

# MIM Notes



Jan. 15, 2004, Nº 295

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

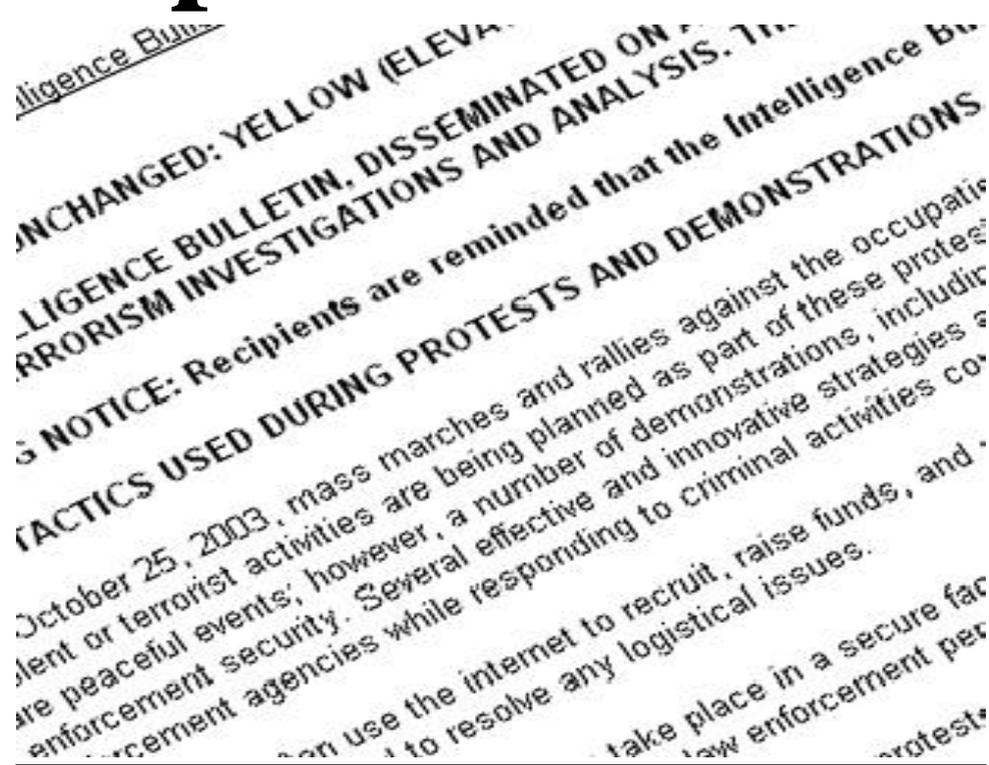
## Police, with FBI, step up surveillance, harassment of anti-war protestors

The New York Times recently published excerpts from an FBI memo that confirmed what many anti-war protestors already knew: American police have stepped up surveillance and harassment of anti-war protestors. (1) In an effort to rebut the Times' article, the FBI published the full text of the memo along with a point-by-point response. (2) However, close reading of the memo only confirms the suspicions of activists and the Times (see the memo on page 9).

The FBI memo outlined a number of "tactics which have been observed by U.S. and foreign law enforcement agencies while responding to criminal activities conducted during protests and demonstrations." These "tactics" included "[using] the internet to recruit, raise funds and coordinate [protestors'] activities prior to demonstrations" and "surveillance of sites prior to demonstrations." The FBI also cited "videotaping" as an example of what it called "intimidation techniques" used by protestors. The memo closed with an exhortation to report suspicious activity to the FBI's Joint Terrorism task force.

FBI officials quoted in the Times' article admitted some of the information in the memo was gathered using informants.

The FBI's response argued that the FBI did not advocate spying on political protestors *per se*, rather, it had focused on "identifying anarchists and 'extremist elements' [allegedly] plotting violence." Even if this were the case, the memo's broad definition of "violence"—including peaceful civil disobedience tactics such as humyn chains and sit-down strikes—as well as its insistence that legal protests could be used as a cover for "violent" actions is sure to have a "very serious chilling effect," as a professor of



constitutional law quoted by the Times put it. "If you go around telling people, 'We're going to ferret out information on demonstrations,' that deters people. People don't want their names and faces in FBI files."

Although the FBI claimed, "we do not investigate or maintain dossiers on persons because of their 'political activities,'" it did not deny gathering information on individuals who attended rallies that could potentially facilitate "extremist activity" (in the FBI's judgment). This is a formalistic argument, since once the information has been gathered it can be used for any purpose. Protestors are right to suspect such information will be used for no good, given the COINTELPRO-era abuses of the FBI (up to and including murder), the domestic spying of past presidents like

Nixon, as well as the record of the current chief of "law enforcement," John Ashcroft.

Furthermore, since the FBI is *Continued on page 9...*



## VLADIMIR PUTIN LINES UP SUPPORT

Russian president Vladimir Putin put his stamp on the Russian parliament called the Duma in elections December 7. The only party receiving at-large delegates that does not support Putin gained 12.7%—the phony communists led by Zyuganov.

In the days leading up to elections, MIM received a credible report which it did not confirm that pro-Putin activists associated the Yabloko ("Apple") party with Chechen "terrorists" in the media. Putin controls most of the mass media, so outside observers criticized the Russian election campaign for the information that voters received.

The pro-Western Liberal parties received no at-large faction rights in the Duma by virtue of falling below 5% of the vote. However, Zyuganov claims that an independent tally shows that Putin's party stuffed the ballot box to deprive the Liberals. (1) On the other hand, none of the critics are saying the two Liberal parties received much more than 6% apiece in any case.

We received the following report from Chairpersyn Dar Zhutayev of the Russian Maoist Party. "Only four parties made it to the Duma, out of which 3 are 100% pro-Kremlin and far-right politically: 'United Russia'—the official pro-Putin party, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's 'Liberal-Democratic' Party (you must have heard about it), and a new bloc called 'Rodina' ('Motherland'), artificially composed by the Kremlin's political technologists out of ex-Soviet generals and industrialists, Orthodox clericals and Russian fascists plus some bought-off labor leaders and espousing an ideology they call 'people's patriotism.' The fourth party is Zyuganov's 'Communist' Party that has suffered a very serious setback as

*Continued on page 6...*

## Shut Down the Control Units!



More on the ongoing campaign, pages 3 and 4.

You are not on a mailing list. You will not receive this paper again unless you take action.

MIM  
PO Box 29670  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
Return Service Requested

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #56365  
BOSTON, MA

Fight the attack on civil liberties!

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

# Letters

## Kucinich not so bad?

I read in your Nov. 1, '03 MIM notes that you interviewed Dennis Kucinich last month and found him to be "the most dangerous" because he would "fool otherwise progressive people into serving imperialistic goals." And that Dean also has a following among progressives. WHAT? Please go look at Dennis' website at [www.Kucinich.us](http://www.Kucinich.us). Nowhere does it say he supports imperialism!! He voted against the Iraq war, against the Patriot Act, against NAFTA, against GATT. He is for peace, a Peace Dept., for the US signing treaties with the rest of the world, for being a good world neighbor, and for every progressive cause you can think of, including workers' rights. So what are you talking about?! Also, Dean is in support of imperialism thru his support for the war. I would really appreciate a response from someone, because I think your statements about Dennis are unfounded.

—**Incredulous on the INTERNET**  
**MIM responds:** If only reactionaries wore t-shirts saying, "I'm a reactionary!" Of course they don't. Some of them even find it useful to wear t-shirts saying, "I am most assuredly NOT a reactionary. Really." In fact, our lengthy review of Kucinich (which the letter-writer apparently has not yet read) was inspired by a confrontation with a Kucinich supporter who claimed to be "practically a communist" (see MIM Notes 288, 1

Oct 2003, pp. 3-5).

Kucinich supporters who honestly consider themselves anti-imperialists need to do some serious re-thinking on a number of issues, a few of which we list here.

First, whatever his rhetoric, consider Kucinich's track record. As we recapped in MIM Notes 288, "Kucinich voted for the 'Iraq Liberation Act of 1998' that declared it should be the policy of the U.S. to remove Saddam Hussein's regime from power. Further, on his web site Kucinich reprints speeches in which he declares his support of the state of Israel in its terrorist war against the Palestinian people. And of course, like all the other good imperialist governing officials in congress (with the sole exception of California Democrat Barbara Lee), Kucinich voted for the September 14, 2001 resolutions authorizing the administration to use nearly unlimited force in response to the September 11 attacks."

Then there is the deeper issue of Amerika-first chauvinism in the name of the rights of "labor." MIM's problem with Kucinich on this issue is the same as MIM's problem with the anti-NAFTA and anti-WTO movements in general. They focus on the Amerikan workers getting a bad deal because jobs are going to other countries where labor is cheaper. This position fosters national chauvinism, telling workers here they deserve to keep their jobs at high wages. MIM says the capitalists need to be stopped from exploiting Third World workers, but it is not trade agreements that are causing this, and we certainly don't think Amerikan



Kucinich with AFL-CIO leaders Rich Trumka (left) and John Sweeney.

workers deserve better jobs and higher wages than the rest of the world. Kucinich falls just short of calling for sealed borders to protect Amerikan jobs from those damn immigrants. As a "progressive" candidate he is walking dangerously close to the extreme right protectionist wing of the bourgeoisie on this question.

MIM has written extensively on the "anti-globalization" movement since 1995 (see e.g. MIM Notes 96, Jan 1995) and the political economy of the Amerikan "working class" for well over a decade (see MIM Theory 1 and "Imperialism and its class structure," <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mt/imp97/index.html>).

Finally, as we discuss in the review of Kucinich and the article on overall imperialist political reality that appears on page 4 of this issue, it is unrealistic to

expect to be able to make long-lasting anti-imperialist gains in the Amerikan electoral arena. Even the mealy-mouthed Kucinich has no chance at the Democratic nomination. Anti-imperialists have to consider where their time would be better spent: working on a campaign that at best will get a few half-hearted rhetorical flourishes on C-SPAN and at worst will be "progressive" window-dressing for a decidedly non-progressive party, OR doing their own thing the right way. It is better to start small and unpopular and develop the anti-imperialist movement than to trade scarce resources for small temporary political gains.

And for the record, MIM agrees that Howard Dean also supports imperialism. MIM does not endorse any presidential candidates from any party.

Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

## MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement  
 ISSN 1540-8817

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

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

People who want to receive newspapers should become sponsors and distributors. Sponsors pay for papers, distributors get them onto the streets, and officers do both distribution and financial support. Annual cost is: 12 copies (Priority Mail), \$120; 25 (Priority Mail), \$150; 50 (Priority Mail), \$280; 100, \$380; 200, \$750; 900 (Express Mail), \$3,840; 900 (8-10 days), \$2,200. To become a sponsor or distributor, send anonymous money orders payable to "MIM." Send to MIM, attn: Camb. branch, PO Box 400559, Cambridge, MA 02140. Or write [mim3@mim.org](mailto:mim3@mim.org).

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

MIM grants explicit permission to copy all or part of this newspaper for any reason, as long as we are credited.

For general correspondence, contact:

MIM  
 P.O. Box 29670  
 Los Angeles, CA 90029-0670  
 eMail: <[mim@mim.org](mailto:mim@mim.org)>  
 WWW: <<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM>>

## 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.

# Petition: 'Shut Down All Prison Control Units'

MIM's online petition against isolation prisons or Control Units has garnered widespread support. People from nine U.S. states have signed and commented favorably on the petition. At least two people from abroad (Italy and UK) have also signed.

As the petition explains, "Control units may vary from prison to prison but they can be generally characterized as: Permanently designated prisons or cells in prisons that lock prisoners up in solitary or small group confinement for 22 or more hours a day with no congregate dining, exercise or other services, and virtually no programs for prisoners. Prisoners are placed in control units for extended periods of time.

"Prisoners are usually placed in control units as an administrative measure, with no clear rules governing the moves. This makes it virtually impossible for prisoners to challenge their placement.

"While conditions vary from prison to prison, the goal of these units is always to achieve the spiritual, psychological and physical breakdown of the prisoner."

Many of the signatories had personal experience with Control Units.

My boyfriend is currently dealing with the isolation issues of the imu units. —A signatory from Washington

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



My son was sentenced to a one year SHU term at Corcoran that lasted five and a half years. Inmate testimony disproved his accusation but it didn't matter ... He was released from SHU in July, 2003 and is still recovering from the dehumanizing treatment. —A signatory from California

I have dealt with having a husband in Ad-Seg now for almost 2 years for charges the prison has brought up on him while in the hole. He has often told me of misuse of authority within Pelican Bay State Prison. He has often been denied the small amount of time allowed to be outside of ad-seg along with other inmates. The officials feel as though they can run

their own justice system within the prison and it is not fair. Now he states that they are building smaller more confined cells to further demoralize the prisoners. I on the other hand have to find and sign petitions to stop this when it should be done by government officials who obviously do not care about what is happening in California's Prison systems. This is not the first and will not be the last petition I sign. How come only the prisoners and their loved ones see what is going on and not government officials? —Another signatory from California

Other signatories commented on the hypocrisy of pro-American, "land-of-the-free" rhetoric when America imprisons more people per capita than any other nation. In fact, it has led the world in per-capita imprisonment for most of the last 25 years—so when the rednecks tell us we are lucky to live in a "free country" we have to think they live in an Orwellian situation where freedom is imprisonment.(1)

Is this what we all call America? Liberty and Justice? —Hawaii

No matter what name you call it, Continued on next page...

## MIM unveils new internet home page

by Web Minister  
December 7 2003

You may have noticed the home page redesign that we just initiated. It's an example of a typical process going on at MIM involving input.

A volunteer sent in the home page redesign. At first, I was skeptical—above all because the belief that home pages or how they arrange the "real estate" is important tends to be misguided. I would estimate that over 90% of our users do not go through a logical process of starting at the web home page and going through the content from there.

The plus side of the redesign that it takes up less space has the down side that visually impaired people will not see some of the smaller items. In the old home page there was an excellent chance that the reader would never scroll down to see all the items, but there were big graphics relative to the new page.

Finally, I put this whole idea in cold storage a couple months when I realized that the proportion of the "real estate" dedicated to non-English languages was less than in the previous home page. The big advantage of organizing into subtopics seemed offset by the difficulty that non-English languages were growing faster and becoming more important than English.

Nonetheless, the redesign is here finally put into practice. This gives an example of the reality of decision-making I do. I did not have a strong opinion one way or another on the new home page idea. I'm predicting that you the readers do not either, but if you do, go ahead and send your opinions to [mim3@mim.org](mailto:mim3@mim.org). Also, if you want to look at the old home page, it's at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/oldstyleindex.html>

# Death penalty play exposes injustice system

**The Exonerated**  
written by Jessica Blank  
and Erik Jensen

Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen wrote this off-Broadway play after traveling across the United States interviewing former death row inmates who were found innocent after spending between two and twenty-two years on death row. Six of these interviews formed the core of *The Exonerated*, supplemented with information from courthouse records to create a compelling story of American injustice.

The play sounds much like the stories we read on the pages of *Under Lock and Key* in each issue of MIM Notes. The three Black men featured in the play were arrested and convicted solely because they were Black with either no evidence, or clear evidence proving their innocence. Two men were tortured or tricked into confessing to crimes they didn't commit. And one woman was convicted because the man who committed the crime (and who subsequently kidnapped her family) struck a plea bargain in return for testimony against her and her husband. In each case the eagerness of the police and others in the criminal justice system to get a conviction, for the sake of publicity, clearly contributed to the wrongful convictions. If nothing else the

cases demonstrated the inability of the criminal justice system to give anyone a fair arrest, trial, or sentencing.

But the play is not just about injustice, it is also a story of hope as several of the former death row inmates tell of their successful struggle to get off death row even after years behind bars. Several of those wrongly convicted were not released immediately after evidence surfaced clearly proving their innocence, but instead they had to fight for years to get out.

The lives of those wrongly placed on death row are not the only ones affected. As *The Exonerated* demonstrates, the families of the prisoners suffered as well. And upon release, after years of lockup for their wrongful conviction, the prisoners were given no compensation. And their return to society was anything but easy. Several spoke of the difficulty they had even interacting with other people. One man who rode horses for a living before being wrongly convicted of murder was unable to get a license to ride again because on his application he said he had never been convicted of a crime (they claimed he had lied even though his conviction had been overturned).

The play is a good education for those unfamiliar with the American criminal justice system. And it's a good argument



Actors who have performed or are scheduled to appear in the play include Brian Dennehy, Marlo Thomas (left), and Alanis Morissette.

for why the American system is in no position to be administering the death penalty to anyone. It should be easy for people to take the short step from these stories of death row inmates to the stories of other people sentenced to prison to realize that there are many people unjustly locked up. This is what leads MIM to the conclusion that all prisoners are political prisoners: arrests, trials, and sentences are all a part of a political system that is at root entirely unjust. For MIM the next step of logic is clear: the

entire system cannot be fixed and must be overthrown. In the short run we fight battles for reforms to improve the lives of our comrades behind bars, shorten sentences, and stop the death penalty in America, but in the long term we must overthrow the entire criminal justice system.

*"The Exonerated"* opened in New York in 2002 and played throughout the United States in 2003. Venues scheduled for 2004 include Phoenix and Fort Worth.

## Petition

Continued from previous page...

the hole is still the hole and violates the 8th Amendment. — Oregon

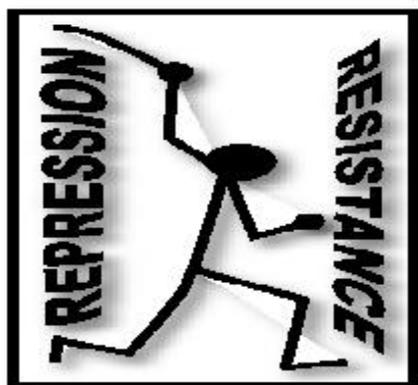
One signatory said s/he agreed with Control Units in principle, but disagreed with them in practice.

I was for Prison Control Units—until the misuse and abuse spread to other non-heinous and much-less-dangerous inmates and prisons. Until there's an active, effective government board or control organization to regularly oversee, and stop abuse on innocent (non-violent and/or non-heinous-killer inmates), I want all P.C.U.'s shut down. I have no problem with murderous gang killers of innocent people and child murders being regularly sent to the P.C.U.; I protest innocent people and non-violent people being sent to that place. Remove them. — California

This persyn has made an important leap that most Americans have not: s/he's looked past the rhetoric to the reality. Even accepting the bourgeoisie's own definitions of freedom and democracy, capitalist reality falls far short of these ideals.(2) Prison administrators say control units in particular aim to reduce violence among prisoners and prisons in general aim to reduce crime. The truth is

that control units do not reduce violence in prisons, evidenced by the infamous guard-organized "humyn cock fights" in California's Corcoran prison. Nor are control units reserved for "the most violent prisoners." The rules governing control unit censoring are arbitrary, and guards use the threat of transfer to silence criticism.

Further, the imprisonment rate in America is not correlated with the crime rate—meaning "tough on crime" imprisonment policies do not reduce crime. Economic factors such as joblessness are correlated with the crime rate, however. This is why those Americans willing to make a fearless examination of the facts will see not only that the American injustice system is not addressing the roots of crime while imprisoning many innocents—but also that socialism is superior to capitalism when it comes to solving these problems.



## 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.

# Hilary Duff: contentment for teenage girls

“Metamorphosis” (2003)  
Buena Vista Records

reviewed by MC5  
November 2003

With Britney Spears becoming definitively adult and her teeny-bopper days receding in memory the capitalists decided there was room for another younger one. So they created Hillary Duff.

In the formula for the creation of a pornopop diva, the teenager or 20ish singer has to have a sweeping popularity among teens. After the albums that a teenager can turn out are done, the pop star turns to more adult themes when it becomes necessary.

That’s why this album is titled “Metamorphosis.” The emphasis is on the teenager becoming the adult.

For those young people in love with Hillary Duff or her music, it will be difficult to understand that she is nothing new. We do not mean that by any way of persynal insult (and we do not know Duff at all, so there could hardly be anything persynal about it) as that is standard for the industry raking in the millions.

For the young persyn, his or her awakening to music or rock in particular may be new and a profound experience. That does not make Hillary Duff new.

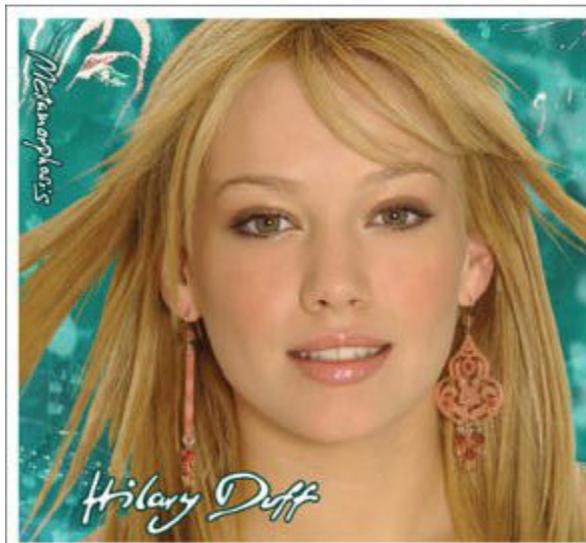
She is just playing the exact same role played by others before her. Rock coming out in the 1950s and early 1960s was “new.” There is nothing new lyrically or musically in Hillary Duff’s 2003 album.

The instrumental background is much more involved and a faster kind of rock than what will come later in a J. Lo type album. It reflects energy, awakening and vitality. The lazy lounging aspect of sex as in much pornopop where we hear only a drum beat accompanied by what could be misconstrued as phone sex is not here in Hillary Duff’s “Metamorphosis.”

As is fitting for someone with a Disney contract, “Metamorphosis” is low on the pornography quotient relative to Amerikkkan standards; although even so, it will be too much for many Third World parents thinking about their teens.

“So Yesterday” sounds pretty innocent, but it could be construed to be about a boyfriend who left and now she is keeping his pants, which makes you wonder how she got them. There is no definitive answer and that is the point in this album. If there is any sexual innuendo, it is indirect.

“Come Clean” seems to be about strivings for change and going out—young people socializing. “Workin’ It Out” is moody flightiness: “Some days I want to fly/Some days it all makes sense to me/



many Amerikkkan parents are oppressively afraid of gays/lesbians, they often hope that their teenage daughters will have a social experience like that promoted by Hillary Duff. Some of these same backward parents would be the first to say that public discussion of homosexuality is “pushing” homosexuality, while constant airplay of songs like Hillary Duff’s are not “pushing” heterosexuality. For MIM, the truth is that heterosexuality is “pushed” much more and from an early age than gay/lesbian lifestyle.

Overall, there is not much to say about this album positively or negatively. While Iraqi teenagers are figuring out how to kill wealthier and technologically superior U.S. troops occupying their country, most Amerikkkan teenagers are like Hillary Duff singing, “Sweet sixteen/Gonna spread my wings. . . Drivin’ down to the club where we go to dance. . . Bright stars shine above me/My blonde hair is everywhere.” Although change is the subject of the album, it is the contented sort distracting youth from real challenges that require their energy.

Some days I just don’t want to know why.”

“Little Voice” is about the power of her interest in a boy that appears like a voice in her head. Apparently they’ve broken up and “there are some things a girl won’t do.”

The same thing occurs in “Anywhere But Here.” “Trying to catch your eye . . . When you look at me suddenly it’s clear.”

“Metamorphosis” is basically about teenage girls with interest in boys. As

# Clay Aiken’s silly love songs

“Measure of Man” (2003)  
BMG

reviewed by MC5,  
November 2003

For those readers lucky enough not to be bombarded by the Amerikan FOX channel’s press releases, Clay Aiken was runner up in a popular televised singing competition. His album is also a big hit. We review him here because of this popularity.

Upon first listening to this album one could think that if only the words changed a little, Clay Aiken would be another Christian rock effort. The music tries to be uplifting and innocent relative to pornopop. There are no lyrics to any religious effect: they are all silly love songs.

When one opens the CD album jacket suspicions are confirmed. The jacket starts out “Thank you, God the Alpha” and ends “and again, Jesus Christ, the Omega, for giving me gifts far beyond what I deserve, and allowing me to do what I truly enjoy doing. my life is in your hands.”

This is predictable because there is such a thing as a science of political matters which include religion and social attitudes. The music is 1980s. One will hear Cher belting out a ballad without the

benefit of being an early female rock star. “Journey” is another sound one might think of. This sort of music has received a level of acceptance in the soft to medium rock category.

The point is that the music is a music of a contentment and even when discussing a girlfriend’s depression or disappointment, the song is upbeat and supportive. Though Clay Aiken is 24, his hairstyle is boyish and we imagine he has some following among teenage girls. He came to fame through that unusual method of winning a TV amateur contest on “American Idol.” Looking even more boyish than on the CD, an interview for Fox News(1) says that the last concert he went to was James Taylor, another singer of contentment. As MIM has pointed out, one need not be a capitalist or even a petty-bourgeois to be content with the existing patriarchy—romance culture—especially if one is young and considered attractive.

Upbeat, innocent and content music points disproportionately to Amerikan Christians. Jesus Christ himself was a revolutionary, but today Christianity is a culture of contentment. Evanescence tries to walk that line between Christian contentment and conservatism on the one hand and edgy music on the other hand and found it does not work. The band’s

vocalist Amy Lee is now trying to move her band over to her real audience. At the moment, we do not know how well that is going to work going forward.

Despite his own upbeat and straight music, Clay Aiken was the product of a failed marriage and a father that called him a “mistake.”(2) People like Clay Aiken are exactly the proof that Christianity does not provide solutions to real problems. Amerikkkans are much more devout in their Christianity than Europeans, but Amerikkkans still have the huge and growing problem of disappearing fathers. Preaching obviously has not worked and in this strange world with so many children of broken families, the Amerikkkans are not ready to go on to communal or even more socialized child rearing. There are still lots of doubts about leaving children with daycare, so Amerikkkans are stuck in their conservative thoughts unable to move forward but also unable to sustain the family their Christian preachers tell them about—having the worst of both worlds in doubts about socialism and inability to do things the old way. These preachers are only prolonging the agony of transition to what has to come through revolution.

Clay Aiken calls himself a “nerd” and his former job was taking care of autistic children. We don’t find anything

intellectual in the album. The least silly of the songs on the album is “Measure of a Man.” It could be taken as a criticism of heterosexual wimmin as they exist in the imperialist countries today or anywhere that money is the reason for attraction:

“If one day you discover him/  
Broken down he’s lost everything/  
No cars, no fancy clothes to make him  
who he’s not/  
The woman at his side is all that he has  
got/  
Why do you ask him move to heaven  
and earth/  
To prove his love has worth?”

The references to cars and fancy clothes could be taken to mean that Clay Aiken is asking wimmin why they care so much whether a petty-bourgeois becomes a little higher in class standing. MIM pushes this question further and asks whether desire is really a construction of capitalism, since we know that capitalism intertwines sex and money even more than previous class societies. This is something about people today that will not disappear with criticism of lifestyles. It will require the armed criticism of revolution.

# Missing in Russia: proletarian internationalism

One of the leading obstacles to a proletarian internationalist line in Russia is the belief that Russians became poor because they subsidized the rest of the republics in the Soviet Union and WARSAW as a whole. When it came to why the Brezhnev Soviet Union was not social-imperialist, revisionist fools stepped forward to say that the Russian people subsidized poorer countries like Cuba and even richer ones like Czechoslovakia. This line took hold in the Russian labor aristocracy and spread false consciousness among the Russian proletarians. The same revisionists are no where to be found today to explain why the Russian economy collapsed so badly when all its inter-republic and international trade agreements collapsed.

It's very similar to the line of many and maybe most deluded Amerikkkan labor aristocrats who believe the United States is the most generous country in the world. Without much concern, they believe that Amerikkkan military aid is some kind of benefit to starving Third World peoples provided out of the largesse of overtime shifts of tax-paying Amerikkkan truckers, instead of a subsidy to U.S. corporations that receive the purchase orders for weapons and services delivered to select scoundrels in governments around the world willing to serve the Amerikkkan master.

Within bourgeois economics concerning the division of labor—and bourgeois economics is all we can reference in connection to the Soviet Union in the Brezhnev era—all economies do better the more they trade, if each trader exports goods that it is relatively (not even absolutely) efficient in producing. When nationalities go off to their republics to stare at their navels and trade agreements fall apart because of associated national conflicts and the overall collapse of the USSR, the bourgeois economy suffers

and that would be true of any economy, socialist or bourgeois. We would only point out that periodic national conflicts causing a contraction in the economy are inevitable under capitalism and only communism is the sure-fire basis for free trade.

When MIM says it is for national liberation struggles, that means genuine national liberation struggles that weaken imperialism and create operating room for smaller nations. We are not for switching imperialist partners and cutting off economic relations with neighbors. One's neighbors will always be the most logical trade partners in a bourgeois or socialist world until transportation is free as in a Star Trek transporter beam.

Currently, the ex-Soviet people are in the stranglehold of various ideas of political economy spread by the West and Brezhnev revisionism. A decade of wild capitalism did not produce the overnight economic success that many thought it would based on a simple comparison of U.S. living standards and Russian living standards. That comparison in the back of the minds of the Russian people and people around the world is the wrong comparison. The United States was also richer than Russia before 1917. It is not a fair race where one competitor starts a step from the finish line while the other starts 1000 meters away. The many Chinese, Russians and others who thought that the Gorbachev road would bring a better living standard to Russia should by now confess to their scientific error and do more to study relative economic development.

The reason for the popular misconception is a misunderstanding of how U.S. and Russian wealth came about. Had the Russian economy sprinted to affluence in the last decade, we would have seen Gaidar-type Liberals succeed

instead of falling to around 5% of the vote. In fact, even if Russia had been instantly accepted as a partner of imperialism like Germany, it is doubtful that it would have achieved overnight success from super-exploitation of the Third World. As our FAQ page on Stalin shows though, the Soviet Union was catching up with the West very quickly when Stalin was in power, without exploiting any other nation.

Western-style development is an economic mirage created only in two city-states—Singapore and Hong Kong, and two provinces, Taiwan and southern Korea. The other rich countries in the world were also in the top 20 richest before Bolshevism existed, if we exclude the tiny and artificial Arab states that enrich every citizen thanks to wealth only in oil. The examples of the new rich countries cannot be copied elsewhere and they involve a tiny percentage of the world's population. As the world exists, the United States is not big enough to make Russia, China and India rich through the same preferential trade terms granted to its anti-communist allies on the one-time front-lines of war. This is the question Mao referred to as “the way out.” Imperialism simply does not have the capacity to absorb the economic aspirations of the whole world. It can only bribe people that are a minority on the global scale.

Though it be a cause of much bitterness to some bourgeois-oriented Russians today, the Russian bourgeoisie was too late in developing to bring the Russian people complete imperialist wealth with an entirely bourgeoisified country and nothing can be done about it now. The chance to become a top-dog imperialism arose in the late 1800s. By the time the Russian bourgeoisie's day was dawning, the German bourgeoisie was already developed enough to flex imperialist

muscle. That's why the Russian people concluded—and only by trying every other possible political approach first—that only Lenin and Stalin were answers for dealing with what imperialism had in store for Russia. Though imperialist itself, Russia was the weak link and socialist revolution broke through.

Today, the relative military power of Russia tempts the bourgeois-minded to militarist-fascism to make up for Russia's relatively weak economy, which is in essence still a “weak link” in the global capitalist system. When the Russian people realize that neither Putin nor the Amerikkkans nor the EU are coming with real bribery involving the bourgeoisification of Russia, they will turn again to socialism. Bush's most recent exclusion of Russia, China, Kanada, France and Germany from business in Iraq is only the most recent proof that complete Russian bourgeoisification under imperialism is a pipe-dream. While he gains himself votes in the United States, Bush speeds up the revolution in Russia.

The Russian Maoist Party's internationalist voice and other Russian internationalist voices may seem isolated now, but imperialism is bound to hand the internationalists some gifts on the silver platter.

Note:

In trade, “relative” efficiency of production is important. If two countries trade with each other and there are only two commodities, but one country is superior in producing both goods, for example as in four times better at producing commodity A and only three times better at commodity B, it remains true that the more backward country should produce B and trade for A—in a bourgeois economic situation or possibly within a socialist camp.

## VLADIMIR PUTIN LINES UP SUPPORT

compared to the previous elections and, though not explicitly pro-Kremlin, cannot be even defined as a revisionist organization, but as a pro-imperialist party with elements of fascism. No workers' deputies in this Duma and extremely few bourgeois democrats. The extremely rightist and authoritarian presidency has now been complemented with an extremely rightist and compliant Duma.”

Comrade Dar Zhutayev commented further: “Our position on it was to call upon the people to vote ‘against all candidates’ and quite a few people did so (approx. 4.5% of the voters).”(2)

Initial reports indicated some fluidness in the political situation after the election with Yabloko (Apple) (led by Grigory Yavlinsky) and Union of Right Forces (led by Anatoly Chubais) parties preparing to ditch their leaders. There was a lot of hand-wringing about it from Liberals ranging from Gorbachev to the

Washington Post. As long as Putin faced Zyuganov's having most of the Duma power, the Western media was all for lopsided state control of the media. Now that Putin's allies have crushed the Liberals too, they all cry foul. Many mentioned a return to the Brezhnev era given the ideological unity of the new Duma. (The irony of this is probably lost on those Western pundits and most Kremlinologists who thought the Brezhnev era polity was monolithic and “totalitarian.”) The Washington Post even aired a view that the makings of a new Hitler are in place.(3)

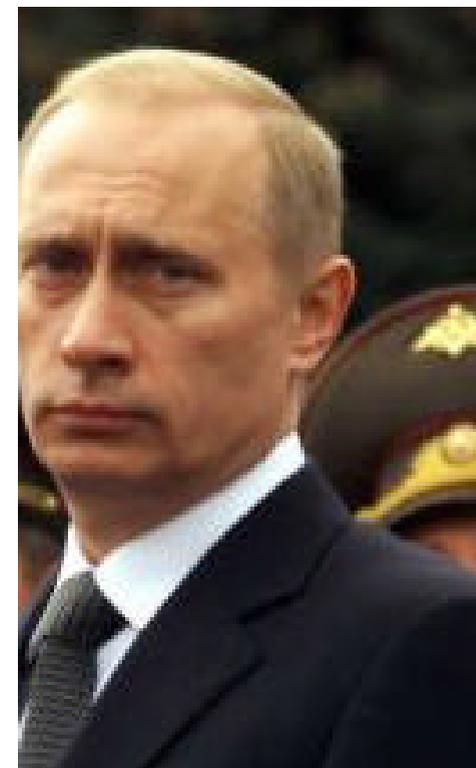
Although it is well-known that the Kremlin did everything possible to split its opposition, less well-known is the extent of Western intelligence agencies' assistance to the Kremlin. MIM is uncertain on that point. However, the Kremlin claims that Bush congratulated him on his “impressive victory.” Whether

true or not, it makes friendly politics with the West to say so.

It's an ugly picture. In three months, the Kremlin split Zyuganov's party in half. To counter the pressure, the phony “Communist Party”'s top of the ticket included anti-Semites. It's an ugly picture, because it shows the Russian people allow themselves to be manipulated in politics. The various disgusting combinations of backward ideas have rushed in to fill the vacuum left by a destroyed proletarian internationalism.

Notes:

1. <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/stories/2003/12/11/002.html>
2. This can be confirmed in a poll in the Moscow Times as well. <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/stories/2003/12/11/012.html>
3. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A49744-2003Dec9.html>



# RUSSIA: Corruption central for many voters

The most popular thing that Putin did lately was arrest oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky. In no way was that arrest getting ahead of public opinion, and so Putin retains rightist credentials. Some members of the Western business press also celebrated Putin's victory and the Russian industrialists recently greeted Putin at a meeting in unity.

When the Soviet Union dissolved, instead of handing over state assets to all individuals for private ownership equally, under the corrupt advice of Western "economic" consultants, people like Gaidar and Chubais allowed certain individuals to become overnight billionaires. Ever since that time, Russia has been one giant competition of mafias and the people are stuck wondering if there is any capitalism that is not corrupt. The people wonder if there is any dividing line between a capitalist business deal and a bribe.

It does not take much of a push for the Western media to adopt an outsider's-Liberal, oppose-the-barbaric-foreigner posture. Western papers were full of stories supporting corrupt business leaders in Russia and egging on the most corrupt to challenge Putin for political power. Any Russian who happened to be reading was sure to punish the Liberal parties in Russia. Rarely have phrases like "human rights" and "democracy" so directly correlated with the fate of a single corrupt capitalist such as oil magnate Boris Berezovsky or the more recent Khodorkovsky arrest. Western articles seemed calculated to connect "democracy" to white-collar crime, while also leaving out the blood and guts involved in the Russian mafia's rise. On the other hand, while admitting Khodorkovsky's corruption, the Western press rarely admitted that he was the major funding behind their beloved Western-Liberal style parties, Apple and Union of Right Forces. In other words, the corruption they admit to have occurred was the reason for the success of their beloved parties.(1)

In a very rare feat of materialism, in an article we recommend, old-style-Republican/libertarian Justin Raimondo crushed the numerous weenies of the Anglo-Saxon press who complain about a lack of democracy in other countries without comparing what is happening in their own or others: "When the Republicans run television ads featuring Bush's Top Gun landing on that aircraft carrier, I wonder if these same monitors will lodge complaints about inappropriate use of taxpayers' money."(2) Although Justin Raimondo single-handedly demolished these chauvinist Liberals, Ralph Nader also could tell these weenies a thing or two about getting media coverage in the United States, when government regulated media allow exclusion of candidates from debate counter to their own by-laws.(3) That's not to mention the countless media outlets whose profit margins rest on government ads. Google censors MIM while taking

military and Republican Party advertising, which means that the government is giving tax-dollars to partisan media.(4) This is not to mention that after Florida in 2000, it seemed that the Anglo-Saxon world should have kept its mouth shut a good decade. As MIM always stresses there is no truth about any grand concept whether "democracy" or "liberty" or "communism" that is valid without a comparison of realities.

It goes to show that the propagandists running the Western media indulge far-flung fantasy as long as it can be done safely at the expense of a bourgeois several time zones away. For those that honestly do not know it's not any better in the United States or England, we feel only pity. In some aspects the Russian government is more at Putin's campaign disposal and in other aspects it is less compared with other "democracies."

MIM's position on corruption is this: yes, it's unfair to arrest just Mikhail Khodorkovsky and a couple other oligarchs. Western consultants like Jeffery Sachs, Liberal lap-dogs like Gaidar and Chubais and of course their political sponsors Gorbachev and Yeltsin would have to be arrested too. The transfer of wealth took corruption at the highest levels of government. Yet, MIM would not stop there. In truth, someone in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union put those scum Gorbachev and Yeltsin in power. So, there would need to be an arrest of the bourgeoisie in the party, inside the highest ranks of the communist party itself.

Upon thinking of all the people who would be arrested, though a relative handful compared with the murderous mafias now running wild that made Russia as dangerous on the street as the United States, many proletarians lose their nerve. State power is indeed an awful thing that will always repel the refined sentiments of the proletariat. Yet the choice is between better and worse. Arresting Mikhail Khodorkovsky is not enough. A decisive struggle against the bourgeoisie in the party in the Brezhnev era would have prevented the massive death of men and the elderly that has occurred in Russia, not to mention inter-ethnic wars brought on with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Arresting and preventing the development of the bourgeoisie in the party is not a simple matter either, but we have the example of Mao's Cultural Revolution as a starter to address that problem. Mao's critics whined about the repressions and brutalities of the Cultural Revolution when the people became more fully politically active, but say what they may, the Cultural Revolution did not lop off a fraction of the people's life expectancy. Capitalist corruption in Russia did.

Notes:

1. The bourgeois Anglo-Saxon line in which Khodorkovsky is a political dissident challenging Putin and upholding "democracy":



Arresting Mikhail Khodorkovsky doesn't begin to solve the corruption problem.

<http://www.boston.com/news/world/articles/2003/12/08/pro Putin party headed for big win in Russian vote/>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A47807-2003Dec8.html>;

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&node=&contentId=A33557-2003Dec3-Found=true>;

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A33166-2003Dec3.html>;

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/russia/article/0,2763,1102230,00.html>.

We do not know all of whom Khodorkovsky gave money, but the two Liberal parties seemed most dependent on the aid.

One paper noted that Amerikkans moved in to take over the Yukos oil company as managers with Khodorkovsky out of the way, but they may be more willing to pay corporate taxes than Khodorkovsky was and hence more "patriotic" as Russians than Khodorkovsky. <http://msnbc.com/news/998436.asp?0sl=-13&cpl=1>

A similar story arose in connection to

Alex Kononykhin, another Russian millionaire banker who lost his visa in the United States under Russian pressure. The Sun (Baltimore) again equated corruption with democracy while admitting how Kononykhin came about his money while complaining about the corruption of Russian justice (25Nov2003, p. 12a).

2. <http://www.antiwar.com/justin/j121003.html>

We disagree with Raimondo generally, for example, for his adherence to the Republican Party's opposition to Uncle Sam's joining World War II.

3. Just some escapades by Ralph Nader that could be by anyone organizing a third party in the United States: <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines02/0416-06.htm> ;

<http://www.commondreams.org/news2000/1005-07.htm> ;

<http://www.debatethis.org/nadervscpd.html>

4. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/censor/ads/index.html>.



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

# Dealing with the psychological depression regarding overall imperialist political reality

Right now, much of the Western and Russian media is sounding a note of sadness regarding the Putin party's electoral success. Many are concerned that Zyuganov and the Liberals lost so much power. There seems to be something disconcerting on how Putin can will something and it will be done, because if he can really get what he wants in the superstructure the way he did, many conclude that the political fight is useless, possibly because the people are too stupid.

We at MIM have dialectical optimism. Zyuganov's alleged "Communist Party" was so far off the mark, it would be better for the Russian mind to start from the wildly unpopular pro-gay/lesbian, anti-Chechen war and pro-Stalin and pro-Mao line of the Russian Maoist Party. The Russian people have not had a period of study sufficient yet to have a critical mass of people able to separate from both Western bourgeois politics and Brezhnev-era bourgeois politics. It is better to be unpopular and start the development on that path of thought than to trade scarce resources for small temporary political gains.

In other countries, such as the Philippines, the national liberation forces can even decide which landlord puppet of imperialism comes to power, but in the united States and Russia the political temperature is lower and obtaining quick political gains depends on knowing crucially the answer to the question "relative to what." Without the correct question "relative to what," answers will tend in extreme right opportunist and left-idealist-nihilist opportunist directions right from the beginning of a party's existence.

The temptation will be to be the tail wagging the dog and so we have to insist on materialism in even the most abysmal situations. The "left" opportunists will say we can do more than we can only to make us the tail on the imperialist dog. The right opportunists will deny that we can improve rapidly from our abysmal positions. At MIM we believe our Central Task Report nicely encapsulates this problem. In our Central Task report we are not tracking figures on how many members of Congress MIM has. Chasing after Congress seats would be ultra-left opportunism ending up in dogshit right opportunism. Giving up completely and endorsing Democrats would be regular rightist opportunism that dissolves the reason for the existence of a vanguard party. This is an important distinction, because the threat comes from both sides—the "left" and the right. People who come to us and say that MIM can keep its principles and win seats in the Congress, grow its faction and seize power are ultra-left. It's important when confronted with such a belief to spread "pessimism" and say "it cannot be done." That's part of having a grip on the fact that MIM at this point does not have

---

The Russian people do not yet have a critical mass of people able to separate from both Western bourgeois politics and Brezhnev-era bourgeois politics.

---

multiple billions of dollars to unsettle everything in Congress. Having multiple MIM seats in Congress might be nice, but people who leave questions at that level are not as yet scientific.

The trick is to capture what the party is doing now and then adopt measures to improve on that quickly. All this is to say that the Bubba vote in the United States is depressing and the vote in the Russian parliamentary elections is depressing, but we have to stick to improving our forces and their influence. If Zhirinovsky, Putin etc. decide to go off the fascist deep-end, the species may have earned it, and it is doubtful that the Russian Maoist Party could stop them today, but fretting about that and wondering if we can be the tail on the dog does not make anything better. That's why the Russian Maoist Party found itself opposing all the candidates.

Often, outside observers transfer their conditions to those of others and cause political mistakes as when the Moscow-trained Bolsheviks landed in China in Mao's day and did not study China's own conditions. Recently, MIM faced a ridiculous criticism from someone quoting Stalin on the nature of vanguard parties. The passage quoted was on principles Stalin used to choose among various European parties, especially the German ones. This was at a time in the 1920s when Stalin was talking about how to choose among parties wanting Comintern recognition that already had hundreds of thousands of members and millions of voters. Here was Stalin in his day trying to choose among these parties and factions and our contemporary dogmatists do not realize that those same principles from Stalin do not apply when there is no such choice available in the material world. Stalin enunciated principles for dealing with the material reality he faced. Those principles on sorting out the European socialists becoming Bolsheviks do not apply in a situation when there are no Bolsheviks or Bolsheviks are just starting parties. Measuring rods of progress have to be appropriate for the situation they are applied to. That is basic materialism. It is very easy for dogmatists to be the ones who cause a breakdown in dealing with reality that leads to both "left" and right opportunism. Once a breakdown in the materialist method

occurs, the dogmatist will also end up clearing the way for an opposite of dogmatism which is eclecticism, an opposition to taking sides and applying science—taking up random ideas instead of theories and changing overall strategy day-to-day.

With regard to anyone claiming to bring qualitatively new ideas to the party, we also ask people to prove them in practice, whether their own practice or even better, some group of people's practice. In situations as in most countries in the world where the vanguard party is as yet weak and undeveloped, usually one person can start (or more likely, point to) a political practice, the way Mao did in the countryside before the Communist Party of China made him a leader. It's not that Mao started the peasant revolt. He only noted it and said the communists should lead it better. For him, it was a relative question of how the authorities could not successfully repress the reds in the countryside. Mao did not just read a novel and one day decide that peasant rebellion is what strikes his fancy relative to other strategies.

In MIM, we did not always have prison outreach either. Others started sending in MIM publications to prisons and prisoners circulated them quite a bit before MIM started directly sending MIM publications into prison. So what MIM did is note someone else's practice as proof that something could be done and its usefulness as demonstrated by all the letters of high political consciousness that MIM received from prisoners before starting a prison outreach program.

So as the example with Mao and the peasant rebels or MIM and the prisoners demonstrates, when we say "practice is principal," it does not mean "my practice is principal." People who approach the

---

It is better to be unpopular and start the development on that path of thought than to trade scarce resources for small temporary political gains.

---

party advocating unproven ideas should be encouraged for thinking but upbraided for not proving.

Mao and others in the countryside gave the party ideas and thorough studies on how things could be done. Mao went so far as to know the names, business, consumption items, taxes etc. of every person in a single village.

Political participation for its own sake in the party is not positive, especially if it ends up unsettling proven strategies and tactics that are advancing the central task. Such participation is ultra-democracy founded on ultra-left ideas on the merit of ideas for their own sake or participation for its own sake. That is for anarchists or Titoites.

The task of the party is to settle down on a common framework of admitting what it is doing now and how is it improving or can improve over time. From there, that framework must be defended against right opportunism and ultra-left nihilism. When Mao has peasants marching armed for land, it does not do much good to say it cannot be done. If bandit bands are expropriating landlords without even the benefit of a vanguard party, and surviving years and decades at a time as some of the famous ones did in China, again, it becomes right opportunism to say the peasants cannot carry out a revolution for land reform strictly because the armed aspect is not possible. We know overall that the class system is headed for a fall. So the question is what we can do to see to getting on the best road for that fall.

We do not become too depressed both because we have strategic confidence in imperialism's fall and because we have adopted our own materialist approach. That means in any tactical situation, the enemy may in fact win an overwhelming victory. That's what Mao called "strategic confidence but tactical respect" for the enemy. If we dwell on the enemy's dominance too long, we are likely to lapse into right opportunism of the Menshevik paralysis sort. If the anti-slave rebels dwelled on slavery's existence for thousands of years, they may have become depressed too, but their depression only delayed the downfall of slavery, which is now only occupying a small percentage of the globe. It is key to materialism to recognize what progressive capabilities already exist.

## What questions do YOU have?

Wasn't Mao a butcher? Why do you spell it "Amerika"? Shouldn't you try non-violence first? What is internationalism? Isn't hating white people reverse racism? Why don't you leftists work together? Why don't you tone it down? What is a cardinal principle? What is your program? What is necessary to join MIM? What concrete actions can I take? How do I write articles for MIM? What is your copyright policy?

Go to <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq> and get real answers to these and other questions.

# Police, with FBI, step up surveillance, harassment of anti-war protestors

Continued from page 1...

not as vigilant in gathering information on the organizers of other large, raucous gatherings that could potentially be used as covers for "terrorist activities," such as sporting events, mainstream political functions or gun shows, it is *de facto* investigating people because of their political activities. The FBI memo even admits, "the FBI possesses no information indicating that violent or terrorist activities are being planned as part of these protests," yet it still calls on police to "be alert" to legal protest tactics and report "*potentially* illegal acts [MIM's emphasis]" to the FBI.

Consider the Miami antiglobalization protests, where "2,500 police officers in millions of dollars of new body armor and crowd control equipment" met 10,000 protestors.(3) As we reported earlier, despite claims that the police were responding to "disruptive elements," the cops' mass-arrest tactics were preemptive and unprovoked.

"Many demonstrators reported that police ordered groups of demonstrators to disperse while circling the protesters, making it impossible for them to escape. Police then arrested these people for failure to obey a police order. Several of

those arrested were brutalized in jail, Blacks and Latinos bearing the brunt of the abuse.

"[One National Lawyer's Guild observer] stopped at a corner, by himself, to call for directions when a group of bicycle cops rode up. He was handcuffed and arrested, and his tape recorder, which was recording at the time, was taken by cops and never returned."(4)

The FBI memo (issued one month before the Miami protests) says, "Post-demonstration activities can include fundraising in support of the legal defense of accused protestors and demonstrations of solidarity calling for the release of the accused." Both activities are of course perfectly legal, but citing them in a memo concerned with "terrorist activities" makes them seem nefarious.

Perhaps not coincidentally, Miami police attacked a jail solidarity rally.

"A producer of the Democracy Now! radio show wrote a statement while sitting in jail in Miami. 'I was arrested because I had not embedded myself with the Police Dept before doing my job of covering the protests for the nationally syndicated public radio and TV program Democracy Now! Instead, I was swept up late Friday afternoon with about 70 others as we tried

to obey an order to disperse from an 'unlawful' jail solidarity rally.' She went on to explain that police arrested four other independent reporters with her, and she knew of several other arrested reporters..."(4)

In a related story, South Carolinian anti-war protestor Brett Bursey "was arrested for refusing to move to a 'free speech area' a half-mile away" from the speech by President Bush he was picketing. U.S. Attorney Strom Thurmond Jr. later charged Bursey under a law that allows the Secret Service to restrict areas to protect the president. However, this case and others like it have nothing to do with "security." The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit against the Secret Service, citing a pattern of "selective removal of anti-Bush protesters," or "the removal of all who are engaged in political speech while passersby are allowed to keep using the sidewalk."(3)

The FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, the Attorney General and other police agencies are painting a picture of "terrorist activities" in broad strokes to justify repression of anti-government protestors, immigrants, and anybody else they don't like. The politically naive say, "if you have nothing to hide, why should

you fear giving up your civil liberties?" What these people do not understand is that civil liberties protect against corrupt and dishonest people in government. It is not a question of hiding something. It's a matter of preventing government-sponsored terrorism. It is a matter of not trusting the government and giving it unaccountable power. This was at the core of the racist Amerikan founding fathers' philosophy having suffered the oppression of a tyrannic government. And despite the slavery and genocide against the First Nations rampant at the time, MIM would say that that idea is still more advanced than what we hear today about the need to sacrifice freedom for safety. The founding fathers had a "theory" of how to keep government under control of the people. We at MIM do not think that theory is exactly right, but we recognize and share concern for the question that drove that theory. Most of what we hear today on the subject is pure emotion driven by fascist agitators in the media and government.

Notes:

1. New York Times, 23 Nov 2003.
2. www.fbi.gov/response.htm
3. Boston Globe, 14 Dec 2003.
4. MIM Notes 293, 15 Dec 2003.

Full Text of the FBI Intelligence Bulletin #09, 10/5/2003:

## THREAT LEVEL UNCHANGED: YELLOW (ELEVATED).

THE FBI INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN, DISSEMINATED ON A WEEKLY BASIS, PROVIDES LAW ENFORCEMENT WITH CURRENT, RELEVANT TERRORISM INFORMATION DEVELOPED FROM COUNTERTERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS AND ANALYSIS. THE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN DOES NOT CONTAIN THREAT WARNING INFORMATION.

HANDLING NOTICE: Recipients are reminded that the Intelligence Bulletin is designated "Law Enforcement Sensitive," and should not be disseminated beyond law enforcement circles.

## ITEM: TACTICS USED DURING PROTESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

On October 25, 2003, mass marches and rallies against the occupation in Iraq are scheduled to occur in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, California. While the FBI possesses no information indicating that violent or terrorist activities are being planned as part of these protests, the possibility exists that elements of the activist community may attempt to engage in violent, destructive, or disruptive acts. Most protests are peaceful events; however, a number of demonstrations, including the biannual International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings, are more likely to be violent and disruptive and to require enhanced law enforcement security. Several effective and innovative strategies are commonly used by protestors prior to, during, and after demonstrations. The following tactics have been observed by U.S. and foreign law enforcement agencies while responding to criminal activities conducted during protests and demonstrations.

Protestors often use their Internet e-mail, Web, and e-commerce capabilities to coordinate their activities prior to demonstrations. Activists may also make use of training camps, Internet-based chat rooms, and counter-strategies for dealing with the police and to resolve any logistical issues.

If a demonstration is going to take place in a secure facility, activists may seek to gain access to the site using false documentation. Surveillance of sites prior to demonstration can allow activists to identify locations of command posts and law enforcement personnel in order to plan effective countermeasures.

Traditional demonstration tactics by which protestors draw attention to their causes include marches, banners, and forms of passive resistance such as sit-ins. Extremist elements may engage in more aggressive tactics that can include vandalism, physical harassment of delegates, trespassing, the formation of human chains or shields, makeshift barricades, devices used against mounted police units, and the use of weapons—such as projectiles and homemade bombs. Even the more peaceful techniques can create a climate of disorder, block access to a site, draw large numbers of police officers to a specific location in order to weaken security at the location, obstruct traffic, and possibly intimidate people from attending the event being protested.

During the course of a demonstration, activists often communicate with one another using cell phones or radios to coordinate activities or to update colleagues about ongoing events. Other types of media equipment (video cameras, photographic equipment, audio tape recorders, microphones, and computer and radio equipment) may be used for documenting potential cases of police brutality and for distribution of information over the Internet.

Extremists may be prepared to defend themselves against law enforcement. All acts during the course of a demonstration (masks (gas masks, goggles, scarves, suba masks, liter masks, and sunglasses) can serve to minimize the effects of tear gas and pepper spray as well as obscure one's identity. Extremists may also employ shields (trash can lids, sheets of plexiglass, truck tire inner tubes, etc.) and body protection equipment (layered clothing, hard hats and helmets, sporting equipment, life jackets, etc.) to protect themselves during marches. Activists may also use intimidation techniques such as videotaping and the swarming of police officers to hinder the arrest of other demonstrators.

After demonstrations, activists are usually reluctant to cooperate with law enforcement officials. They seldom carry any identification papers and often refuse to divulge any information about themselves or other protestors. Post-demonstration activities can include fundraising in support of the legal defense of accused protestors and demonstrations of solidarity calling for the release of the accused.

Law enforcement agencies should be alert to these possible indicators of protest activity and report any potentially illegal acts to the nearest FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force.

## ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE: LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE

Information contained in the FBI Intelligence Bulletin is Law Enforcement Sensitive and intended for official use only. No portion of this Bulletin should be released to the media, the general public or over non-secure Internet servers. Release of Law Enforcement Sensitive material could adversely affect or jeopardize investigative activities.

Departments are requested to contact the nearest FBI field office or resident agency in the area should additional information be developed related to the above matter. Questions regarding the content of these Bulletins should also be directed to the nearest FBI field office or resident agency.

## Join the fight against the injustice system

While we fight to end the criminal injustice system MIM engages in reformist battles to improve the lives of prisoners. Below are some of the campaigns we are currently waging, and ways people behind the bars and on the outside can get involved. More info can be found on our prison web site: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>

**Stop Censorship in Prison:** Prisons frequently censor books, newspapers and magazines coming from MIM's books for prisoners program. We need help from lawyers, paralegals and jailhouse lawyers to fight this censorship.

**Books for Prisoners:** This program focuses on political education of prisoners. Send donations of books and money for our Books for Prisoners program.

**End the Three Strikes laws:** This campaign is actively fighting the repressive California laws, but similar laws exist in other states. Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Send articles and information on three strike laws.

**Shut Down the Control Units:** Across the country there are a growing number of prison control units. These are permanently designated prisons or cells in prisons that lock prisoners up in solitary or small group confinement for 22 or more hours a day with no congregate dining, exercise or other services, and virtually no programs for prisoners. Prisoners are placed in control units for extended periods of time. These units cause both mental and physical problems for prisoners.

Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Get your organization to sign the statement demanding control units be shut down. Send us information about where there are control units in your state. Include the names of the prisons as well as the number of control unit beds/cells in each prison if that is known. Send us anti-control unit artwork.

**MIM's Re-Release on Life Program:** This program provides support for our comrades who have been recently released from the prison system, to help them meet their basic needs and also continue with their revolutionary organizing on the outside. We need funds, housing, and job resources. We also need prisoner's input on the following survey questions:

1. What are the biggest challenges you face being released from prison?
2. How can these problems be addressed?
3. What are the important elements of a successful release program?

# Under Lock & Key

## News from Prisons & Prisoners

### On lockdown in Oklahoma

I am writing on behalf of myself and one other inmate. We are both women in a Maximum Security prison. She is 23 and I am 32. We write constantly about conditions here and in other countries. We both write as a hobby/career, and to right what's been wronged. We write about government induced diseases, hunger, and underground issues. We've attempted to reach the papers, the broadcasting centers, TV & radio, but none have taken an interest. We also write about prison conditions, theory, research on any law or policy that is inhuman, degrading or is a problem or could result in a future problem. We are now working to pass a law in Oklahoma to ban long-term segregation (more than 90 days) in an 8' x 10' cell. As of November I've been confined for one year, and my comrade for 19 months. This is not the first time either of us has done a long stretch for a minor infraction. We are on 23-hour lockdown, when we are taken to our showers we are handcuffed. When we go out for our one hour exercise, we have on leg chains, belly chains, black box and cuffs. But we won't conform. What's right is right and what's wrong is wrong.

—a prisoner in Oklahoma, December, 2003

**MIM responds:** Don't be shy, send us your writings! Under Lock & Key and the rest of MIM Notes can always use your thoughtful anti-imperialist and anti-militarist contributions.

### MIM Program makes the rounds in Arizona

Soldiers of the struggle,

First & foremost I'd like to thank you for responding as quickly as you did. Unfortunately, the hands of oppression removed me, an outspoken revolutionary, from general population to bunk with two others in a room really designed for two. It takes more than what they have to break me down though, so I continue to press on. One pro was that I was able to circulate and make copies of MIM's program, "What we Want; What we Believe," so you should receive mail from others interested in revolution. I am most definitely interested in receiving MIM Notes and being a part of the Books for Prisoners program. Any contributions that I can make to your organization, let me know. I am more than willing to participate in writing for all MIM publications, as well as anything else I can do to be of service. Currently my funds have been depleted since I no longer slave, but I should be able to contribute monetarily in the coming months. Any literature that you can send in regards to the struggle for freedom, and literature on Stalin, Marx, or Lenin would be greatly appreciated. I would also like more info on Mao. Until then, I salute you and continue to support your efforts to get people free. Uhuru Sasa! Freedom Now!

Loyalty and respect,

—an Arizona prisoner, November 2003

### MIM Release program threatened by parole conditions

Comrades, my parole date is approaching within 42 days and I just received my special parole conditions from my parole agent - one of my conditions is to stay away from political groups because I am on High Control Parole. This means they could search my place of residence at any given time or my person. I know they'll be keeping a close eye on me 24/7. But I will not, I am not, and I shall not give in to the oppressors and their unreal, infantile games they played.

— a California prisoner, November 2003

**MIM adds:** As we work to build our prisoner release program and ensure that our revolutionary comrades behind bars can continue their political activism on the outside the criminal injustice system looks for more roadblocks to put in our way. We recently heard from another comrade in California who was released and then picked up on a parole violation one day later because they changed his release location at the last minute, making it impossible for him to find housing within the restrictions of his parole. The pigs were waiting for him to go to a relative's house so they could pick him up and toss him back in jail. This is why we need to do careful pre-release planning, as the comrade from New York suggested, so that we can provide the necessary support to keep our comrades on the streets.

### OH Prisoner spurs humyn rights investigation at Richland CI

I was transferred from Richland Correctional after: I prompted two state Senate investigations; Three human rights abusers were fired or "relieved" of duty; I spent 144 consecutive days on lockdown, 44 of that on a hunger strike and 17 of that on a hygiene strike; and I received a mild concussion, a separated shoulder and lost 30 pounds in five months.

A prisoners' rights group is considering filing a lawsuit on Richland and the state Senate re-assembled the Corrections Institution Inspection Committee, complete with two senators I sent affidavits to about abuses at Richland Corruptional. One of the three issues you sent is already circulating and I'm reading the second.

In the struggle of the proletariat of the world,

— an Ohio prisoner, December 2003

### MO prisoners: total vindication or no remedy at all!

We prisoners in Missouri and at Crossroads Correctional Center in particular are experiencing a vast disregard for most of our constitutionally protected rights.

Administration and classification staff here in the Administrative Segregation units are denying prisoners IRR and grievance forms as a means to keep our complaints from being processed in the system. Caseworkers here are unlawfully protecting corrections officers who prisoners file complaints on. If a prisoner is lucky enough to obtain an IRR or grievance, it may wind up in the trash or otherwise disposed of once the prisoner hands it over to a caseworker.

The U.S. District Courts require that to bring a 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1983 civil action, a prisoner must first attempt to resolve his/her issue by exhausting the grievance system. So when caseworkers refuse to give prisoners IRR and grievance forms, or destroy these forms once prisoners fill them out, they are denying us the "access to the courts" afforded us by the U.S. Constitution.

The uphill battle of the oppressed only inclines more steeply. Those of us here at CRCC who turn to outside organizations like the ACLU or NAACP about the wrongdoings of staff come face to face with the obstacle of our mail being obstructed. Staff interfere with our mail to keep the numerous incidents of

### 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.

abuse, criminal circumvention, denial of court access and other reprisals under wraps. We are forced to give our mail to correctional officers who throw our outgoing mail in the trash or otherwise make sure it does not get out.

In the very few instances where a prisoner's IRR/grievance is processed, he usually faces retaliation for complaining. Prisoners may be subjected to reprisals such as macing without provocation, beatings in violation of policies against "offender abuse" (see RSMO217.410), being kept off the sick call list, doctor's list and dental list. Guards show "deliberate indifference to necessary medical/dental treatment."

So you see, "in an ocean of obstruction, being hounded by the waves of injustice," we have yet to be provided a raft, much less see the coast guard or rescue ship! We are glad for such allies as MIM Notes in a struggle that never ends. We wage appeals for "total vindication" or no remedy at all.

— a Missouri prisoner, December 2003

## Missouri: Double celling in Ad Seg

Missouri prisoners are being subjected to torture whenever they refuse to double cell with another prisoner in isolation. In June when I arrived at Northeast Correctional Center, guards tried to put me in a cell with another prisoner in administrative segregation. When I refused, they sprayed mace in my face, kicked me, stomped me, beat me. They broke my eyeglasses, tightened the handcuffs to the breaking point then twisted them viciously. They put shackles on me, then twisted them to cause me pain.

These guards carried me to a strip cell (where a camera is mounted on the wall). They beat me, kicked me, stomped me, and twisted me some more. They kicked my right shoulder and damaged nerves in my wrist. They accused me of kicking one of them: Rule 2 assault against staff and Rule 19 creating a disturbance by refusing to accept a cell mate in Ad Seg.

I was kept in a cell with no sheets, no blankets, no mattress, lying on a cold, concrete slab for three days, when guards threatened to beat me up again if I refused to accept a cellmate in Ad Seg. My body couldn't stand another beating like that so I went into a cell with a man who was mentally ill and had full-blown TB.

When I wrote to the superintendent of that prison and told him what had happened, he had me placed on special security orders — it's a kind of punishment, but it guaranteed me a single cell and protected me from further assaults by guards. Three months later, a specialist diagnosed nerve damage to my wrist and prescribed a splint and surgery to repair the damage.

Prisoners are being tortured by guards and

given infractions when they refuse to double cell in administrative segregation 23 hours a day, every day, for months on end. In 1999, a prisoner killed his cell partner in Ad Seg at Potosi. Recently, another prisoner there was killed.

In 1987 the eighth circuit court of appeals ruled that it is cruel and unusual punishment to double cell prisoners with a history of violent behavior, 23 hours a day, for months in Ad Seg. The same court ruled that the only way it would not be cruel and unusual punishment to double cell Ad Seg prisoners is if they sign a consent form agreeing to double cell. (See Tyler v. Black, 811 F. 2d 4 24 (8th cir. 1987).) Double celling of inmates in segregation unit in small cells with solid "boxcar" type doors was cruel and unusual punishment in violation of eighth amendment. Inmates with a history of assaultive behavior were placed in closed cells for up to 23 hours a day for periods of several months. (USCA Const. Amend. 85. Criminal Law - 1213.10(4).) Double celling of inmates in special segregation unit was not cruel and unusual punishment, where inmates were double celled only if they signed consent form. (USCA Const. Amend. 8)

Now I have to go and have surgery for the nerve damage caused by the attack.

— a Missouri prisoner, December 2003

**MIM responds:** Unfortunately, this prisoner describes the outcome of court decisions like the one that calls nonconsensual double-celling in administrative segregation cruel and unusual punishment. With minimal oversight of prison conditions, guards were able to gain this prisoner's "consent" by giving him two beatings and locking him in a bare cell for three days. This proves only that prisoners can be "convinced" to sign over their rights once their hands are tied behind their backs.

## California censorship battle: court

Here is the latest on the battle against censorship of MIM Theory 11 here. The appeal I filed was denied at the directors level, which exhausted my administrative remedies. They determined that the institution is in compliance with departmental policies. As soon as I can obtain a copy of the denial I will send one to MIM for your review. The next step is to file suit. I would like to bring a lawsuit against the director of corrections as opposed to just the institution so that a favorable ruling by the court would effect departmental policy state-wide, not just an order against an individual institution. I'm not sure I can file suit against the director so I am looking in to it. I will keep you informed of all developments.

—A California prisoner, Tehachapi, December 2003

## CA conditions inhumane

I appreciate your understanding that ad-seg units are no different than Security Housing Unit (SHU) programs. Inmates who are housed in these facilities are subject to the same inhumane treatment. We are forced to suffer through having our constitutional rights violated and are covered by the use of the institution saying it is because it threatens the safety and security of the institution. This carries a lot of weight and is CDC's way of trying to justify the conditions of ASU and SHU.

Being forced to use the ASU rec yard in t-shirt and boxers and socks while it is raining is cruel and unusual punishment. Issuing adequate clothing does not threaten the safety and security of the institution at all which leaves the fact that it is structured to oppress and depress inmates, which in turn creates hostility within inmates.

CDC has now created a new method of punishing inmates with indeterminate SHU programs by saying if you have been in the SHU three times it's off to the SHU for indeterminate term. If you've been in a riot twice it's an indeterminate SHU. This is just another way to keep beds in the California SHUs filled. My cellmate has been given an indeterminate SHU because a confidential witness alleged he was attempting to bring explosives into the institution. Yet the facts of proof were never discovered to show that the allegations were true, nor did he receive disciplinary action to support his being placed in a SHU indeterminately.

CDC is making no apologies in their act against inmates in ASUs or SHUs, they are just warehousing inmates and saying "appeal it" if you don't like it! These lockdown units serve no purpose only that they lock inmates away for long lengthy periods in ASU awaiting a transfer and have been in ASU non-disciplinary, non-adverse for five months since 6-11-03. Yet there has been no effort to transfer me. I am aware of the wrongs and would love to see them righted, but it will take those who are willing to see the end to these control units, and in order to make changes one has to stand up strong within the struggle to make it happen, and I am willing to do all I can in my reach of doing.

— a ca prisoner, November 2003

Presently I am in Ad-Seg facing an indeterminate SHU term. The Institutional Gang Investigators (IGI) unit has been on a massive terror over the past year, locking up and seeking to "validate" (as prison gang members - 'BGF' - Black Guerrilla Family - all revolutionary conscious minded Black men. Under their (admin) rules, they can "indeterminately" lock BGF members/associates up.

The wickedness of their plot is that they are knowingly 'validating' people that they know 'are not' BGF, as BGF. The sleeping

giant of the low masses within HDSP (and CDC) are stirring, and moving to demand what is rightfully theirs - freedom, justice, equality and independence. These illegal actions by IGI are a desperate attempt at counter-revolution, and to extinguish (remove from people) any spark, that may ignite the people into raging fire - which both destroys and purifies.

—a California prisoner, December 2003

## Repression at Salinas

Here in Salinas Valley State Prison, California I've witnessed our mind-set and living conditions deteriorate beyond explanation. On every General Population yard here it is difficult to receive yard with any consistency, much less on time. The reasons given are: They're understaffed, staff-training, a staff's birthday or some type of celebration for them. Their favorite one is "something is missing," which more than once that "something" was found to have been in the possession of a C.O. the entire time; very few times have there been something actually missing. Over the past year they've gotten so bold as to sometimes tell the truth that they just "didn't feel like running yard."

In the hole (or "ad-seg"), where I'm writing from, you only get 2 pair of socks, underwear, shirts, and towels, and your shower shoes. That's it as far as clothing. You might get to the cages once a week for a two hour period, that's the most exercise time we get. They completely eliminated giving us any mini-yard (or "concrete yard"). Everyone is on "walk alone", no exceptions. They tell us that this is enforced State-wide now, however no paper saying such has ever been seen. There are only 10 usable cages outside, which 2 1/2 buildings use, which is why it takes a week or two to complete a rotation. Whenever you do get those two hours, you're in the cage with no access to water or to a urinal. It's like that rain, sleet, or snow. And if said weather conditions occurred, you have no over-head protection from the elements. And remember, at the most, you've got on 2 pairs of socks, underwear, and tee shirts (that's everything).

Let's not forget the secret SHU building that they tried to erect here. They did complete building it, but they didn't have approval from the State capitol to do so, initially, so after they finished building it they couldn't even use it. So they waited until the first riot since its construction happened, then filed whatever papers seeking permission to use that building as an "ad-seg" due to "emergency circumstances" . . . permission granted. Now they have inmates housed in this SHU building, with everything built as a SHU, however they get no TV or radio because, hey, it's not "officially" a SHU building. Never mind the fact that there's a lot of people in there who've been given SHU terms and area "awaiting transfer" to a SHU unit. But if you have less than a year left to do once you've been given the SHU term you'll remain right there for your SHU term. Of course, the whole time you're there you'd have been "awaiting transfer," until your term is over.

Here in Cali, our food portions have been reduced. The percentage of money taken from those who owe restitution has increased to 33%. That means if you were sent \$100, you would only receive \$67 of it. And it's rumored that they're going to cut prison spending more and increase that current 33% to 52% by new year. We need drastic change here.

— born struggler, a CA prisoner, Sept 2003

**MIM adds:** We are waging a campaign to shut down the Security Housing Units in California and Control Units across the country. See page 3.

## Facts on US imprisonment

The facts about imprisonment in the United States are that the United States has been the world's leading prison-state per capita for the last 25 years, with a brief exception during Boris Yeltsin's declaration of a state of emergency.(1)

That means that while Reagan was talking about a Soviet "evil empire" he was the head of a state that imprisoned more people per capita. In supposedly "hard-line" Bulgaria of the Soviet bloc of the 1980s, the imprisonment rate was less than half that of the United States.(2,3)

To find a comparison with U.S. imprisonment of Black people, there is no statistic in any country that compares including apartheid South Africa of the era before Mandela was president. The last situation remotely comparable to the situation today was under Stalin during war time. The majority of prisoners are non-violent offenders(4) and the U.S. Government now holds about a half million more prisoners than China; even though China is four times our population.(5)

The rednecks tell MIM that we live in a "free country." They live in an Orwellian 1984 situation where freedom is imprisonment.

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

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

3. United Nations Development Programme, "Human Development Report 1994,:" Oxford University Press, p. 186.

4. Figure of 51.2 percent for state prisoners there for non-violent offenses. Abstract of the United States 1993, p. 211.

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.



## El Tío Sam no siempre sabe

**El lío en torno a las armas de destrucción masiva en Irak: una revelación para luchadores que llevan las de perder.**

*Traducido por Células de Estudio para la Liberación de Aztlán y América Latina.*

A menudo oímos la aserción que la lucha política es inútil porque cada año el Tío Sam gasta miles de millones de dólares con el fin de espiar a todo el mundo a través de satélites y submarinos. Los medios de comunicación árabes dijeron que el Tío Sam sabía de qué color era la ropa interior de Saddam Hussein. Hace poco el sitio de Internet "marxists.org" (1) dijo que era posible identificar cada computadora por medio de equipo colocado en servidores remotos. Semejantes argumentos apuntan a la idea de que cualquier tipo de lucha contra el Tío Sam es futil y que, por lo tanto, hay que unírnos a la lucha propagada por el Tío Sam y respetar sus reglas del juego; sin embargo, el lío en torno a las armas de destrucción masiva (ADM) revela el fallo de asumir una actitud liberal hacia el tema de la lucha y seguridad.

Diez meses antes del discurso equivocado sobre el Estado de la Unión en el que George Bush citaba pruebas

falsas sobre la supuesta venta de uranio por parte de Níger a Irak, la CIA le dijo a Bush que dicha información era falsa. Aparte de la CIA, un embajador también informó a la administración Bush que esta información no era cierta. Esto significa que hasta la posesión de información correcta no garantiza el uso de la misma. (2) La administración Bush ha emitido un sinfín de otras declaraciones falsas sobre la naturaleza y la justificación de la guerra contra Irak. (3) Basándose en fuentes de información estadounidenses, Tony Blair declaró que Saddam Hussein estaba listo para utilizar ADM 45 minutos después de un aviso-algo que jamás sucedió. (4)

Los estudiantes probélicos y los que asumieron una postura neutral desconocían el hecho de que el archivo de inteligencia compuesto y utilizado por el gobierno británico con el fin de justificar la guerra contra Irak, provenía en gran parte de un trabajo no citado de un estudiante estadounidense disponible para el público. (5) En nuestro periódico MIM Notes 274, criticamos a un estudiante quien asumió la típica postura monárquica que justifica la apatía y la falta de lucha contra la guerra. Según el estudiante, "Basamos nuestras opiniones sobre la



política externa e interna en la información que recibimos de coberturas parciales de medios de comunicación, opiniones de nuestros amigos y preguntas de nuestros profesores. Bush basa sus opiniones en datos secretos de inteligencia obtenidos a través de múltiples fuentes, estimaciones nacionales de altos funcionarios de servicios de inteligencia y consejos de expertos. Si ni siquiera él tiene la información completa, nuestro entendimiento de la situación equivale a una pieza insignificante del rompecabezas". Resulta que a alguien le entraron ganas de tomarle el pelo a la administración Bush mediante una falsificación de documentos sobre los programas de armas nucleares de Irak; éstos fueron utilizados por Bush con el fin de promover su plan bélico contra Irak diseñado antes del año 2000. Resulta, por lo tanto, que la posesión de inteligencia secreta fue un impedimento más que una ventaja. La mera posesión de la información "completa" no garantiza el uso correcto de la misma.

Los luchadores por la justicia que llevan las de perder deberían tener en cuenta que un acceso a todas las fuentes de información no garantiza el uso de las mismas por parte de los que los que están en el poder. De hecho, el capitalismo corrompe toda la producción del conocimiento, desde el conocimiento de medicinas cuyas ventas se someten a fines lucrativos hasta los análisis de la eficacia de sistemas de armas adquiridas por el Pentágono. Como ya hemos mencionado en la sección sobre la seguridad en nuestra página web: "El

imperialismo estadounidense de ninguna manera se puede permitir el lujo de filtrar la información correcta y separarla de la falsa." En este sentido, el MIM ha señalado que la acumulación de información proveniente de una fuente no garantiza que el propósito de dicha fuente sea el de desviar información.

Los imperialistas buscan un conocimiento que les otorgue ganancias individuales. Como consecuencia, los imperialistas jamás podrán alcanzar la capacidad que tiene el proletariado para encontrar la verdad. Aunque los gastos monetarios de los imperialistas en servicios de inteligencia sobrepasen los del proletariado, los imperialistas son incapaces de usar la información obtenida, y si la llegan a usar, entran en conflicto con otros imperialistas cuyos intereses de propiedad y agendas políticas son distintos. Por esta razón, cualquier tipo de lucha que dificulte el espionaje de los oprimidos y explotados por parte de los imperialistas es siempre justificado. Como ya hemos mencionado en nuestra reseña del sitio marxists.org, "Hay múltiples razones para no someterse: 1) Existe la posibilidad de aumentar el costo del enemigo ya que cualquier forma de espionaje correcto cuesta. 2) Una vez que se obtenga información, el enemigo tiene que separar la información correcta de la falsa. 3) Puede que el enemigo no haga nada. "

Fuentes consultadas:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/links/marxistsorg.html>
2. [http://abcnews.go.com/sections/wnt/World/iraq030616\\_uranium.html](http://abcnews.go.com/sections/wnt/World/iraq030616_uranium.html); también véase <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/iraq/story/0,12956,972651,00.html>
3. Véase por ejemplo <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A43615-2003Jun11.html>
4. Para leer el testimonio de un exoficial de la CIA véase: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,89923,00.html>; véase también <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,89649,00.html>
5. <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/iraq/story/0,12956,970035,00.html>

### ¿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, existiera 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**