Prisoner abuse scandal spreads to Afghanistan

RULERS TALK ABOUT THE DRAFT

1. New puppets in place, same old national oppression of Iraqs

On June 28, the United States stopped trying to be the direct government of Iraq. Bush’s colonial official L. Paul Bremer III handed power over to Iraqi puppets who have no sanction from the Iraqi people of any sort.

We at MIM are aware that many of our readers had given Uncle Sam a break till June 30th, because for many months, the Bush administration was talking about the June 30th “hand-off.” Many including naive supporters of the Republicans believed that Bush would leave Iraq on June 30th in order not to have the issue hanging over the presidential election in November.

It is important to be able to distinguish rhetoric about “handovers” from the military and political realities of invasion. This invasion was never about just capturing Saddam Hussein or even weapons of mass destruction, which is why the troops are still there. Without the troops the US political control would collapse.

Draft-age people should now see that the US military continues to occupy Iraq despite the hand-off to Iraqi puppets who are dependent on US troops for “security.” In fact, Bush continues to talk about

China, Vietnam and now Iraq

Only military threats make Amerikalns serious about politics

The pattern of America's involvement in Iraq today follows a decades-old American prescription. When no American lives face direct threat, the US public swallows whole anything that the State Department and mega-corporate media throw its way. The first to bother with anything different than the media perception built by a handful of spinners and deceivers at the top of gigantic government and media bureaucracies are military intelligence and business officials.

When responsible military officials become upset enough, they release information to the public to give it a more accurate picture. This is part of factional fighting within the ruling class, but it is also part of manipulating the public into new directions.

The ordinary picture of Chinese in America before the 1930s was a people running laundries in the United States. When responsible military officials become upset enough, they release information to the public to give it a more accurate picture. This is part of factional fighting within the ruling class, but it is also part of manipulating the public into new directions.

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Letters

Mafia tactics and the Coalition of the Willing

Whatever you contribute “it must be substantial.” So spoke Secretary of State Colin Powell to friendly nations too weak to defend themselves against the world’s strongest military turned aggressor. The only things missing were the pinstriped suits, the broad brimmed felt hat or fedora, and the bulge of a shoulder holster or sidearm tucked under an armpit. Other than that, Mr. Powell could be taken for any mafia henchman walking in to a neighborhood candy store to sell the owner insurance...you do want to protect your place don’t you (smile)...and naturally there weren’t any of the rival families at this conference. Nations from the axis of evil and most others with nuclear capability require a different approach. But the weaker nations are ripe for the picking. Countries like Nicaragua and Haiti need our protection.

Now after a dozen years of embargo and bombing, plus a final walk-on invasion and occupation that didn’t even require the planned “shock and awe” now the U.S. is ready to rebuild Iraqi infrastructure and buildings we so systematically destroyed.

Never mind that Iraq had little or nothing to do with terrorism or that they didn’t have any weapons of mass destruction ready to be deployed against the U.S. and their neighbors. We all know that. But it’s the thought that counts: and they certainly had a great many evil thoughts directed towards us.

Restricted to an oil for food program, losing a half million children to starvation and denied the parts to repair their equipment, while their leader built palaces, now how can you blame the Iraqi people harboring resentment?

So Mr. Store owner, you seen what happened to the store down the street. You don’t want that to happen to you do you? Cough up a substantial part of your treasury and we’ll take care of you ...

By the way, terrorism is a tactic not a thing. It’s a scheme, an activity, a method, a strategy. A surprise that can be used by anyone limited only by mans imagination and resources. People like Osama Bin Laden might use it but it isn’t an entity you can see, feel or touch. It’s ethereal. Declaring war against terrorism is like declaring war against thinking.

—A California prisoner, July 2004

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.

MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist International Movement

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

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

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**Fahrenheit fires on a few good targets, avoids others**

Director Moore’s “progressive patriotism” leads him astray

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**Activists expose torture in Amerikan prisons**

The United Front to Shut Down the Security Housing Units held the first in a series of educational forums on Amerikan prison torture in San Francisco on July 15. The event opened with a letter from a California prisoner, written in May of this year, shortly after the news of the Iraqi prisoner abuse came out.

Amerika’s modern-day dungeons, such as Security Housing Units (SHUs), Intensive Management Units (IMUs) and Maximum Custody Control Units... were designed with sensory deprivation in mind,” he wrote. “[Control units are synonymous with] isolation, control of movement, interrogation, mental and physical tortures, excessive force and criminal abuse.

“These penitentiary test labs have a breeding ground for prison guards to practice their sadistic murderous behavior unchecked with impunity. So it should be of no surprise that the military uses these techniques and tactics on prisoners in Iraq and Guantnamo Bay.” A previous edition of MIM Notes (#830) reported in detail how guards charged with torture at Abu Ghraib had served in Amerikan prisons, where they developed a reputation for brutality.

Control units are prisons within prisons, where inmates are locked in their small cells, alone, for 23 hours or more each day. International human rights groups have condemned them as a form of torture. Control units are consciously used to break prisoners’ will and ability to resist. A past warden of Marion IL, one of the first Control Unit prisons, stated: “The purpose of the Marion control unit is to control revolutionary attitudes in the prison system and in society at large.”

A speaker from the Barrio Defense Committee (BDC) described her son’s battle with the California prison system. Jose Luis was placed in the SHU at Corcoran prison after leading a hunger strike for basic human rights at New Folsom prison. While in the SHU he has lost sight in one eye and is experiencing other physical and mental problems.

Another speaker described her recent visit to Pelican Bay State Prison where Hugo Pinell is locked in the SHU. Hugo is one of the many Prisoners of War kept behind bars as punishment for their political activism. She described his isolation from the outside world and spoke movingly about Hugo’s strong spirit despite this torture.

The final speaker touched on her experience in the women’s prison in California, where she was punished for political activism. She noted that the 40 women locked in the SHU in the women’s prison need to be contacted so that activists on the outside can work with them to organize the growing women’s prison population.

The United Front to Shut Down the SHU includes a 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 like-minded organizations across the state. We are united in fighting to shut down control units in California prisons.

Current activities include of the United Front include holding events like this one across the state, protests the first Saturday of every month in cities across California, and a petition drive to shut down the SHU (we have collected thousands of signatures already!).

Our next state-wide organizing meeting is scheduled for September 12th in Oxnard California. The United Front is also planning a protest in front of the CDC office in Sacramento for August 20th.

This forum will be held again in the following locations:

- **Santa Cruz**
  - August 5, 7pm
  - Louden Nelson Center, 301 Center St

- **Los Angeles**
  - August 12, 6pm
  - Casa de Pueblo Co-Op, Sunset Blvd

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**Amerikan brainwashing not good for Amerikans**


Morgan Spurlock, Director

“Super Size Me”, the entertaining documentary by Morgan Spurlock, is a great addition to the education of the Amerikan public about the biological and social roots of obesity. The gimmick: Spurlock only eats at McDonalds for thirty days and goes from fit and trim to dangerously unhealthy and... not-so-trim.

Before beginning his thirty-day binge Spurlock gets checked out by three doctors and consults with a nutritionist. They all proclaim him a model of health and plan to follow him throughout the month. Spurlock then cuts down on his normal amount of exercise, including daily walks to and from work and around New York City, in order to mimic an average Amerikan’s daily physical activity. He has three rules for his McMonth: 1) he must try everything on the menu at least once; 2) he cannot eat or drink anything that is 2) he cannot eat or drink anything that is

Among other corporations—harped on balanced lifestyles.”

A supposedly neutral writer—who actually is a lobbyist for McDonald’s (among other corporations)—harped on this last point, noting that Spurlock if Spurlock ate 5,000 calories he “could have gained that extra weight [24 pounds] anywhere—at a health-food restaurant in Cleveland or at Taillevent in Paris.”

This hack goes on to say, “What Americans need is balance: Sensible eating plus exercise. Staying fit is a matter of personal choice and responsibility...”

The appeal to the individualist streak in Americans, but the cold reality—which
‘Few bad apples’ line takes over in Iraq crisis
Collective denial about national oppression

The responses to the hostage and torture situations in Iraq and Afghanistan are revealing the chasm separating the bourgeoisie and petty-bourgeoisie parties on the one hand and the proletarian parties on the other. The torture in Abu Ghraib and other prisons in Iraq and Afghanistan produced condemnation from Bush to the phony communists. It’s useful to look at who is drawing correct conclusions from these disasters without pulling punches and who is merely saying what is comfortable for the American petty-bourgeoisie to hear.

The twist is that Al Gore’s line is identical to that of a number of phony “communist” parties, such as the “Revolutionary Communist Party–USA” (RCP=USA) and those suspected of terrorism USA” (CP=USA). Both Gore and these phony “communists” deny that they upheld the “few bad apples” line, but in fact they do. It takes the sort of crisis facing the imperialists now to best show the public exactly how the phony “communists” line dovetails with the imperialism.

Careful reading of the RCP=USA line will show that they see the bourgeois dictatorship as some kind of pattern of actions by only the police and military. We’re not surprised, because the RCP=USA line is that only 10% of the troops are the problem.

We hesitate to call the RCP=USA opportunist for saying nothing Gore would not say. The RCP=USA consciously represents the petty-bourgeoisie, which means vacillating toward proletarian positions occasionally for maximum propaganda while holding up the imperialists’ line to the middle-class on the whole. The petty-bourgeoisie has no future of its own, and has no choice but to vacillate between the imperialists and proletariat.

It is the official line of the RCP=USA that only 10% of the USA is enemy. Get that; it means only 10 out of 100 apples in the barrel are bad ones. Yet, the vocal defenders of the RCP=USA have the nerve to claim they don’t have the “few bad apples” line. In contrast, Lenin said that one quarter of the whole world is oppressor and he admitted belonging to an oppressor nation; even though Russian imperialism was no where near the level of global exploiter as the U$ imperialists today.

There is no detectable difference between the 10 bad apples out of 100 view and the view of Bush and Gore. The RCP=USA is in fact helping to cover up the enemy just like Bush & Gore.

The US contractors in Iraq are another example of a line that could not be validated by the petty-bourgeoisie. On the other hand, the line says that it supports the occupation regime in Iraq in which its sister party has one of 25 seats.(5) On the other hand, for some occasional proletarian rhetoric, even the CP=USA recently admitted 12 of the contractors in Iraq are oppressors.(6) They try to make it sound like these contractors are exceptional, and maybe not even Americans. This represents another tactical approach for the servitors of imperialism: adopt a proletarian posture if the situation requires it, or else make it look like a select group of Americans are the problem, not just part of an overall class analysis.

What these imperialist lackeys don’t do is name Thomas Hamill by name. He was a truck driver in Iraq taken hostage. This would clear up that the CP=USA was not just talking about Cheney’s Halliburton executives in Iraq, but also people like Hamill. Likewise, the RCP=USA hides behind the common petty-bourgeoisie opinion that the soldiers/CIA should not be in Iraq.

If any of the Trotskyists, the CP=USA, the RCP=USA or the rest of the chauvinist “left” had half a wit, they would know they should be answering the Thomas Hamill question and do it in principle. If they think that Thomas Hamill was an exploiter in Iraq, then they need to answer what the difference is between him and the rest of the oppressor nation “workers.” Thomas Hamill worked for a private company. Who doesn’t? Thomas Hamill’s company had contracts with the government. Which multinational corporation hiring workers does not? Thomas Hamill is tied up with exploiting the Third World people and his salary showed it. What oppressor nation “workers” in the USA do not have such links? To these scum evading the question, we say, “Denial is not a river in Egypt.”

Notes:

The ‘few bad apples’ line takes over in Iraq crisis
Continued on next page...

Prisoner abuse scandal spreads
Continued from page 1...

Descriptions of the video—played over and over on FOX and earnestly discussed by Dan Rather in early 2002—make it sound suspiciously like campy anti-Communist dreck like 1948’s “Red Dawn.” “The footage shows a terrorist cell infiltrating a golf course... Weapons are hidden in golf bags. And then comes the attack.”(8) The video also purports to show “heavily armed al Qaeda thugs storming a school, shooting children and taking hostages.” “We found little desks with bullet holes in them.” Idema told the New York Post; however, an FBI spokesman quotes in the same article says there is “no credible evidence of a specific threat to American schools.”(9)

The senator American politician in Afghanistan at the time “watched the... tape carefully twice, but said he could not comment.”(10)

There’s more. According to the New York Times, somebody named Mohammed Ashimey was feeding Western media reports about a “secret group” of “renegade Green Berets.”

“In breathless prose, the article said the former commandos, frustrated by American government inaction, had..."joining the US 30 men suspected of terrorism since arriving in Afghanistan three months ago. The article, which sounded like it could have been written by an American, included an accurate description of the illegal arrests that led to Mr. Idema’s detention and a flattering description of his motives. “Driving beat up old SUVs, wearing low-slung holsters like Clint Eastwood, long hair, beards and Afghan scarfs, the Green Berets operated the way they did on the 2001-2002 war, with no rules, no oversight, and no plan...”(11)

“The local Afghan journalists said they had never heard of Mr. Ashimey...”(2)

There is no way to spin this story to exonerate either the American government or the American media. Any way you look at it, both are complicit in Idema’s torture and murder. If Mr. Idema was just some crusader yahoo, then the American media let themselves be suckered by a con-man who was selling the pulp fiction they wanted to buy: a shoot-em-up cowboy story with Osama Bin Laden playing the really really bad dude in the black hat. Mr. Idema is just some heavily-armed mercenary nutcase, the Amerikan government let him tramp through Afghanistan starting in 2001, when he reportedly served as military advisor to the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance. Idema and wackos like him thrive in Afghanistan; the Americans have created a Wild West atmosphere there, in part by offering $340 million in bounties for information leading to the capture or killing of top “terrorists.” “Whatever Idema’s credentials are,” writes the British Independent, “the fact remains that he and others like him are common sights in Afghanistan. They have an eye for bounty... There are also claims that some are involved in heroin trafficking—in the country that produces most the world’s heroin. The US government wants to distance itself from him officially—and maybe unofficially, by leaking unflattering reports through the lines of the Times and the Independent.

The imperialists are addicted to war, and a necessary consequence of that addiction are the moves games like the ones Idema played in Afghanistan. The official denunciation of Idema is exceptional; usually governments will not admit or deny an individual is a spy. (13) This raises the suspicion that any journalist...
China, Vietnam and now Iraq
Only military threats make Americans serious about politics

Continued from page 1...

political contests broke out across Asia. In the 1930s, when landlord dictator Chiang Kai-shek partially ruled China, the US media lavished incredible praise on him—much of the opposite of what the same media did to Saddam Hussein in 2002 and 2003. Time Magazine in 1937 named Chiang Kai-shek and his wife "Madame" Chiang Kai-shek the "ablest of leadership" worthy of "Man and Women of the Year." (1) Actually, wild oscillations in American opinion of China started even before that. It's just that by 1937, thanks to a war brewing and a communist threat led by Mao Zedong, American policymakers started to judge that Chiang Kai-shek was their man in China. The praise was so fulsome, authors said that the Chiang Kai-shek couple had been made into "plaster saints" at the time. All that changed as soon as American lives were at stake in China during World War II. One Graham Peck of the US "Office of War Information" said, "I think every American who came to Kuomintang territory on war duty has bitter memories of the do-nothing attitudes, and the territory on war duty has bitter memories of the Chiang Kai-shek party and generals told the Americans that "The Communists are babies; they don't know how to fight." "The war will be over in three months," Chiang's top-ranking general declared. That all went into the American media.

Nonetheless, based on World War II experience, American generals, pilots and soldiers knew better. Even though most US military forces went to Europe during World War II, there were some who dealt with the Chinese and Vietnamese attacking the Japanese. When Mao liberated all of China in 1949 instead of collapsing in three months, much of the US military knew exactly why—that Chiang Kai-shek was a hopelessly backward and corrupt man heading a useless and corrupt party.

While Chiang Kai-shek's money came in China, his party's money came in the United States, he still found ways to lobby America after being booted onto Taiwan by the Chinese Revolution. Among other things that Chiang Kai-shek's government did was give money to Richard Nixon's campaign for Senate in California and egg on Senator Joe McCarthy. (4)

The same thing happened with Vietnam. The US military officials who dealt with the regime in southern Vietnam knew it to be corrupt and inefficient in every way—not promising material for the development of "freedom." Nonetheless, the dominant media-created perception was that sending a few more thousand Americans to Vietnam would wipe out the communist threat and Vietnam would be on the road to "democracy."

This belief continued for several years until Lyndon B. Johnson had 500,000 troops in Vietnam in 1965. Even then, it took until 1969 for a majority of US public opinion to swing against the war—but not before tens of thousands of US deaths. The process of thought in the American mind started with debunking what it considered "lies." For example, in the spring of 1964, the outgoing general in Vietnam named Paul Harkins told the incoming military leader "Military strategists and civilian officials of the United States would work to win six months." (5) As early as a January 1963 battle at Ap Bac that the media observed, the US media knew that the US government lied about winning a battle that the US puppets lost. President John F. Kennedy tried to get a reporter reassigned for knowing the truth. (6)

So it is today in Iraq. When the war started, a majority supported it. In fact, in March, 2003, only 20% of US whites opposed the war. (7) Then Bush declared that "major combat operations in Iraq were over" on May 1, 2003. By that time, more US soldiers died than during the official fighting. The soldiers themselves learned on the scene that contrary to the neo-conservatives, the Iraqi people did not "throw roses and rice" to the "liberators." Some military police have had to go up close to Americans are no more humane in imperialist strategies grow. The situation in Iraq is not more peaceful and secure. The Iraqi people did not "throw roses and rice" to the "liberators." Some military police have had to go up close to Americans in foreign lands and the Bush administration.

By the way, we are happy to report that the Spanish-speaking population is vacillating against the war even more than the rest of the population. What's more, a large proportion of the populations living inside US borders, with 75% now saying the war was not "worth it." Fewer than 50 percent agreed that the "situation in Iraq was worth going to war over." Fewer than 50 percent of those who seldom attended church thought so... A Gallup Poll also shows the evangelicals' growing numbers, placing them at no less than 43 percent of the population. The polls at http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/business/index.ssf?/newsflash/get_story.ssf?cgi- free/getstory_ssf.cgi?f0033_BC_WSJ—power-and-Peril&newsflash=financial

Notes:
2. Ibid., p. 19.
3. Ibid., p. 37.
4. Ibid., p. 52.
6. Ibid., p. 126.

Another interesting figure: "An April Gallup Poll found that among Americans who go to church at least once a week, 56 percent agreed that the 'situation in Iraq was worth going to war over.' Fewer than 45 percent of those who seldom attend church thought so... A Gallup Poll also shows the evangelicals' growing numbers, placing them at no less than 43 percent of the population."


Notes:
6. Many reports on Amazon.com from people claiming to be Special Operations soldiers—call this book "largely fiction." This likely reflects some personal rivalries among the "soldier of fortune" crowd; although, from the few excerpts MIM has read, we agree with their assessment.
7. As it turns out, one of the men arrested with Idema was Edward Caraballo, a videographer who directed "The I Jeik Idema Story," about Jack's supposed exploits in Lithuania (go to the Idema and Caraballo and check out the cached pages). Idema and Caraballo also worked with Gary Scurka at Point Blank Network News. Scurka produced "The I Jeik Idema Story" and covered the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq for National Geographic—"to present a U.S. Marine view of the war" (http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/04/0410_030410_iraqreporter.html; http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/05/0516_030516_iraqreporter.html). National Geographic, by the way, is adept at getting Americans into geopolitical hotspots such as Afghanistan or the region of Colombia controlled by the FARC under the guise of humanitarian reporting. So Idema possessed the technical knowledge and local contacts needed to make a fake "training video," if he wanted.
12. www.newyorker.com/fact/content/7040142fa_fact
II. Draft of ex-soldiers already under way

Not only that, but of great significance is the fact that Bush called up former troops based on a clause in their contracts that makes it possible to call them back to duty once they have left the military services. As MIM told our readers he would back in May, Bush called up the Individual Ready Reserve.

MIM Notes considered that maybe Bush only called up a few people in states he has no chance of losing in November, but that is not the case, because Bush called up former troops in 48 states of the United States. For example, “Twenty-five percent of the National Guard and Reserve soldiers in Louisiana are being recalled to active duty. They are among about 5,600 retired and discharged soldiers being involuntarily returned to active duty for possible service in Iraq or Afghanistan in the first substantial call-up of reserve units since the 1991 Persian Gulf War.”

The fact that Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry blasted Bush for the “back-door draft” that prevents “volunteers” from retiring shows that there is a very important goal involved here for Bush. He surely knows that 70% of the public opposes a draft right now and his call-up and stop-loss orders do not help Bush’s chances among military personnel—except for those most itching to fight. Even if the IRR members do not object, Bush had to have known how much media his “stop-loss” and IRR call-up orders were a disaster.

Bush is politician enough to know in advance that his call-up of the Individual Ready Reserve would potentially cost him in elections in November; yet Bush still went ahead. So, we stop to consider three questions: 1) sending more, not fewer troops. 2) Draft of ex-soldiers already under way. 3) If not that, but of great significance is the fact that Bush called up former troops based on a clause in their contracts that makes it possible to call them back to duty once they have left the military services.

III. Military recruiting and race/nationality

The New York Times claims in a July 3rd story that a bill for a draft by Senator Bernie Sanders (Independent Vermont) and Representative Charles Rangel has no support from Republicans. That’s not exactly right.

In April, Senator Chuck Hagel (Republican Party Nebraska) not only changed position to raise supporting the draft but said that it is the only way to pay for the military service on the “Today” show. Hagel also raised the same reasoning as Rangel—that it would spread the burden of fighting by class more evenly.

More important is the reasoning the rulers themselves use when it comes to whether a draft is necessary: “You have to have a draft when you can’t get the requisite numbers,” said the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Representative Duncan Hunter, Republican of California. “There is not now indications that you can’t get the requisite numbers. But we watch those numbers.”

The numbers show that recruiting is falling about 10% short of goals. Those numbers would be different if there were an attack on US soil from Iraqis, and not just some propaganda from Cheney about links between 9/11 and Saddam Hussein. The importance of “those numbers every month” revolves around military pay and also ideological ardor for the war among the military itself. If the bourgeoisie succeeds in “educating” the public to its view of international affairs, the enthusiasm for fighting will be greater. Moreover, blacks and other Americans had no education about the Third World, except from military service abroad. A portion at any time will be ignorant and adventurer enough to go fight for whatever the government says.

The question is whether that portion is enough for the imperialists’ current plans and future aggressions. The military recruiting/retention statistic or portion of youth willing to “serve” would not be the same for all political contexts and historical periods.

In recruiting at this time, speculation abounds that recruits will be disproportionately desperate sorts. Sergeant Everett Best recruits this way: “I tell them straight up. Miami is the biggest war zone we’ve got,” he said. “Every time you turn on the TV we see someone shot.” (4) It’s comments like these that leave part of America realizing that the military takes advantage of the ignorant among us, and this in itself creates a political basis for the draft among some of the more fair but nonetheless bourgeois-minded who seek to oppress and exploit Iraq but not a particularly strong one.

Sergeant Michael Bass, “uses simple figures. Nine people from southern Florida have died in Iraq, compared with 338 murders in the Florida region last year: “They have a better chance in the army than on the streets of Miami.” (4) in southern Florida because that this is fallacious reasoning—the same underling mathematical method error underlying claims that say Hitler was relatively harmless compared with Stalin and Mao as the idiotic Black Book of Communism says. In actual fact, despite praise, death rates in the US are in fact disgraceful for such a rich country, urban areas such as southern Florida are safer than serving in Iraq.

We cannot compare 9 with 338 the way Sergeant Michael Bass did. That’s like saying rookie pitcher Shaun Hill of the Expos is a better pitcher than future hall-of-famer Roger Clemens, because Hill has only lost 2 games in his career, while Clemens has lost 163. Of course, Clemens’ career has been much longer (624 starts to Hill’s 3), so in terms of losing percentages, Clemens looks better than Hill (26% to 67%). Based on those numbers alone, a smart manager would start Clemens over Hill.

Similarly, we have to do a calculation for how many people die per 100,000 per year both in Iraq and southern Florida. The United States had 866 deaths in 46 days in Iraq. That would be 678 deaths in 365 days. That’s approximately 484 per 100,000 troops in Iraq one year. Now we take the sergeant’s 338 figure. That is 338 deaths for all the population of southern Florida, when Miami by itself is over 370,000. That means that there are much fewer than 91 murders per 100,000. Most of blacks and other Americans installed Saddam Hussein to begin with, we can see that violence traces back to the Americans in any case. Alas, for the 18-year-old Black man of DC, Iraq may be a marginally safer place than DC if we assume that Blacks are twice as likely to be killed with the military recruiters by talking about the murder rate in Washington DC. When he was under fire for casualties in Iraq in June 2003, Rumsfeld himself implied that Iraq is safer than Washington DC. 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“Black,” “Hispanic” and “other.” “Hispanic” is the only under-represented group in the recent military recruits based on the 18-24 age pool.

On the whole, DC is much safer (for the average American thinking about being a soldier) than Iraq since DC’s murder rate as a whole is only 45.8 per 100,000 compared with the 482 per 100,000 death rate for troops in Iraq. That Iraq figure is even more than 10 times worse than the victimization of Black men inside US borders. Black men in the United States as a whole suffered homicide at a rate of 37.5 per 100,000 in 1999.(9)

The real relevant factors here are age and gender. When we look specifically at 18-year-old Black men considering DC or Iraq, there is not much difference. Ditto Baltimore, Detroit and New Orleans.

As their excuse for slavery or theft (in the case of whites) or out of stupidity, racists are always ready to say that Blacks are genetically inclined to crime against themselves and others. The truth is that national oppression in places like the USA and southern Africa are responsible for high crime rates.

If we look at a place like Côte d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast), at 4.07 per 100,000 in 2000, (Ivory Coast), at 4.07 per 100,000 in 2000, and rule the Blacks up close. The sooner Blacks in southern Africa take control of their economic destinies, impose socialism led by a party of Marx, Lenin & Mao and the sooner they break with the settler bourgeoisie, the sooner problems such as high murder rates will decline to normal.

The highest murder rates in Africa are found in the last countries to de-colonize, places where there is a high proportion of whites nearby so that they still exploit and rule the Blacks up close. The sooner Blacks in southern Africa take control of their economic destinies, impose socialism led by a party of Marx, Lenin & Mao and the sooner they break with the settler bourgeoisie, the sooner problems such as high murder rates will decline to normal.

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Marlon Brando (1924-2004)

We Maoists have very positive memories of Marlon Brando, who passed away July 1st in Los Angeles at the age of 80. Although we cannot say we followed Brando to the extent some tabloids follow movie stars, we still know him as a man who took the side of the oppressed in the face of hysterical white opposition in the instance of some of his political choices.

Already in 1954, Brando was known as someone pushing the limits of respectable sexuality. He called himself "trisexual" and made a big deal of carrying on some gay behaviors in public.(1) though there is hardly a more heterosexual image than Brando’s. One of Brando’s greatest contributions and societal productivity for the benefit of the majority of the world’s people. Under the guise of “freedom of choice and persynal choice,” corporations are concerned with maximizing their profits no matter what the human and societal costs, under the guise of “freedom of choice and persynal choice.” But MIM is concerned with maximizing human health and societal productivity for the benefit of the majority of the world’s people. Under the dictatorship of the proletariat people will have “choices” like Big Macs and 64 ounce Cokes and caramel sundaes with every meal. Physical education and activity will be mandatory and schoolchildren will receive fresh fruits and vegetables instead of vending machine snacks and French fries for lunch.


Notes:

Amerikan brainwashing not good for Amerikans

Continued from page 3...

Amerikans have to understand if they are to eradicate the obesity epidemic that threatens them and (even more) their children—is that “personal choice” is not so persynal. As we said in MIM Notes 224 (December 15, 2000), “Two of the most important risk factors for obesity are sedentary lifestyle and high-fat, energy dense diet. These may seem like individual ‘choices’, but as always, societal context determines choice. As one obesity researcher puts it, ‘We can’t just tell money to the Black Panther Party when it was a Maoist organization. Brando worked hard to free Huey Newton from prison. Others in the Black Panther Party also had his support. In the same years, Brando himself played in countless movie roles of great fame, including Don Corleone in the “Godfather,” the highest grossing film up to that date. It came at a time when Brando had trouble finding acting roles after a hugely successful career in the 1940s and 1950s. The film business considered him washed up by the early 1970s when the “Godfather” came along. The British Telegraph newspaper called Brando: “the most influential film star of his generation, pioneering on screen the use of the acting technique popularly known as the Method.”(1) The Method encouraged players to identify with their roles and imagine for them a biography beyond the bounds of the script. At its best this resulted in a realism and conviction never before seen on the screen. Marlon Brando was its most gifted exponent, and he set the pace for such later players as James Dean, Paul Newman and Al Pacino.”(1) Out of all his films, Brando was most proud of “Burn”(1) and we share his opinion. The bourgeois media won’t give it much attention because it’s an anti-colonial revolutionary film with many parallels to the war going on in Vietnam at the time the film came out. The bourgeois media is remembering Brando professionally. We at MIM remember him in his true spirit, as he wanted to be through his movies like “Burn” and his political activism.

Notes:
5. “McDonald’s serving up new kiosk ordering plan”, http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2004/06/17/mcdonalds_serving_up_new_kiosk_o..
6/17/2004

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Fahrenheit 911 fires on a few good targets, avoids others

right while we still can.(2) Moore notes that the bourgeois media have only helped to spread fear and promote the war, acting principally as a wire service for the White House and the Pentagon since 9/11. Dan Rather is shown, with a backdrop of bombs dropping on Baghdad, giving an emotional speech to the effect that “one cannot help but to hope that one’s own country will win the war. In another display of open jingoism we see Katie Couric telling the camera that she, for one, thinks that “Navy SEALS rock.”

This all serves as a good lesson for people who taunt MIM and other radicals, asking “have you ever been to Iraq?” when we criticize the war. Hundreds of reporters went and couldn’t manage to add anything but a little local color to the Defense Department briefings handed out in Washington. Going to Iraq didn’t help those journalists analyze the news they were reporting; doing that requires critical thinking and the ability to learn from history.

Moore demonstrates, all too briefly, how the U.S. army is terrorizing the Iraqi people. A middle-aged Iraqi womyn screams that god is going to take vengeance on the U.S. people if they destroy the houses of the Americans. The question is: will the U.S. army destroy the houses of the Amerikans who have killed their country? The answer is: yes. The Americans have destroyed the houses of the Americans.

While there is still no proof of any connection between Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden, the Americans are doing a good job raising a new generation of Iraqis who would be justified to devote their lives to inflicting violence on America.

What Moore doesn’t say is that Fahrenheit 911 anyway, U.S. troops take their jobs about as seriously as they do the video games they play to aid their training for active combat. One tank unit plays a CD of “let’s go motherfuckers” while running raids. By the troops’ own description, the music helps them get hyped up for bulldozing whatever is in their path. A commander talks about “winning hearts and minds” before he see his troops go out on a nighttime raid that includes pointing machine guns at innocent and terrified women while interrogating them about the men in their house. The soldiers arrest a college-age man without telling him or his family what he has been charged with.

Some of the American troops are disillusioned about their jobs and emphasize that the war is not a video game; they have seen the destruction they would be seeing before their tours began. One soldier’s letter home includes fury at George Bush for sending him into Iraq. One Marine back from active duty in Iraq is clear that he will refuse to return to Iraq on penalty of prison. These latter dissenters’ stories are compelling, and their presence and willingness to talk is encouraging, but it seems clear even to Moore’s hopeful eye that they are the minority.

In the end, this reviewer found Fahrenheit 911 less compelling. Moore’s last, “Bowling for Columbine,” even though the subject here is of much deeper concern to MIM. “Bowling for Columbine” had its problems—summed up in Moore’s insistence that America is a great country in need of fixing, rather than a rotten society living at the expense of the international proletariat. But because its emphasis was on the contradictions within the white American nation, it was easier for Moore to build a progressive analysis. He focused on the tremendous violence perpetrated by the U.S. military as the real violence in this society, as opposed to the video game and rock music violence conservatives went all out to censor after the Columbine High School shootings.

With “Fahrenheit 911” Moore is in over his head dealing with the principal contradiction of his society, the war against the people of Iraq, and the Third World countries it dominates economically and militarily — and his analysis never goes deeper than that of the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. As in “Bowling for Columbine,” Moore emphasizes that he loves America and that it is a great country. While the Bush Administration is on fixing what is wrong with this country, which to his mind is embodied by the Bush clique. All Moore wants people to do after seeing the film is get out the vote.(3)

The film ends up feeling pretty flabby, and the president of the United States is, after the 9/11 attacks, Bush’s supposedly personastranglehold on U.S. military in foreign policy is so not the point. Moore would have us believe that the reasons terrorists attacked America are all wrapped up in the Bush family’s business and personal connections with the Saudi royal and bin Laden families. He even suggests that since Saudi control 7% of the investment in some American stock exchange, they run the U.S. government. This is where Moore’s America-first bias is most cringeworthy, and—aside from justifying racial profiling—it keeps one from seeing things as they really are.

We don’t deny the connections between the American government and the Saudi ruling clique, but Moore has the relationship bass-ackwards. The United States has the most leverage. After all, it is the United States that owns the position to American support—support that comes with some pretty tight strings attached. Furthermore, all those harping about the Saudi regime being soft on bin Laden would do well to recall that the CIA gave bin Laden the training and start-up funds he later used to prepare the Saudis and others.

Moore favorably refers to a $1 trillion lawsuit brought by relatives of 9/11 victims against the Saudi royal family; the Bush administration opposes this lawsuit. As what happened for those Americans unwilling to stomach that their own political role in selecting their leaders such as Bush is at the root. Americans must learn to think about what some of their government leaders gained from 911 and what unnecessary capitalist risks they are willing to take that guarantee another one.

Thus, despite Moore’s emotional appeal that young American men and women not be sent to kill and die for needless causes, Moore’s America-first sentiments betray him. He may be playing a different tune than Bush, but he’s beating the war drums just the same. Moore also argues that the Bushes’ heavy involvement with big oil (and Cheney’s with Halliburton) are the roots of the war in Iraq. Of course there is truth here, as we see Bush speaking at a white tie event: “Some call me ‘the Dick’ my misadventures don’t bother me, and I’m glad you got a big laugh, but Moore misses its point. It’s not that the country shouldn’t be fooled into re-electing Bush to a point off the war. Moore is in the right: we’re not close to half the country already anyway, it’s that people need to quit being fooled by the falsehood that America-first can prevent terrorism.

As MIM wrote on 9/11/2001: “The fact that there are so many possible threats in the world is something that should tell the leaders of the United States that problems have reached well- beyond the point where they can be managed by keeping track of various peoples and groups. U.S. leaders have failed miserably with their arrogant superpower attitude that denies the simple fact that this movement is not one with people who want to kill almost anyone with high-tech weapons....

“The U.S. people must also learn their lesson.... While the last presidential election hinged on Monica Lewinsky and George Bush’s supposed amiability as someone ‘to like,” the U.S. Government set up a grinding war against peoples all over the world. The U.S. people have treated politics as a joke, the whole time that multi-billion dollar U.S.-sponsored wars are going on all around the world and people starve to death in eight world. The U.S.-sponsored wars are going on all around the world and people starve to death in eight

figurine annually. ... It is precisely the people of the United States who as part of the world’s superpower must be most restless in the pursuit of global peace, and not get sidetracked with comfortable and arrogant attitudes.”(4)

Notes:
2. http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/civilid
5. MIM Notes 271, 1 Dec 2002.
Starting a study group in Kentucky

I just got your first MIM Notes this week. I had over 120 guys read them. I took my own funds and ran copies for each of them in the dorm. Now I am the head dorm leader of the first ever low key revolutionary group here. So I need for you to mail me study group materials and information on forming the group the right way.

As to the censorship here, we can get study group materials sent to us without the education department’s approval. You have comrades here who will go to war and work for you every step of the way! We will not harm any staff by putting hands on them. No! We will do war in the District Court, and with letters and phone calls. This is the war we are talking about. War! War! War! and repeat 4-ever.

— a Kentucky prisoner 13 May, 2004

MIM responds: Want to get your own study group going? Write to MIM for a program, funded by donations of money, stamps and books. And revolutionary literature to study from our Books for Prisoners program. Non-prisoners should take inspiration from this prisoner in Kentucky and send MIM donations of money, stamps and books to pass on to prisoners in KY and elsewhere, hungry for revolutionary literature to study.

Sex slaves in AZ

In the news, two prisoners at Buckeye, AZ took two guards hostage. What’s not in the news are pleas from prisoners about the horror of prisoner rape and sexual slavery there. Nothing is done to stop it. Society pretends these acts of violence don’t happen. Crimes — often perpetrated by hostages against anyone perceived to be homosexual, transsexual, young or vulnerable — are ignored.

Authorities should consider the effects of such rampant threats against violence where there is no chance for escape. The horrors increase and continue to ensnare many lives. No protective custody is given even when proof is shown of the abuse. Due to AIDS and hepatitis-C those who are raped in the prison rape and sex trade are often given a death sentence no matter what their court-ordered sentence. These prisoners live with depression, loss of self-esteem and perpetual terror.

A footnote: The guard who was released at ASPC-Lewis in Buckeye commended the administration for not attacking the prisoners holding her. She was released after officials guaranteed the two men would be transferred out of Arizona to another state.

— an Arizona prisoner, 18 April, 2004

California Black prisoners on lockdown

Once again in this prison the Black prisoners are on lockdown status for no program. The pigs claim to have received word that one of their staff was in danger of being attacked. Many of us here think that our captors are using this excuse to retaliate on the Black prisoners. Last time this happened the Black prisoners were on lockdown for months. And this time just like last time a few Black prisoners were sent to ad-seg because the pigs claim those prisoners are “shot callers” and will incite violence. Whenever these pigs want to retaliate on the Black prisoners for any reason these pigs can use the excuse of a kite being “found” and can say that one of their staff might be in danger. None of us prisoners have any way of verifying if these threats are true or not so we just have to ride out the lockdowns.

— a California prisoner at Susansville, May 2004

I’m writing to inform you about the situation here at Corcoran prison with this so called state of emergency lockdown. This place has been slammed for over 90 days for nothing. All prisons from Pelican Bay to Calipatria level 4 are on lockdown. Correction Officers are scared of all Black inmates. It’s a lot of Black people being stereotyped by the staff here. Staff believe every Black inmate is a gang banger. It all started with an inmate coming out of the visiting area back and February this year on B yard. A Black man had a conflict with a Corrections Officer (CO). Administration wants to lock down everything that is Black on A, B, and C yards. This particular incident is the first of the new year between an inmate and CO here at Corcoran.

I would like to know why didn’t we hear anything about Corcoran in the news media? It’s a state of emergency. Does Arnold Schwarzenegger know that all Blacks are being denied programs here, including visits, phone calls, canteen, yard time, etc. All Blacks have to be handcuffed coming out of the cell for a shower or a meal.

— a California prisoner, May 2004

AZ Medical deaths

Two nurses at a juvenile jail are now charged with murder because they skipped exams and falsified medical records on a seventeen year old who spent his last days in agony lying on a concrete bed. He died of a burst appendix. The women face charges of third degree murder and aggravated manslaughter of a child.

A sixty-two-year-old man who cannot move without a wheelchair due to epilepsy, arthritis, spinal and nerve damage and stroke-related problems is ordered to walk to the cell door to be cuffed with hands behind him. Upon his refusal, due to his condition, he’s zapped with a large gun, gassed with pepper spray and pepper sprayed in his eyes. Is this necessary?

—an Arizona prisoner, 18 April, 2004

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

MO prisoner weighs in on Ad Seg

I am an inmate here at Jefferson Correctional Center. I have been in prison for two years now and I have been truly done in. I have a 10 year sentence and I am certified as a Dangerous Offender by the State of Missouri.

Prisoners are allowed ten minute phone calls and showers every day, two to two-and-a-half hours of recreation a day. Ad Seg has three hours of recreation a week and three showers with no phone calls. We have written letters to the Attorney General, Governor Bob Holden and the Director of the MDOC for change but we get nowhere. We file grievances but they take up to 30 days to six months to get a response. The parole board refuses to release people from prison here and we have a dangerous problem on our hands.

I am a soldier-warrior who will not break or bend for these people. The reprimals are harmful to us. If they see you kiss your wife/girlfriend too much you can get a violation and lose your visits for 12 months.

The state censors certain books, and reading material in this prison system. The housing units have no group dining or recreation. If there are six people or more in a group they take you out to the hole for a violation. The control units are at Jefferson City, Licking, Bonne Terre, Charleston, Cameron and Potosi. The controlled movement and 22-hour lock downs are pitiful.

—a Missouri prisoner, 28 May 2004

Repression at Salinas Valley State Prison

I am writing to let the rest of our fellow comrades and the world know about what’s really going on here at Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP). There is a new collect call billing system set up and put into effect early this year by CDC and MCI. This agreement between MCI and CDC strictly mandates that anyone who wishes to receive collect calls from inmates currently confined in any of CDC prisons must have an approved MCI phone carrier. For instance, if I choose to make a collect call to someone, they must first be currently signed to MCI or an approved affiliate. Anyone who is not signed on with MCI or an affiliate will have their collect calls that come from inside CDC’s prisons completely blocked.

By implementing these new phone regulations on us, CDC and MCI have successfully removed one of the only practical and affordable means for us to keep close contact and communication with our loved ones, friends, etc. Also, our families and friends should not be forced to inconvenience themselves into switching entire phone carriers, which by the way are not financially reachable to all of the inmates loved ones. This is not only unfair and unjust, but it is abuse of power and monopolization on behalf of CDC and MCI.

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

MIM seeks to build public opinion against America’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 under those cases in which prisoners really did do something wrong by proletarian standards.
I recently filed a 602 complaint form on the situation. The appeals coordinator replied citing the Title 15 California Code of Regulations 3084.2 (c), place of filing. The appeals coordinator is trying to discourage me from continuing to take any further action by basically stating that I have failed to file my complaint at the first and formal level. This is false! The appeal coordinator is the first and formal level as far as this issue is concerned. The appeals coordinator also stated that I exceeded a 15 working days time limit, which is also untrue since this action did not have an adverse effect on me until I attempted to make a formal appeal. It is only by legal ones only to discover that their phone numbers had been blocked. This appeal was made within 15 days of the phone call. I also have a 602 form going against the mail room here at SVSP. All of the inmate population mail has been delivered to me anywhere from 15 days to over 30 days from the postdate. This is totally unacceptable. Not only have I personally had mail delivery to me over 30 days late, but in some instances not at all. I am still waiting for mail over a month and a half old. I presume it has either been lost of intentionally disposed of without my approval. I presume that it might be retaliation for the grievance I have filed. These actions do not discourage me but only make my desire to see justice done that much stronger.

— a California prisoner, July 2004

**Prisoners stuck with gang affiliation**

At this present time I’m battling these tyrants on paper (inmate appeal 602) to correct my status, that labels me a gang member. I’ve been informing prison officials for the past 3 years that I’ve disconnected ties with that lifestyle. However, these devs continue to enforce that label over my head. I submitted a grievance in to correct the gang status (87th Crp) which is fictitious. I never been a member of a gang. I am non-affiliated. However, my grievance was denied based on my probation report, and being housed with a gang member. The report was written 7 years ago, so that’s insignificant because a person can change for the betterment but these devs hate that fact.

In September 2003 my cell was searched by the investigation staff (IGI) finding nothing indicating that I was gang affiliated. So therefore, these devs have no solid grounds to continue that gang status. After my appeal was denied I forwarded it to Sacramento appeals. The appeal came back to me tampered with. My appeal attachments were missing, and the appeal was denied. I resubmitted an appeal and have not received a response. I have not participated in any gang activities since I’ve been incarcerated, I have no tattoos linking me to the gang they’re accusing me of being with. I’m not housed in a cell with a gang member, I am a Muslim, there’s no informant information linking me to a gang. In fact I have Crips members saying I’m not affiliated, and staff are aware that I’m not affiliated.

— a California prisoner, May 2004

**MIM adds:** Being labeled a gang member is important in California prisons because this dictates the where a prisoner is housed. Labeled gang members are placed in higher security institutions, with fewer services, and less likelihood for parole. The methods for labeling prisoners gang members are arbitrary at best, using information about who a prisoner speaks to, the prisoner’s nationalities, and “confidential evidence” of informants looking for a way to get a few more privileges for themselves. Prison officials routinely deny appeals about gang status regardless of the evidence.

**Censorship in California prisons**

**Afraid to receive MIM Notes**

Thank you very much for your introductory news letter. I find the information very informative, straight forward, with words of wisdom. However, under my present oppression such information could be misinterpreted to define a contrary meaning.

Due to the Anti-Terrorist Act misinterpreted, censorship would jeopardize my United States Fourth Amendment Rights, solely based on the contents therein censored mail.

I am attacking the validity of my conviction based on the laws intact. I have lost my freedom, with invasion of my privacy (under the ruse of a security need), and therefore do not wish to provide the California Department of Corrections, nor associated oppressors with any additional fuel to suggest my involvement with any particular religion, nor sect. I therefore respectfully request that my name be removed from your mailing list.

— a prisoner in California, July 2004

**MIM responds:** The letters below demonstrate that this prisoner’s fear of censorship is well placed. And in fact many of MIM’s comrades behind bars are placed in solitary confinement as punishment for their activism behind the bars. This is a clear example of the lack of freedom of speech for groups like MIM, which are censored for talking about the horrors of imperialism. And it demonstrates the real danger prisoners face when they try to get prisons to abide by their own laws and regulations.

**Corcoran prison censors MIM Notes**

As you can see by the enclosed Department of Corrections form depicting infringement of 1st amendment rights, my MIM Notes is being censored.

— California prisoner at Corcoran SATF, June 2004

Upon reconsideration I discovered the censorship flag now being on a recent newsletter and the MIM notes you sent this way. I have appealed reply which stated: “MIM provides correspondence between prisoners and is not allowed.” I challenged on grounds that MIM poses no security threat and that ban on MIM attempted to encompass all aspects of MIM political ideology by using alleged threat by prisoner correspondence. Turns out Darrel G. Adam is still the Warden here.

— a prisoner at Corcoran, May 2004

**MIM adds:** The official “notification of disapproval” form forwarded to us by the prisoner above justified the censorship because MIM Notes is revolutionary. This is in violation of existing regulations governing censorship but the prison has yet to respond to MIM’s letter on this topic sent in February of this year. We encourage our readers to send protest letters to: Warden Adams, PO Box 5248, Corcoran, CA 93212. Send a copy of your letter to MIM Notes.

**MIM Theory on Culture censored**

The MT 13 theory journal (on Culture and Revolution) that you sent did not make cut because MIM is revolutionary. This demonstrates that this prisoner’s fear of censorship is well placed. And in fact many of MIM’s comrades behind bars are placed in solitary confinement as punishment for their activism behind the bars. This is a clear example of the lack of freedom of speech for groups like MIM, which are censored for talking about the horrors of imperialism. And it demonstrates the real danger prisoners face when they try to get prisons to abide by their own laws and regulations.

**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 congregating, 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 physical and mental problems for prisoners.**

Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Send a copy of this article and information on three strike laws.

**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 a copy of this article and information on three strike laws.

**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 supposed “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 situation where freedom is imprisoned.

Notes:
2. Ibid., 1992 report.
4. Figure of 51.2 percent for state prisoners there for non-violent offenses. Abstract of the United States 1993, p. 211.
Un receso para Bush: el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU legitima la guerra contra Irak

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

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

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

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

¿Qué es el MIM?

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

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