

MIM Notes



December 2004, N° 311

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Crackers get their man *It's lifestyle politics, stupid*

Amerikan militarism turns Iraq into a bloody mess

'FREE' MEDIA LOOKS THE OTHER WAY

By MC12

In a report on a news conference held by Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the U.S. military's Joint Chiefs of Staff, Reuters quoted him as saying that "hundreds and hundreds of insurgents" killed or captured in Fallujah, but "hardly any, if any, civilian casualties so far."(1)

In a report from an "embedded" reporter in Fallujah, the Washington Post quoted an Amerikan sergeant as saying, "It's a great thing blowing stuff up" and pointing to a 155mm round for his cannon. "Three of these and I can take out a whole building. As long as no civilians are out there, we're doing all right."(2)

Surely an independent media would point out such obvious lies. Instead, Reuters went on to talk about wounded Amerikan troops, and the Post went on to talk about how cool the cannon was. In fact, neither of these reports mentioned

any civilian deaths, even though there are known to be many.

Civilian deaths are reported here and there, but they are not part of the main narrative of the Amerikan press. In a separate story we have a quote from a man saying "I saw a man carrying my son Mustafa, who is 14 months old. He was bleeding, with his left leg amputated, and then I looked for my wife and found her wounded with multiple fractures in the arms and legs. I used to sell sheep in Fallujah, and now I am a jobless man staying in hospital with a handicapped child and dying wife." The Iraqi Red Crescent spokesperson is quoted as saying, "There's no medicine, no water, no electricity," and describing a situation where "a woman died after miscarrying in a refugee camp where no doctor was present. A boy died of a snake bite because there was no antidote available. A clinic used as an emergency hospital



was hit by a bomb, killing many doctors, nurses and patients, medical staff said."(3)

A Scottish newspaper reported: "Fallujah residents today claimed US jets had destroyed a clinic that had been
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NO-ALTERNATIVE DEMS CODDLE BACKWARDS VOTERS, SHARE POWER WITH WAR- MONGERS

The nature of the Bu\$h victory demonstrates some very clear points about the united States. Our candidate "none of the above" has to make a concession speech for the nation commonly known as whites in the united States; even though our candidate won over 50 million votes from among registered voters who number 173.6 million.(1) 57% of whites voted for Bu\$h. More than 89% of Blacks, 55% of Hispanics and 59% of Asians voted against Bush and large numbers stayed home with us.(2)

Something that MIM has never done is claim that it has majority support in Amerika. If we were like former president Richard Nixon, we would say we are the "silent majority," because generally the majority does not vote except in presidential elections and candidates like Bu\$h brag about winning with 48% of 55% of the population voting as in 2000 or maybe something like 51% of 59% this time.

Something that this election reveals and we've said before is that reactionary white politics does have reserves in Amerika. In 2002, there were just under 193 million people eligible to vote in the united States.(3) About another 18 million people the U.S. Census found but can't vote because they're not citizens. The imperialists must have really turned up their game to register 173.6 million and leaving only about 20 million not registered but eligible. It appears 50 million just registered in the last two years.

The smoking gun in our observation on the reactionary nature of Amerika is that voter turnout did increase from the year 2000. They're at 114 million up from 105 million in 2000, and not all the votes are counted yet, so we may get as high as 120 million.(4) Nonetheless, Bu\$h won by a bigger margin than in 2000. So though

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The fascists captured Comrade Gonzalo, but Marxism-Leninism-Maoism Gonzalo Thought is free!

On September 12, 1992, fascist Peruvian police captured the greatest revolutionary of our hemisphere, Comrade Gonzalo, the leader of the PCP (Communist Party of Peru). The alleged appearance of Comrade Gonzalo in a Peru courtroom November 5 2004 is a bittersweet reminder of the twists and turns of revolutionary struggle in Peru.

Beloved by the people of Peru,

President Gonzalo was not perynally able to bring Peru a happy ending in its story of revolution. It remains up to the masses of Peru to bring the reality of revolution into being. The study of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism-Gonzalo Thought is essential for revolution in all of Latin America.

When the fascists arrested Gonzalo, conservative estimates put the

percentage of Peru under PCP control at between 25 and 40 percent.(1) By that time, the PCP had coordinated far more armed struggle than Fidel Castro ever had. In a handful of small battles, Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba. The PCP showed how a thorough revolution could sweep Latin America under more difficult conditions.

Though the PCP did not overthrow the fascist regime before the capture of Gonzalo, the success it did have was still the greatest revolutionary success in the hemisphere since World War II. MIM has spoken with academics who cannot imagine what sustained revolution in Peru for 12 years. There is no theory for it in the academic world, but in Marxism-Leninism-Maoism-Gonzalo Thought we

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Letters

Ex-soldier sees the light

I'm a 39 year old First Nations combat vet who has finally seen the light. I grew up in Occupied First Nations land surrounded by poverty, alcoholism, and racism. As a young person it was made clear to me that the only way to escape was to join the military and make a career of it. So, at 17 I joined the military of the country that had tried so hard to destroy my people, just so I might escape. Over a 12 year career I participated in many conflicts against people who were just like my people. I fought and killed people who refused to give in to the demands of the Amerikan empire. I saw more poverty than I had ever known yet these people still resisted. Year after year all over the world I saw many people who were just like my people trying to survive yet still resisting. I related to the resistors more than the empire I served. I felt I was betraying my people and myself. I was the Native scout that was used against other Natives. I remember talking to my clan mother about the guilt and shame I felt. She suggested I leave the military and find a way to help the people not just here but all over the world. I tried to find a philosophy that matched what I thought was the correct path in life. After trial and error, I finally found Maoism. The only answer to the problems of the world is through truly International efforts to bring down the system of oppression that destroys people, cultures, and the earth:

the system of capitalism.

—First Nations veteran

Dump the spectating, get off your asses

Dear MIM:

Those were some good comments about the idiotic phenomenon of commercial spectator sports [our article in the last MIM Notes on the shooting death of a Boston Red Sox fan].

The very term "spectator sports" seems like an oxymoron. It's really quite pathetic to see an entire region of the United States get worked up into a frenzy over the supposed virtues of its local team—only to see that team repay the devotion by pulling up stakes and moving to Albuquerque for an extra two bucks per year. That stuff is also very heavily subsidized by local and state governments, which constantly find themselves shelling out for a new stadium in order to keep the monopoly capitalist in town. They should tell the damn team to get lost and instead use some of their funds to build more parks and athletic facilities for the people, who wouldn't have so much time for raising hell after large commercial productions if they took part in sports themselves. Amerikkkans need to put down the remote control and get off their asses anyway.

—HC123

Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

MIM Notes

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

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

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What is 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.

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.

A few reflections on Yasser Arafat's death MIM looks back at past statements on the Palestinian leader

By MC12
10 November 2004

The first substantive comment on Arafat that we can find MIM making is from MIM Notes 23, on April 28, 1986:

"MIM would like to ask various long-standing cheerleaders of the PLO: who are they waving the flag for now? Nothing could cause greater disorientation than hitching one's cart whole-heartedly to this opportunist-led organization. Arafat has done everything short of taking an Israeli salary and appears to realize his value to Israel and the United States as a potential ally relative to more pro-Soviet leaders in the PLO. He is left to holding out for the best deal until the day he gets one or is assassinated by impatient Israelis. While the PLO's cause deserves support, its factionalization and opportunism points up that it was not always the perfect vehicle of revolutionary nationalism it was cracked up to be by its tag-along supporters. The Palestinian people deserve better leadership."

The most recent, in response to a letter about Nelson Mandela and Yasser Arafat from a Texas prisoner, was from MIM Notes 267, on October 1 of this year. We said:

"Fifteen years ago, the movements they [Mandela and Arafat] led—the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the African National Congress (ANC), along with their allied movements in Nicaragua

and El Salvador and a few others—represented to some people the cutting edge of anti-imperialism and the future of socialist movements. Those of us who disagreed at the time—including MIM—were clearly vindicated in the 1990s when all of these organizations gave up the revolutionary cause for good and went over into negotiated capitulation whole hog. To MIM, this history holds valuable lessons, including two major ones. First, national liberation from imperialism without a socialist program and leadership leads to neocolonialism. This we already knew, but these cases underscored it. Second, national liberation movements tied too heavily to external great-power support—in this case the social-imperialist ex-USSR—are not independently sustainable. Whatever was revolutionary in the

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Armored personnel carriers show up at Los Angeles demo

Los Angeles,
9 November, 2004

MIM handed out about 100 copies of MIM Notes to a rush hour demonstration to protest the renewed Amerikan attack on Fallujah. The ANSWER Coalition, which called the demo at the Westwood Federal Building, claimed a crowd of a few hundred took part.

For the most part, the LA organizers did a better job of keeping the focus on Iraq than did the organizers of the San Francisco demonstration on the same night (see accompanying article). The better signs were homemade—calling for an end to the “illegal occupation” and for support for the “brave fighters” in Iraq. MIM is all in favor of reminding the Amerikan people of the lesson the Iraqis are giving the u.s. military every day: technology alone will never subdue the will of a people to fight off an occupier. Amerika has many times the population of Iraq, and so can choose to keep throwing soldiers at the problem, but the Iraqis will exact their price for the suffering the u.s. inflicts.

The Westwood demonstration had its share of chauvinism too. One official ANSWER sign we saw called for equal rights for the lesbian/gay/bi/trans people—discrimination is really not an issue to put up alongside the rights of Iraqi people to survival. And the activist leading chants took a lengthy detour into parasitism when he started calling for money for jobs, healthcare, and unions of all things, instead of for war. The bit about the unions made us laugh the hardest—as if now funding labor bureaucrats, who are paid out of the superprofits Amerika sucks out of the Third World, is supposed to be this great argument against imperialist expansionism!

After MIM left, two armored vehicles—apparently Marine APCs—showed up on Wilshire Blvd. in front of the demonstration. We don't know why they were there, or if their presence had anything to do with the demonstration, but one activist reported that a few of the soldiers gave the demonstrators a thumbs up and seemed friendly, then they drove off.

It's no secret that the military ranks are disproportionately filled with oppressed nationality youth. MIM also notes that the u.s. troops are becoming discouraged at the combination of their own lengthening tours and the seeming inevitability of a draft, the fact that the Amerikan government and military leaders obviously either didn't know what to expect in Iraq or lied about it, and most importantly the fierce resistance of the Iraqi people. We do not target our recruiting efforts at the military, but we welcome any disaffected military members to get in touch and use our press as a platform for voicing your new-found anti-imperialist views.

Sources: www.boingboing.net;
www.la.indymedia.org.

ANSWER suckers MIM, RAIL and others into oinkfest *Slaughter in Iraq is the real issue*

San Francisco
9 November, 2004

International ANSWER sponsored an emergency rally to protest the u.s. invasion of Fallujah, Iraq, which brought out thousands of supporters. So far, the news reports are saying scores of civilians have been killed in the first two days of the attack. These numbers are sure to increase as the united States has bombed medical facilities in Fallujah and reportedly arrested and detained medical staff. (1) One speaker at the rally told the story of a man who watched his child die from wounds caused by an explosion because he knew if he brought her to the hospital she would be killed. This is all within the context of the recent estimate of over 100,000 Iraqi deaths, making violence the leading cause of death in Iraq these days. (2)

With this imperialist slaughter being conducted by the u.s. military, we rally condemn the leadership (International ANSWER and associates) that ended up leading a march to all of the downtown hotels to support workers that are striking for a contract. ANSWER baited those who are rightly outraged by the slaughter in Fallujah to join what became a rally for guaranteed wealth for the relatively wealthy (see below). Judging by the enthusiastic chants (“What do we want?

Contracts!”), the crowd was more excited about the hotel struggle than the war on Iraq. However, the hotel strikers have not been able to rally a crowd big enough to block Market Street in downtown San Francisco as we did this night. The loud chanting at the hotels may have happened because it was a break from the monotonous march and chant routine and not an indication that the crowd thought the hotel strike was a more important cause. While clearly in the minority, MIM and RAIL were not the only ones that seemed uninterested during the hotel stops.

The hotel workers make at least \$8.00 an hour, which at 40 hours a week for 50 weeks a year is \$16,000 per year not including benefits. (3) This puts the lowest paid hotel worker in the top 12% of the richest people in the world. (4) The hotel workers have legitimate complaints regarding questions of job security and health care, both of which would be guaranteed under socialism. But these are questions that we can deal with after the rest of the world has food, shelter and clean water and certainly after we put an end to mass genocide in Iraq, Palestine and elsewhere around the globe. Not only are these issues more pressing, but it is only the struggle of those who have nothing to lose that will lead

us to a peaceful and equitable future.

Of course, the people leading the rally argued that the money being spent on war could better go to health care and fat contracts for workers in the united States. On the contrary, the demands of the hotel workers in the current economy amount to calling for more imperialist exploitation to pay them off, in other words more slaughter of Third World people. It is the chauvinism of Amerikans that allows them to think that the billions of dollars spent on war was wealth that rightfully belongs to them in the first place. Until International ANSWER and 90% of the anti-war movement recognize the economic realities of imperialism, the struggles of the oppressed will continue to be used as window dressing for the struggle of the oppressors and oppressor wannabes. (5)

Notes:

1. Flashpoints news radio. 8 November 2004.
2. 100,000 Iraqi civilians dead, says study. The Guardian. 29 October 2004.
3. indybay.org/labor/
4. www.globalrichlist.com
5. for MIM's analysis of the economic realities of imperialism check out “Imperialism and its Class Structure in 1997”

U.S. prison population keeps climbing

By MC12

Even though the official crime rate is still lower than it was in the 1990s, the number of prisoners continues to increase, because harsher sentencing rules introduced in previous years reduced the number of people leaving prison. The latest report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics shows that the mean time served for current prisoners increased from 23 months in 1995 to 30 months in 2002. So even with a slower rate of prisoners coming in, the population increases because fewer people are leaving.

The total number of prisoners in state, federal, and local custody was 2,085,620 at the end of 2003, up 2.6% over the previous year. The annual average rate of growth from 1995 to 2003 was 3.5%. If the number of prisoners keeps increasing at a 3.5% annual rate, it will reach 3 million in 2014 and 4 million in 2022. If it grows at the slower rate of last year alone, it will reach 3 million in 2018.

As the population also grows, it's important to look at the imprisonment rate, or the number of people out of every 100,000 that is in prison. That's the number that shows how much the prison craze is impacting the internal Black and Latino colonies by removing whole segments of the productive population. The overall imprisonment rate increased from 601 per 100,000 population in 1995 to 701 in 2002, and 714 in 2003. The rate for Black men, however, was 3,405, compared with 1,231 for Latino men and 465 for White men. At the most extreme, the rate reached 9,262—or 9.3%—for Black men ages 25-29. At that age, Black men are 8.5-times more likely to be in

prison than White men. Overall, the prison population in 2003 was 44% Black and 19% Latino.

One other number to watch is the number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which increased 12% from 2002 to 2003. More importantly, that number has increased by 186% from 1995 to 2003 (8,177 to 23,514). That shows the continuing reach and

repressive capacity of the police-state border authorities, which are charged with regulating the flow of labor from the oppressed nations in the U.S.A.

The Amerikan injustice system and its prison operations are fundamental aspects of the national oppression of Amerika's internal colonies, and increasingly of non-U.S. citizens as well. The giant prison industry is also a source of construction projects and employment for the labor

aristocracy, especially in white rural areas where many prisoners are located. To get involved with MIM's anti-prison agitation—against censorship, control units, and the imperialists' death penalty—visit <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>.

Source: "Prisoners in 2003" (NCJ 205335). See: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/p03.htm>

A few reflections on Yasser Arafat's death MIM looks back at past statements on the Palestinian leader

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programs of these movements was quickly sacrificed when they could no longer leverage Soviet support against the U.S. empire. When the ex-USSR collapsed, they had no one to lean on, so they quickly cut the best deals they could with imperialism, and declared victory. Before the collapse of the ex-USSR, Arafat and Mandela were more likely to end up in the Soviet camp. That was how they played their hands. Now, to MIM that is not as big a difference as it is to some others, because we understand that the Soviet Union had become social-imperialist after the development of state capitalism in the 1950s. So this was a choice between imperialist powers. It is not inherently wrong to play one imperialist power off another, but revolutionary movements need to maintain their independence and self-sufficiency in such situations (look at formerly-Soviet-dependent Cuba, too). These guys were the two leaders supposedly representing the most visible unresolved colonial legacies post- WWII. These cases posed

international political problems for imperialism in the neocolonial era, because they undermined the imperialist propaganda that the current era is "post-colonial," the "former" imperialists having given up their colonies out of their own largesse or political savvy. So maybe it is fitting (from the imperialist's perspective) that when these two guys finally gave it up, they got the Nobel Prize. The revolutionary aspirations of the people they represented were a major thorn in the side of imperialism. Which brings us to your final question: why do the masses put up with this? On that we urge you to take a longer view. In the long run, the masses do not put up with this. Developing revolutionary organizations and leaders takes time and requires capitalizing on the historical moment. Already in both Palestine and Azania (South Africa) there are growing mass movements which see Arafat and Mandela/Mbeki for what they are: imperialist running dogs. You won't catch imperialist mouthpieces reporting on these

movements though; the myths they've built up around Arafat and Mandela are important propaganda."

We need to be clear about neocolonial nature of Arafat's leadership, but that doesn't mean we side with those liberal Zionists like the New York Times who blame Arafat for "rejecting peace" when he refused to accept the force-feeding U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak attempted to give him at Camp David in 2000. As we said in MIM Notes 254, March 15 2002, "When Yasser Arafat rejected the plan, he was falsely accused of choosing war over peace." Rejecting that deal — which would have formalized the dismemberment of the existing paltry Palestinian territory, leaving Israel in control over its borders, water, and maintaining Jewish settlements all over the West Bank — was one of the better things Arafat did in the last 20 years, though it seems to have been only because of pressure from the Palestinian masses that he was compelled to reject it.

Marxism-Leninism-Maoism Gonzalo Thought is free!

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have an answer of how to make revolution in much of Latin America.

MIM never undertakes to answer a question without a thorough investigation. We can say we do not know about the man who appeared November 5 2004 in that Peru courtroom. It is the job of the Peruvian revolutionaries and masses to know who that was and what the struggle is concerning him in the details. It would be wrong for MIM to read what the Associated Press reporter has to say about it and take it literally and then draw MIM's own conclusion. That's why MIM describes itself as based in imperialist countries and their internal semi-colonies.

As MIM has explained before in its U.S. tactics for working "at arm's length," the enemy's strength and weakness is the individual approach. The enemy does police work on the individual, but we of the larger class, the exploited proletariat with allies in the exploited peasantry have a different approach.

So while MIM does not know what happened November 5 in Peru, what we do know is that the approach described in Comrade Gonzalo's books is correct. The writings of Comrade Gonzalo are based not just on valuable and bloody struggle in Peru but also the experience of China.

Comrade Gonzalo led 12 years of the most successful People's War in Latin America. Now it is also 12 years since the arrest of Gonzalo, but official unemployment in Peru is 10.1% according to the Miami Herald and expected to increase in the coming year.(2) According to BBC, a World Food Program "study found that up to 91% of children under age five in Puno were suffering from malnutrition. The area also has been struck by drought and floods.

"More than half of Peru's population live . . . below the poverty line and some 6.5 million people, 25% of the population, are classified as extremely poor, living on an income of less than \$1 per day."(3)

The reactionaries in Peru strive to demoralize us by making us remember the capture of the individual Gonzalo. Yet, we will direct the people internationally to remember that Peru did not accomplish anything under capitalism and semi-feudalism these past 12 years.

The excuses are gone. It used to be the excuse that Peru was too social-democratic, so it found new u.s. lackey leaders. Then the excuse was that Comrade Gonzalo was nearly bringing down the regime. So they captured Gonzalo. Then the excuse became that the regime was corrupt and tied up with narco-trafficking. So they imprisoned Montesinos and exiled Fujimori.

What we must learn is that each time there is a different excuse, but the underlying problem is always the same. While capitalism may be a "success" for whites in the united States and some other imperialist countries, most countries in the world share Peru's fate. They are partners with Washington but make no

progress in the supposedly successful capitalist system, which backs semi-feudalism in Peru. While Uncle Sam wars on the people of Iraq for their resources and Americans get richer on oil and military contracts, the people of Peru and most countries in the world suffer relentless oppression and exploitation. The wealthy Amerikan "success" stories are only 294 million people, while the rest of the world is over 6 billion people opposing u.s. imperialism. It's been 12 years since the capture of Gonzalo and the people of Peru know that capitalism is still a failure for them, just as it is for most of the world's people.

Notes:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/mn.php?issue=070>

2. http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/special_packages/business_monday/9949073.htm?1c

3. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/3757150.stm>

Estimates of war dead in Iraq: 100,000 and counting

By MC12

A completely accurate count of war dead in Iraq is impossible. Even if you could count up all the reports of deaths made to the press and hospitals, as the iraqbodycount.org site tries to do, you miss many, as devastated families may sometimes be forced to bury loved-ones in the garden—if they can—before they flee the destruction of Amerikan bombardment.

And we don't need to know the exact number of dead to know that we oppose this and all other imperialist wars of aggression. However, it is important to get a sense of the magnitude of the death and destruction, for purposes of public education and also for making strategic decisions. To that end, MIM welcomes the recent report in the journal *The Lancet*, the journal of the British Medical Association, which attempted a scientific assessment of mortality in Iraq before and after the most recent Amerikan invasion.

Researchers led by people at Johns Hopkins University selected a random

sample of 33 residential locations in the country, and interviewed residents of a cluster of 30 households around each location. They asked people to list the births and deaths that occurred within each household, by date, for a period before and after the invasion. Using probability theory, if the population interviewed is a random sample, then the mortality rates from before and after the invasion can be extrapolated to the whole population, with a measurable likelihood that the estimates are correct.

They used Arabic-speaking medical doctors to conduct the interviews, and had a very high cooperation rate among the residents they interviewed. They also requested death certificates for a small number of cases to see if many had gone unreported. They had to make some adjustments from perfect randomness, to cut down on travel time and expenses, and because some areas were too dangerous to go, but they got pretty close, and did the best job we've seen under the current circumstances.

In 15 out of the 33 sites they visited, the researchers encountered households that had experienced at least one violent death, the majority of them noncombatants.

Their survey locations included one area of extreme violence in Fallujah, which heavily influenced the results. When they exclude the Fallujah cite, they conclude with 95% confidence that the overall mortality rate in the country has increased by between 1.1-times and 2.3-times, accounting for 8,000 to 194,000 "excess" deaths, or deaths that would not have occurred at the mortality rate before the invasion. That makes the best conservative guess 98,000 excess deaths, most of them attributable to violence. That estimate is conservative because it excludes the Fallujah site, thus excluding one area where many people were killed.

A population-based survey is a good way to estimate war dead, especially in cases where the news media is restricted from moving around and their output is so controlled by the aggressor in the war.

This information puts the recent round of the Iraq war on the scale of other major Amerikan acts of aggression, and far outdistances any acts of so-called terrorism perpetrated against Amerikans.

Critics of the study either dismiss statistical methods out-of-hand or nitpick small problems in the design or result without having an alternative at hand. These critics expose themselves as apologists for the war in Iraq and supporters of the status quo.(2) MIM supports the use of statistics, even while recognizing the drawbacks in particular studies. We do not "make the perfect the enemy of the good"—especially when the alternative is just making shit up. That might work if you're trying to win a popularity contest, but not if you're trying to make revolutionary change to eradicate war, hunger and poverty.

Notes:

1. The Lancet study is available with free registration at <http://www.thelancet.com/journal>.

2. Boston Globe, 7 Nov 2004, p. D5.

Amerikan aggression in Afghanistan to blame for kidnapping of Filipino

In Afghanistan the U.S. occupation has given rise to armed struggle by the Afghan people. We now have a report below of a hostage-taking, this time Filipinos.

This particular hostage-taking is the responsibility of Uncle Sam both because the Philippines is a U.S.-puppet regime that is in the "coalition" and because U.S. violence has caused the Afghan people to strike back.

We would say there is a general difference between U.S. hostages and Third World hostages. In Iraq and Afghanistan, U.S. contractors are there to make money from the occupation—and those contracts will be so lucrative

that we can classify the contractors as exploiters profiting from the oppression of Iraqis and Afghans. In the case of Third World contractors or UN workers, the general economic position is not as clear.

There is always the risk that innocent people will be mistaken as running dogs of u.s. imperialism, but as some Filipinos have pointed out, the Filipinos run that risk till they run the u.s. lackey regime off the islands.

CPP statement on hostage-taking of Filipino UN worker in Afghanistan

November 3, 2004

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) joins the Filipino people in calling for the safe release of Filipino UN worker Angelito Nayan and other hostages currently being held in Afghanistan.

The CPP holds the US government, principally, and the Arroyo regime responsible for the fate that has befallen Nayan. The Afghan people and resistance groups have been driven to carry out such unacceptable methods of struggle by the viciousness and barbarity with which US imperialism has conducted its war of aggression against Afghanistan and suppressed the Afghan people's

freedom and human rights.

The unjust and murderous US war of aggression against Afghanistan has dealt widespread destruction and grave suffering on the Afghan people. The thickly veiled US neocolonial rule of Afghanistan has fired up the Afghan people's desire for national freedom.

The Arroyo regime is condemnable for blindly supporting US imperialism in its wars of aggression against Afghanistan and Iraq.

In the final analysis, it is its acts of servility to US imperialism that has put Angelito Nayan and other Filipinos like him in harm's way.

Amerikan militarism turns Iraq into a bloody mess

Continued from page 1...

receiving casualties after US forces seized the city's main hospital, where rebels had been hiding. Some medical staff and patients had been killed at the Popular Clinic in a central district, they added. Sami al-Jumaili, a doctor at the main hospital, said: 'There is not a single surgeon in Fallujah. We had one ambulance hit by US fire and a doctor wounded. There are scores of injured civilians in their homes who we can't move. 'A 13-year-old child just died in my arms.' Doctors said at least 15 civilians had been killed since the assault on Fallujah began.'(6)

But the products of Amerikan journalism schools blandly quote generals saying there are "hardly any, if any,

civilian casualties" without even offering the contrasting evidence.

While CNN and other media show brave-looking Amerikan troops going building to building (actually much of that footage is from training grounds), they spend a lot less time talking about the Amerikan practice of leveling parts of the city, known as "softening up the battlespace" before moving in.(4) Maybe the brave soldiers with the 155mm canons can some day run for president, talking about how their "covering fire" saved Amerikan lives.

MIM readers know Amerika is killing thousands of civilians in Iraq, having already killed hundreds of thousands through a decade of sanctions after first

round of the war in 1991, including half a million children under age 5.(5)

We also know that we can't rely on the imperialists' media to learn the truth about this and other Amerikan wars of aggression. MIM doesn't have reporters on the ground in Iraq, but we do know how to prioritize the information that we can gather, and use a political theory directed at overcoming imperialism in our strategy of building public opinion to end these wars for good.

Notes:

1. "General Says 18 U.S. Troops Killed in Falluja," Reuters, Nov. 11, 2004.

2. "Artillerymen Clear Path for the Infantry," Washington Post, November 11, 2004. p. A33.

3. "Refugees claim that civilian casualties left to die." November 11, 2004. <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,7374-1353856,00.html>.

4. "Assault on Falluja: Go kick some butt and make history, Vietnam-style, US troops urged." *The Guardian* (London), Nov. 9, 2004, p. 3.

5. "New evidence of Iraqi suffering under sanctions: U.S. blames Iraq; blocks delegation from visiting." MIM Notes 194, September 15, 1999. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/text.php?mimfile=mn194/iraq.txt>.

6. "Fierce fighting as rebels dig in against U.S. troops." *Evening Times Online*, <http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/print/news/5032337.shtml>.

Crackers get their man

Continued from page 1...

our candidate “none of the above” won more votes than Bush total, we cannot infer from that that whites are a majority progressive. If we asked people to vote for any of their choices but forced them to vote, a large portion would still vote for Bu\$h. Bush proved that he could eat into our candidate’s support and combined with the Kerry war-mongering vote, even excluding some deluded youth and oppressed nationalities, our candidate “none of the above” clearly lost among the whites, so call this a concession speech.

If we assume our candidate received 100% of the non-citizens who can’t vote (and that’s not true, because some are definitely lackeys taken from other countries as rewards for serving as puppets), the Republicrats still beat us by approximately 119 million to 93 million.

What one might think is that new voters are voting with some delusion of changing the status quo. One might think that’s why they bothered to register for the first time. That turns out to be true with over 60% of people who did not vote in 2000 voting for Kerry,(5) because Bu\$h did politicize some people and caused others to compromise themselves to vote for Kerry. However, the new-voter effect was not overwhelming, which means that we cannot put the “deluded” label on a large portion of the new voters. The new voters also came to the polls to vote against gay marriage and preserve the status quo. Meanwhile the repeat voters hardened and increased in their support for Bu\$h, going for Bu\$h 50% to 45% for Kerry according to NBC. Democrats who think getting people into the electoral horse race helps people politically obviously do not see that trend.

Voting for Bu\$h in this election is a very clear action. The president and the media pounded home their message. Sometimes we Marxists find the exploited in a condition of “false consciousness,” where the exploited ineptly pursue their own interests and simply do not know what is going on. That is not really the correct paradigm in this case when as many well-publicized wars are going on as the united States is involved in. We as Marxists cannot say simultaneously that the capitalist class is dominating the media and then also say that the whites do not know Bu\$h is carrying out a war in Iraq. We have to let go one of those assertions. Paying for the wars and then voting for Bu\$h, failing to organize demonstrations and sending children to war—these are actions that have to be distinguished from the concept of mere consciousness, unless we are to fall into a Trotskyist trap making the entire goal one’s mental state of political purity as opposed to action.

It is not just that false consciousness is blocking tens of millions from recognizing their vanguard party. Over 60 million people just took action for Bu\$h, who is a very clearly defined political quantity.

The mark of the white nationalist “left”

is that it denies that those who voted for Bu\$h and all his wars are stabbing the oppressed nationalities in the back. The white nationalist “left” makes elaborate excuses for the whites of this country—boiling down to a verbally crafted dreamstate carefully nurtured—as if everything were a matter of debate and not bombers, missiles, and tanks.

At a more local level, Alabama whites also took action, with a majority voting to keep language in the Alabama constitution that requires segregation of schools and poll taxes historically used to keep Blacks from voting. The governors and ex-governors of Alabama told the crackers it was time for change, but the Christian Coalition said changing the constitution would raise taxes—a complete falsehood and the thinnest of disguises for racism. The Christian Coalition action shows that it is not “moral values” holding together their political coalition, but in fact racism and a total lack of integrity.

Even if a recount shows that the Constitution should in fact remove the language, it won’t change the fact that a majority of whites voted to keep segregation in the Alabama constitution. The same jack-ass Chief Justice of Alabama who lost his job for illegally putting a stone tablet with the 10 Commandments in the court opposed changing the Constitution in the name of the Christians.

“There were 688,927 votes against it, and 685,508 votes for it”(6) as we write this. It’s also another reason why we have to be for a strong central government—dictatorship of the proletariat of the oppressed nations. Left to themselves, the Alabama whites would still be segregated in 2004, which is why the re-civilizing and de-parasitizing stage of the dictatorship of the proletariat of the oppressed nations is necessary for humyn harmony.

That’s not all for Alabama. The crackers also elected a Confederate activist to be the Supreme Court justice. New judge Tom Parker hands out mini-Confederate flags and associates with the League of the South.(6)

Anyone who follows that and can’t make a judgment on u.\$ whites needs to take some Geritol and get a gonads implant. The white nationalist “left” (which includes many lackeys from among the oppressed nationalities) can make excuses for anything. What it is is adjustment to the powers-that-be, the cracker labor aristocracy imperialist alliance. Instead of hiding what happened in Alabama, the duty of the progressive forces is to make the whole world know the extent of the white attack.

While it is true that within u.\$ borders the truth is in the minority, that is no reason not to hold out and allow the rest of the world to batter the crackers into their senses. On the global scale, they are a tiny minority. About 119 million voted for Bu\$h or Kerry, but there are 6 billion people in this world. The overwhelming majority of the world hates Bu\$h and the

Amerikan wars and an increasing majority of the world is learning to hate Amerika outright—and that is what gives us for change in Amerika real hope. The election of Bush as opposed to Kerry will help to strip away global illusions about Amerikkka. For this we can even celebrate, because by raising the stakes and with a little luck for the international proletariat, whites may not get a second chance to back down into a Kerry-Clinton “equal opportunity exploitation” routine.

Of the 114 million voters counted so far, less than 1 million were for alternative parties. It’s very hard to say anything good about 113 million voters for Bush and Kerry, who is a descendant of “Ivan the Terrible.”(7) The voters we most want to cut some slack for are the first-time voters for Kerry, especially the youth voters. Youth went overwhelmingly for Kerry, at least 56% according to NBC exit polls. Even in Alabama, the majority of youth supported Kerry while 63% of the state went for Bu\$h in the largest victory margin in Alabama presidential elections in 20 years.(8) The youth saw they didn’t like the status quo and tried to change it. They need to draw a number of lessons on how severe the problem is in Amerika and not imagine that they can drop politics after pulling a lever every two years. At the same time, we want youth to see how public opinion has changed since Iraqis started fighting Americans. At first, 80% of whites supported the Iraq war.(9) That figure is the crucial figure on whites, their natural state given all the historical struggles prior to the Iraq war and that is about how much support among whites there is for any imperialist war that is a cake-walk, such as in invading the small island of Grenada in 1983 or occupying Haiti today. Now white support for the Iraq war is down to 58%,(10) thanks to the Arab people, and the Arab people are not done fighting yet. The point is that we for real change have important international support and the Americans themselves are just a small minority.

The Alabama and war issues are all connected together. Attitudes like these will not change without major defeats in war or the equivalent kind of disaster which Bu\$h may just have in store. That is why watering down the truth in an attempt to kiss white butt will not work. Kissing white butt only emboldens whites to become even more crazy and confuses the people in our own camp. As Malcolm X pointed out, when someone has a knife in your back, it’s not time for conciliatory words. Right now the Amerikan white has a knife in the international proletariat’s back, but the oppressed nationalities will not have confidence in themselves unless they take an internationalist view. If they remember their homelands in Mexico, El Salvador, Argentina, Brazil, Africa, the Philippines etc., then the oppressed nationalities will have some perspective.

Our critics spend all their time worrying about what the white majority of Amerika is going to do. They’re afraid MIM “alienates” whites, instead of worrying how whites may be deceiving the world’s majority into letting

them get away with their rampaging. First of all, an enemy cannot back down unless s/he is told s/he is enemy. So to expect a major change of political consciousness coming from the vegetarians, hippies, post-modernists and other neutered white nationalist leftists in their efforts to get to the hard-core crackers is not even pragmatic.

In the second place, Amerikkans are already going all-out in war, borrowing money from the world to do it. The fact that they may initiate even more wars now with Bu\$h’s victory does not change the capacities of whites to fight very much. It’s still a situation where Amerikkans are the global minority going into debt. In fact, the Bu\$h victory is going to tip more Europeans into the progressive camp. That is the objective situation and no election or white nationalist rally or gay-bashing can change that.

In other words, in looking at the two sides of conflict, the Amerikan troglodytes and the international proletariat, it is our camp that has much more potential to ramp up the fight. It is our side fooling around, often staring in disbelief at how bad Americans can be. MIM is here in North America and we’re telling you of the world the details: yes, it is that bad; believe it.

The danger is not that MIM is going to provoke these Amerikkkan whites into doing more damage. They’re much closer to maxing out than we are.

Notes:

1. <http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/politics/10083337.htm?1c>; The MIM campaign has much reason to doubt this figure, but it is cited in numerous bourgeois outlets, e.g. <http://www.startribune.com/stories/484/5065804.html> and we certainly do not doubt that the Republicrats soundly defeated us in 2004.
2. USA Today 3November2004, web page graphic titled “exit polls” but with no separate url. www.usatoday.com By the way, the Washington Post poll before the election predicted the 57% white vote for Bu\$h perfectly.
3. <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/voting/p20-552/tab02-1.pdf>
4. <http://www.cnn.com/2004/ALLPOLITICS/11/03/voter.turnout.ap/index.html>
5. New York Times article here: <http://www.kansas.com/mld/eagle/news/nation/10084740.htm>
6. <http://www.al.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/base/politics-0/109950086233420.xml&storylist=alabamaneews>; <http://www.cnn.com/2004/ALLPOLITICS/11/04/alabama.segregation/index.html> <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,137746,00.html> for the bit on the League of the South
7. <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/5723115/>
8. Alabama margin of victory historically here: http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/special_packages/election2004/10090262.htm?1c
9. The original Gallup press release has been removed from the Gallup web page, but it is still cited all over the web including here: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2003/04/01/MN170852.DTL>
10. The 42% of whites now opposing the Iraq War is a figure available from Gallup in the paid section of its web page.

Depression, cynicism and escapism

Keep the faith but make it internationalist

We're hearing a lot of talk about depression, psychiatrists and suicide among the people who thought more of their country. Citing the election of Bu\$h to friends and family, a 25-year-old Georgian committed a dramatic suicide at the World Trade Center remains called "ground zero" on November 6.(1)

Many Democrats and other Amerikans never really had to deal with the fact that Bu\$h might have real support. They just blamed Nader and the Supreme Court. It says a lot about how people prior to now escaped all the signs. They apparently managed to live with a Supreme Court, Congress and 47% of the public that was Republican as of 2000 without drawing any conclusions.

Evidence says that Amerikans are more political now than since the 1960s. In 2000, Bush was just a Texas governor and people could have voted for him sleep-walking. But ever since 911, there is no way to deny that politics has been in Amerikans' face daily—just at that very low Amerikan level. There can be no doubt what Bu\$h is doing and yet he increased his vote by millions, even if we leave aside the exact percentage.

In 1968, some Democrats had something of an escapist attitude because Wallace ran against Democratic candidate for president Humphrey, and that caused a lot of "what-ifs" about what would have happened had Wallace not run. They wonder if Humphrey would have beaten Nixon if Wallace had not run. The problem again was not looking squarely at whites and seeing that the combined Nixon/Wallace white vote was unambiguous in meaning.

One perysn said, "This country means

nothing to me anymore, nothing." The trouble is that that is exactly the right conclusion, but now we need to get to the next step of commitment to a new idea. We need to get to the stage that when traveling abroad and someone mutters "fucking Amerikans," we agree and keep moving. In fact, we perk up, because we know that means people abroad are working on the Amerikan problem and that may one day mean progress for the Amerikans. We progressives need the help.

Contrary to the Buddhists for example, MIM would say that not all egoisms are equal. Persynal egoism can put pride before progress in one's own thought. National egoism can become stodgy and stiff, but in the world today, the egoism of the imperialist countries is conservative and even backwards-looking, whereas the pride of Iraqis spurs them on to learn new things to defeat the aggressor. So we differ from the Buddhists because we have a concrete and general theory about where the worst egoisms are to be found holding back humyn thinking.

For Amerikans to progress as a population, pride in the status quo must be punctured. That means giving up patriotism unless it's Thomas Jefferson's definition of patriotism which is simply participation in the country's politics. Puncturing white nationalism also means giving credit to those who puncture it, especially in Iraq today. It cannot be more evident when we see all the backward yahoo patriots running around saying "America is great!" and nothing else for why they support the Iraq war and everything else Bu\$h does.

Kanada's immigration department had

110,000 Amerikan hits in the day after the election.(2) That's a better idea than suicide, but some Democrats are no doubt in a good place to put up a better fight than before.

Becoming cynical enough to think Bu\$h stole the election is also better than total apathy or suicide. Such people may stay in politics to fix it.

On the other hand, the "stolen elections" approach prolongs one's difficulties in another sense in not having an accurate view of the country. Seeing that Alabama whites just elected a Confederate activist Supreme Court justice, a justice who spoke for keeping language of segregation in the Alabama Constitution, what exactly did these people expect from Amerika we are wondering and how different did they think those rural whites bordering Alabama in Florida are anyway.

Liberal white patriots make a big mistake. The proper time for nationalist pride is after the whites have accomplished something worth being proud of—and we're saying that's not in the foreseeable future. The achievements along with their genocide and slavery belong to the generations of Washington and Lincoln. Today nothing moves forward in Amerika: it's only oppression and repression. The white man contributes nothing to the world but genocide and nothing to himself anymore except stolen riches.

Another danger is pure cynicism. Pure cynicism can also lead to taking jobs in the Bush administration and an eventual adjustment to the power structure as it is. The adage "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" ends up applying to the pure cynics.

That possibility is one reason it is important to have properly placed hopes—not just to hope randomly as Jesse Jackson and Bill Clinton would tell us, but to really look around the world and see why hope might be justified.

In Amerika, we can see this: Nixon won re-election in 1972 and he had to resign by 1974. In the meantime, he lost the Vietnam War completely. That was the single largest plus for pushing white thinking along in the last 40 years— all credit to the Vietnamese. The Vietnamese could have rolled over and played dead and the world would be an even more horrible place. If you lived in 1968, and looked for hope, you should have seen it in the Vietnamese.

Today, the vast majority of the world's population has already spoken against Amerikan politics.(3) Iraqis are taking the most visible action, because they have the honor of fighting the bulk of the Yankee beast face-to-face. If we are stuck looking for progress just among Amerikans all the time, we're going to become cynical and give up hope for progress. Some will commit suicide, others waste more time with psychiatrists. Internationalism is the only secure basis for a progressive outlook in Amerika and similar countries.

Notes:

1. <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/11/07/nyregion/07suicide.html>

2. <http://www.smh.com.au/news/US-Elections/Many-look-north-and-south-for-refuge/2004/11/05/1099547388553.html?oneclick=true>

3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/anti Amerikanism.html>

How to fight for change

Learning assorted lessons about money and demographics

by PIRAO chief 3 November 2004

MIM did not run anyone for office, but we can learn something from the sidelines looking at the 2004 elections.

MIM expenses vs. Democrat expenses

It looks like the Democrats outspent the Republicans for the first time in recent history. The total campaign spending of the races for Congress and the presidency was \$1.8 billion.(1) Democrats spent \$250 million themselves and friendly organizations spent another \$70 million on radio and TV ads just for the presidency.(2)

That's about \$6 per voter that Kerry had voting for him. In reality, the figure is much higher, because only 17 states really had any competition and ad buys. Even within those 17 states, the ads can only target a certain minority of "persuadable" voters. The true cost per voter persuaded

is probably more than \$50 per voter, maybe much more.

MIM estimates that delivering MIM Notes to five people for two years costs less than \$6. We believe we could deliver MIM Notes to the entire public for two years for less than what Democrats just spent on Kerry.

The difference is that MIM engages people on the issues and builds an offensive in a certain direction, which lasts whether or not individuals fail or succeed in their bids for office. Ads for a Kerry detract or do little to contribute to political consciousness and if the candidate loses, the wastage is even greater.

The other difference is that MIM Notes is connected to what the campaigns call a "ground game." Radio and television commercials aim at a fleeting impact. In contrast, MIM efforts can focus 100% on driving up the truth quotient in politics—with no watering down. For all

these reasons, we think there is no comparison in the effectiveness of MIM on the one hand and Move-on.org or the like. If the people can be moved politically, the politicians will follow.

There are many people in MIM circles who work more cost effectively than any shoe-string operation of the Democratic Party. One reason is that we have no professionals. The proletariat has this relative advantage in the majority-exploiter countries in being able to fight desperately but without stodginess and pampering.

Money talks

In Congress in 2004, the turnover rate compares unfavorably with Politburos in any era of the Soviet Union. "The winners of a handful of congressional races are still unknown [as of November 2], but one thing is certain: Money won big in the 2004 elections.

"In 96 percent of House races and 91 percent of Senate races that had been

decided by mid-day today, the candidate who spent the most money won, according to a post-election analysis by the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics. The findings are based on figures reported Oct. 13 to the Federal Election Commission."(3)

Demographics and polls

The embodiment of another lesson we need to learn is Karl Rove. He is in charge of Bush's political intelligence and ultimately he is the one who made Bush president in both 2000 and 2004. Today, candidates do not put their energies into learning to debate better. Kerry won all three debates according to polls, but he lost the election, because the Republicans are the equals of the Democrats in having basic appeal to small exploiters.

It is a beginner's mistake in politics to assume that the more rational-appearing candidate will win. People like Karl Rove

Continued on page 9...

It's not really politics; It's the lifestyle, stupid

"I want to bring back the aloha spirit," she told reporters. "That means when you're out on the ocean and you're paddling for a wave and you see someone else is already up riding it, you know what you do? You pull out."

"You step back and you let him go. You let people be themselves. It's called sharing, it's called caring, it's called working together for the common good."(1)

—Donna Frye, the apparent winner of the San Diego mayor's contest via write-in vote

The media is approximately treating an important question by talking about the cultural divide between the South and Rocky Mountain "red states" on the one hand that voted for Bu\$h and the two coasts of "blue states" that voted for Kerry. We need to push into that deeper, because the key is understanding that issues do not divide the public, and that is a major reason why progressives always seem to be overly intellectual to the voting public.

One of the questions that the bourgeois political consultants pose over and over again in Amerikan politics is whether Democrats should get religion.(2) This serves as a rationale for why they lost in 2004 and why Gore picked Lieberman in 2000. The surface truth to this is that evangelical Protestants voted 3 to 1 for Bu\$h and the largest single bloc of voters (21%) said "moral values" is their number one issue, with Iraq falling to fourth place.

Within bourgeois logic, the Democrats should split themselves into two parties, with the new party taking up religion and based in churches, but able to work with Democrats on non-social issues. Within a two-party system, attacking Republicans would require replacing the Republicans with a different party to contend with. Yet, most Democrats are so much in love with Republicans and wedded to "lesser evil" thinking that they would not think of splitting into two parties; even though they have nothing to lose at this point from doing so.

The whole question of theocratic politics should be a clue that electoral politics is a dead-end. When we work within the confines of the electoral system, it's only rational that we get stuck on such questions and that the reactionaries feed them to us non-stop. That has to be taken into account when people like Howard Dean draw activists into their system.

The religion "issue" is another example of how Amerikans are in their vast majority, pre-political. 2400 Catholic priests are now in a database for sexual abuse of children accusations, but donations to the Catholic Church increased, while Clinton had oral sex with an adult and Congress impeached him. So it's important to rational and progressive Democrats to look at this and not take "moral values" literally. When we hear "moral values" we should hear more along these lines: "I like the people

I know who go to church every week and I like my friends who go to the same church and are married and stay married. We're all Republicans and like each other, the people we are familiar with."

That's why, if you go to those people with a Democrat who says s/he is also Baptist, it's not going to work. It worked for Carter, because those of a born-again lifestyle decided their lifestyle was more similar to Carter's than Michigan Republican Gerald Ford's. Had Carter run against another southern rural white Christian, the outcome would have been different as we see in Bush vs. Gore, where Gore lost his home state. Bu\$h moved around brush on his ranch while Gore sat in Washington DC.

It's not really the issues, but the lifestyle. The pre-political voter has to decide that the candidate is one of the people from his/her lifestyle. It's such a joke that Amerika has made itself that Kerry's windsurfing off Nantucket counted against him in the heartland. Increasingly, Republicans realize that Democrats are single wimmin living in cities while they themselves are married church-goers of the rural areas. When they do meet Democrats in the rural areas, the Republicans do not get along with them. The issues do not matter.

To think of this from a reverse angle, the true outlet for the pre-political should be in church dissension and splitting. They should be getting up and going over to Clinton's church to denounce whoever raised him to stain Monica Lewinsky's dress. They should be fighting their neighbors whose lifestyles they don't like, but instead, they take that to the government. A Kennedy recently took up city politics because he got a ticket for his hedges. It's all lifestyle clutter filling in where politics should be.

Now in the first place, for all the social-democrats taking bourgeois democracy at face-value, those exit poll numbers on the moral values voting bloc are important. The entire economy came behind the "moral values" question as an issue, and even "moral values" is a small plurality. That's not to mention that when people say "economy," they are talking about a variety of different things that may not be what social-democrats have in mind.

All this is to point out how dogmatic social-democrats have to be to look at this and not learn a lesson: Bu\$h was indeed the first president since Herbert Hoover to have a net loss of jobs during his term. The difference between the Clinton years and the Bush Sr. and Bush Jr. years was incredibly stark to anyone who looks at facts. Moreover, Ohio lost 22% of its manufacturing jobs under Bu\$h. That's all true, (but we would never emphasize it because it's not pointing to a road forward) and the population even heard it on major media to the tune of \$320 million in radio and television ads. Media outlets on Wall Street such as Bloomberg also admitted the facts. The facts were everywhere.

OK, social-democrats, so if we take democracy at face-value, it's time to learn a lesson. Your "issue" does not float many boats. In the last 60 years of u.\$ history, it's never been put this clearly to you by the facts themselves; though, MIM has been telling you for a long time that your white-working class strategy is not going to bring progress. All this dreaming about the white working class rising up on economic issues and taxes is pure reformist dogma. If social-democrats cannot see that now, they are as stupid as the people who think they voted against Gore for Monica Lewinsky's stained dress.

Fundamentally, elections are not a rational process, but because they are a divisive and irrational process what ends up asserting itself is raw white nationalist interest. The lifestyles are so divisive and break people down into such small groups, that the only group interests that really can assert themselves are the big ones such as race/nationality—and choices that lead to that are all conscious. For example, one "issue" that elected Bu\$h is gun ownership. It's another example where an "issue" has a guise, in this case the Second Amendment of the Constitution. The crackers who own guns have no idea about the revolutionary ideas of the founding fathers, else these same crackers would not be complaining so much about "liberalism" when all the founding fathers who wrote the Constitution and Bill of Rights were Liberals and wanted gun ownership for Liberal reasons.

As H.W. Edwards proved, the white gun ownership issue is really a labor aristocracy thing completely detached from its original Liberal intellectual history around 1776. Historically, gun ownership is not for the creation of disorder to keep the government honest the way the founding fathers intended but to keep order among frightful settler-minded people—to kill First Nations people and now to keep out Blacks and others that the crackers are afraid of. That's the underlying historical and statistical truth, but no one has to know. Hence, anyone who raises the 2nd Amendment or hunting taps into that. The reason for that again, is that only 10% of the public—more in some places and time, less in others—taps into issues at all. If we've become very fortunate that figure gets up to 20%, and both Lenin with the "vanguard party" and W.E.B. DuBois with his "talented tenth" tapped into that approximately with "elitism."

If you really want to talk issues—and progressive Democrats are a large portion of that 10%—you have to limit yourself to 10% of the population. The trouble is that in a close election, Democrats will feel compelled to talk with other issues-oriented people, because it will make some difference for those people. Many may not realize how few actually process issues and how few among issues-oriented people actually disagree with

them. That's why it's important to look at the overall numbers and see what drawing people into the electoral system does—which is frustrate them with the prospects for change. If we are going to keep people motivated for change, we have to accurately downgrade people's hopes in the white working class while keeping them posted on the international situation.

We've already pointed out in another article that voters from 2000 broke 50 to 45 for Bu\$h.(3) so by most progressive Democrats' own standards, bringing people to the electoral system makes them even more reactionary. We cannot say it's just an advantage of incumbency, because 60% of first-time voters went the Democrats' way. What it means is that in fighting the status quo of Republican power, the Democrats are feeding people with intentions of change into the system and making them more reactionary.

When it comes to co-optation, the progressive Democrats share the greatest blame for starting a Deaniac in New Hampshire and leading him/her to Copley Square to hear Kerry concede and say we have to "succeed in Iraq and win the war on terror." Republicans can't do that. They only benefit when four years later, more Democrats convert to Republicans.

This is not a surprising result, because frustration leads to conservatism and it's "can't do it" attitude and Democrats have no way to tap into the power of progress that exists in this world. The underlying reason is that the people who are the source of progress cannot vote in the united States, so any strategy with nationalist blinders is going to fail to bring progress. It's only that Maoist road that is going to fully account for the power of the Third World.

The facts about only 10% dealing with issues is a pretty major disadvantage one might think and it is, but without getting used to that fact, frustration is the only result and that means carrying out wasteful patterns of action. In truth, this fact is also a great disadvantage to the imperialists. When they want to go in a particular direction, the settler nature of the economy with each persyn having his or her own lifestyle on his or her own piece of the economy (land) is a disadvantage. The labor aristocracy was for anti-communism, and even when a vast majority of elected imperialists and military intelligence officials knew from the beginning of the 1960s that there was no way to "win" the war in Vietnam, the imperialists had to stay in Vietnam and let the crackers die till they changed their minds. That whole process was bad for the imperialists too, so it's not just we at MIM and the international proletariat who have a disadvantage from the nature of the Amerikan population as pre-political.

Overwhelming violence is the only thing that can steer a lifestyle-oriented country like Amerika, but Osama Bin Laden's strike had only a one-time effect. What

Continued on next page...

Lifestyle

Continued from previous page...

we have now is a residual fear from that, but large groups of people are making a mistake in assessing the impact.

Over and over again we hear in Amerika the sense of wonder that Bu\$h did not unite the country after 911. Even as the television commentators praised Bu\$h, they raised this question and wondered. The one theory for that is that Bu\$h is not the caliber of leader to be able to do that. That became the Democratic Party mantra. Republicans did not really have an answer for that, but they did not have to. The reason again is that the Democrats only tapped into underlying lifestyle divisions with their question. That is why to all bourgeois amazement, the red states and blue states stayed pretty much the same in 2004. The question of why there is no post-911 Amerikan unity or global unity is a big clue. The fact that 150,000 young Americans have their asses on the line in Iraq and the plurality of voters still felt they had the luxury to decide the elections based on gay marriage is another clue: it would take very steady and very serious violence to raise an "issue" to prominence in Amerika.

This hurts the many Americans who think they are "patriots" and that issues matter. It brings them right up to the edge of the truth—which is that there is no "free will" whereby each individual declares him/herself a part of "united we stand." Everyone can wave the flag, but that's as far as it goes in highly individualistic settler-petty-bourgeois-dominated societies. We can decide that hurts our feelings or we can recognize it as truth and work from there.

Osama Bin Laden need not fear the united States would ever truly unite. If it

did unite, it would surely do it in such a self-destructive manner that it would be the end of the settler-oriented "way of life." In the process of that destruction, MIM would get its chance to take power. Short of that, as Osama Bin Laden said in his most recent video statement, he and Bu\$h are working "as one." Bu\$h wanted to send 150,000 people to Iraq to get an education, and Al-Qaeda along with other Iraqis are educating them steadily. That's how we got from 20% white opposition to the war to 42%, while Americans have hardly a peep to utter against the occupation of Haiti because of the lack of anti-U.S. violence there. Iraqis may even teach themselves Mao's art of People's War in the process. That's the real X-factor in Amerikan politics, not getting Democrats to take up religion.

It's very difficult to win a write-in candidacy in the united States, especially in larger places where people do not know each other already, but Donna Frye put up a very good showing in the seventh largest city in the united States, San Diego. By all rights, the mayor of San Diego should be a major imperialist, but Frye managed an effective appeal to the petty-bourgeoisie on lifestyle, something that is generally possible in the Amerikan economy. Hence, we should take the quote at the top of this article seriously. Every word is the word of an Amerikan winner, a concentrated expression of Amerikan ideology. The surfing appeal is obvious, but the metaphor will appeal to stodgy middle-class people who are too old to be surfing, because underlying it is a middle-class sense of space and civility—not to worry, not some communist idea about "sharing." For the settler economies, the Frye metaphor

works. Each individual should have his or her own wave.

There is very little that we can do as communists to win in Amerikan politics within its own terms. Those of us who are Trotskyists (who think the West has the most progressive culture) or anarchists (who believe in non-collective communism as if it were possible to touch any aspect of the u.s. economy without parasitic taint) have more to work with, but those of us following Lenin's theory of imperialism about the decadence of Amerikan society are not going to be latching onto lifestyle political waves. For us, the Buddhists, the vegetarians, the surfers—the various lifestyle advocates attempt to blunt the impact of the Amerikan mainstream, but they are in fact an expression of the same thing. These kinds of people should be organized and that's why we recently suggested to some other lifestyle individualists that they cease calling themselves Leninists and work full time on organizing these sorts of people in anti-war groups with a non-issues approach.

At this moment there are a number of people who see the Democratic Party as a tactical vehicle for progress and they are very frustrated. It's not just the losing in the Supreme Court, Congress and the presidency but the reasons people give for voting Republican that are frustrating Democrats. Those reasons are frustrating because they are taken too literally and because rational issue discussion is not the point.

MIM is here to say that rational progressive people have to give up the Democratic Party and work through why joining MIM is the right thing for thinking people. The underlying assumption of

incremental progress through the Democratic Party is wrong. It's not religion or gun ownership "issues" that are going to break the impasse for progressives, but staying inside the electoral system inevitably leads to such conclusions.

Notes:

1. <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/news/archive/2004/11/03/politics1901EST0466.DTL>
2. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/11/04/politics/main653667.shtml>
3. "How to fight for change," this issue.

Amerika: Banana republic

Florida in 2000 was bad enough, but the fact that given four years, Amerika still could not arrange fair elections is utter self-condemnation and proves that MIM was correct all along that the uSa was never a free country. Aside from Democrats campaigning hard to keep Ralph Nader off the ballot, the wide discrepancies between exit polls and the final vote tallies raise the possibility of fraud: either Democrats tampered with the polls, or Republicans tampered with vote counts, or both. It's important to acknowledge this possibility—especially considering the United States has tried its hand at electoral fraud abroad—without overlooking the very real appeal George Bu\$h has for tens of millions of Americans. We discuss exit polls, vote tampering, and how to tell who's defrauding who on our elections webpage: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/elections/index.html>

How to fight for change

Continued from page 7...

can predict how large groups of voters are going to vote, no matter what those individual voters may think of their "free will." By knowing just race, marital status and religion—Republicans can easily find places where 75% or more of voters will vote for them. In fact, Karl Rove studies much more than that, the same way Stalin studied the demographics of each district the Nazis invaded or that the Soviets claimed for themselves. In fact, within their own logic, the imperialists are catching up with Marxism on the study of demographics.

Bush's margin of victory would be expected for an incumbent president. Nonetheless, there was both a youth vote and first-time voter effect that threatened to wipe the president out. Karl Rove countered with Ralph Reed of the Christian Coalition, who literally parked himself down in Orlando, Florida.

The enemy studies reams and reams of polling data, being careful never to show their candidate doing it. This study

at the county and precinct level has given the enemy some knowledge. In each state and county, they know how their candidates have done in the past and they can even determine what might have changed. For example, Karl Rove attributed Al Gore's victory in 9 Iowa counties to his riverboat tour in those counties.

Self-defeating goals

There is a minority of progressive Democrats which needs to think hard about whether MIM is right that they are currently supporting a white nationalist "left." Perhaps this is the real reason for their fundamental frustration with Amerikan politics—not accounting for Amerikan politics in comparison with nations globally.

For Kerry's part, winning the debates did not matter. And for Bu\$h, he was not able to capitalize on the unity produced in the oppressor nation by the World Trade Center collapse. People fell back into their

social groups and this tells us something about Amerika as a collection of settler individuals. It's wrong to think that there is anything fundamentally rational in Amerikan choices other than white nation exploiter self-interest.

Many poured out their hearts and pocketbooks for Kerry and when Kerry lost, it all looked like a gigantic tactical maneuver to support the Iraq War. In his concession speech November 3rd Kerry said we must all unite as Americans to "succeed in Iraq and win the war on terror." So the net effect and appearance of the Kerry campaign is that 113+ million Americans voted for the Iraq War and even linked them in the same breath the same way all anti-Arab racists do. That's exactly how the white nationalists are the Trojan horse in the anti-war movement. They must be defeated before the war-mongering nuts can be defeated. In other words, we have to know what is what and make judgments about others that

some are not used to making in an effort to be "nice."

The "X factor" in the Amerikan elections is not the "security moms," the "white Catholics" or the youth vote. Progress simply cannot win within the limited logic of Amerikan elections. We have to think globally or we are going to give up fighting and we are going to fight in the wrong direction. When we think internationally in terms of what has to happen for the Amerikan population to get along with other nations, we realize that there is a big job to do and that MIM is the right choice for effective action.

Notes:

1. <http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=3705593>
2. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uslatest/story/0,1282,-4587807,00.html>
3. <http://www.opensecrets.org/pressreleases/04results.asp>. The source for this is funded by the Ford Foundation among other corporate giants.

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

Seven Deaths in Oregon Medical Unit in 2004

Greetings! I received your letter, thank you. I don't know what was going on because I have no one in this state to turn to for information but Sunday (10/03/2004) we were denied all the Oregonian newspapers. I don't know what they didn't want us to see.

As for the hunger strike you inquired about, I don't know what happened because I was in IMU at the time. What I heard was that everything went well and there was unity, but, since I've been out of IMU, I have learned that most of those around me are not to be believed. The issues they do raise concern things about which my five year old granddaughter would ask. The important issues concern being shown respect from those over you, the way your loved ones are treated when they come to see you, the way your comrades are beaten and abused in DSU and IMU, and your medical treatment. These issues and those like them aren't mentioned, but being able to wear red gym shorts in the day room is. Go figure!

There have been seven people who died in this unit so far this year who would be alive today if they had received proper medical treatment. Their names will be listed at the end of this letter. To my knowledge, there has been no mention of these comrades' deaths in the public media other than what I have tried to get out. Their deaths are a witness to the inhuman treatment by SRCI medical field and condoned by those in charge of the DOC in the Oregon system. Let them speak loud and clear through their deaths of the importance of change.

The orderlies that work in the medical unit here, whose job it is to sweep, mop, clean beds, pans, etc., are being made to sit and monitor and wait on the terminally ill and other patients. These people have no training in the medical field! There is a comrade here who hurt his knee very badly almost two weeks ago. When taken to the medical unit, the nurses on duty sent him back to the complex where he lived without proper treatment. Now, two days ago, a doctor finally saw him and declared that they will have to do surgery on his knee. The list of medical maltreatment goes on and on.

Fallen comrades:

Hicks
Heath
Mathews
Gray (Died in the infirmary)
Batista
Belk (Died at the hospital)
Jenkins (Died in his cell)

— An Oregon Prisoner, October 2004

RAIL responds: We mourn the deaths of the fallen comrades listed above and will list them on our upcoming re-release of the Imperialist Deathtoll available online at www.imperialismkills.org. This project is a peoples' account of the millions of deaths caused by imperialism each year and we welcome any and all submissions to make this accounting more complete.

If comrades are organized enough to lead a united hunger strike than that is a good sign. It is up to the more politically advanced leaders to guide that organization into more productive avenues. While those leaders may not care about what color shorts they have

to wear, we should also recognize the progressive character of united resistance to even the simplest forms of repression like controlling the way inmates dress. If this is where the mass consciousness is at in your facility than build from there.

We were unable to determine the cause for the news block out on October 3, but welcome further information on this if anyone knows what happened.

Struggling in solitary in Louisiana

Dear family in the struggle,

Because I am a Communist at heart, mind and soul, and because of my efforts to resist the oppression through legal forums, courts, I have been and remain a victim of crimes. I have been deprived of over 300 days good time and compelled to spend over 600 days sleeping, lying, sitting, practically living on a concrete slab, in a small cell only 6' x 7' having no time out but 10 minutes to shower. I have spent at least three and a half years in "isolation" (extended lockdown).

But I will never give up, nor cease to struggle. I am a product of revolutionaries, who are willing to die for our cause.

— a Louisiana prisoner, October 2004

Virginia Control Unit

I greet you from a super-maximum security prison lockdown 23 to 24 hours a day in what is called the control unit. All the windows at the prison are treated so we can't see out. The side of the doors are sealed with a black strip that has screws in it. There are short chains on the doors at the top. A padlock could be inserted to reinforce the doors. A padlock can be used on the food port used for feeding and cuffing prisoners. The food is put in a solid steel box that has a handle on both sides. The guards lifts the latch to the food port, he have to push open the aperture, reaches in and gets the tray. The guard lifts the box upward to close the food port and moves to the next cell.

We are confined to social isolation and sensory deprivation. Social isolation is being cut off from normal contact with people and interactive methods with them that are conducive to humanism. The majority of our contact is with sadistic guards who do not realize they are trapped too. When most people have the authority to wield power over people this becomes an intoxication that knows no bounds — a fixation to hurt people and release one's aggressive pent-up nature.

Sensory deprivation is a loss of receptive sensory input that is crucial to our nervous system. Without these elements producing positive contact with processes to one's equilibrium and metabolism you are treading on dangerous negativity. This is a method of psychological and emotional impairment, in other words, torture.

Prisoners are viciously beaten by guards while chained hand and foot. Prisoners are slammed into walls, floors, steps, tables and outdoor yard cages. Prisoners are denied

sufficient diet, showers, and so called recreation in dog-run cages when we don't cringe and bow down to their terrorism. Prisoners placed in chains in a cold cell in only under shorts, no other clothes allowed, for 48 hours or longer; all personal items taken, mattress, sheets, and blankets too; prisoners placed in five-point restraints, strapped spread-eagle to a steel slab in only underwear for days; prisoners gassed, broken bones, shattered teeth. This is guard-on-prisoner violence.

— A Virginia prisoner, May 2004

MIM responds: Publicizing the oppression of prisoners in the Amerikan justice system is an important part of our central task, and we urge prisoners to make contributions to this work such as this report. One beef: In the long run, those working as prison guards will be better off under a socialist system in which people don't demean their own humanity by participating in the oppression of others. However, for strategic purposes we should not consider prison guards "trapped" in the same way that prisoners are. They can — and should — refuse this work, suffering at most a loss of wages as a result.

Studying in KS Supermax

I currently have over two years in solitary confinement Supermax segregation for my efforts to organize the people. They have me down here under so-called gang activity. I'm currently trying to organize our fellow comrades, many of whom are Aztlan and natives of this land. Here we are locked down 23, usually 24 hours a day. I just recently acquired the library porter job for this cell house. Now I have more access to the other comrades.

We have caged single person dog runs for yard five days a week for close to 45 minutes. I need to develop a program for body and mind that is sufficient and enables us to talk and work out. I believe, as do others, that you must work both the mind and body developing good work habits for the people. These comrades in here only respect militant ways that are for the people, they will only acknowledge and accept discipline.

— a Kansas prisoner, 20 October, 2004

War on Terror= Censorship of MIM

I know it's been a very long time since you have heard from me, but the reasons for not keeping contact are that:

After the 9/11 incident, I was put on Mail Watch (meaning they were reading my letters). So I had to stop receiving your papers because they start to give me problems about "those kind of papers". Which will open people's eyes to what's happening in the world today!

The second reason was because I was working on my cases, trying to free myself from this hell hole!

So I would like to receive your papers again, and I have someone who wants to write to you too. Please start sending him your papers

so we can build on what's happening in today's world.

— A New York Prisoner, August 2004

Censorship victory in California

Here is the complete 602 enclosed [for the censorship of MIM Theory and the Mao essay]. The other one's at the Director's level review. The sergeant met with me on the issue and we came to an agreement that MIM Theory's were no threat, nor MIM Notes pages. He said he could not find MT numbers 7 and 9 you forwarded, but he reimbursed me with some useless novels which I immediately trashed. As you know it's been on again off again. It's okay now as he informed me to contact him directly next time there are any problems.

— A Corcoran prisoner, November 2004

MIM adds: we have been fighting increasing censorship this year in the

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.

California Security Housing Unit Prisons, including Corcoran and Pelican Bay. With this potential resolution in Corcoran, along with a recent letter from the Warden of Pelican Bay agreeing to follow their rules and allow our publications into the facility, the hard work of our comrades behind bars and on the streets fighting this censorship may be paying off.

Report from NJ STG Management Units

Have you ever felt like the walls around you were closing in so fast that you thought you were going to die? Well, that's what I felt every day for almost two years.

In the state of New Jersey they have what you call S.T.G.M.U.'s (Security Threat Groups Management Units). When you hear that you automatically think that these units would be filled with the worst of the worst, right? Wrong! How could that be, you say? Well, let me tell you how I ended up in a Super-Max Unit.

It started the day I got off the bus at the reception center called C.R.A.F. After being stripped of all my belongings, I was forced to stand butt-ass-naked next to four other newly branded slaves. As we stood there, there were about six pigs watching over us as we were told to lift this and open that, bend over, cough, and all the other degrading things that go along with the sexual assault, I mean strip search. All of a sudden, out of the corner comes a fat fuck of a pig, walking around and looking at all of our tattoos. He stops when he gets to me and asks what the "****" means on my arm. With no hesitation, I tell him that it is a dedication to a friend's death (which, by the way, was the truth). He then tells me that he is I.A. and that my tattoo was a symbol used by the _____, which is a S.T.G. Group.

Now, I am a member of the organization to which he referred, but I didn't tell him that. He then walks me about ten feet into an office and tells me that he has to take pictures of all of my tattoos. Now, remember I am standing there butterball naked, and there are two Pigs in the doorway just waiting for me to step out of line. So he takes the pictures and tells me that he wants me to sign a paper stating that I am a member of the _____. I told him I'm not signing anything that will be held against me at a later time. He gives me a little shit, but eventually he realized that I'm not going to give in to his every command. He then tells me that they (I.A.) will be waiting for me to slip up and that I better not move a single hair on [my] head too fast cause [he'll] be there to put it back in place.

Now when he made that statement I did not give it a seconds thought until I realized that not only were they watching me like flies on shit, but they then started to call me down to see them every time something happened

with a Latino inmate. This went on for over an eighteen month period until the day I was charged with possession with of narcotics, which were found in my cell amid a random search. When I went before the court line officer, I told him that those pills did not belong to me, and they had the inmate's name on the package that had just moved out of the cell the day before the search. I was found guilty of the charge and received 270 days Ad-Seg for an antibiotic!

I was in Ad-Seg for about two weeks before I was called out for a visit. Take a guess who it was? That's right, the same old fat fuck along with one of his co-workers. I was told that the only way to help myself was if I agreed to become an informant and that if I did not help them I would on the next thing smoking to Northern State Prison where the Security Threat Group (AKA Super-Max Housing Unit) is located. I told them that they had no proof that I was part of any organization. Well, that did not go over very well with them because two days later I was being shipped to that very place that they had been threatening me with for a couple of years now.

So there I am in a place that I have been avoiding for years. You hear so many stories that it would have any individual a little worried, but when I got there I was embraced with nothing but love by individuals that have been labeled "the worst of the worst". Now, how could that be? I was not even twenty-one years old and here I am in a Super-Max Unit.

When you are placed in this unit you are supposed to have a hearing that will show all the evidence that they have against you, but I did not see anyone for almost a month. When I was finally brought in to have my hearing, the evidence was a bunch of fabricated bullshit. First I was told the reason I was there was because I was previously identified as a member of the _____! The thing I wanted to know was how that is possible when I have never been caught with any type of literature or was I ever caught engaging in gang activity. Still to this day, that's a fact!

So now here comes the bullshit, I was told that I signed a self-admission form, and that I have a S.T.G. tattoo. I have already stated that I never, never signed any self-admission form or anything of the sort. I was told that it was in the best interest of everybody that I be placed in the S.T.G.M.U. program. The problem I had with that was that they still had no concrete evidence that pointed to me being a threat to the New Jersey State prison system. To this day, I still really don't understand how they got away with it.

However, I do know that it was one of the best things that could have happened to me, and not because they rehabilitated me. It was the fact that that's where I became what I am today and this is a strong revolutionary! I was introduced to Karl Marx and Mao, the Blank Panther Party along with all the other

great revolutionaries before my time. I have since then took all of the teachings I learned and have implemented them into my everyday living as a Konvict! I no longer live for myself alone. I have found something to truly live for and that's the people!

I thank all the strong brothers who took the time to give me the guidance to become a better man in my struggles, and for giving me the opportunity to be their student. I want to say thank you to: Arch Angel, Half Pint, Killer Bee, Honesty, and all those other who gave me the jewels to become what I am. Without any of you, I don't know where I would be today.

Please don't think that I am glorifying the conditions that I was subjected to live under or would I want to see anyone else be faced with the abuse that was handed out in that facility. I don't believe any man or wymmmin should ever have to be treated in such a manner, and all the time I spent back there was not fun in any way whatsoever.

The living conditions alone were horrible: air vents that have not been cleaned in years, showers that were disgusting, and that was if you got one. You had one phone for about fifty prisoners, and at times there was no phone at all. We had very limited access to any type of law library, and sometimes would go days without any yard movement. Those are just some of the things that we were faced with while we were housed in the Security Threat Group Management Unit.

The only reason I said it was the best thing that could have happened to me was because that was where the fire I have in my heart was first sparked, and since then I have never been the same. I will continue to fight for the people no matter what the repercussions to my actions will be! So I now say to the world, we must do anything in our power to stop the placing of prisoners into these units of torment. I was only one of many to make it out of the darkness with something to live for, but for the majority, they are either still trapped behind those walls or are lost in all the negativity that they are faced with. But that does not mean that they belong there. I have seen many prisoners placed in that unit for no other reason but to take up space. Half of them are not even a threat to themselves, never mind to the administration! In no way am I trying to belittle anyone that is in the Gang Unit, but I'm trying to make others aware of the situation that you and I were faced with. It's not right!

So to all of the tax players of the State of New Jersey and anywhere else that these facilities are located, it's time to stop the housing of prisoners in these units. To the D.O.C.: you will not get away with the exploitation in silence as long as I and my comrades have voices. We will continue to bring the T.R.U.T.H.!

- A New Jersey prisoner (The Fallen Angel), July 2004

Join the fight against the injustice system

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Facts on US imprisonment

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

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

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

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

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

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

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

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

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.



Bush reitera lo mismo: es posible un aumento de tropas en Irak

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El 24 de mayo, Bush salió en la tele con fin de preparar al público para las semanas y los meses que tocan en Irak. “Nuestros comandantes han estimado que menos de 115,000 tropas resultarían suficientes en este momento del conflicto”- dijo Bush. “Dado el reciente crecimiento de la violencia, mantendremos el actual nivel de tropas-138,000- por el tiempo que sea necesario”.

“Si los comandantes necesitan más tropas”- dijo Bush,- “las mandaré”. (1) El mismo día el senador demócrata Joe Lieberman se puso del lado del presidente diciendo en el CNN que la guerra en Irak era “una prueba generacional”. En vez de señalar que esta guerra ha fomentado el odio hacia el imperialismo estadounidense, Lieberman declaró que habría más ataques en el suelo estadounidense si las tropas no se quedan en Irak.

Mientras tanto, los senadores Hillary Clinton (D-NY) y Lindsey Graham (R-SC) hicieron un llamado abogando por unas “fuerzas militares más amplias”. Hillary Clinton expresó dudas en cuanto al financiamiento de las mismas pero dijo que no había otra opción. (2) Es posible que Graham vea la guerra como una oportunidad de trabajo para los blancos jóvenes rurales de su estado, ya que Carolina del Sur ha perdido muchos puestos de trabajo, pero se niega a implementar cambios.

Los múltiples escándalos alrededor del tema de torturas de los prisioneros en Irak y Afganistán significan que otros imperialistas como la ONU están en una mejor posición para negociar. En este momento los gobernantes estadounidenses están tratando de aparentar flexibles ante el público. Nosotros pensamos que esta apariencia se dirige más que nada hacia la opinión pública estadounidense, y no tanto hacia otros líderes estatales.

La diplomática de Hillary Clinton, Madeleine Albright, dijo que apreciaba el reconocimiento del valor de la ONU por parte de Bush el 24 de mayo. El hecho de que Bush está dispuesto a fomentar las ilusiones de la población electoral demócrata indica que existe una unidad bipartidista.

El MIM anticipa la introducción de un servicio militar obligatorio después de las elecciones a menos que los iraquíes u otros luchadores del Medio Oriente obtengan una enorme victoria militar o a menos que haya una desesperada lucha radical en contra del servicio militar obligatorio durante los meses que vienen. Por el momento parece que la posibilidad de sacar a EE. UU. de Irak es mejor que nunca: 1) Bush está “recibiendo palizas” a nivel internacional y hasta cierto punto dentro de EE.UU.; 2) Bush y Blair aparecieron ante la ONU buscando una bendición para la ocupación. Hay que enfatizar que si bien es

cierto que EE. UU. están recibiendo palizas militares y latigazos verbales por parte de la opinión pública internacional, y que pronto Bush se enfrentará a las elecciones, es posible que dicha búsqueda del apoyo de la ONU tenga como su meta una consolidación de la opinión pública estadounidense con respecto al tema del servicio militar obligatorio. A los imperialistas les gusta decir que ellos “hicieron un intento” con la ONU y fallaron, de modo que necesitan implementar un servicio militar obligatorio. (Desde nuestro punto de vista, no importa si el Tío Sam decide arruinar el país mediante gastos de déficit para expandir las fuerzas militares o implementar el servicio militar obligatorio. De cualquier manera el imperialismo estadounidense está condenado a ser parte del basurero de la historia. Cuanto más luchan los iraquíes y los afganos, menos eficaces serán los mercenarios que llevan a cabo reclutamientos.)

Los imperialistas jugarán las cartas de la ONU. Otra carta podría ser la Liga Árabe, una asociación de lacayos gubernamentales árabes. El 23 de mayo, los lacayos árabes sugirieron la idea de mandar tropas a Irak como parte de la fuerza internacional respaldada por la ONU. (3) Un milagro diplomático llevaría tropas árabes a Irak, y Bush podría lanzar un grito de victoria para las elecciones de noviembre.

Nosotros pensamos que es muy probable que todos estos esquemas se implementen con el fin de demostrar al público estadounidense que Bush “hizo el intento”, y de darles a los senadores Clinton y Lieberman las excusas que necesitan para respaldar diseños más agresivos. Es posible que Inglaterra sea uno de los pocos países que se nieguen a contribuir muchas tropas a los imperialistas estadounidenses. Un 66% del público electoral inglés se opone a que se manden ni siquiera 3000 tropas más a Irak. (4) Los imperialistas estadounidenses carecen de personal militar hasta tal grado que no son capaces de continuar sus operaciones ofensivas contra Irán, Siria o Corea del Norte. Cuatro hechos sobre los movimientos de tropas enemigas y la “estructura de sus fuerzas” demuestran porqué la capacidad militar de los imperialistas ha llegado al extremo, dada la ausencia de un reclutamiento militar obligatorio.

En primer lugar, las tres divisiones (alrededor de 50,000 soldados) recientemente retirados de Irak están clasificadas como “no preparadas para luchar”. (5) Hasta que no se reemplace o se repare su armamento, en lo cual se tardarán unos cuantos meses, estas tropas no estarán disponibles para su uso en el extranjero. Estas divisiones han sido reemplazadas por reservistas y guardias nacionales. Con menos entrenamiento y un armamento inferior estos soldados serán menos eficaces.

En segundo lugar, el enemigo ha tomado la

decisión de retirar sus tropas del Corea del Sur para mandarlas a Irak, y no es para que los soldados del frente coreano obtengan una “auténtica” experiencia de combate. (6) La desesperación del enemigo es suficiente para que éste arriesgue un frente (Corea) por otro (Irak).

En tercer lugar, EE. UU. han empezado a buscar miembros de la Reserva Individual, en otras palabras, soldados que durante los últimos ocho años han estado en servicio activo o pasivo. Están sujetos a la posibilidad de una movilización a base de aviso, aunque no estén pasando por un entrenamiento junto con la guardia activa o unidades de la reserva pasiva. (7) Si bien los funcionarios frecuentemente se han negado a dar de baja a personal militar en servicio activo de acuerdo con el programa “paremos las pérdidas”, una activación de la Reserva Individual es el último paso que el gobierno puede dar para incrementar el número de tropas, si se evita la introducción del servicio militar obligatorio. En cuarto lugar, EE. UU. también están planeando mandar a Irak sus unidades de entrenamiento de la fuerza de oposición (“OpFor”). (8) OpFor son los mejores soldados de las fuerzas militares. Su trabajo consiste en entrenar nuevas unidades de acuerdo con los estándares más altos. La presencia de estas unidades en Irak significa que los reclutas recién entrenados no tendrán ni idea sobre cómo pelear, de modo que logros a largo plazo (algunos de los mejores soldados de las fuerzas armadas en Irak) resultan en pérdidas a largo plazo (reclutas no entrenados serán aplastados como moscas el año que viene, y sus compañeros fastidiados o indispuestos a luchar terminarán matando a oficiales).

Estos cuatro hechos indican que EE. UU. no tienen el personal adecuado para llevar a cabo sus planes, lo cual implica la introducción de un servicio militar obligatorio después de las elecciones, independientemente de que facción imperialista obtenga el poder estatal. El servicio militar obligatorio no es más que otra forma de opresión de los jóvenes, aún en países imperialistas. Los imperialistas estadounidenses se han dado cuenta de que no obtendrán apoyo material de los imperialistas alemanes y franceses, y ni siquiera de la ONU. Los socios de un crimen con derechos iguales se respetan a sí mismos. Así que EE. UU. implementarán un reclutamiento obligatorio: los problemas presupuestarios apuntan a la misma posibilidad.

El capitalismo promociona una actitud de “vivir en el momento”. Este hecho envenena el razonamiento capitalista en cuanto a la guerra. Esta es una de las múltiples razones por la cual el MIM tiene confianza estratégica en el proletariado mundial. Los imperialistas siguen cometiendo errores en esta guerra (9) debido a una sobreestimación de su poder y

no pueden admitir la verdad- el hecho de que su imperio está construido sobre el sudor y la sangre de la mano de obra tercermundista robada por los imperialistas.

Sin considerar el insano tratamiento de los prisioneros y los abusos de los civiles documentados en previos artículos de MIM Notes, está claro que nuestros enemigos están extendidos más allá de su capacidad y están cometiendo errores. Si se suman sus cálculos erróneos de fuerzas militares y sus atrocidades contra el pueblo de Irak, se obtendrá un resultado claro: los imperialistas perderán la guerra en Irak. Cuanto antes sea la derrota, mejor para todos nosotros.

Estos hechos confirman la predicción del MIM de que los países imperialistas desesperadamente necesitados de recursos tercermundistas, terminarán expandiéndose más allá de su capacidad e involucrándose en difíciles guerras por recursos tercermundistas. El enemigo está cometiendo graves errores diarios. Pero nuestra victoria no será rápida: desafortunadamente, los imperialistas matarán a muchos proletarios antes de que sus errores estratégicos se manifiesten en sus propios países. Tenemos que minimizar nuestras pérdidas hasta el máximo grado posible mediante la organización de una resistencia a la guerra. No tarden en oponerse al imperialismo: la vida que Uds. salven puede ser la suya.

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