

MIM Notes



July 2004, Nº 304

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Release the photos!

Death penalties needed at war crimes tribunal

BUSH GETS A BREAK *UN Security Council legitimizes war on Iraq*

President George Bush won a diplomatic victory by making up with his French and Russian competitors on the question of Iraq. On June 8th, the UN Security Council unanimously passed a resolution 15-0 legitimizing the occupation of Iraq by U\$ forces with an Iraqi puppet prime minister installed by the CIA. Most regrettable were the Third World lackey votes for the resolution, including Algeria's.

All the kowtowing to U\$ imperialism in the current United Nations is one reason MIM fights for a proletarian United Nations, an organization of nations to put



U\$ imperialism into receivership. A proletarian UN would have sent troops or other activists necessary to prevent an imperialist attack on Iraq. To have such

power it is necessary that a proletarian-led UN conquer the United States first. To take away U\$ imperialism's
Continued on page 6...

There are still 1,600 photos and videos including rape and murder not released by the U\$ Government. That's not to mention the situation in Guantanamo, another Iraq prison and an Afghan prison. We call for the release of photos to the public. Right now Uncle Sam is trying to spin out of the exposure by saying that the problem was taking the pictures, not what was being done in the pictures themselves. We can't let Uncle Sam spin it that way. This is not something to spin, like which frat boy they are going to elect as next president.

It is also turning out that 20,000 civilian contractors in Iraq are not covered by any tested laws, including some involved in the Abu Ghraib prison atrocities. A law on the books since 2000 is untried and may have too many loopholes—and the lawmakers in Washington DC left it that way on purpose.(1) We don't care if those 20,000 call themselves "workers": they are enemies of the international proletariat just like oppressor nation workers in the Western imperialist countries generally.

Continued on page 4...

The rebirth of an old revolutionary legacy **Noble Young Lords Party speaks**

MIM welcomes the opportunity to print this interview with Pablo Pueblo, a leader of the Noble Young Lords Party (NYLP). We have worked with the founders of this organization for many years and know the strength of revolutionary theory and practice behind their work. The formation of the NYLP is a step forward for the revolutionary movement within U\$ borders and a culmination of years of hard work and struggle on the part of Pablo Pueblo and other leaders.

We consider the NYLP a fraternal organization that correctly recognizes

that the majority of Euro-American workers are petit bourgeois and not objectively allied with proletarian revolution, upholds the Cultural Revolution in China, and opposes post-Stalin Soviet revisionism. Currently MIM is a multinational party. However, MIM recognizes that there are times when vanguard forces from the oppressed nationalities believe they must have separate, single nationality vanguard parties. MIM recognizes their right to form separate parties as a part of oppressed nations' struggle for the self-determination. We believe

the validity of single-nationality organizing has been proved in communist history.

Continued on page 8...

Chomsky endorses Kerry

'Pragmatism' endorses oppressive status quo

Amerika's leading radical critic has endorsed John Kerry for president in the name of the "real world." As a member of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) way back, it does not surprise us, though many think of Chomsky as more of an anarchist. DSA advises working within the Democratic Party.

Noam Chomsky has moved in considerably more pragmatic directions in recent years, and frankly, MIM does not trust him as much as we once did. We cannot help thinking that he has had some "influence" in the government and now he seeks to educate the imperialists. We're not surprised, because he never spent much time attending to the question of the vehicle of change.

Chomsky is among many who came into politics in the Vietnam War. John Kerry holds much appeal in a generational way as an important figure in the movement against the Vietnam War.

There is a whole generation of people who believes it "figured out" some things during Vietnam. MIM has been

reproached by everyone from cops to gardeners to university presidents who say they "used to be Maoist" based on the whole 1960s phenomenon.

The question of intelligence inevitably arises when thinking about a Chomsky endorsement. If the "leftist" intellectuals want to say Kerry is "smarter" than Bush, then we are prepared to concede the point. This is probably where we part ways with the intellectuals, because many instinctively believe these matters are a question of smarts. They think it's frankly scary to have less than the brightest persyn in charge of the U\$ government. Would a "dumb" imperialist even realize he was setting off Armageddon? It's worth pondering, but Marxists believe that the economic system pushes forward these candidates and makes a Bush-type inevitable, if not in 2004, then 2008, 2012 etc.

Then there is the argument that the common persyn wants to see a marginal improvement in his/her life. On this point,

Continued on page 6...

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

Letters

Amerikkka: The real imminent threat

I must ask the people, “Has the imminent threat of world terror been really negated with the capture of Saddam Hussein?” Absolutely not! The real imminent threat of world terror remains in office, that racist tyrant George Bush Jr. The truth of the matter is, Saddam was never an imminent threat to Amerikkka. In fact, Saddam was more of a “potential threat” than anything else. There is a big difference between an “imminent threat” and a “potential threat,” as an imminent threat is bound to happen with a sense of immediacy. A potential threat possess the capability of developing into a possible threat. By labeling something as an “imminent threat,” it automatically preconditions the minds of the masses to accept certain circumstances and conditions so that he who is responsible for initiating these falsehoods can pursue any task with the support of the people. This is a historical tactic that’s typically employed by the (Un) United States of Amerikkka in order to justify the colonial occupation of other countries.

Saddam only became an “imminent threat” due to Iraq’s possession of the world’s largest oil reservoir, not because of the alleged chemical weapons of mass destruction. The (Un) United States has been occupying the land of the Iraqi people for the past year now and have not turned over one rock that would be indicative of chemical weapons of mass destruction.

One would think that, given the absolute certainty of the intelligence, they would have been able to go straight to the source of these chemical weapons of mass destruction.

I must clarify that I am not an active supporter of Saddam but we do share a common plight in standing in opposition against the racist empire known as the (Un) United States of Amerikkka. What separates us as individuals is that I am a conscious new Afrikan revolutionary freedom fighter who embraces a socialist egalitarian humanist philosophy and the ideology of new Afrikan revolutionary nationalism. I understand that anything which diametrically opposes Euro-Amerikkkan interests, particularly anything which opposes kapitalism, is deemed to be an “imminent threat” to this fascist empire. The tyrannical COINTELPRO of the FBI that was lead by J. Edgar Hoover in the late 60s and early 70s has taught us this much.

Saddam’s capture is form of window dressing the long arm of the fascist racist practices of law and order which basically validates for the moment the Amerikkkan colonial occupation of Iraq’s land, oil and resources. Above all, this act of war itself was never sanctioned by the Central Commission of the United Nations. In essence, Saddam’s capture can only be viewed as a group of racist criminals manipulating and taking

advantage of the innocence of the masses. A real sigh of relief will be felt once this tyrant George Bush Jr. and his coconspirators are tried for the war crimes they’ve been committing for the

past 500 years against the masses of society at large and abroad.

— A California Prisoner,
May 2004

Yahoo! U\$A’s number one!

you know „your organization blasts the usa...and its funny that the same country you criticize, gives the right to print the smut you are putting out...heres an idea ... before you criticize this country, go to China, or how bout North Korea...and point put the critical issues such as freedom of religion, or human rights, or COMMUNISM, in the same passion that you do here, and see how long you live to take another breath. GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

better are raping “liberated” Iraqi civilians—never mind all that, these bozos don’t want to hear it. Just crank up the Toby Keith and pass the beer, man.

A serious anti-war movement—to say nothing of a serious revolutionary movement—has to recognize that yahoos like this (a) are common and (b) are not going to suddenly see the error of their ways. We have to take our lumps and fight the good fight—even if it means going against the majority of Amerikan citizens.

MIM replies: We reprint this letter—uncut, with avant-garde punctuation and spelling intact—to remind our readers that for every sympathetic letter like the one from the California prisoner above, we receive a piece of moronic, bigoted hate mail. Never mind that the United States leads the world in per capita imprisonment; never mind that while we are “free” to have our newspaper regularly censored by prison wardens, campus administrators and mall security guards, former corrections officers and young kids who should but don’t know



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 sponor 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.

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>
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.

Read MIM Notes first:

The New York Times admits errors on Iraq

On May 26th, 2004 the FOX News website made a lead story of the New York Times's admissions of error regarding WMD reporting prior to Bush's ground invasion of Iraq, 2003. In contrast, MIM Notes reported the New York Times errors in January, 2003, before the New York Times admitted them.

In reviewing its Iraq coverage, the New York Times said, "we have found a number of instances of coverage that was not as rigorous as it should have been. In some cases, information that was controversial then, and seems

questionable now, was insufficiently qualified or allowed to stand unchallenged. Looking back, we wish we had been more aggressive in re-examining the claims as new evidence emerged—or failed to emerge."

As soon as our article on Bush's "State of the Union" speech came out in 2003 lambasting Bush and the New York Times, it became one of our most popular articles ever, garnering many thousands of hits over the months. It tapped into obviously widespread suspicions among the people.

On the question of the metal tubes supposedly used in atomic weapons manufacture, MIM Notes said in January 2003: "The New York Times also talks about some aluminum tubes and attempted uranium purchases by Iraq, but [former U\$ Marine and UN weapons inspector Scott] Ritter points out that a real nuclear weapons program is not a matter of some aluminum and uranium. It takes tens of billions of dollars and Ritter says the process emits substances detectable by Big Brother—U\$. spy technologies. Talking about how 'high intelligence' in

England supposedly caught someone trying to buy uranium makes great theater, but it is dishonest when that same 'high intelligence' knows that more goes into making a nuclear bomb. What the New York Times leaves out is discussion of whether or not Ritter is correct that the Uncle Sam would have to know if Iraq were producing nuclear weapons."

The New York Times is now getting around to admitting something about this: "On Sept. 8, 2002, the lead article of the paper was headlined 'U.S. Says Hussein

Continued on page 9...

Military benefits: A special incentive for war crimes

Staff Sergeant Jimmy Massey left the Marines after 12 years on account of his disagreement with his own and his comrades' war crimes against civilians in Iraq. He told the Sacramento Bee that he left the Marines at the end of 2003 after evaluating his involvement in the shooting of several innocent civilians. In passing, Massey said something revealing to his sergeant major about the causes of loyalty: "I don't want your money. I don't want your benefits. What you did was wrong."(1) Massey's statement shows something that military personnel have to consider before giving up their loyalty to imperialism.

Massey gave some examples of the kind of thing the Marines were doing in

Iraq, "There was an incident with one of the cars. We shot an individual with his hands up. He got out of the car. He was badly shot. We lit him up. I don't know who started shooting first."(1) Massey added that contrary to intelligence, the Marines never found any weapons contraband. They simply killed innocent Iraqis driving in cars.

When Massey mentioned his "benefits," he referred among other things to the social security system of the military. The public is used to thinking about the country's top corporations offering benefits and pensions to retain loyal employees. Employees who stay long enough earn retirement pensions separate from the government's social

security program. The same is true in the military.

A fiscally conservative anti-tax organization has explained the military pension system very well. First is pensions before 1986: "All servicemen who joined the armed forces before August 1, 1986, are entitled to a pension replacing 50 percent of basic pay after twenty years, the minimum term of service required to qualify for military retirement. True, this basic pay does not include cash and in-kind allowances. But it is liberally calculated: on the basis of the final month of pay for servicemen who joined the military before September 8, 1980, and of the highest three years of pay (the "HI-3" method) for those who joined later. If

servicemen postpone retirement, their pensions increase by 2.5 percent of pay per year, until, after thirty years in the military, a maximum replacement rate of 75 percent is reached. Each year, pensions receive a COLA [Cost of Living Adjustment] equal to 100 percent of the CPI. [Consumer Price Index, a reference to measuring inflation]

"So generous are these terms that two out of three officers and nine out of ten enlisted men who stay on for at least twenty years retire before completing twenty-five years. The average retirement age for officers is now 45. For enlisted men, it is 41. The result is that the typical member of the armed forces

Continued on next page...

MIM, RAIL at large anti-war protest in San Fran.

June 5 - Thousands of people took to the streets in San Francisco to protest the continuing war in Iraq. Protesters marched down Market Street, the main street in the city, to a rally at the Embarcadero Center. There they were met by a group of Zionist counter demonstrators protesting the rally's demand of liberation for the Palestinian people.

Organized by ANSWER, a group led by the Trotskyist Workers World Party, this rally featured a disappointing array of speakers focused on electoralism and rallying the Amerikan petty bourgeoisie. As in previous rallies sponsored by ANSWER, many speakers attempted to encourage the crowd by saying most Americans are against the war and that the Bush administration does not represent the majority of Americans.

MIM does not try to give people false hope by claiming that this war is all due to a rogue President who will be voted out of office once people come to their senses. Instead, we explain that the war on Iraq is in the material interests of this country and its citizens. Think about it, if their was mass anti-war sentiment

wouldn't their be some concrete manifestation, such as protests like those that happened during the Vietnam War? The fact that anti-war demonstrations are limited to progressive cities like San Francisco, and even there they only happen every few months, is evidence that the public opposition to this war is not high, despite the claims of overly-optimistic and unscientific activists.

Electoral campaigning was popular at the rally, with many people carrying anti-Bush signs and calling on people to get Bush out of the White House. MIM activists engaged some of these people in struggle, pointing out that there is no difference of substance between Bush and Kerry, and removing Bush will just mean putting Kerry into power. In fact, Kerry could be worse than Bush because people might be fooled into complacency by putting a prettier face on Amerikan imperialism. Some people agreed with us but asked what else they could do. This is a common problem among Amerikan activists of thinking small. While the imperialists are plundering the world, activists are "acting locally." We can't afford to work on imperialist electoral

campaigns while the world's people are literally dying at the hands of imperialism. We have to take up the battle outside of their electoral terms and fight against imperialism in all the work we do.

During the rally a speaker announced that Ronald Reagan had just died. The speaker proclaimed that Reagan was a terrorist and murderer. But he went on to point out that for all the war crimes committed by Reagan, former President Clinton was an even bigger war criminal. He noted that Clinton invaded more countries in his reign as imperialist president than Reagan. This speech correctly criticized people at the rally who were campaigning for the Democrats or against the Republicans, as if this would make a difference.

RAIL comrades gathered signatures on its petition to shut down California's abusive Security Housing Unit prisons for five hours; 105 signatures were collected. Signatories included several former prisoners who stopped to tell their stories and encourage others to sign. Overall, demonstrators were very receptive to our campaign to shut down the SHU in California, as well as all control units across the country. Many told us that they

had previous knowledge of the SHU or had recently heard about it through various news outlets. Even more drew parallels between the prison abuses abroad, in places such as Iraq and Guantanamo, and were not surprised to learn that many soldiers received their training in humyn rights abuse from Amerikan prisons.

At the rally we also had a MIM literature table set up before and after the march. We sold copies of MIM Theory, with the Stalin Issue and the issues on the Amerikan labor aristocracy gaining the most attention. At the table we focused on distributing the June 1 MIM Notes which, in addition to some good anti-imperialist wars articles, had two articles in Spanish about the Security Housing Units and some good material in the "Under Lock and Key" section on prison control units across the country (including the California SHU). We asked everyone who stopped at the table to sign the petition to shut down the SHU and collected 62 signatures. Overall people were very receptive to the anti-SHU work and to MIM Notes.

Release the photos!

Death penalties needed at war crimes tribunal

Continued from page 1...

The people Uncle Sam does court-martial and discredit tend to be the ones who took the photos instead of the ones who carried out the actual torture. So far only one person has received any official punishment—a court-martial and sentence for one year. The people of Iraq said Specialist Jeremy Sivits should have been tried in Iraq by Iraqis instead.(2)

“The charges against Sivits included taking a photograph of nude detainees, mistreating a detainee by escorting him to be ‘positioned in a pile on the floor to be assaulted by other soldiers’ and negligence for failing to protect detainees

from ‘abuse, cruelty and maltreatment.’”(3)

It is true that the photographs are humiliating in Iraq and likely to cause suicide of the detainees by cultural norms there. However, we say the abused detainees should hold their chins up high and keep on struggling for Iraq’s freedom; they served as glorious combatants in the enemy’s dungeons. Only idiots do not recognize that Comrade Gonzalo was a hero when Yankee lackeys put him in silly prison pajamas and a strange cage. Likewise, the Iraqi people detained in humiliating conditions are heroes and there is no photo by any Amerikkkan

porno-afflicted louse that changes that. They can take all the humiliating photos they want: it only shows how desperate they are that they can’t win their cause.

In the United States, we have no choice but to say that taking the photographs should not be the issue, because the public has no other way of finding out exactly what is going on in Amerikkkan prisons. In fact, wherever there is an Amerikkkan prison guard, there should be a video camera running 24 hours a day, and if it goes off, that prison guard should be punished.

We also agree with the Iraqi people and even some Amerikan columnists that

some Amerikans should be receiving the death sentence for war crimes—and not just the lower ranking people, but right up through the generals in charge, Rumsfeld and Bush. Lenience should be for those who turn in the others.

Published at www.etext.org/Politics/MIM on 29 may 2004.

Notes:

1. <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/world/iraq/20040529-9999-1n29law.html>
2. <http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=10025>
3. <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/journalgazette/news/nation/8739699.htm>

Military benefits: A special incentive for war crimes

Continued from previous page...

retiring this year will spend many more years collecting benefits (36 for a man and 41 for a woman) than earning them (21 years).”(2)

The author of this quote is the “Concord Coalition” founded by the late Senator Paul Tsongas and ex-Senator Warren Rudman. A current co-chair is former Senator Bob Kerrey. The Concord Coalition became involved in the issue to protect a reduction in military pension benefits that became effective after 1986.

Military pensioners form the backbone of many organizations that may seem to be simply patriotic and militarist. Currently, the American Legion is attacking the government for not allowing pensioners to receive both disability pay and a military pension.(3)

Although not all veterans are reactionary, on average they are more reactionary than the rest of the Amerikan public. In a poll done during a high point in the Abu Ghraib prison torture scandal, 49% of voters supported Kerry for president with 41% for Bush. The same poll for veterans showed 54% support for Bush against Kerry, even though Kerry is a veteran and Bush and Cheney managed to avoid service. They especially supported the “war on terror” as their reason for supporting Bush.(4) While the public as a whole had just concluded by a margin of 50% to 46% that the war in Iraq was a mistake, the veterans by a margin of 51% to 46% did not think so.(4) It’s even surprising that it is that close among veterans.

The veteran portion of society is very significant in the united States. “An estimated 26.4 million people, or better than one in seven voting-age Americans, have served in the U.S. military, according to 2000 Census figures.”(5) Despite this fact, it is important not to water down our opposition to militarism in public just because we may offend one in seven people who are veterans.

The vast majority of veterans did not

serve 20 years to gain a pension. Nonetheless, those that do make the 20 year mark are an important organizational elite. Because the military pension administration is separate from the disability administration or general social security administration and has a better benefit, military pensioners have a special interest. The same is true of pensioners everywhere in the world, a rock hard interest group. The difference with military pensioners is that they form an interest group that would like to enhance the importance and prestige of the military. If they had had only a disability pension, they would fight along with disabled people to protect and improve their benefits.

The fact that veterans’ pensions are specific to the military has several consequences. 1) During service there is an incentive to “look the other way” in cases like Massey’s. 2) After service, military pensioners have an incentive to boost the importance of the usefulness of the military to keep the reasons for pension benefits fresh in the public’s mind.

While in the service, it not just the fringe benefits that create a certain atmosphere of “loyalty no matter what.” The average Vietnam War general received a half star promotion because of the war.(6) The Marines ran Sgt. Massey out of service with an “honorable discharge” for verbally disagreeing with war crimes in Iraq. Every recruit has to ponder the effect of losing income or benefits for disagreeing with war crimes. Meanwhile, there is no pension reward for stopping war crimes or speaking against them.

Many social-democratic minded people believe that they should “support our troops” by appeasing them on all benefits questions. This creates a dynamic where better benefits attract more recruits and they become more pillars of society with a special interest in promoting the military as if it were unblemished no matter what. Under the joint dictatorship of the proletariat of the oppressed nations,

everyone has protection in case of disability and retirement. There is no need to create special interest groups with specific political agendas backing war or the prestige of war.

Notes:

1. <http://www.sacbee.com/content/opinion/story/931683Op-10241546c.html> We encourage our readers to go see that interview with Massey in its entirety.
2. http://www.concordcoalition.org/facing_facts/alert_v5_n4.html The Army now has a choice between the shaved benefit or another means of calculating

it. To see how it works, go to the army website: http://basic.armystudyguide.com/benefits/financial_readiness_and_planning.htm

3. http://www.military.com/AboutUs/0,14363,au_pr_1112_02,00.html
4. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/06/04/opinion/polls/main621136.shtml>
5. <http://www.suntimes.com/output/elect/cst-nws-kerry05.html>
6. Douglas Kinnard, *The War Managers: American Generals Reflect on Vietnam* NY, NY: A De Capo Paperback, 1991, p. 11.

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.

Fight to shut down California prison SHU moves forward

The United Front to Abolish Security Housing Units took to the streets again in June. This is the fourth month in a row that we have been out in different cities across California to protest the torture isolation chambers in our brutal domestic prison system. These isolation chambers are known in California as Security Housing Units, and almost 3,000 people are held in them in California alone. Organizations participating in the United Front hold protests the first Saturday of every month, in cities across the state including San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Cruz, Oakland, Los Angeles, Watsonville and the San Fernando Valley.

Isolation prisons like the Security Housing Units principally target oppressed nations. In 1998 the California Department of Corrections (CDC) reported that 34% of the population in all CDC institutions was Latino, and 31% was Black. 52% of those in SHUs were Latino; 82% were nonwhite. Compare this to a California population that was 32% Latino and 7% Black in 1998.

Like other control unit prisons across the country, the SHUs are prisons within a prison. They are solitary confinement cells where prisoners are locked up 23 hours a day for years at a time. The one hour per day these prisoners sometimes get outside of their cell is spent alone in an exercise pen not much larger than their cell, with no direct sunlight. This long-term isolation causes serious mental and physical health problems for many prisoners. And these torture cells target politically active prisoners using a system of classification that makes it impossible

for prisoners to appeal their assignment.

The United Front to Shut Down the SHU includes wide range of political organizations and individuals, such as the Barrio Defense Committee (BDC), the African People's Socialist Party (APSP), African People's Solidarity Committee (APSC), the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM), Justice for Palestinians, California Prison Focus, the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL), Proyecto Common Touch and RASCALS. We are working to expand participation from likeminded organizations across the state.

The United Front pushed forward the campaign with outreach at the June 5 anti-war protests in San Francisco and Los Angeles. In San Francisco we had four locations where people could get information about the SHU and sign petitions. We collected hundreds of petition signatures. Overall, demonstrators were very receptive to our campaign to shut down the SHU in California, as well as all control units across the country. Many told us that they had previous knowledge of the SHU or had recently heard about it through various news outlets. Even more drew parallels between the prison abuses abroad, in places such as Iraq and Guantanamo, and were not surprised to learn that many soldiers received their training in human rights abuse from Amerikan prisons.

On June 12 the United Front held a state-wide organizing meeting. We noted a number of successes over the past month, both in increased outreach to new organizations and individuals sympathetic

to this battle, and in gaining the attention of more people in the state of California. Even what appear to be unrelated protests, like the anti-Biotech demonstrations in San Francisco, have begun to include the issue of shutting down the SHU in their protests. We see this as a victory for our work to raise general consciousness about the need to shut down these torture chambers.

Organizers agree to plan events for July and August drawing connections between the torture of prisoners in Iraq and torture of prisoners in California's Security Housing Units. There will be a series of events in cities across the state. Look for details in the near future. We would welcome the opportunity to bring these events to new cities or venues and are looking for people to help make this happen.

The United Front is also taking on a bigger project: organizing a tribunal to accuse the California Department of Corrections of committing crimes of brutality, torture and human rights violations. This tribunal is scheduled for October of this year. It will include testimony from prisoners, former prisoners, and others affected by the criminal injustice system, as well as expert testimony. We are looking for input from people who could serve as witnesses, and for help in organizing this important event.

We need more activists to help us expand the monthly protests and educational events to other cities across the state of California. At the demonstrations we set up a literature table and use posters and banners to get

people's attention. And in some cities we are setting up mock SHU structures to illustrate to people the small cell size and sensor deprivation that is part of life in the SHU. It only takes one or two people to get a protest going in a new city, and we can provide people with all the needed materials.

Contact us if you want to get involved in this important campaign against these torture units as a part of the larger battle against the Criminal Injustice System as a whole. (For more details on control units in general and the Security Housing Units in California's prisons visit <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/prisons>).

Protests will be held Saturday July 3rd at the following locations:

Los Angeles: Harambee Certified Farmers' Market, 5730 Crenshaw Blvd, Crenshaw and Slauson
Noon - 2pm

Los Angeles: Twin Tower County Jail, Buchete and Caesar Chavez
Noon - 2pm

San Francisco: Powell & Market
Noon - 2pm

Contact mim124@mim.org for more information or to get involved.

End-of-semester book drive a success

Berkeley, CA

At the end of every college semester, comrades from the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL) spend finals week at University of California, Berkeley, collecting books on politics, history and law to send free-of-charge to prisoners. This year, RAIL comrades spent over a week doing outreach and collection at the intersection of Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue for 2 - 3 hours per day. During outreach, RAIL comrades also collected signatures for the petition to shutdown the prison control units.(1)

RAIL comrades passed out flyers that emphasized the importance of the work MIM and RAIL do with prisoners. Our work helps prisoners use their time under lock and key to build towards a more just and productive society. Many students were very receptive and said they would rather donate their books to a prisoner

than throw them away or resell them.

In general, reception from UC students was very positive. Many stopped to take a flyer and returned later with books. Several UC students stopped to ask questions and dialogue about the conditions in Amerikan prisons, as well as the recent torture of Iraqi prisoners. RAIL comrades educated these students about the connection between the torture in Iraqi prisons such as Abu Ghraib and the conditions in Amerika's Departments of Corruptions. Some students also expressed interest in RAIL's increasing presence on the campus.

In all, RAIL comrades raised over \$85.00 in donations and between 150 and 200 books. We collected many books in high demand, including Black liberation works by Malcolm X, W.E.B. Du Bois, George Jackson, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Eldridge Cleaver, Angela Davis and Frantz Fanon. People also responded to

our requests for Marx and Lenin, dictionaries and law texts. Several Spanish/English and English dictionaries were donated, as well as over 30 law books from a UC Raza law group.

Aside from material support, RAIL was able to get good exposure to thousands of students through this campaign. In addition, the book drive is a good way to involve people who really want to do something concrete, but don't know where to start. Next semester, Bay Area RAIL comrades have a goal of recruiting more book collectors and expanding to other campuses in the area. We challenge other RAIL chapters across the country to equal or surpass this year's achievements. —A RAIL comrade, May 21, 2003

Notes: Information about California's control units and petitions is available at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/controlunits/index.html>.

Did you know? There are more than 200 back issues of MIM Notes available on the MIM website? Not only can you browse more than 15 years of the newspaper, you can also keep up with the very latest on MIM agitation campaigns, prisoner news, all the latest on the U\$ war, and much more. MIM's website is an indispensable tool

What's New @ MIM's Homepage

BUSH GETS A BREAK

UN Security Council legitimizes war on Iraq

Continued from page 1...

“freedom” to attack other countries, a joint dictatorship of the proletariat of the oppressed nations is necessary. Bourgeois diplomats will always cut deals that reflect the current imbalance of power instead of struggling for justice and the difficult organizational changes necessary for peace. The bourgeois diplomats have to be replaced by socialist statespeople from the oppressed nations.

What the UN Security Council resolution means is that the imperialists have played all their cards to quiet the Iraqi people opposing U\$ imperialism. If the Bush administration succeeds along these lines in Iraq and elsewhere, the government will reason that there is no need for a draft.

The UN resolution also clears the way for Bush to bribe other countries into sending troops to Iraq if need be. This is unlikely for the moment only because of the fierce resistance of the Iraqi people. Many countries are reluctant to send troops into obvious danger.

One might ask if the resolution does not provide UN troops, then why did Bush propose it. Unlike many diplomatic maneuvers aimed only at U\$ public opinion, this one aims squarely at both U\$ and Iraqi public opinion. If the Iraqi people keep fighting, the Democrats will not be able to say that it is on account of Bush’s strategy not to seek a UN mandate.

That’s why the UN Security Council vote is a victory for Bush but also a last card to play.

The UN-recognized U\$ puppet regime in Iraq now has UN authority to ask troops to leave Iraq completely. The UN resolution also specifies January 2006 as the last days of an international force occupying Iraq. By itself, this resolution is likely to set back the anti-war movement in the United States as more watery petty-bourgeois elements decide that Bush has started to pay attention to diplomacy. In contrast, the proletarian parties will oppose the UN-backed puppet regime regardless of the wavering of the petty-bourgeoisie.

The UN resolution will also serve as effective propaganda against the anti-draft movement, because it encourages the public to think that the need for troops will be gone by February 2006. Thus far, none of MIM’s predictions about the draft and Iraq are wrong. We said that Bush supporters would be surprised when troops do not come out of Iraq July 1. To mollify those people, who are especially afraid Bush will lose to Kerry, Bush went to the UN to get this resolution, a sort of bone in place of troop withdrawal.

Realistically, the ball is in the Iraqi people’s court. The question is whether this UN resolution placates the Iraqi people. If they continue to fight hard against the occupiers, the Amerikan

petty-bourgeoisie will also see the merits of withdrawing U\$ troops. If the Iraqi people do not fight hard and even disarm, readers can look forward to Uncle \$am rigging elections in Iraq and the possibility that U\$ troops will remain in Iraq in 2007 and beyond, just as in Germany and southern Korea.

In other draft-related news, as MIM reported before, Uncle \$am offered to pull all troops out of Korea. Now it is definite that one-third or 12,000 will leave, up from even the 3,000 discussed just recently.(2) It is noteworthy that this may open the way for the U\$ militarists to bomb northern Korea, as they now think there are fewer U\$ troops northern Korea can target for retaliation.

Also noteworthy on the draft issue, Bush ordered “stop loss” measures for troops in Iraq which Democratic candidate for president John Kerry called a “backdoor draft.”(3) This is more or less an admission that refusing to let troops end their enlistments and also refusing to let them transfer units amounts to a draft in effect already, for people with military experience. Without the measures, the Pentagon complained that 25% of units would be missing, thus making them short-handed.

Not to be outdone, Kerry proposed doubling the “special forces” (3)—forces used against national liberation

movements since president J.F. Kennedy. Special forces have psywar training, language competence and a lighter profile than larger, more regular army units.

The rhetoric of Kerry and the later actions by Bush suggest that the government is taking seriously the idea of deploying against “terrorism” and not nations. Somehow they have succeeded in labeling Iraq a “terrorist nation” in their minds and the minds of their yahoo supporters.

Nonetheless, this rubric of flexibility allows a shift of resources from places like Korea and Okinawa to Iraq. As we said before, neither candidate will touch the draft before the 2004 election. They both want to appear to be doing everything possible to make a draft unnecessary. Yet we warn our readers that the economic system that caused the wars against Iraq is still in place. The for-profit motivations to trade in weapons of mass destruction are still there. Capitalism cannot bring real long-term stability no matter how many Security Council resolutions end up passing.

Note:

1. <http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsPackageArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=525780&ion=news>
2. <http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2004/s1127086.htm>
3. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5129079/>

Chomsky endorses Kerry: ‘Pragmatism’ endorses oppressive status quo

Continued from page 1...

we are not prepared to concede the “real world” to Chomsky/Kerry, even as we concede that intellectuals are not comfortable with Bush. Without further ado, let’s turn to predictions about Kerry that are specifically about “real world calculations.” We believe the “real world” depends on power struggles and so we should look at how a President Kerry shapes that power struggle.

John Kerry appears to have the Democratic Party nomination for president. His advantages include his biography, because he is a war “hero.” But against this advantage Bush has about 50 million more dollars than Kerry to spend on campaigning, even after Bush has spent 60% of his money. Something else we should look at is the Congress. In all likelihood it will remain Republican if nothing truly catastrophic happens between now and November, 2004. That will give mushy voters a reason to vote for Kerry, because voters probably do not intend to give Republicans control of the House, Senate and presidency.

Now let’s suppose Kerry wins and think of a Kerry presidency. Kerry voted for the war in Iraq and wrote part of the Patriot Act. As I write this at the end of May Kerry just started campaigning for

bigger military budgets as one of his four major planks on security.(2)

What can we expect from President Kerry?

* At most we would see Kerry cut some spending on Iraq, and there is no saying he would not cut on the parts reconstructing buildings and other things blown up by U\$ bombs. If Kerry pulls out of Iraq completely, it will only be because of the total failure of Amerikan “security” arrangements, which would also be the total success of the civil war that the united States stoked up in Iraq.

* Congress will have partisan incentive to confront Kerry with “Patriot Act” legislation to sign.

Even more certain than the above predictions are the following dynamics:

* Democrats already told anti-war people to “compromise” and “be realistic” by supporting Kerry against Bush instead of any of the candidates claiming to be against the war in Iraq. With the election of President Kerry, nothing changes. The new excuse will be to compromise to help Kerry win in 2008 and also to help Democrats in Congress in 2006. The Democrats WILL compromise, because the Republicans will still have the House and Senate. A president cannot make law. It has to come from Congress.

* Kerry will muddy the waters as president, unlike Bush who prefers to talk like a simpleton, either because Bush is a simpleton or because he understands his supporters very well. People for and against the war and for and against the Patriot Act will think they support Kerry. That is the easiest way to increase support for an imperialist government when times are not that sharp politically. Conversely, if Bush is president, the dynamic is very clear and all credit or blame falls on Republicans. In fact, Bush would do more to make the dynamic clear to people on an international scale.

* Democrats will shut up about the Patriot Act and the wars out of fear of hurting their beloved President Kerry. While Republicans control the House, Senate and presidency, Democrats know that the “Patriot Act” could aim at some of their followers. This gives the Democrats the maximum motivation to fight. With Kerry in charge of implementing the law, the Democrats will prefer to “compromise” and look toward “electability” by having a “Patriot Act” and similar legislation.

* This is not to mention what others have noted—that countless single-issue groups fight harder when a Republican is in power and sit on their hands when a

Democrat is in power—environmental groups for instance. The bottom line “real world” consideration may be this: Democrats out of power are more useful than in power. The longer they stay out of power, the more third parties will try to break the two-party system and the better their prospects if one party appears mortally wounded with no power in any branch of government. Even if Bush really is able to do “worse” things than Kerry, then he only speeds up the revolution, and with the problems this world faces, we need that revolution sooner rather than later.

We welcome Noam Chomsky’s response.

Notes:

1. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/selections2004/story/0,13918,1174017,00.html>
2. http://www.johnkerry.com/pressroom/releases/pr_2004_0527.html



Bush says it again: Troops in Iraq may increase

by mim3@mim.org and
mousnonya

On May 24th, Bush went on TV to prepare the public for the weeks and months ahead in Iraq. “Our commanders had estimated that a troop level below 115,000 would be sufficient at this point in the conflict,” Bush said. “Given the recent increase in violence, we will maintain our troop level at the current 138,000 as long as necessary.”

“If commanders need more troops, Bush said, ‘I will send them.’”(1) On the same day, Democrat Senator Joe Lieberman generally backed the president by saying on CNN that the war in Iraq was the “test of a generation.” Instead of saying this war has created more hatred for US imperialism, Lieberman said there would be more attacks on US soil if the troops do not stay in Iraq.

Meanwhile, Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) called for a “larger military.” Hillary Clinton expressed doubts about how to fund it but said there was no choice.(2) Graham probably sees war as a job option for his state’s rural white youth, since South Carolina has lost so many jobs but refuses to change anything.

The multiple prison torture scandals in Iraq and Afghanistan mean that other imperialists at the United Nations have a better bargaining position than before. Right now the US rulers are trying to appear flexible in public. We believe this appearance is mostly aimed at US public opinion, not really other heads of state.

Bill Clinton’s top diplomat Madeleine Albright said she appreciated that as of May 24th Bush recognized the value of the United Nations. This shows that there is bipartisan unity if Bush is willing to fan the illusions of the Democratic voters.

MIM has predicted that there will be a draft after the election unless there is a huge military victory by the Iraqis or other Middle East fighters before that or a desperately radical anti-draft struggle in the upcoming months. Right now it may seem like chances are better than ever to get the United States out of Iraq: 1) Bush is taking a beating internationally and even somewhat in the United States; 2) Bush and Blair went to the UN with a proposal to give UN blessings to the occupation. We stress to our readers that it is true that the United States is taking a beating militarily and in global public opinion, and it is true that Bush faces an elections soon, but going to the UN may be aimed at consolidating US public opinion on the need for the draft. The imperialists would like to say they “tried” at the UN and failed, so now they need a draft. (From MIM’s point of view, it does not matter whether Uncle Sam chooses ruin through deficit-spending for a bloated military or the draft. Either way, US imperialism is headed for the ash-heap. The more the Iraqis and Afghans fight, the less effective recruiting mercenaries will be.)

**The imperialists are making
mistake after mistake in this war,
because they have overestimated
their own strength and cannot
admit the truth — that their
pigdom is built on the sweat and
blood of stolen Third World labor.**

The imperialists are going to play the UN card. Another card could be the Arab League, the association of Arab government lackeys. On May 23rd, the Arab lackeys floated the idea of landing troops in Iraq as part of an international, UN-backed force.(3) Miracle diplomacy would put Arab troops on the ground in Iraq and Bush could crow in time for November’s election.

We at MIM believe it is more likely that all of this is just to show the US public that Bush “tried” and to give Senators Clinton and Lieberman all the excuse they need to support more aggressive designs. One place the US imperialists probably will not find many troops is England. 66% of the voters there oppose sending even 3000 more troops to Iraq.(4) US imperialists are so short of manpower that they are unable to pursue further offensive operations against Iran, Syria or northern Korea. Four facts about enemy troop movements and “force structure” show why the imperialists are already stretched to their limits without a draft in the current political operating environment.

First, three divisions (about 50,000 soldiers) that recently left Iraq are currently classified as “unfit to fight.”(5) Until equipment is replaced or repaired—which will take several months—these troops will be unavailable for overseas deployment. Reservists and national guardsmen replaced these divisions in Iraq. With less training and inferior equipment these soldiers will perform less effectively.

Second, the enemy has recently decided to rotate soldiers out of southern Korea and into Iraq.(6) This is not so that the soldiers on the Korean front can get “real world” battle experience. It is just that the enemy is desperate enough to risk one front (Korea) for another front (Iraq).

Third, the United States has begun looking for members of the Individual Ready Reserve. The IRR are those soldiers who have served on active or reserve duty in the last 8 years. They are subject to mobilization on notice even if

they are not drilling with active guard or reserve units.(7) While active duty discharges have been regularly refused for some time under the “stop loss” program, activating the IRR is the last step the government can take to increase its troop supply short of instituting a draft. Fourth, the United States is also planning to send its opposition force training units (“OpFor”) to Iraq.(8) OpFor are the very best soldiers in the Army. Their job ordinarily is to train new units to the highest standards possible. These units’ going to Iraq mean that newly trained draftees will not have a clue about how to fight. So the short term gain (some of the best soldiers in the Army in Iraq) results in long term loss (untrained draftees getting whacked like flies next year and their buddies then fragging the officers—just like Vietnam). [Fragging refers to the killing of officers by men who do not want to fight or are otherwise peeved.]

These four facts all indicate that the United States does not have adequate manpower for its schemes and will institute the draft after the election—regardless of which imperialist faction seizes state power. The draft is just one more way that youth, even in imperialist countries, are oppressed by capitalism. US imperialists have realized that they will get no material support from German or French imperialists or even from the UN. Even partners in crime have some self-respect. So the United States will institute a draft: budgetary problems also show this to be the case.

Capitalism encourages a “live for the moment” attitude. This fact poisons the capitalists’ thinking about war. It is one more reason why MIM has strategic confidence in the global proletariat. The imperialists are making mistake after mistake in this war(9), because they have overestimated their own strength and cannot admit the truth—that their pigdom is built on the sweat and blood of stolen Third World labor.

Without even considering the insane mistreatment of prisoners and abuse of

civilians documented in earlier MIM Notes articles it is clear that our enemy is overstretched and making mistakes. Compound their miscalculations of forces with their atrocities against the Iraqi people and the result is clear: the imperialists will lose their war in Iraq. The quicker they are defeated the happier we will all be.

These facts confirm MIM’s long-standing prediction that the imperialist countries, desperate for Third World resources, will find themselves increasingly overstretched and bogged down in protracted hot wars for resources in the Third World. The enemy is making serious mistakes and compounding them daily. But our victory will not be quick: Sadly, the imperialists will kill many proletarians before the error of their ways hits home. We must minimize our losses to the greatest extent possible by organizing resistance to the war. Oppose imperialism now: the life you save might be your own.

Published at www.etext.org/Politics/MIM on 25 May 2004.

Notes:

1. <http://www.cnn.com/2004/ALLPOLITICS/05/24/bush.iraq/index.html>
2. <http://www.cnn.com/2004/ALLPOLITICS/05/23/senate.military/index.html>
3. <http://straitstimes.asia1.com.sg/world/story/0,4386,252691,00.html>
4. <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/iraq/story/0,12956,1224003,00.html> 45% also say troops should stay as long as necessary, so most of the opposition is just about keeping a deal a deal with the US imperialists.
5. May 15, 2004 THE CONFLICT IN IRAQ, Far From Ready for More War With battered gear and nerves, a third of the Army is ‘unfit to fight’ but preparing to return. By Esther Schrader, Times Staff Writer http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/iraq/compl_ete/la-na-ready15may15,0,7845126.story?coll=la-iraq-complete
6. Ex-troops could be forced to go to Iraq Army, stretched thin, is reviewing files now May 19, 2004 BY JOSEPH L. GALLOWAY Detroit Free Press http://www.freep.com/news/nw/troops19_20040519.htm
7. Army might be calling back recently demobilized GIs By Dawn House The Salt Lake Tribune <http://www.sltrib.com/2004/May/05132004/utah/166102.asp>
8. The Incredible Shrinking Army, From the May 24, 2004 issue: It’s even worse than you think. by Frederick W. Kagan 05/24/2004, Volume 009, Issue 35 The Weekly Standard, <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/004/100ctzvm.asp>
9. Strategic miscalculations By Jim Lobe Asia Times 21 May 2004 http://atimes.com/atimes/Middle_East/FE21Ak02.html

The rebirth of an old revolutionary legacy

Noble Young Lords Party founder speaks

Continued from page 1...

Watching Bear: Many of us were surprised. You pulled a lot of influence as a leader of a National Lumpen Organization, one of the biggest Latino organizations (orgs) in the u.s. After 20 years of involvement you up and leave to found the NYLP/LNNA (NYLP for short)?

Pablo Pueblo: See now how'd you get those details?

WB: Research.

PP: Hmmm (smiles suspiciously), it ain't no secret. As for influence, that's all relative to who's opposing you or supporting you at the time, and that's not a game I wish to pursue. It took me a while to grow up politically, but when I did, I felt that a Latino Nations vanguard was necessary in the u.s., one that kept "Politics in Command," which is the ONLY way to represent the Third World struggle.

WB: "Politics in Command"?

PP: Yeah, what I mean is an org that claims to represent the people has to establish a CLEAR line of identity. Do you ACT and REACT like a gang, criminal syndicate, social club, progressive social org, or a vanguard party? I've led the gang life and the progressive social org life and I'm not satisfied with either of these. The former is unchannelled rebellion, granted, but still poison to my people. The latter doesn't do enough to work for national self-determination. The NYLP plans to step up the game so that other orgs who claim to represent the oppressed and 3rd World will either step up their revolutionary practice or be repudiated for misrepresentation. We have a political line: Marxism. We chose to emulate the original Young Lords Party (YLP) out of Harlem, Brooklyn, Bronx, NY and the ones from Bridgeport, CT. Tho' props must be given to the Young Lords Organization out of Chicago, IL, who originated the Young Lords' political activity. We felt that the original YLP's demise was premature, and we felt it was right to resurrect a more advanced party along these same lines. For us keeping politics in command is keeping the socialist principles in command.

WB: So the NYLP is socialist?

PP: Without a doubt.

WB: And you find this a realistic endeavor?

PP: There can be no doubt that Latino Nations by the millions are looking for revolutionary change. We intend to further that change along as best we can.

WB: With regards to its development, how far has the NYLP evolved from its conception.

PP: Well, let's put it like this, the "Young Lords" name has a long history. In the beginning there was a gang. The 60s brought political growth to the Young Lords and they began to understand and act against the oppressor on behalf of the

oppressed. Cha-Cha Jimenez led Chicago in that respect. In New York the Young Lords Party understood that socialism was the key to social and economic freedom from super-exploitation by government and corporate entities. And though they were on the right path they allowed unnecessary dividing lines to hurt the progress of their political awareness. Of course counter-intelligence programs by the FBI pigs played a huge role in their disruption, but they also lacked a complete analysis as it pertained to dialectical studies. This was why the Nationalist and Feminist questions became increasingly difficult to reconcile. One of their major errors was to call the u.s. working force a working class proletariat. The NYLP has advanced from the YLP's theories by acknowledging that there is little to no proletariat in the u.s. and also that fighting patriarchy is best done by keeping imperialism as the #1 enemy. Nevertheless we couldn't have gotten this far without them. As to structure, we're doing well, though we are in need of key elements such as more qualified leaders and functional materials/funds. We have a good leadership cadre but we're still looking for more. We have National Minister of Wimmin's Affairs and National Minister of Information seats open in the National Central Committee (NCC).

WB: When I read the NYLP's Political Compendium Manual (PCM)—and I'll go more in depth on that later—I noticed a strong emphasis on the importance of the W-O-M-Y-N's (singular) or W-I-M-M-I-N's (plural) struggle. That's how you spell it, right?

PP: Yeah, it's just a declaration of the right for wimmin to stand as equal and independent humyn beings (spelling intended) and not subject to economic, social, and military oppression (a.k.a. patriarchy). We began by "de-genderizing" language, wherever possible.

WB: I did some research and found some Manifestos, Charters, and Policy books in the 'Net. I found some similarity in some of the literature in comparison with the PCM. However, even at their best (namely the Latin King's Nation manifesto and a similar east coast charter), there is a sense of objectification that positions wimmin as a secondary entity in their respective orgs. Some will deify them while others "protect" them. This is a popular school of thought from Lumpen orgs like yours. Yet the NYLP has a more advanced vision with respect to wimmin - though certainly not new. Why haven't we seen this before in the Lumpen arena, and how was the NYLP able to overcome that backwards school of thought?

PP: Sh*@, Bear, you caught me sleepin' on that one, can you repeat that again?

WB: You can't sleep on me, Pueblo, I'm quick like the crow. (smile)

PP: No SH*@, I thought you were gonna' be easy (laughs).

WB: Let me put it short. The NYLP represents 'revolutionary feminism,' something lumpen orgs don't represent effectively. You guys come from the same mold, why are you guys "on point" in this respect while the majority of lumpen orgs aren't?

PP: A'ight, I'ma put it down now.

WB: Lay it on us, playa' (smiles).

PP: Dig, we're all a product of our environment. I truly believe that. Thing is, though that's the case, we also have the ability to transcend our environment. The lumpen crews reflect their society, so their social laws, rules, opinions on the wimmin's struggle aren't taken as important as their own perception of "survival" - real shit a muhf*!@' has to endure comin' from the inner cities or 'doing time.' What most lumpen fail to realize is that it's their lack of socio-political and economic analysis that keeps them in the same circle of oppression. Most of the time we're so busy REACTING to our own individual situations that we fail to focus on the CAUSES of our situation.

WB: Which is why the NYLP keeps 'politics in command.' You all feel that the political arena is responsible for the major points of oppression including how wimmin are perceived.

PP: Exactly! In the instance of the wimmin's struggle, the problem is patriarchy. This is a major political problem and having identified the problem, we're able to work on ways to solve the problem. Who is most responsible for the gender oppression at this time? The imperialist! So the NYLP targets the imperialists and makes them the principal contradiction that we fight against. We've got a LOT to learn on this front, but we know that we're beginning on the right path, because our analysis is on point. We thank MIM for aiding us in our studies with respect to this and other topics.

WB: How important is MIM's affiliation with the NYLP?

PP: We'd say that they've been INTEGRAL to our development. Many of us became enlightened about dialectic materialism and democratic centralism because of MIM. I've known them since my college days, and I've always respected their flow. Let me change the subject up on you to make a point about something you said earlier.

WB: Go ahead.

PP: You equated the NYLP/LNNA to other LO's (Lumpen Orgs). We should make it clear that while the NYLP/LNNA has a primarily lumpen proletariat element, we're certainly beyond any current collective rockin' the streets right now. We make a distinction between an LO and a vanguard party (VP). MIM is a

VP and so are we. The difference is 100% political commitment. The difference is not ego - it's practice.

WB: Speaking of "LO's", do you think that your previous involvement in another controversial org will affect your creds as a legitimate socialist leader?

PP: There was a point before the NYLP when I felt that to create another org would be a betrayal to my former affiliations. But as I matured in this, I recognized this as a psychological subterfuge. If my proclaimed loyalty is first and foremost to the oppressed 3rd World people then it is my duty and my right to serve them in the most advanced form possible. This means that if I am currently in one org which is irrevocably fulfilling half-measures or has become sectarian, and I refuse to join my practice with a cadre or org that is clearly more advanced in their service to the Oppressed Nation Comrades and the 3rd World's oppressed, then clearly THAT IS GENUINE BETRAYAL to our people. No revolutionary should ever allow an identity to be more important than 'La Lucha.' We know what we're doing is right. As for controversy, I owe reparations to my people for tragic crimes based on ignorance and neo-colonial mentality, so part of my dedication comes from redemption. The streets can get you twisted up. But the lionshare of why I'm doing this, why we're doing this, is a love for the Brown Force and our hope to one day see it free from its imperialist chains.

The f*!@! up thing about this is there are people more educated and with more resources than we have and we're still waitin' on them to lead the struggle. What the f@!@ we gonna' do, wait till we're 50? Hell no! In this respect we remain hardcore. We'll make ourselves prepared to do the job 'most of the actually prepared' refused to do. That's what we did. We made it happen. Our minds and hearts are 100% dedicated to serving and learning by the masses for the long term.

WB: That was deep; you've got charisma.

PP: I've been here before Bear, so let me set it straight. This ain't about "me." I've no desire to engineer a "cult of personality." I'm speaking for myself, Beto Puñala (our National Minister of Defense), and the rest of the National Central Committee, as well as the membership. Being the front man for this party is just a function, a cog in the immense communal wheel that's being constructed on an international scale. The NYLP is a small piece of the larger puzzle of resistance. If I can utilize my "charisma" to further the party's goals then so be it, but a leader must get it straight that s/he is just a function. S/he is not the revolution, just part of it. Give me a 3rd World farmer or a 'Maquiladora' (factory) laborer and I'll show you men and wimmin we should praise. Next to

them, who the f*@@ am I?

WB: See what I mean?

PP: F!@* you, man! (laughs)

WB: No, f!@* you, you da' man!
(laughs)

PP: Aww, so now you tryin' to keep me up by callin' me "the man"? (smiles)

WB: Listen, as you know, I'm Native American. You might have people reading this who are feeling this movement but they aren't Mexica, Boricua, or Latino in any way. Where does the NYLP stand in relation to other trampled nations such as what you call the First Nations (Native American)?

PP: Well, we don't care about your problems (uncomfortable silence, then smiles). On the serious tip, the Party is in unity with Mao Tse Tung when he said that nationalism is applied internationalism. We want to concentrate on the Latino Nations so that the full effect of our efforts and resources can actually succeed on making a concentrated wedge on enemy lines. If we spread our efforts and resources through various single issues from a larger array of national interests, this early in the game, our effectiveness would be more bland. Once we gain a steady networking apparatus, we can act as a solid foundation for future international interests within other oppressed nations. We've seriously discussed strengthening our base ASAP in order to catalyze sibling bases, i.e. NYLP/First Nations North America and the like. We mention that in the PCM.

WB: The Political Compendium Manual (PCM) - you see that as your primer or manifesto, right?

PP: It's the engine without the gas. It's getting' picked up for publishing.

WB: Would you call it a Volvo or a Ferrari?

PP: Ain't no socialist gonna' compare revolutionary literature to imperialist products. If I had to use an analogy, I'd say it was an all terrain military vehicle. We're not putting a priority on looks or speed; we're more concerned with steadiness, durability, and effectiveness.

WB: My point is as the author...



PP: I'm not the author, I was the editor and project director. I was entrusted by the NCC and membership to write most of the laws, legislation, and protocols but I was also aided by Allah's Panther, G. Good, Kulcan, Beto Puñala, MIM and Don Pacho. MIM, ALKQN and NAIM served as models as well as the YLP and BPP.

WB: I don't think a corporate primer could have done better.

PP: You keep comparing us to capitalist products or orgs. No cool, Bro.

WB: My bad, as you know I'm not a socialist, just anti-pig, so my studies aren't tight in this field.

PP: I can dig it, no issue. I'll be writing Willas' (letters) from up here to remind you every so often that every persyn's cora (heart) pumps "red"... and yours should too, carnal. But I see where you're going with that. You're not alone in that opinion. I think most people don't expect inmigrantes and caribenos to get too

logical with their reasoning. So when they see a manual like this dug up from the muddy streets and the living cemetery we call lockdown, they're impressed. But to us this is all normal shit we talk about all the time. We just weren't aware that people like Mao and Lenin were making scientific theories from our experiences. Once we became aware, we knew we had to lay it down in black and white and hope that the seed spreads. The Political Compendium Manual is no major theoretical work but to us and hopefully to those who buy it it will serve to be the backbone supporting the body as it functions, entiendes? We're not pushing a defective item.

WB: Well, Pueblo I appreciate your time. With revolutionaries like yourself in the mix, I'm sure the movement will be all the better for it.

PP: Thanks, Bear. Listen, before I go, I wanna' send my appreciation to a few people whose support has been a breath

of fresh air. It'll be in Spanish, you mind?

WB: Go ahead.

PP: Quiero enviarle saludos y gracias por su apoyo a Dona Carmen, a nuestro hermano C. Maroma el amante de las turistas de Machu Piccu, Keila la heroína de los hermanos condenados, Ailene la Sabrosa, y Denise A.; sangre de mi sangre. Saludos especial van para Gloria, madre de un general. We invite all you college rebels, all you comrades in lockdown who need "one mike," and all you potential revolutionaries (like Comrade Nafi) to help us spread the Party and become Noble Young Lords. By the way we perceive the word "Lord" as gender neutral so all you Lord-Sista's help us in this fight as well.

To reach NYLP/LNNA's spokespersons Maldito Green Eyes write to: NYLP/MIM, PO Box 40799, San Francisco, CA 94140. E-mail NYLP@mim.org attn: M.G.E.

The New York Times admits errors on Iraq

Continued from page 3...

Intensified Quest for A-Bomb Parts.' That report concerned the aluminum tubes that the administration advertised insistently as components for the manufacture of nuclear weapons fuel. The claim came not from defectors but from the best American intelligence sources available at the time. Still, it should have been presented more cautiously."

It's good that the New York Times admitted its errors. Something was definitely going on with those alarmist pop-up editorials on the New York Times web page unusual even by New York Times imperialist standards. "Articles based on dire claims about Iraq tended to get prominent display, while follow-up

articles that called the original ones into question were sometimes buried. In some cases, there was no follow-up at all." The persyn who did those pop-ups should be fired under suspicion of being a government agent for Bush/Sharon and the editor(s) who bury news opposing the neo-conservative "Revolution" should switch to writing restaurant reviews.

We also have to say that the New York Times still harbours the illusion that WMD may be found. While recognizing that many specific past claims regarding WMD are wrong, the New York Times sees nothing wrong in saying that more than a year later it is possible to say credibly what happened if WMD do show up in Iraq.

The ground is shifting in this war on

Iraq. The New York Times has had to pay increasing attention to its audience since the Internet became popular. Intellectuals typical of the New York Times audience were not fooled by the drumbeat for war. We only wish the New York Times had acted prior to the war or at least prior to the latest campaign against Chalabi. Anyone not intelligent enough to understand the motivations of defectors spreading false information to call forth a war had no business running the government or reporting news in the first place.

We cannot afford not to read the New York Times, the imperialist newspaper of record. Nonetheless, we at MIM Notes have a better record on all the major questions: 1) the WMD; 2) the Democrats' role; 3) the likelihood of Iraqi

resistance and 4) even the fact that our peace movement was too petty-bourgeois to stop the ground invasion. We've said it before and we will say it again: The public is better off reading MIM Notes, because Bush may spend 11 digits a year on "intelligence" and the New York Times can call more people than we at MIM can, but neither the government nor its mouthpieces have any possibility of piecing together what they know concerning war & peace or other substantial issues of politics in a useful manner. Capitalism corrupts truth production processes.

Note: http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/26/international/middleeast/26FTE_NOTE.html?8dpc

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.ertext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

FACTS ignores many Third Strike prisoners

Upon review of the "Three Strikes and Child Protection Act of 2004" initiative that has been submitted to the California Secretary of State by Families to Amend California Three Strikes (FACTS) and Citizens Against Violent Crime (CAVC), it is evident that they have not only abused the National Plantation Psychosis Awareness Committee's (NPPAC) services but are misrepresenting and misappropriating the 700,000 signatures and monies solidified from California prisoners' families, friends and supporters, in that when FACTS/CAVC solicited these signatures and monies, it was done under the pretense and expectation of the people that the Three Strike Initiative would be written so that all non-violent offenders would be exempt from the Three Strike clause.

However, now that FACTS/CAVC has secured the needed 700,000 signatures and monies from the people, it has now flipped the script to exclude a very large segment of non-violent offenders from the initiative.

This large segment of non-violent offenders are those of us who were convicted of "second degree" robbery, which pursuant to Penal Code 213, is a non-violent offense. That is to say, no weapon or force was used.

These "second degree" non-violent robberies are incorporated into Penal Code 667.5(c)(9) as "any robbery." Moreover, due to the "any robbery" language of Penal Code 667.5(c)(9), the vast majority of the "second degree robbery" class of prisoners and their supporters are not even aware that "second degree" robbery is a non-violent offense, pursuant to Penal Code 213.

Thus, by the initiative submitted by FACTS/CAVC not amending penal Code 667.5(c)(9) language from "any robbery" to the language of "first degree armed and/or strong armed robbery" is a carbon copy of what Pete Wilson had originally done to us. Only this time around, the initiative is subliminally dressed down to covertly exclude only "certain classes" of non-violent offenders from the Three Strike lynch clause, as opposed to all non-violent offenders as was proposed to the people in exchange for their work, signatures and monies.

This is an extremely critical issue and by far no small matter, in that the "second degree" robbery class of non-violent offenders is significantly larger than even the petty theft class of non-violent offenders. However, it is this former and larger class of non-violent offenders who are not being represented in the initiative.

Needless to say that time is of the essence, in that this defective initiative is scheduled and submitted to be placed on the November 2, 2004 ballot. Therefore, it is incumbent of all concerned parties out there on the street and

behind these walls to immediately write, call, fax and/or email the FACTS/CAVC headquarters to demand for this initiative to amend the language of Penal Code 667.5(c)(9) from "any robbery" to the language of "first degree armed and/or strong armed robbery" from this draconian Three Strike lynch clause.

Do not delay! Our very lives and the lives of our loved ones depend on you to set the captives free!

The address and phone number to the FACT/CAVC headquarters are as follows:

FACTS Headquarters
3982 So. Figueroa St. #207A
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Phone: (213) 746-4844

CAVC Headquarters
12922 Harbor Blvd.
Garden Grove, CA 92840
Phone: (714) 547-9842

— A California Prisoner, May 2004

MIM replies: The Three Strikes law in California is one of many aggressive laws dedicated to filling up the prisons. It includes the provision that if a person is convicted of any felony and has two previous violent or serious felony convictions, he or she is sentenced to a life sentence with the possibility of parole. This means giving people even longer sentences than prescribed for their crime.

This article is a correct criticism of FACTS proposed amendment on the Three Strikes law in California. But it's not surprising, in fact it is predictable that anyone trying to amend a fundamentally unjust law is going to leave at least some injustice in there. The FACTS petition to get this initiative on the ballot states:

"The 'Three-Strikes' Law is sending minor offenders away for 25 years to life and bankrupting the State of California in the process. An overwhelming number of second and third strike cases prosecuted in the state are non-serious, non-violent felonies. This is serving the prison industrial complex, not the people. The prison budget exceeds the budget for higher education! We, the undersigned, support legislation that will limit the application of the 'Three Strikes Law' to serious and violent felonies."

They left in the "serious felonies" definition even in the petition, leaving the way open to keeping non-violent felons under the Three Strikes law.

On their web site FACTS offers some good arguments against the Three Strikes law, including that it is not proven as a deterrent, that it is unjust punishment, that it is disproportionately targeting oppressed nationals, and that it violates double jeopardy. But they fail to explain why it is OK to keep the Three Strikes law for people who commit

"serious and violent felonies" when these reasons all apply regardless of the conviction. The FACTS web site is an excellent case for abolishing this law entirely.

This underscores the problem with fighting for reforms within the criminal injustice system, or any other aspect of imperialism. We may be able to win small battles, like restricting who the reactionary Three Strikes laws apply to, but we will ultimately be leaving the injustice system in place and leaving behind many more people still suffering from the system. Principled anti-imperialists need to push the struggle for reforms as far as we can within the system, calling for the end to the reactionary Three Strikes laws, the elimination of prison Control Units, and end to the imperialist death penalty, etc. And in this context we need to educate people about why these reforms still won't solve the problems of the criminal injustice system. MIM has been pushing for an end to the Three Strikes law for years, and we stand with NPPAC and other organizations and individuals in demanding that this unjust law

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.

must be eliminated.

Notes: FACTS web site: www.facts1.com

Abolishing the Three Strikes law is not enough

There are numerous organizations who are waging a fierce struggle to overturn the oppressive law of Three Strikes. I commend these organizations and the individuals who these organizations consist of and their collective efforts.

Three strikes is an oppressive law that targets mainly the poor and minorities within U.S. borders. And to be successful in overturning this law would be, without a doubt, one of many steps in the correct direction that must be taken to abolish all forms of oppression. But if it is the ultimate and final goal of these organizations to overturn Three Strikes as a final objective, we must not deceive ourselves. It will surely be a short lived victory and, as history has shown us, rest assured that other oppressive laws and measures will be implemented to replace the Three Strikes law. Reforms as final solutions do not work. And, in fact, when used as such, they can be very damaging and set back the gains that have been achieved through struggle. Reforms should only be used as tactics and methods for the purpose of achieving and furthering a long term objective.

If we want to rid ourselves of a poisonous weed, to cut the weed in half at its base would only result in the appearance of a solution. This is what reforms amount to. They appear as solutions while leaving the conditions for the weed to grow back intact, namely the root. In order to permanently rid ourselves of the weed, we must not only pull the weed at its base but we must, more importantly, abolish the root. In the case of Three Strikes, to abolish the poisonous root entirely, we must attack it at its roots: capitalism-imperialism.

Capitalism is a social system erected on private property and whose production is based on what is profitable, instead of correctly erecting production on public ownership and basing it according to people's needs, as the socialist model offers. When an extremely small, rich sector of the world's population owns all or most property, land, tools of production and technology, this small sector of the world's population (the bourgeoisie with support from the petit-bourgeoisie and labor aristocracy), they exploit the world's masses and profit from their cheap labor, a labor power which the masses are forced to sell as a commodity far below its

value in order to reproduce themselves and continue living.

This results in a world of inequalities. Poverty versus wealth, nations oppressing nations, societies considering of social classes, the "haves" and the "have nots" and every other conflict that stems from this contradiction. These conflicts include wars, hunger, exploitation, inadequate living conditions and education, the absence of medical facilities and medicines, resulting in the deaths of thousands on a daily basis from preventable diseases, etc. The mass majority of the world's population, which suffers from the oppressions of capitalism and its imperialist drive for profits, not only have the right to defend themselves, but have an obligation to humanity to overthrow it.

Three Strikes is just one of the many methods of social control used by the bourgeoisie and its lackeys to preserve their property rights and the status quo. Being that capitalist profit production not only prevents impoverished nations from developing and is the cause of today's inequalities, it is also responsible for creating the conditions (ghettos, barrios, poverty, etc.) where a so-called "criminal consciousness" develops.

The true criminals are the capitalists and their labor aristocratic supporters who impose these living conditions upon us for their financial gain. Abolishing Three Strikes as an ultimate and final goal is not a permanent solution so long as the conditions for crime to develop exist. The solution is to abolish all forms of oppression and poverty and the selfish individualist ideology that flourishes under capitalism. This is achievable by abolishing capitalism itself and by eliminating the foundation it stands on, that being private property.

— A California Prisoner, May 2004

Conditions getting worse in Georgia

Dear MIM,

The oppressive conditions in this High Maximum Security prison are getting worse. Prison officials have totally disregarded the department's policy that governs. [Regulation] 950.1 states that High Maximum Security prisoners shall enjoy the same privileges as the general population, but we are being denied showers on Sundays, all educational programs, all religious programs; we have limited phone calls every month and limited access to the law library. We're denied hot water although the prison continues to sell coffee, hot cocoa, soups, etc. Indigent prisoners are limited to hygiene items, cleaning supplies are denied on a daily basis,

food portions are smaller, food served cold; continuous denial of outside recreation because of the violation of the anal cavity searches being forced upon prisoners by officers who are not authorized to do so. Prisoners have been handcuffed and beaten for failing to comply with these unjustified searches. . . I strive to stay strong in this struggle. I strive for a better way, to see a better day!

—A Georgia prisoner, April 2004

VA prisons serve oppression

The guards are racist in the extreme, sadistic in their dealings with prisoners and the psychological effect of this treatment is mind-blowing. Wallens Ridge and Red Onion State Prison were built in an economically depressed and alienated region in southwest Virginia. They were built under the guise of a severe gang problem in Virginia, but the actual numbers of violent incidents in Virginia's prisons suggests that the creation of jobs by the state was the real reason.

They didn't have enough violent Virginia prisoners so they had to lease out bed spaces and still do, to other states — New Mexico, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Michigan, Vermont, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Over 200 million spent in building two super maximum security prisons of the types you find in California and Nevada.

We have all been labeled gang members of some kind or other. For them the means justify the ends. But the building of these two prisons was in keeping with bourgeois opportunism. For this past six years they have been stressing over the overwhelming need to control those "violent prisoners" so they constantly impose their brutality upon us with attack dogs, shotguns, 20 gallon tanks of gas, and the killing of a Connecticut prisoner in Virginia.

Custody has reduced the use of stun-guns, but physical beatings are common practice. Certain prisoners are often targeted for a special brand of oppression — these prisoners tend to be the ones who seek relief through the administrative process. But this process is made impossible, because the very people prisoners are seeking relief from are the same ones who control this so-called administrative process. If it is not the blatant brutality then it is the subtle tactics which the oppressors use, such as holding mail, destroying personal property, creating tension among prisoners, and using insulting language. My concern is not confrontations with other prisoners, but a violent clash with the oppressors when they (the officers) have created division and little solidarity among prisoners so as to make it easier to suppress and control those few who fight against the brutal oppression.

I think it would be absolutely correct if these two prisons were shut down. There is clearly no need for them in the sense of security and a concern for some flawed idea about "violent Virginia prisoners" needing to be controlled.

A prison built in an economically depressed region that created jobs for out of work coal miners should be exposed for what it actually is — political maneuvering for the sake of careerism and opportunism.

—A Virginia Prisoner, April 2004

SHUs = Modern-Day Concentration Camps

I am an inmate housed at Corcoran SHU and have been here for the last year and a half. The SHU is a very degrading situation for any humyn being to have to endure. I am a brother that considers himself a revolutionary. I've been trying to fight the system from within. I have been placed in Ad Seg before based on my political views. I have helped to organize inmates to strike in the past based on our mistreatment.

Here at Corcoran SHU, there's a lot of mistreatment of us inmates. I have been assaulted and racially discriminated against by two officials. The pigs refused to send my report on staff abuse to the DAs office and that's a felony! That's a foul play that's going on here at Corcoran SHU. Inmates are being assaulted and the pigs are covering it up. They are charging the inmate with staff assault and the pigs refuse to send the case to Kings County DAs so they find us guilty in a kangaroo court here at Corcoran SHU. There's no appeal system here because the same pigs that commit these crimes are the same pigs that pick up our mail. Our cases do not leave the building.

These SHUs are made to break a man down, both mentally and physically. But for the real soldier, it only makes us stronger and more angry. Continue the fight to shut down these modern-day concentration camps. They should be illegal.

— A California Prisoner, May 2004

Petition to shut down prison control units

I was reading MIM Notes dated Feb 1, 2004 and I ran across "Shut down all Control Units" article, which is all good! Now, it was said that a petition is circulating through the prison systems. I would most definitely sign it. So could you please forward it to me? I will make it my duty to get all the signatures I can at this prison. I have raised awareness among many souljas already, and they're more than willing to sign it. The only problem is when I send them out, I don't want these pigs playing games (tampering with the mail) so get at me please, and explain to me how I should go about this, and please make sure I sign that petition. I was once, twice in the (slave pit) Corcoran SHU. I know their hate and felt it from experience.

- a California prisoner, May 2004

MIM adds: We have copies of the petition to shut down prison control units, and one specifically targeting the California SHU system, available to anyone behind the bars or on the streets who wants to get involved in this campaign. We also have a lot of literature available on this topic at our web site: www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/ agitation/prisons

Facts on U\$ imprisonment

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

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

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

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

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

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

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

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

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.



California: Boicot dirigido por mexicanos y prisioneros del Alojamiento de la Unidad de Seguridad (SHU) que se unen a la lucha

12 de Diciembre

Activistas latinos sostuvieron un boicot en todo el estado de California para protestar la decisión tomada por el gobernador Arnold Schwarzenegger el 3 de diciembre de revocar la ley de licencias de conducir que hubiera otorgado el derecho de conducir a los llamados inmigrantes ilegales. Iniciado con la intención de demostrar el poder económico de los latinos en California, el boicot que sólo duró un día, se convirtió en una huelga económica en la que los latinos del estado se quedaron en casa en vez de ir al trabajo o al colegio, y se negaron a ir de compras.

Una tercera parte de la población californiana es latina y las industrias del estado cuentan con la mano de obra latina, cuya contribución a la fuerza trabajadora asciende a un 45%, sobre todo en trabajos pesados y de poco pago que otra gente no quiere. De las nacionalidades latinas en California, los mexicanos constituyen la mayoría abrumadora— un 80% según los resultados del censo del 2000. (1) Comparada demográficamente, esta huelga fue compuesta en su mayoría por líderes y participantes mexicanos, poniendo en evidencia el nacionalismo mexicano acompañado de banderas mexicanas volando al viento en las protestas y en las calles del estado.

Los colegios en distritos densamente poblados por latinos reportaron una dramática ausencia de estudiantes; algunos negocios cerraron sus puertas en solidaridad con la acción, y muchas calles llenas de tiendas carecían de consumidores. El periódico Fresno Bee reportó que la ausencia en el condado de Fresno costó a los distritos escolares aproximadamente 500,000 dólares. Es difícil acertar el impacto económico sobre las tiendas, pero juzgando por la ausencia de estudiantes en colegios públicos a través del estado, la participación en el boicot aparenta ser extensa. Varios negocios entrevistados por principales medios de comunicación cerraron sus tiendas debido a su reconocimiento de la contribución por parte de la mano de obra barata de los inmigrantes a sus ganancias monetarias. La pérdida económica a causa de un solo día del paro, aunque sea durante una temporada festiva, no es nada comparada con las posibles pérdidas a las que se enfrentarían los negocios si perdieran sus trabajadores. Esta decisión sin duda alguna también fue impulsada por el punto de vista práctico de algunas compañías que sabían que la mayoría de sus trabajadores planeaban apoyar el boicot faltando al trabajo.

Las demostraciones que tuvieron lugar a través del estado, fueron formadas por grupos de huelguistas latinos y algunas personas de origen no latino que se unieron en solidaridad. En pueblos con un gran número de habitantes latinos como Fresno y Santa Rosa cientos de protestantes salieron a las calles. En Sacramento, enfrente de la casa del estado, cientos de protestantes latinos hicieron poco caso a la lluvia para unirse a la lucha. El llamativo grupo recibió mucho respaldo por parte de carros que pitaban en apoyo de los carteles escritos pidiendo

licencias de manejo y derechos iguales a los inmigrantes latinos.

La gran mayoría de participantes en las demostraciones públicas fueron personas mexicanas, siendo algunas de ellas residentes legales y otras ilegales. La frontera imperialista entre U.S. y México refuerza el robo de latierra mexicana por parte de EE.UU. y mantiene a la gente en México, y en todos los países de América Latina, en pobreza convirtiéndola en un blanco perfecto para la explotación. La llamada inmigración ilegal provee al estado de California con la mano de obra barata que se utiliza en los campos y en otros trabajos mal pagados y destructivos para la salud física que los americanos blancos no quieren. Al mismo tiempo, corporaciones americanas tienen la libertad de poner fábricas al otro lado de la frontera y mantener sueldos bajos, porque los trabajadores mexicanos no pueden cruzar la frontera para competir por los mismos trabajos con ciudadanos americanos.

El MIM respalda dicha huelga económica siendo ésta un ejemplo de una lucha obrera correcta en contra de la explotación que es parte de una larga lucha de liberación nacional. EE.UU. es el país que está ocupando ilegalmente las tierras mexicanas; los americanos son los inmigrantes ilegales que masacraron a poblaciones indígenas para robarles su territorio. La lucha por el derecho a licencias de conducir es sólo una pequeña batalla en una larga pelea por una abolición de fronteras imperialistas y una liberación nacional de los pueblos oprimidos del mundo.

Convocado por la Asociación Política México-Americana con su base en Los Ángeles, el boicot no obtuvo ningún respaldo por parte de sindicatos laborales. Es posible que, dado el corto plazo de la convocatoria, los organizadores de la protesta no hayan solicitado ayuda sindical. Pero no nos sorprende el hecho de que los sindicatos no hayan sido representados en las demostraciones dominadas por la presencia de inmigrantes mexicanos. Los sindicatos americanos tienen una larga historia de oposición a los trabajadores inmigrantes y de organización por los derechos de trabajadores blancos en detrimento de las naciones oprimidas. Los sindicatos americanos respaldan el cierre de las fronteras por miedo a perder puestos de trabajo que pueden pasar a manos de inmigrantes o pueden ser transferidos a otros países. Dichos sindicatos luchan para mantener el alto nivel de vida del que disfrutaban los ciudadanos de este país a costa de los países del tercer mundo. Los trabajadores del tercer mundo son explotados por corporaciones americanas que traen las ganancias a casa y las comparten con los trabajadores americanos en forma de sueldos más altos y beneficios. Los inmigrantes ilegales dentro de las fronteras americanas se enfrentan a semejante explotación.

Manifestantes del Alojamiento de la Unidad de Seguridad se unen a la protesta.

Una demostración en frente del Departamento Correccional de California en Sacramento (CDC), convocada por el Comité de Defensa del Barrio, una organización comunitaria en San José, atrajo la atención de gente a las unidades de máxima seguridad (SHU) de las prisiones de California, cuyas celdas de tortura se usan para encerrar a muchos prisioneros latinos en confinamiento solitario por tiempo indefinido. Estas sentencias se aplican a supuestos miembros de pandillas, pero los criterios que definen a miembros de pandilla ponen bajo sospecha a todos los latinos. Tanto una conversación en un área de recreo de la prisión como un tatuaje o una dedicatoria en una tarjeta de cumpleaños, bastan para tachar de sospechoso a un prisionero. Los prisioneros activos políticamente llegan a ser blancos de estos criterios, de modo que se les retira de patios de recreo para que no puedan influenciar en y educar a otros prisioneros. Un líder del Comité de Defensa del Barrio explica que “Juzgando por los resultados del proceso judicial (llevado a cabo por el senado del SHU) el 15 de septiembre del 2003, el costo estimado de mantenimiento de una persona en el SHU vacila entre 60,000 y 70,000 dólares, lo cual implica un gasto inútil de millones de dólares. Steve Castillo ha estado en el SHU por ocho años sólo por ser abogado. Hugo Pinell lleva un sinnúmero de años en el SHU por sus ideales políticos! John Martínez fue encerrado en el SHU por cuestionar la brutalidad en Corcoran! Francisco Cesar Villa está en el SHU por pedir el número correcto de zapatos! José Luis Avina y Eddie Bustamente están en el SHU por participar en una huelga de hambre en 1999 en la prisión de New Folsom. Al fin y al cabo, el único remedio que queda es organizar a gente afuera de las cárceles para poder llevar a cabo cambios fundamentales y cerrar las unidades de máxima seguridad.”

Los manifestantes que se reunieron enfrente del CDC marcharon a la casa de estado para unirse a la demostración. Los huelguistas firmaron una petición circulada por el MIM para cerrar las unidades de máxima seguridad, y muchos hablaron de sus experiencias personales o sus parientes que están encerrados en esos lugares.

Un pequeño grupo de activistas le entregó una carta a la Senadora Gloria Romero, presidenta del Comité del Senado Selecto encargado del Sistema Correccional de California, exigiendo un cierre del SHU. Hacía unos meses, Romero había tenido un proceso judicial para investigar las unidades de máxima seguridad (véase MN 289), pero desde entonces los activistas no habían obtenido ningún tipo de información.

Romero no se encontraba en su oficina pero su representante Rocky Rushing, quien accedió a hablar con los activistas, explico

que el CDC se había reunido con el Comité la semana anterior justo para informar sobre el “progreso” respecto a las demandas presentadas en el proceso judicial. Deducimos que el CDC no iba a implementar ningún cambio. El CDC accedió a hacer unos pequeños cambios en el proceso de implementación de criterios que establecen la definición de “miembro de pandilla”, lo cual haría posible que los presos argumentaran y cuestionaran las evidencias presentadas. Sin embargo, la mayoría de las evidencias se mantiene en secreto, y el CDC no hizo ningún caso de las respuestas de los presos, de modo que estos cambios no tienen ningún sentido. El CDC también accedió a hacer algunos cambios en el programa del SHU. Pero estos cambios también son insignificantes ya que se enfocan en la educación sobre pandillas y en terapia. De esta forma, el CDC puede pretender que el SHU en realidad está solucionando el problema de las pandillas en las prisiones de California, en vez de proveer los medios necesarios como bibliotecas, educación y programas de recreación.

Los activistas solicitaron información al representante de la Senadora Romero sobre las demandas entabladas por familiares y amigos de los presos en el reciente proceso judicial (es decir, sobre las promesas de la senadora). El representante respondió que esta responsabilidad había sido relegada al CDC que se encargaría de revisar todas las quejas, y que para este propósito el CDC había recibido la transcripción del proceso. ¡Además informó que el CDC sostenía que todos los problemas habían sido solucionados! Claro está, los organizadores del SHU no vieron a ningún representante del CDC en el proceso judicial, en el cual alrededor de cien personas dieron su testimonio sobre los horrores del SHU. Quizás lo más relevante fue la afirmación del asistente de la Senadora Romero que expresó la esperanza de poder organizar otra reunión con representantes del CDC y la gente preocupada por el estado del SHU, para que en caso de que el CDC se negara a implementar cambios, los participantes de la reunión podrían sentirse incluidos. El MIM deduce que el asistente de la Senadora Romero no cree que el gobierno tenga poder sobre el Departamento Correccional de California. Puede convocar reuniones pero no puede exigir cambios. Esto no es ninguna sorpresa, ya que el presupuesto del CDC no ha sufrido ningún cambio o recorte a pesar de los grandes recortes presupuestarios y extensas negociaciones entre varias ramas del gobierno de California con el fin de aprobar un presupuesto equilibrado.

El MIM sabe que un verdadero cambio en el sistema de justicia criminal no provendrá de un Comité del Senado. Pero seguiremos explorando todas las direcciones posibles a medida que vayamos peleando por reformas que puedan mejorar las vidas de nuestros hermanos y hermanas tras las rejas, mientras nosotros sigamos educando y organizando a la gente para acabar con el sistema imperialista.