports to the contrary, the truth is just as the Iraqi doctors who treated Lynch reported. She suffered broken bones to her right arm, right leg, thighs and ankle and received a head injury all from a vehicle accident, before she was taken to the Iraqi hospital. The Pentagon doctors released this information only after they had milked her rescue for all they could.

Two days before her rescue squad arrived, an Iraqi doctor tried to help Lynch return to the Army. Dr. Harith al-Houssona, who cared for Lynch during her stay at the hospital, put her in an ambulance and instructed the driver to go to the American checkpoint, but when they got near the soldiers opened fire and they had to flee back to the hospital.⁽²⁾ Further, contrary to American military reports, there were no Iraqi military forces at the hospital and so the filmed "rescue" was nothing more than a staged event with the American commandos threatening the doctors and patients for the benefit of film. A carefully edited version of the film was quickly released to the media and played over and over to build support for the brave American



Jessica Lynch's book, and her accepting an award from Glamour magazine.

troops.

Lynch released the biographical book "I Am a Soldier Too" in November. The book describes her Iraqi doctors and nurses as caring and gentle. Lynch was unconscious for a few hours after the accident and woke up in an Iraqi military hospital. The American media, ever eager to do their jobs as Pentagon mouthpieces, seized on the part of her biography which cites medical records alleging she suffered broken bones and was sodomized while in Iraqi hands.⁽³⁾ American media hyped this again as evidence of Iraqi barbarity and Lynch's heroism in the days preceding and following the book release.

This medical report is highly suspicious. First, Lynch has no memory of any abuse and it there is only a window of a few hours when she was unconscious when it could have happened, because the rest of the time she was conscious and suffered no abuse at the hands of her captors. Second, the report was only released months after her return to America in spite of expansive propaganda work by the Pentagon to make out her capture to be dangerous and violent. Third, her Iraqi doctors, who thoroughly examined her, found no evidence of sexual assault and found all of her wounds to be consistent with her crash. Further, given the Pentagon's consistent lies about Lynch's capture and rescue, there is little reason to believe these medical reports, which are contrary to reports of the Iraqi doctors who turned out to be the ones telling the truth all along.

The Pentagon and the White House

have another reason for wanting to report the rape of Jessica Lynch: this would further their campaign to roll back policies allowing women to serve in the American military. Already these reports are being used to fuel declarations that women should not be allowed in combat situations. These chauvinists seem to be unaware that men can be raped just as easily as women. But MIM doesn't care to debate whether women should have the "privilege" of serving in the imperialist military. We don't fight for equality to oppress. But we do say that the proletarian armies will always rely on the strength and skills of women warriors fighting alongside their male comrades.

In the end the treatment of Jessica Lynch by the Iraqi military should not be the topic in the news. She was part of an invading force that continues to kill untold thousands of Iraqis in an attempt to take control of their country. Lynch was part of the military that enforced American-imposed sanctions for years, debilitating the Iraqi economy and devastating the health of the country. The treatment of the Iraqi people at the hands of the Americans is what really merits reporting. But we can't count on the mouthpieces for imperialism, the American media, to do this for us. Lynch's story is another example of the need for independent media. MIM can't do it alone: help us with money, writing, art, distribution or any other skills you have.

Notes:

1. ABC News Nightline interview with Jessica Lynch, November 11, 2003.
2. The Guardian, May 15, 2003
3. AP, Nov 11, 2003

MOVEON.ORG AIRS JINGOISTIC AMERIKA- FIRST AD

by MC12

MoveOn.org, which bills itself as "a new kind of grassroots involvement, supporting busy but concerned citizens in finding their political voice," is airing a political advertisement on its website that uses American chauvinism to bash Bush and build support for the Democratic Party. The ad shows ordinary-looking people suffering the consequences of Bush's supposed determination to help Iraq at the expense of Americans. The ominous announcer says:

"We could have built 10,000 new schools, or hired almost 2 million new teachers. We could have rebuilt our electric grid. We could have insured more of our children. Instead George wants to spend that \$87 billion in Iraq. If there's money for Iraq, why isn't there money for America? The truth is, we're not being led — we're being misled."⁽¹⁾

After the images of people fade out, the screen shows nothing but "\$87 Billion for Iraq" in big letters, but turning to a grainy black-and-white image of Bush.

If Bush were really ITAL giving END \$87 billion to Iraq for reparations—with no strings attached, to pay the people of Iraq back for killing hundreds of thousands of them, wrecking their infrastructure and economy, occupying their country and seizing their oil—MIM would support them even if it meant not building new schools in the U.S.A.

But of course that's not what Bush and Congress (Democrat and Republican) are doing. Their \$87 billion dollar bill (some of which is "for" Afghanistan, incidentally) is to pay for the continued occupation of these countries, and smooth their eventual transition to neocolonialism.

This kind of chauvinism dressed up as progressivism may not be unusual, but it is always bad news for the oppressed. The plurality of MoveOn members (44%) voted to endorse Democrat Howard Dean, with Dennis Kucinich coming in second at (24%).⁽²⁾ As MIM has reported, many of these supporters oppose the occupation of Iraq, but it's up to us to struggle with them and others over the reasons for this — and show the negative consequences of spreading American jingoism.

Notes:

1. MoveOn.org website.
2. CNN, 27 June 2003.

U\$ court hounds Palestinian activist out of country

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representation at all. When Amer was first arrested and interrogated by the INS and FBI, he refused to answer any questions without a lawyer present; today, he found himself in the same situation. In fact, this entire proceeding was an extension of the illegitimate process that began in November 2002, and, from the first illegal arrest to today's farcical hearing, it has had only one motive—to silence Amer as a political activist and to intimidate the members of his community. It has unequivocally failed.

The government has never presented sufficient evidence to challenge Amer's immigration status; in fact, for almost a year, it presented no evidence at all. But immigration courts are the legal equivalent of a stacked deck, and cases like this are not settled on the basis of evidence. Amer's decision to take voluntary departure came from his refusal to facilitate the fundamentally unfair process through which he was dragged.

Although innocent, he was left with no options to make a legitimate defense, and the government made it clear that it was willing to damage and destroy the lives of Amer's ex-wife, her family, and even their former neighbors to pursue its case against him. Had the trial gone forward, it would have allowed the government to prolong the use of these proceedings as a means of conducting an illegitimate investigation not only into details of Amer's life irrelevant to the merits of the immigration case, but also, more frighteningly, into the lives of many other immigrants who are vulnerable to government harassment.

After Amer's first trial, on July 24th, the judge remarked that the prosecution didn't seem to have a case; all but one of the original charges against Amer had been dropped, and the government had no witnesses and no evidence to present. Since the burden of proof in immigration cases rests on the defense, not the prosecution, the government had hoped that it could intimidate Amer's ex-wife into refusing to testify, but she appeared in court, and after a grueling four hours of testimony, the judge, convinced, indicated that he was prepared to rule in Amer's favor. The prosecuting attorney, however, claimed that his wife was sick and received a two-month continuance; a month later, he delayed the trial another six weeks because, apparently, he had to drive to a pre-arranged event in Indiana on the trial date. (Despite this, he was in his office on the morning of the date in question.)

Eight days before Amer's final trial on November 6th, the government gave Amer's lawyer a 52-page packet of evidence, comprising 19 separate items and revealing an extensive (and, until that point, secret) investigation involving at least 12 different federal agents. The packet was intended as a threat, but not to Amer; page after page of questionable reports, contradictory testimony, and



Amer Jubran (photo: www.iacoboston.org)

incomplete forms clearly showed that the government had been harassing more than Amer's ex-wife and her family. As the judge remarked, the packet didn't contain anything that cast prior testimony into doubt, but in order to prepare a response, Amer instructed his lawyer to request a continuance, which the judge refused to grant. Although the government, with no basis, had delayed the case for months, Amer was not allowed a mere two weeks to review new evidence and prepare a defense against it. When the motion for a continuance was denied, Amer's lawyer—without Amer's consent and against his explicit instructions—made an arrangement with the prosecuting attorney and the judge that would have opened up lines of questioning about matters unrelated to the marriage case, including Amer's legitimate political activities. The judge then intended to grant the prosecution another continuance, which would give the government yet another opportunity to investigate every possible avenue indicated by the already irrelevant testimony. In this kind of court, the original charges are of no importance, and it does not matter if the defendant meets the burden of proof; the process of investigation has no legitimate legal goal and no limit except the government's willingness to spend time and money, terrify innocent people, and ruin lives, particularly the lives of immigrants and the poor—the groups of people that their investigation placed pressure on.

In light of the arrangement made in his absence between both lawyers and the court, it became clear that Amer's lawyer was acting as an officer of the court and not in Amer's best interest. After declaring his intention to seek alternate counsel, Amer asked for another continuance in order to seek such counsel, but the judge denied this request as well, insisting that Amer would either have to represent himself (which Amer repeatedly stated he was unwilling to do) or proceed forward without legal representation, and faced with questions not from an

advocate but from the judge himself. When the prosecution asked for delays, they were granted no matter the reason, but when Amer asked for a continuance on wholly valid grounds, the judge, ironically, cited Amer's right to a "quick and speedy trial," as well as the pressure placed on the court by the defense committee itself. Faced with this nightmare logic, coupled with the prospect of an endless, boundless investigation that would threaten the vulnerable, Amer felt that his only choice was to request voluntary departure.

After more than a decade of fighting for justice in the United States, Amer is returning to his home—or at least as much of a home as a Palestinian refugee can claim. Even as the media and hate-peddlers in Washington would like to convince us otherwise, there are many advantages to living in the Arab World, even apart from being closer to family. This is not the end of his life, but the beginning of a new part of it. Amer can return with his head held high knowing that he did not cave in to the intimidation tactics of the U.S. government.

Those of us who have stood with Amer and who have seen the unfairness and political motivations of this process up close, believe he made the best possible decision given the circumstances. During

the Red Scare of the 50's and the political grand juries of the 70's and 80's, people of principle who refused to participate in the government's illegal witchhunt could invoke their fifth amendment rights to avoid participating.

The immigration courts allow no such right, which begins to make it more clear why the government is targeting immigrants as it seeks to suppress dissent at home against its brutal and misguided policies abroad. The best way Amer could take a principled stand when the Judge refused to give him time to secure ethical legal representation was to seek voluntary departure. We admire him for making this principled choice, we admire him for his fearlessness, and we will each intensify our own voice and courage so that the voice for justice in Palestine will not waver.

We call on all of you to raise your voice for justice for Palestine and to fight against the anti-democratic campaign of repression being carried out by the U.S. government. We will not be intimidated and we will not be silent!

—*The Amer Jubran Defense Committee, November 6, 2003*

(<http://www.amerjubrandefense.org/>)

What is militarism?



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

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

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

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

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

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

Mounting U\$ casualties scare off allies

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aggression—the casualty rate in Vietnam from '61 to '64 is .19, about the same as Iraq, 2003. Considering the political and military difficulties, this is quite an accomplishment. The Amerikan military—which leapt into this adventure with delusions of easy victory and now preaches caution—apparently respects this accomplishment. So do Japan and south Korea. Furthermore, the efficacy of the resistance fighters is likely to increase, as they are still learning the ropes of guerrilla warfare. If they continue to fight with such heroic determination, they may tie down greater numbers of imperialist troops, creating revolutionary opportunities elsewhere—even in the imperialist countries.

As we reported in the last two issues, the war in Iraq and the “war on terrorism” left the British military vulnerable at home. Millions took to the streets against the war in Iraq at a time when a miniscule proportion of the imperialists’ army was left “at home,” but no revolutionary situation developed. This is a reflection of the class realities in imperialist countries: a majority of the population there benefits from the imperialists’ exploitation of the Third World and has no interest in revolution. There is an analogous phenomenon in the United States. Hundreds of thousands of people marched against the war before it started and during the first few weeks of war; far fewer have marched since George Bush announced “mission accomplished” and guerrilla warfare intensified.

The flabbiness of the imperialist-country petty bourgeoisie makes it imperative for proletarian internationalists to speak out boldly and not worry about alienating the imperialist-country majority. The imperialists have picked up a rock and dropped it on their own feet in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Philippines, and the other places they’ve invaded as part of the “war on terrorism.” Or, to mix in another Marxist metaphor, the imperialists have created their own gravediggers—resistance fighters in Iraq and elsewhere. We can see from the current situation in England and the situation in Amerika during the Vietnam War that the tremendous sacrifices of oppressed peoples fighting for their liberation can create revolutionary opportunities in the imperialist countries.

We cannot waste these hard-won opportunities by handing them to the Democrats or other reformers who may oppose a particular policy but are basically on board with imperialism. A determined proletarian minority must form its own pole, fly its own banner and give the petty-bourgeoisie another option to vacillate toward.

Number of occupying troops killed in recent imperialist wars of aggression

Country	Population (millions)	Number of occupying troops	Number of occupying troops killed	Casualty rate ¹
Iraq (2003)	25	131,000 ²	397 ²	0.18
Afghanistan ³ (1980)	13	80,000	1484	1.43
South Vietnam ⁴ (1965)	15	185,000	1800	0.65
South Vietnam ⁴ (1961-1964)	15	13,400 ⁵	392	0.49

1. Casualties per thousand troops, per million population, per year.

2. U\$ troops alone; “coalition partners” not included. Casualties as of 19:30 EST 13 Nov 2003.

3. This refers to the first full year of the social-imperialist Soviet Union’s invasion of Afghanistan.

4. Considering Vietnam as a whole (population: 37 million), the casualty rates in 1965 and 1961-1964 were 0.26 and 0.19, respectively.

5. Averaged over the four-year period.

Sources: Reuters, 13 Nov 2003; Marilyn Young, *The Vietnam Wars*, New York: HarperCollins, 1991; www.hunterthinks.com.

Notes:

1. The Boston Globe, 15 Nov 2003; Associated Press, 7 Nov 2003; MIM Notes 291, 15 Nov 2003; USA Today, 13 Nov 2003.

2. Associated Press, 14 Nov 2003.

3. The McLaughlin Group, 7 Nov 2003; Washington Post, 17 Nov 2003.

4. Reuters, 12 Nov 2003.

5. This is one reason we continue to support national liberation struggles, as opposed to recent intellectual trends that dismiss nation-states as irrelevant. We recognize that no nation can be completely liberated from imperialism—to say nothing of achieving

communism—while encircled by imperialist countries. But the seizure of state power gives the proletariat the ability to do great things for the people in those countries and support the struggle of people in others. It also removes those countries from the imperialists’ support base.

FAQ: Why does MIM say some nationalism is still progressive?

“In wars of national liberation patriotism is applied internationalism.”

—*Quotations of Chairman Mao, chapter 18 or “The Role of the Chinese Communist Party in the National War,” October 1938, Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 196.*

There are three reasons that nationalism still plays a progressive role in the world in oppressed nations:

- (1) super-exploitation,
- (2) semi-feudalism,
- (3) uniting migrants with the super-exploited.

When a country is super-exploited by another through a puppet comprador-lackey regime, the workers toil more exploited than ever before, because fascist regimes coerce the workers to work for the imperialist country masters for a pittance compared with the legal wages in the imperialist countries.

That is in Lenin already.

It is also in Lenin, Stalin (and even Trotsky counter to today’s popular myths) and others in the 1920s that nationalism may play a positive role in uniting capitalist classes and workers against semi-feudalism. Often it is the imperialists propping up semi-feudalism and it is the nationalist masses who want to build their countries at least in a capitalist way (see sidebar quote from the COMINTERN).

Finally, nationalism plays a progressive role when it causes people located inside



the imperialist countries to unite with the people of their native lands that are still super-exploited.

These three reasons are also the economic content of principal contradiction in the world today—the struggle of the oppressed nations against imperialism.

When nationalism has no role to play in uniting people against backward forms of exploitation, nationalism is reactionary. That includes all imperialist country cases of nationalism. The imperialists already have the most advanced economic system and their nationalism does not drive their system forward to socialism. Quite the opposite, imperialist country nationalism supports the backwardness of the Third World and brings about endless war.

Nationalism is also reactionary when the target is other oppressed nations. The only revolutionary nationalism targets imperialism as the enemy and no oppressed nations.

Comintern on national liberation

In the colonial countries with an oppressed native peasant population the national liberation movement is composed either of the entire population, as for example in Turkey, in which case the struggle of the oppressed peasantry against the landlords inevitably begins after the victory of the liberation struggle; or the feudal landlords are allied with the imperialist robbers, and in these countries, for example India, the social struggle of the oppressed peasants takes place at the same time as the struggle for national liberation.

—Jane Degras, ed., *The Communist International: 1919-1943 Documents* London: Frank Cass & Co., Ltd, 1971, Vol. 1, p. 396.

MC5 adds: After Lenin died, simpleton Trotskyists attempted to blame Stalin and Mao for all alliances of the proletariat with the national bourgeoisie. Yet while Lenin was alive, Trotsky himself signed off on numerous statements backing alliance with the national bourgeoisie, and in this case we see the COMINTERN of Lenin support alliance even with feudal lords. Thus to say that Stalin and Mao invented the alliance with the national bourgeoisie is a jealous lie by the representatives of the labor aristocracy who seek to use the proletariat for their own purposes.

Prisoners and Mental Illness

Human Rights Watch released a report in October stating that one sixth of prisoners in the United States are mentally ill (1). Meanwhile, the Correctional Association of New York put out a very comprehensive report based on in-person research in segregation units throughout New York State that indicates that one fifth of those prisoners are mentally ill (2). Both reports indicate that people who are having trouble dealing with their conditions mentally are most likely to be placed in worse conditions, i.e. long term isolation in Control Unit or Security Housing Units as they are often called.

To find people in US prisons who are not having negative mental effects from the conditions that they are in seems a difficult task. The fact that some people react worse than others leaves the term “mental illness” open to interpretation based on the degree of the problems. Human Rights Watch blames the high rates of incarceration of the mentally ill on the lack of resources for people on the outside. Without any help they end up being stuck in prison as a result of their behavior. This assessment seems accurate, however we would not join Human Rights Watch in calling for locking more people into mental institutions instead of prisons. The history of abuse in mental institutions rivals that of prisons. In fact, the use of the two is often split along gender lines, with women ending up in mental institutions and men being sent to prisons (3).

Both men and women who are being locked away in institutions are products of our society. Both mental illness and petty criminal behavior are common in our society, but rather than looking at the source of these behaviors our society chooses to punish them.

Many people react to this sociological assessment by turning back to the individual and saying that you can't just blame all their problems on society. But we are not arguing that people don't need to take responsibility for their actions because it is society's fault. On the contrary, if you are able to decide that you don't like your behavior and that you think it is a result of the society you grew up in than it is your responsibility to do something to change society. MIM has found that this approach addresses the problem on both the societal and the personal level (3). It is exactly in engaging one's world and struggling to make it better that one finds meaning and identity for oneself.

What are the societal causes of mental illness? One inherent problem in capitalism is the alienation of people from their labor, even people in the United States who can make a lot of money spend much of their time following someone else's orders without directly benefiting from the work they are doing. In a society where money is plentiful, consumerism has been encouraged as a way to find self-worth. These economic conditions encourage our individualist lifestyles that



lack the sense of community that has kept other societies functioning much better than ours. If we turn back to the prison system we can make the links between material conditions and mental illness even more easily.

The Correctional Association of NY report found that the incidence of suicide and other harmful behaviors was higher in Security Housing Units (SHUs) than in the general (prison) population. “Between 1998 and 2001, over half of the system's 48 suicides occurred in 23-hour lock down, although inmates in these units comprise less than 10% of the general population” (2) The report states that some units function better than others, including the use of “behavior modification.” While MIM proposes a prison system based on reform and not punishment we cannot rely on the current state to conduct such “behavior modification” (4). Teaching people to adjust to an oppressive and exploitative system only puts off making a better system, while remaining ineffective in making the majority of individuals happy.

As for the SHU, we stand by our line that you cannot reform torture units (5). One of the Correctional Association of NY's recommendations in its report is to “institute a suicide prevention program in every 23-hour lock down unit, including keeplock. A properly administered suicide prevention program could mean the difference between life and death for inmates in 23-hour lock down.” (2) Their own statistics show that there are higher rates of suicide in these units. Then they talk about how these prisoners in these units are ripe for abuse by guards and administration. So why would we count on them to prevent suicides? Clearly the SHUs and other isolation units need to be abolished as they are cruel and unusual punishment, often for petty misbehavior as both reports point out.

MIM has been building public opinion to shut down isolation units for years and we have recently begun to unite a nationwide movement with our statement against all such units, which can be found

online at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/controlunits/index.html>. We encourage those who are concerned about the well-being of the mentally ill in prisons to join us in this campaign.

Notes:

1. United States: Mentally Ill Mistreated in Prison, More Mentally Ill in Prison Than in Hospitals. New York, October 22, 2003. Human Rights Watch press release. <http://www.hrw.org/>

reports/2003/usa1003/.

2. LOCKDOWN NEW YORK: Disciplinary Confinement in New York State Prisons, October 2003. Correctional Association of New York <http://www.correctionalassociation.org/>.

3. MIM Theory 9: Psychology and Imperialism.

4. See “An Alternative to the SHU” by MIM, also in this issue.

5. “Torture Can't Be Reformed.” MIM Notes 289, 15 October 2003.

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All issues of MIM Theory (except #1) are now available through amazon.com. Search for “Maoist Internationalist Movement” under author.

Featured issue: MIM Theory #6, “The Stalin Issue”



MIM reviews some of the most influential anti-Stalin biographies. Anti-communist propagandists around the world opened up new offensives against Josef Stalin in 1985 when Mikhail Gorbachev came to power and introduced glasnost, and in 1991 when the state capitalist Soviet Union fell apart. The attacks on Stalin, leader of the Soviet Union from 1924 to 1953 when it was a socialist country, are often ostensibly based on new evidence — documents previously held in secret Soviet government archives. Article reviews Bazhanov, Deutscher, Khrushchev, Medvedev, Pomper, Tucker, Ulam, Volkogonov and others. (104 pp.)

Reviews

“In my own opinion the Stalin issue is a great analysis. I have studied it many times. I think it's the best Stalin comment I have ever read.”

—Finnish reader responding to a review in the second largest newspaper in Finland, AAMULEHTI

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An Alternative to the SHU

While campaigning to abolish Security Housing Units in prisons, people frequently ask us, “What’s your alternative?” This question usually comes from people who know that there is a lot of violence in prisons. So they argue that the SHU provides security to help avoid petty confrontations.

In practice however, it is the prison system and the correctional officers who promote and even create violent situations rather than preventing them. This is the product of a system that is set up to be every man for himself, where snitching is rewarded and violence is promoted as the way to solve problems. It’s the same old divide-and-conquer technique. When the people in an institution are there against their will, facing repression and inhumane conditions, the minority running the institution doesn’t want them organizing against their captors.

When addressing the question of abolishing the SHU we have to make it clear that MIM is not a reformist organization. We are fighting this campaign within the context of overthrowing the whole system and replacing the current criminal injustice system with justice for the people. Our goal is to transform society to eliminate the social causes of crime. Our long-term answer to the question of what to do with violent criminals is to build a system of re-education, reform, and reintroduction to society for those who previously posed a threat to society.

In the short term we must fight to limit the oppression of the current system and abolishing the SHU is part of that fight. We know that the SHU is used for political repression. We know that everyone in the SHU suffers mentally and physically regardless of why they are in there. Therefore we often point out to those who are reluctant to sign our petition to abolish the SHU that these people are usually going to get out of prison some day and will only be more maladjusted than when they entered as a result of the isolation and torture they faced. Prisons can be made safer under the current system, but this goes counter to the interests of the prison administration to keep power over the imprisoned. Therefore until the proletariat decides who goes to prison and how the prison system is used there will be torture and violence in prisons.

When it does come time to build a new justice system in the interests of the people, we look toward the model of the prison system in socialist China (i.e. China under Mao). People who were successfully reformed through that system include two Amerikan students (Allyn and Adele Rickett) and the last Emperor of the Manchu dynasty, Pu Yi. All three of them have written about their experiences and provide some great insights into the socialist prison system. In our review of the Ricketts’ book, *Prisoners of Liberation*, we wrote, “a



psychological approach to antisocial behavior takes agency away from the individual and the masses, and has as its goal teaching people to learn to adjust to their oppressive conditions (or their role as an oppressor) rather than struggling for political change.”(3) Individualism leads bourgeois society to use psychology to explain and then treat crime rather than the sociological viewpoint of class struggle. By focusing on the societal roots of humyn problems we can actually eliminate their source.

The difference between our plan for prisons and the current prison system is that we see prisons as a means of re-education not punishment. When we bring up re-education under socialism suddenly liberals get indignant. This violates their individualist value system that considers people static rather than ever-changing products of society and their own experience. Because re-educating people to interact better with other people is taboo in Amerika, we are left with the option of punishment to deal with those who don’t play the game or who aren’t allowed to play.

Curiously, isolation and physical torture do not provoke the same indignation from many liberals as any mention of ‘re-education’ does. This can largely be explained by the fact that it is oppressed nations who are disproportionately suffering at the hand of the current punitive system. Especially in extreme instances of repression like the SHU we see the targeting of Black nationalists, Spanish speakers, members of lumpen organizations like B.L.O.O.D. or ALKQN, or others whose behavior is outside the norm set by white society. Meanwhile the biggest criminals in the world are living it up within U.S. borders with no fear of reprisal by the current system. To talk about replacing this system with one that re-educates people to work together in a socialist economy turns the tables, making white Amerikans the biggest target. While the Black man selling rock on the street will be quick to

give it up for a means of supporting himself by building his community rather than destroying it, the white man making millions by allowing that product to enter the country in the first place will be a lot more reluctant to change his ways. And he sure as hell doesn’t want the economy socialized.

“But some people are just crazy”

We often hear this line on the streets. Certainly it is prevalent in the bourgeois media. It may be true that some mentally ill people commit crimes because of their illness. But to quote the band Propagandhi, “Ordinary people do fucked up things when fucked up things become ordinary.” In other words, behavior is relative to the material conditions of a society.

We can say with certainty that the vast majority of people who have committed crimes against other people are not “crazy” and can be reformed. And some number of people who are mentally ill (even seriously ill) can also be reformed. Evidence that crime can be largely eliminated can be seen in a comparison of violent crimes committed in the world today. Amerikans are willing to accept the idea that there are all these “incorrigible crazies” out there because our society has succeeded in creating excessive violence in individuals and the media turns around and feeds that to the populace as a scare tactic. A quick glance at an Amerikan prison yard will tell you something is not right when the vast majority of the people are not white, while white people still make up a majority of the U\$ population. Unless one is a racist then one must admit that there are social factors involved in who goes to prison.

The same individualism that leads people to be more concerned about some static idea of identity than about physical abuse and mental torture is what allows people to act against the norms and interests of the society that they live in. Communists favor class struggle over the psychological approach. For example,

“Rather than giving moralizing sermons, China strove to create in individuals a social conscience.”(3) In this way we can combat all sorts of social ills, from drug addiction and eating disorders to violence and other neuroses. Rather than brushing these problems under the rug, by trying to lock their victims up in prison and isolate them, we can involve those people in building a better society so that they understand the importance of their lives and the negative effects of their former behaviors.(4)

A prerequisite to eliminating antisocial behavior is to accept that we do live in a society that sets norms for how we behave. In fact, much of what is labeled ‘antisocial behavior’ in our society today is actually encouraged by our society; it does not exist because of some innate humyn characteristics. Amerikans look at how they think and see that their friends think the same. They’ve all been taught by the same school system, the same media, the same culture. And then they assume that that is how all people behave at all times. As Mao said, “what [petty-bourgeois intellectuals] call human nature is nothing but bourgeois individualism.”(5)

So for all who want to know what our alternative to the SHU is, it is building a communist society where no one has power over other people, where people see their importance as a part of a society rather than seeing every persyn as an island, and where social problems are addressed and reconciled rather than repressed and locked away to fester.

Notes:

1. MIM Theory 9: Psychology and Imperialism, p. 39
2. MT9, p.48
3. MT9, p.36
4. For more on this read “Psychological Practice in the Chinese Revolution” in MT9
5. Mao Zedong, “Yenan Forum on Art and Literature,” in *Selected Works*, op. cit., Volume 4, p.90

This is a Take-Over not a Make-Over

Dead Prez
Turn Off the Radio—The Mix
Tape Vol. 1
Holla Black Records
2002

The long awaited follow up to Dead Prez' (DP) freshman hit Let's Get Free is not quite ready yet. So this most recent release is something to tide fans over. Since 2000 they have appeared in collaborations with the Coup, Tahir of Hedrush and the Unbound Allstars with the Mumia 911 project. This release compiles some of that work. This is not a full-length album, rather it is a mix tape. The songs have mainstream appeal and the revolutionary spirit remains.

One theme of this project is taking over culture and the media that disseminates it. The fact that hip hop has been appropriated by corporations is a common complaint. In the title track DP says, "When you bringin' it real/ you don't get rotation / 'less you take over the station." In No Love, one of many hit songs off of Tahir's Homecoming album, we see participants in real hip hop culture being turned down, harassed, arrested and charged way too much money to take part in so-called hip hop events run by greedy corporations. The solution? Well, just like the revolution will take back the wealth stolen from the people by force, we need to take back our culture by force so that it serves the interests of the oppressed.

In rap music, sampling is common and not usually used to improve the message of popular songs, but to benefit financially from the popularity of those songs. But sampling is a legitimate form of artistic expression in hip hop as well as all culture. Taking a popular beat that has been used to promote individualist romance culture, for example, and infusing it with a revolutionary message (as done on this work with the beats of Black Rob, Notorious B.I.G., Busta Rhymes and other major label lackies) is a political statement in and of itself. While the producers of the original work used it as a means to make money while promoting backwards ideas, we're saying we're gonna take that popularity that you have spent so much money on to promote and use it to encourage the overthrow of the same system you support. Or in the case of DP's remake of KRS-One's Black Cop, you can take an already popular progressive song and turn it up a notch (see the Cop Shot single out on Raptivism Records).

While the well-developed ideas of Let's Get Free aren't as common on this mix tape, DP's revolutionary message is still there. Perhaps the clearest example is the song title We Need a Revolution. This song is powerful in taking responsibility for what we can achieve in our society if we just take control of our own lives and of our communities. For example, "I can stop these cops from killing / I can feed these hungry children / I can stop racism

/ a product of capitalism / I can unpack the prisons and turn religion back to we livin'." The demands put forth in Food, Clothes + Shelter pt. 2 are also clearly revolutionary, putting basic needs above all else. The current system puts rights such as freedom of religion, private property and the freedom to exploit other people above survival needs.

Track 10 is entitled Know Your Enemy, and DP does. "You want to stop terrorists / start with the U\$ imperialists." And be sure that George Bush is way worse than Bin Laden is. By recognizing the number one enemy of the people and then spelling out the only way to deal with that enemy, Dead Prez continues to provide ideological leadership towards a better world through their music.

The one thing on this album that is not one bit progressive is the use of misogynist language. If I had a dollar for every dick-sucking reference on this CD I'd have at least enough money to buy another copy. Language that treats the female-gendered role in sexual activities as demeaning promotes power differences between genders and serves to silence wimmin. Examples of this on this album are frequent implications of "I don't care about you or I hate you so you can suck my dick." Similarly, our pornographic culture promotes the idea that men fuck and wimmin get fucked. And we all know getting fucked is bad. We also must oppose all language that insinuates homosexuality is bad, like in the intro to No Love that dedicates the song to faggot-ass bouncers.

On Let's Get Free, DP complained that the wimmin don't never get respected. Yet in Soulja Life Mentality, we see a misogynist attitude towards white girls that "can't never be no friend to me / I just get my dick sucked / nut in they mouth instantly / they ain't nothin' but freak shows." In his book Black Skin, White Mask, Franz Fanon explores the role of power in sexual desires and attitudes between Blacks and whites. Just as the white man covets the Black womyn as a forbidden treat and a show of dominance (ditto white wimmin and Black men), the ability to be with a white womyn is a show of power for the Black man. With or without this national character, such displays of power over wimmin are flat out wrong. Despite the fact that white wimmin still have power over Black men in our society, misogynist attitudes against the oppressor nation are not progressive.

One other small complaint about the content of this album is the religious references in It Was Written. "Did you know that destruction of the flesh is not the ending to life / is not based in reality?" It is these ideas that lead people to try to prepare for some after-life rather than changing the real conditions around us.

In summary, Turn Off the Radio is highly recommended for all interested in some revolutionary hip hop. We hope A Single Spark will be able to revisit some

of these issues with DP in the future and with the release of their upcoming album.

Get Free or Die Tryin (Turn Off the Radio Mixtape Vol. 2)
Dead Prez/RBG/People Army
Boss Up/Landspeed Records
2003

This album starts out and ends strong with a mellow feel throughout musically and a more personal touch lyrically than previous Dead Prez (DP) stuff. This is the second mix tape they've put out and this one is actually put out as a dead prez/RBG/People Army release, indicating more contributions from other artists than the last mix tape.

The intro to this album gets it started with a revolutionary internationalist perspective. In response to his comrade talking about leaving the struggle one character in the skit replies, "You done been around the world and seen it's the same struggle, where ya gonna go?... What you gonna tell your kids? You punked out? You ain't amerikan dreamin is ya?" This brings up the important idea of strategic confidence. There are people from South Africa to Washington DC supporting this struggle, in fact the majority of the people in the world are on our side. For the worldwide majority, overthrowing imperialism is the only chance for freedom. Living in the United States, however, we are in greater danger of selling out. A comfortable life is actually possible here, thanks to wealth stolen from the Third World. Even oppressed nationals within U\$ borders have this temptation in their face every day.

The first track, "Fuck the Law," is the most bouncing track on this album with some revolutionary but gangsta lyrics like, "bomb the precinct, burn the prisons, stick the banks up, smash the cameras." Another militant and powerful track is a collaboration between DP and ONYX called, "Last Days Reloaded." Lyrics include, "see how they send troops to war fo' their country / niggers worldwide need an army of one / It's revolution to the fullest / put the bullets in the gun."

"When Mamma Cries" and "Window to My Soul" take a personal perspective and tie it back into the revolutionary struggle. The latter song is by Stic (DP) about his brother who had struggles with rock cocaine. As he addresses the bigger picture he recognizes the source of the problem, "tell me who profits / it's obvious / and it's going too good for them to stop it." The song ends with, "we don't own no boats / we don't own no planes / we don't make no cellophane." Meanwhile he asserts that it's up to the victims to change things: "i blame it on the system / but the problem is ours / it's not a question of religion / it's a question of power." Stic appears alone on this album a few times, including the song O.G. (Original Garvey).

This song hits on the powerful potential of uniting lumpen organizations against the real enemy. It ties in the Pan Africanism of Garvey and applies it to the struggle of the BLOODs, CRIPs and others.

The insert of this album and the CD itself lets us know that the delayed RBG full album by DP is on its way. The insert also has a note reading, "All Y'all wannabe down white people must support and demand reparations from your government for the stolen wealth, power, resources, and freedom of the Black, Brown, and Red people!" MIM wholeheartedly agrees, and it's good to see DP including reparations for all oppressed people in this statement. In a pamphlet entitled, "The Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL) Demands Reparations For the Oppressed!" a RAIL comrade warned, "A lot of organizations base their calculations on the white/non-white wage differential, which leads to the incorrect position that reparations should include the difference between wages. The problem with this is that it does not take into account the super-exploitation of the third world and in practice seeks to raise the internal semi-colonies to the same material conditions as the white nation, which would effectively strengthen the exploitation of the third world." (1)

That pamphlet also states, "The luxurious lifestyles led by the bourgeoisified working classes in the imperialist nations (also called the labor aristocracy) are a definite result of the super-exploitations of the Third World proletariat and peasantry. Thus, the only true road to peace is a road that includes reparations for the oppressed nations of the world. Therefore the struggle is intimately connected with the struggle for national liberation and self-determinations for all oppressed nations."

As usual we can strongly represent this latest release from DPz. When "RBG" officially hits the stores you can bet it'll be getting the MIM stamp of approval as well.

Notes:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/philly/repar.html>



OR prisoner locked down/fined for not making bed

I have currently signed up for your MIM Notes. But due to my recent transfer to another "Correctional Facility" I am delayed in my response back to you. Fortune has it that another comrade is on my tier to help me out.

He read to me from your latest edition about Control Units, SHU, IMU, DSU, and AD-SEG. I am currently serving 16 years (190 mo) under mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines (Measure 11) and have spent 7 years in DSU and IMU. I have not even stabbed anyone or killed a cop and yet Oregon Dept of Corruptions has kept me consistently locked down for not lining my shoes up under my bunk, hanging too many shirts on my clothing hooks, and various disobediences of order and disrespect.

As your article alluded to, I have lost a good deal of my long range and medium range vision. And because the ODOC doesn't provide toothpaste, only baking soda, my teeth are rotting out of my mouth due to lack of Flouride and breaking because baking soda is an abrasive which strips tooth enamel, making the teeth susceptible to cracking and breaking.

It's not like providing inmates with toothpaste would break the bank. DOC confiscates inmate money for every and all rule violations. I recently got fined \$75.00 for not making my bed in a timely and fashionable manner. Times this by 20,000 inmates a week and "Inmate Welfare fund" has the money for basic elements of hygiene.

—an Oregon prisoner, October 2003

MIM represents the oppressed in u\$

Again, I am asking you to continue to send me MIM Notes because I find your publication to be not only interesting and educational, but as you already know that your newspaper to me seems to be the best publication and a voice for inmates across the country and it even shocks me to see that inmates right here in NY write to your newspaper that's distributed across the country. I am an inmate who has a 5.4 reading level, telling you that I am not that good at reading and to be honest with you, I don't do a lot of reading. I would assume because I don't have anything interesting to read that captures my attention enough to motivate me to make me want to read but for some reason or the other I don't have any problems reading MIM Notes. I do get other publications and I don't find them to be as interesting as MIM Notes. I get one publication from NY named "Workers world" and they do not print stories or articles about people suffering in prisons in the USA but they print articles about people suffering in other countries. At this moment what's happening in other countries is of no interest to me. I wrote to Workers World and I told them about your newspaper and I told them that they should print articles that their readers (prisoners) can feel or digest. They print stories about Wars and protest but they failed to mention anything about the war that's happening right here in this country.

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

"War on Drugs or War on non-whites" People of color being warehoused in prisons, crammed up in cages like animals in the name of war on drugs or the Rockefeller Drug Law, a law that both the public and politicians agree is not only wrong, but racist. The war on drugs to me is nothing but modern day slavery. Slavery that has shifted place from the cotton fields to prison camps overflowing with the offspring of the former slaves who were tricked into believing that slavery was over with.

Both the Republicans and Democrats are guilty of running modern day slave camps. They both are guilty of not only mailing money by incarcerating people of color but are also guilty because their greed for money also destroys families again of non-whites because when a man is finally released from prison, he or she is scarred for life, a scar that makes it hard for an ex-con to find a job and survive. Ex-cons in New York can't even vote, in some states FOR LIFE. African-Americans and Latinos comprise about 93% of the drug offenders in New York State Prisons, even though a government study shows that the majority of people who use and sell drugs are white. The Rockefeller Drug Laws disproportionately affect poor people of color.

What is the connection between the Drug laws and voters registration? In conjunction with New York State laws that deny felony offenders the right to vote (felon disenfranchisement), the Rockefeller Drug Laws have led to the disenfranchisement of poor Afro-Americans and Latino people and the draining of political power from poor communities of color. Not only in New York but throughout the entire country called the United States of America.

—a NY Prisoner, October 2003

MIM adds: Our readers will know that we also spend plenty of space covering what's going on outside the u\$, for we try to represent the interests of the international proletariat, not just the oppressed within u\$ borders. But many other papers based in the imperialist countries that claim to represent Marxism/socialism/communism/etc are really speaking for the interests of imperialist nation people. That is what differentiates MIM Notes: we don't pretend that the struggle for more money for white people is connected to the struggle for basic necessities in the Third World. We hope this comrade will broaden his perspective and see the international relevance of our struggle. For without the alliance of the majority of the world's people we can not win.

Advice from a NY leader

My proposal would be to influence brotherly to utilize the grievance committees, Inspector General, the Commissioner of Corrections Glenn Goard (in NYS) and the

Claims Court system to bring justice to all unprofessional conduct violated by officers instead of acting out in arrogance and catching assault charges and misbehavior reports which will further deprive them of their liberty of law and protection of due respect and equal treatment.

#2 To have strong brothers realize that the oppressor sends in his little devil worshippers to cause confusion amongst us and start addressing these individuals with a supreme knowledge which would destroy their attempts to cause us to stumble and fall in feud against each other. Conduct more constructive conversations and check all negative input. Play constructive educational games like jeopardy, chess, or even bingo cause idle time is the devils workshop. And keep record of the progress and report it to MIM as a group leaders' contribution to USW. Cause if we continue to let the negative mentalities run wild it will eventually destroy us. ... I will put together some resources on the Serve the People Prisoner Release on Life Program. Here are a couple now to start:

Inside Journal
PO Box 17429
Washington DC 20041

The writer could ask for a book entitled "Shortimer," if they are soon to be released it provides resources for jobs, medical help, housing, etc. and the book is for free.

Cega
PO Box 81826
Lincoln, NE 68501-1826

A referral program that helps prisoners and their families establish themselves after prisoners are released. Cega does not directly contact people on your behalf. Their job is to identify appropriate resources to help you in your relocation. For a standard fee of \$15 a city, Cega can provide you with information on housing, employment, financial management, education, support programs, drug and alcohol counseling- just about anything you need for relocation after release. They need to contact Cega four to six months before their release.

MIM responds: For all you censors out there who try to prevent us from reaching our comrades behind bars under the guise that we promote violence, please note that we wholeheartedly agree with this comrades first suggestion. Yes, we promote and support the combating abuse and rights violations in prisons. We do not advocate physical confrontations.

We would also like to second this comrades call to other leaders to be sending reports to MIM so that we can better work together.

Letter Delivery takes 7 months in NY

Revolutionary Greetings,

I'd like to inform you that the very 1st letter you've sent me back in March 2003, apparently the facility Media Review center held it til early October 2003. For some strange reason the 18 pages pertaining to ALKQN, I did not receive. Per NYS Dept of Corrections Directive #4572 I'm allowed to receive your publications, literature, etc.

—a NY Prisoner, October 2003

CO's set up divisions in NY prisons

As far as the prison system, it's a lot of institutional racism. Corrections Officers are setting us up with razors, drugs if they see you trying to unite the comrades that's here. There is no real education here if you don't take it upon yourself to study you will remain a dead planet. The teachers are interested in furthering our education. They feed us cheap

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.

nasty food. Every thing we do that's organized is gang activities to them. They oppress us on all levels and everything them true comrades in Attica rioted for, they are taking it back little by little. And they also make those that's not conscious go to war with each other so we can kill and fight each other instead of fighting them for true justice and a fair system. They use their own divide and conquer techniques.

—a NY prisoner, October 2003

California prisoners continue to expose Control Unit brutality

Join MIM in protest of the torturous SHU units. Hundreds of thousands of prisoner are being held in conditions of Sensory Deprivation. If you don't know what that is then imagine being in a concrete/steel cell and being denied all five basic human senses (sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste) for years. Being denied any social contact. If you can imagine this then you get an idea of what MIM is trying to bring to the attention of the masses.

Sensory Deprivation is a form of physical, social and psychological torture, and it pushes many self respecting people to acts of desperation and to the most extreme points of paranoia. What also magnifies this is the fact that you can be double celled/housed. On an average morning there are loud noises emanating from the ventilation system, the tray slots/ports in which your food is served are used routinely by guards to irritate everyone there because they slam them very hard and the sound echoes. This is every morning at 6am. Sound is a well known tactic in both psychological warfare and torture, from the sound of dripping water to the sound of blasting music. The Waco massacre is a perfect example. The U.S. used sound warfare against David and his followers. This tactic is being used against us here in the SHU. This leads to sleep deprivation which germinates to psychological disorders.

This is not humane treatment. This torture takes the forms of physical pain, migraines, stress related illness, suicide, etc. It is the intention of the CDC to undermine endeavors to rehabilitate it's captives it seeks only to economically exploit the New African/Latino/Mexican communities via poverty and crime. The evolution of civilization cannot be discussed without discussing the evolution of human morality. How could any society justify the existence of such a brutal and inhumane practice? How can the Department

of Corrections and society have the audacity to expect that prisoner remain passive and docile when to do so is against the very nature of a human being. The anger one feels/experiences is akin to slavery. It sets off emotions that few will every know, short of being in a hostage situation or in an american prison.

Let me revisit the word deprivation with a more insightful perspective. Deprivation means to deprive someone of something, to take away. In relation to the senses, that have just been set forth, to deprive would mean: Creating the structural setting in which the senses are cut off from contact with the natural elements of creation. To prevent the senses from having contact with the natural elements would result in depriving the senses of the necessary stimulant for healthy growth an development as a human being. The public/you are being given the impression that prisons are full of rapists, child molesters, serial murderers, drug kingpins, etc. However, if you just take a good look you'll see that the prisons are full of grown kids (mentally frozen minds). Who is to say that these minds are not worth salvaging through progressive programs? As for the rapists and child molesters, they have a hard time in prison; they are beaten and stabbed, slashed throughout their entire stay, and they are not the majority.

I urge you to join MIM's campaign to abolish these torture SHU units. Think about how you'll be heading off further oppression of millions of defenseless men, who are serving their sentences and being socially, mentally, and physically tormented in the process.

This article has been written and produced by a California prisoner who has no motivation to lie about a well kept secret, at least up until now about the misuse of the space designated for prisoners to serve out their sentences, some for the rest of their natural lives.

—a California prisoner (Corcoran), October 2003

I'm a political prisoner held at Centinella State Prison on charges of "possession of a destructive device." I saw your petition to end control units and I would like my name added. I've been in and out of various control units for a year and a half. I'm currently in ad-seg control unit due to my conflicts with racist reactionary skinheads and other white supremacists in prison. I should get out 30-60 days. I spent 2 months in a SHU type program before that and a year in county jail under "total separation." California's control

units are definitely a violation of human rights. At Corcoran SHU sensory deprivation is just one small aspect of the brutal injustice prisoners face. The guards stage fights, race riots, and rapes. Excessive force by guards is as normal as getting fed. I could go on about other control units, but I'm sure you know.

— a California prisoner (Centinella), November 2003

I just got through reading my MIM Notes September 15, 2003 (#289) and I commend you on putting such an article on control units on your front page. Exposure is what is needed, but there are so many media figures and politicians, and so-called movers and shakers who structure law and influence public view and opinion of prisoners and their confined conditions.

I have served time in the California SHU program twice for violations that don't warrant such punishment as SHUs inflict upon the inmates they house. But please don't overlook the ASUs (ad-seg units)! These security administrative units are no different than a SHU program unit. They house you for false violations, or in my case, for no violation report written against me, yet I've been housed in ASU since June 2003 on an alleged investigation they claim I jeopardized the integrity of! Another twist in their endless act to oppress and stress inmates.

I'm supposed to be housed in a certain housing, yet these C/Os placed me in a cell situation that got me assaulted and sexually abused. These officials know they've fucked up and know that I've got a legitimate law suit. The evidence I have is concrete, and that is only part of it. They ignored the fact that I took measures to correct their wrong, but even a call from the inspector general, which I have proof of, went on deaf ears!

I am in the stage of exhausting my institutional remedies and filing against officials here. I am in search of a civil attorney to litigate for me. I see a nice donation coming your way at the expense of some stupid cop who has cost his position and higher officials above him who also "knew" or "should have known" where they went wrong.

So still I stand in this pig pen at Salinas Valley State Prison (where a lot of state and federal laws are broken and it goes un-noticed and un-heard by the public and politicians) as a man who refuses to fall and crumble. Thanks to your exposure of prison treatment nation wide, our voices can be heard. I will always support your views, and ups big time to all other comrades in the struggle.

—a California prisoner (Salinas Valley), October 2003

I've been circulating a few of the MIM Notes to a few mentally equipped people and they showed interest. I also have a class action (massive) 602 in on the small food portions we receive back here in ad-seg. I believe that the MIM Notes that I circulated gave folks back here enough inspiration to partake in the action that I'm putting down about our food.

— a California prisoner (Soledad), Nov 2003

They have started programming SHU inmates in what they call exercise modules. They are more like dog kennels. Everyone except sensitive needs (PC) and RM (reintegrated mited yard) must program in these dog kennels. The rules they have written up read like: no touching the fence, no feet on the toilet, and anything else the officers in charge can dream up. If they say no talking I guess you would have to shut up. I foresee a major problem in the near future. Ask me it's long overdue, but that's just me talking as I am affectionately called by the COs a problem inmate, asshole. Has a nice ring to it, doesn't it. That's the latest from POW camp Tehachapi.

— a California prisoner (Tehachapi), October 2003



What is internationalism?

From the MIM "Frequently Asked Questions" page, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq>.

Internationalism is the ethical belief or scientific approach in which peoples of different nations are held to be or assumed to be equal. Internationalism is opposed to racism and national chauvinism.

We Maoists believe the nationalism of nations experiencing oppression of imperialism is "applied internationalism." We oppose nationalism of oppressed nations directed at other oppressed nations, because the economic content of such nationalism is intra-proletarian conflict. We seek a united front of oppressed nations led by the international proletariat against imperialism.

"I must argue, not from the point of view of 'my' country (for that is the argument of a wretched, stupid, petty-bourgeois nationalist who does not realize that he is only a plaything in the hands of the imperialist bourgeoisie), but from the point of view of my share in the preparation, in the propaganda, and in the acceleration of the world proletarian revolution. That is what internationalism means, and that is the duty of the internationalist, of the revolutionary worker, of the genuine Socialist."

V. I. Lenin, "What Is Internationalism?" *The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky* (Peking: Foreign Language Press, 1965), p. 80.

Facts on U\$ 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.

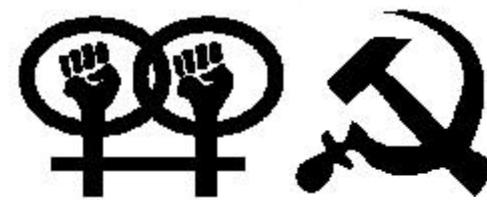
Notes: 1. Marc Mauer, "Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration 1993," The Prison Sentencing Project, 918 F. St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 628-0871 Reference: SRI: R8965-2, 1994

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.



Sobre el panafricanismo: resolución

Congreso del MIM, 2002

El panafricanismo es una ideología que aboga por la unidad de África. Nkrumah la declaró necesaria diciendo que las fuerzas neocoloniales gobernarían en África a través de una división del pueblo africano, y que el tamaño y el número de la población total de África era comparable al de los países opresores como EE. UU. Según el pensamiento panafricano, los africanos pertenecen a África, y no a tribus o naciones.

Bien se conoce el hecho de que, por lo menos desde 1917, los imperialistas británicos han tenido miedo al panafricanismo por ser éste una fuerza que dificultaba la división y la conquista de África. Hoy en día, los Sionistas siguen adhiriéndose a la mentalidad colonizadora y están tratando de crear tensiones entre África del Norte y el resto del continente, por ejemplo, al señalar la presencia de esclavistas árabes

en Somalia. Si bien es cierto que la esclavitud es inexcusable, hay que tener en cuenta que una oposición a la esclavitud no implica la necesidad de hacer amigos con Israel.

El contenido económico del panafricanismo comprende la unidad de los explotados en contra de los explotadores; no importa si los partidarios o los opositores de dicha tendencia se dan cuenta de eso o no. Más del 95% de gente unida por el panafricanismo es explotada o superexplotada. Los opresores que usan divisiones entre los africanos para atacarlos son el blanco del panafricanismo.

El MIM considera el panafricanismo un concepto estratégico semejante al de "tercermundismo". No merece la pena dividir las fuerzas comunistas en torno a conceptos estratégicos. Los camaradas con buenos principios ideológicos

pueden estar en desacuerdo tanto con la categorización del balance actual de las fuerzas mundiales, como con la evaluación de posibilidades viables para el progreso. Nosotros pensamos que, de ser concebido de una forma correcta por los comunistas, el panafricanismo es uno de estos conceptos.

Históricamente hablando, el panafricanismo ha sido el llamado unificador de las fuerzas progresivas y revolucionarias de África. Los opositores del panafricanismo normalmente se basan en razones incorrectas y tienden a caer dentro del campo reaccionario con mayor frecuencia que los partidarios del mismo.

Particularmente, en África del Sur la noción del revisionista "Partido Comunista" de Sudáfrica y el Congreso Nacional Africano ha enfatizado la unidad entre los trabajadores blancos y negros contra el panafricanismo. El MIM diría que, al contrario de esta visión, entre la pequeña burguesía blanca erróneamente denominada "trabajadores" y los trabajadores negros cuyos salarios equivalen al 3 o 5% del salario de los blancos, existe una diferencia cualitativa.

Si bien la ascensión al poder del Congreso Nacional Africano (CNA) en lo que se llama Azania es un logro positivo en comparación con el repugnante y reaccionario ex-régimen del apartheid, está claro que la visión que tiene el CNA respecto a la unificación igualitaria con la pequeña burguesía blanca y los imperialistas ha limitado su capacidad para acelerar el progreso en Sudáfrica. Por esta razón, si bien es cierto que el gobierno del CNA es más "normal" que el régimen del apartheid, la fuerza que ha identificado de una manera correcta la base del socialismo en Azania y en otros países africanos ha sido el panafricanismo. Cualesquiera que sean las etiquetas que usan los activistas, ya sea "sindicalistas africanos" o "panafricanistas", el contenido económico de su lucha es el mismo.

Una oposición o un respaldo del panafricanismo no debería ser cuestión de división al menos que se hable de posiciones extremas. Por un lado, el CNA y los seudocomunistas se oponen al panafricanismo porque creen de

verdad que existe una "clase trabajadora" unida compuesta por africanos y colonos blancos cuyos salarios son 20 veces superiores a los de los africanos. Estos seudocomunistas y sus aliados abandonaron la teoría laboral del valor hace mucho tiempo, de modo que su oposición al panafricanismo debería atacarse desde el punto de vista ideológico. No habrá paz mundial hasta que todos los pueblos reconozcan el valor de su labor de una forma correcta.

Por otro lado, el número de reaccionarios que posan como panafricanistas es mucho menor que el número de reaccionarios que se oponen al panafricanismo por parte de los explotadores. Desde luego, como en el caso de cualquier idea, hay gente que adapta el lema no más para destruirlo. Cuando el panafricanismo se vuelve una etiqueta cultural y entra en conflicto con la producción de la verdad universal a través de la ciencia, se convierte entonces en un ala del postmodernismo reaccionario.

Por ejemplo, los que saben adaptar acercamientos simplistas son los trotskistas que sostienen que cualquier tipo de nacionalismo es malo, incluyendo el panafricanismo. Estas personas han abandonado la teoría laboral del valor de modo que tienden a igualar a los colonos blancos y los trabajadores africanos colocándolos dentro de la misma clase. Estos trotskistas no saben nada sobre la aproximación marxista hacia el problema de la clase y la nación.

Es a los científicos maoístas africanos a quienes les toca determinar qué tipo de problemas tribales, nacionales y panafricanos corresponden a las condiciones africanas. El MIM no tiene células en África y, por lo tanto, sólo plantea preguntas generales de validez y entendimiento universal. Existe una larga tradición histórica de panafricanismo maoísta.

Fuentes: A.M. Babu, African Socialism or Socialist Africa? London: Zed Books, 1981.

¿Que es el MIM?

El Movimiento Internacionalista Maoísta (MIM) es un partido revolucionario comunista que ejerce el Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoísmo. El MIM es una organización internacionalista que trabaja desde el punto de vista del proletariado del Tercer Mundo; es por esto que sus miembros no son americanos sino ciudadanos del mundo.

El MIM lucha para acabar con la opresión de todos los grupos sobre cualquier otro, naciones por naciones, clases por clases, y géneros por géneros. La revolución es una realidad para los Estados Unidos mientras su ejército continúa extendiéndose en su esfuerzo por asegurar la hegemonía mundial.

El MIM difiere de otros partidos en tres puntos básicos: (1) El MIM sostiene que después que el proletariado conquiste el poder estatal, existirá aún el potencial para una restauración de tipo capitalista, bajo la dirección de una burguesía nueva dentro del mismo partido comunista. En el caso de la Unión Soviética, la burguesía se apoderó del gobierno después de la muerte de Stalin, en 1953; y en China después de la muerte de Mao y del derrocamiento de la llamada "banda de los cuatro" en 1976. (2) El MIM sostiene que la Revolución Cultural en China es la fase más avanzada a la que llegó el comunismo en la historia. (3) El MIM afirma que la clase trabajadora blanca de los EE.UU. es primordialmente, una élite trabajadora no revolucionaria en el presente. Es por esto que no es el principal vehículo para avanzar el Maoísmo en este país.

El MIM acepta como miembro a cualquier individuo que esté de acuerdo con estos tres puntos básicos, y que acepte al centralismo democrático, el método de gobierno por la mayoría en lo que se refiere a cuestiones de línea del partido. El MIM es un partido clandestino que no publica los nombres de sus miembros para evitar la represión estatal dirigida históricamente contra los movimientos revolucionarios comunistas, y anti-imperialistas. Si Ud. desea una suscripción para cualquiera de nuestros periódicos o libros teóricos, en español o en inglés, por favor mandar dinero en efectivo o un cheque al nombre de MIM a esta dirección:

MIM • P.O. Box 29670 • Los Angeles CA 90029-0670