By a contributor
February 17, 2005

Many “socialists” and even “communists” in the united Snakes have been strangely silent about Ward Churchill, which is an expression of the fact that their lines are really bourgeois. But some who have opened their mouths to “defend” him have seen fit to undermine him with the other hand.

Certain so-called leftists and socialists have been contributing to Ward Churchill’s detractors’ distortion of his ideas, while claiming to support Churchill in his struggle with the Colorado governor and legislators, and the Colorado University regents. Not content with making simplistic Liberal arguments in defense of Churchill’s Constitutional “free speech” rights, some have gone as far as calling Churchill’s arguments “reactionary,” presumably to distance themselves from Churchill’s unpopular ideas. Yet, they claim to be supporting Churchill as a matter of principle.

But these “leftists” aren’t just trying to distance themselves from Churchill’s ideas; many actually mean what they say. This is a recent example from the World Socialist Web Site:

“This [Churchill’s argument about the “technocratic corps” as being little Eichmanns] is a wrongheaded and deeply reactionary argument, whether it refers to top officials of investment firms or immigrant maintenance workers. The crimes of US imperialism are manifold, and seen from the perspective of a Native American, American history must appear a particularly bloody spectacle. Nonetheless, to identify the American people, from whom virtually all knowledge about the consequences of the Persian Gulf war and sanctions has been withheld, with the US war machine is a terrible political mistake and writes off the possibility of profound social change in America. Moreover, the essential callousness of Churchill’s response to the bombings works in the opposite direction of cultivating humanitarian and generous impulses in the population.” (David Walsh, 1996)

Announcing MIP-Kanada

The Kanadian vanguard party

On February 18, 2005, the glorious red banner of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism was hoisted over northern North America with the establishment of MIP-Kanada, a Maoist Internationalist Party. MIP-Kanada works closely with its fraternal parties in the other imperialist countries and maintains ties with its fraternal parties in the developing countries.

Kanada has plenty of parties calling themselves “socialist” or “communist” that cater to the demands of Kanadians, but MIP-Kanada is the only party that upholds MIM’s correct and scientific view of Kanada as a country dominated by a labour aristocracy that supports imperialism because it has been bought off with a share of imperialist superprofits extracted from the Third World. White Canadians, like their American counterparts, constitute an oppressor nation that subjugates its internal semi-colonies, principally the First Nations. We spell “Canada” and “Canadian” with a “K” to symbolize the decadent, backward, pro-imperialist nature of Kanada’s non-proletarian working class.

MIP-Kanada sees the struggle of the First Nations for self-determination as the primary national struggle in Kanada and the only one that gets our support at this time. While recognizing Québec as a nation, we join our First Nations comrades in opposing Québécois independence as a move that would set back the independence of the First Nations and play into the hands of US imperialism. We will support any First Nations that demand their independence from Kanada and will offer them our assistance in establishing their own Maoist parties.

In addition, MIP-Kanada agrees with the majority of Kanadians that Kanada does not have a distinct culture or a national identity. Anglophone Kanada in particular is merely an extension of the United States. Unlike the Kanadian chauvinist parties calling themselves Marxist that exaggerate Kanada’s distinctness for opportunist ends, MIP-Kanada works closely with its fraternal parties in the other imperialist countries in the 20th century.

The ‘COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY’ MOVEMENT

Western white man’s greatest accomplishment in the 20th century

The whole Ward Churchill furor about “little Eichmanns” and the huge propaganda blitz surrounding the taking of U.S. hostages in Iraq point up the urgent need to understand the collective responsibility of the white man in the industrialized imperialist countries. In particular, it is appropriate at this moment to point out the greatest accomplishment of the white man of the Western industrialized countries in the 20th century. The award goes to the German communists who for a time ran the government of Germany with the theme of “collective responsibility” for the crimes of Nazi Germany. Without that movement for “collective responsibility,” the white man would have that much less basis for peace with the rest of the world.

The first official statement of the communist party (KPD) once legalized after World War II said:

"Not only Hitler is guilty of the crimes that have befallen humanity! Ten million Germans also bear part of the guilt, those who in 1932 in free elections voted for Hitler although we communists warned: ‘Whoever votes for Hitler votes for war!’ Part of the guilt is also borne by those German men and women who, spineless and without resistance, watched Hitler grab power, watched how he destroyed all democratic organizations, especially those of the labor movement, and locked up, tortured, and murdered the best Germans.

“Guilty are all those Germans who saw in the armaments build up a ‘Greater Germany’ and perceived in bestial Germany’ and perceived in bestial militarism, in marches and exercises, the sole sanctifying redemption of the nation.”

Then, as now, there were those who wanted to whitewash countless oppressive actions carried out by ordinary...
Two weeks ago King Gyanendra of Nepal fired all his puppets and took full and open control of the political regime.(1) He imposed a total communications blackout, only now being somewhat relieved.

At the same time, the king ordered the arrest of bourgeois politicians planning demonstrations. Hundreds have been detained. As a result, Denmark has ceased its aid operations to Nepal and other countries are threatening to follow suit.

Currently, the United States, India and the European Union are making a show of slapping the king on the wrist for totally moving away from “democracy.” In actuality, they are letting King Gyanendra do their dirty work.

Without bourgeois political interlocutors, the monarchy’s army in Nepal is now openly speaking for itself as upholding “human rights” despite fears about what such an openly monarchist regime might intend.(2) As MIM reported previously, at least some bourgeois analysts believe that King Gyanendra is the only one with political capital with the military sufficient to launch any attacks on the Maoist rebels carrying out People’s War. Otherwise, we might expect that the imperialists would have assassinated the king long ago and installed a new stooge. As usual, the military strategy of an unpopular regime is to rely on higher technology weaponry than what the rebels have. King Gyanendra wasted no time by launching air strikes on his own people(3) after disposing of his own previous puppet government. Yet it is inevitable that in a Maoist People’s War, the people will learn to adjust to new weapons and seize new ones of their own.

Thanks to the secret nature of bourgeois diplomacy we can only speculate that the king did all this with the green light from U.S. imperialism. It’s only too cute that after the United States and others delivered their military aid to the monarchy, they criticized him slightly and withdrew ambassadors “for consultation,” a somewhat severe diplomatic move by diplomatic standards. This allows the imperialists to pretend to wash their hands of what follows.

Again, the king’s move only proves what MIM was saying before about the nature of U.S. allies in Nepal and globally. As usual, Uncle Sam finds the most bizarre and backward people to prop up—anybody as long as they are not communist.

In this case, the imperialists have picked their typical lackey, someone on the wrong side of history. It is also the case that the petty-bourgeoisie of Amerika deserves some criticism for supporting god-kings like King Gyanendra in Nepal, when they themselves would never consent to living under a god-king.

The crunchy, feel-good granola-eaters of Amerika fantasize about lands distant and spiritually pure. They fantasize that the slave-owning Dalai Lama would have ruled better than Mao.

Now we see the result. For all who have praised the Dalai Lama, here is your comeuppance. You should now be in praise of King Gyanendra. Here is your chance to show that theocrats in countries that supposedly never want to change are better than Maoists. The Hindu god Vishnu is supposedly incarnated in Nepal’s king.

As MIM said in MIM Notes 303, “the mode of production needs to advance in Nepal. The Maoists are right, and that’s why the political alternatives seem so ludicrous.” It’s obvious that no one can modernize Nepal except the Maoists.

Notes:
Capitalism ruins sports: NHL cancels season

On February 16, the professional U.S. hockey league called “National Hockey League” (NHL) announced the cancellation of the season. The players and owners could not agree on salary caps per team, with players wanting $49 million per team and owners wanting it to be $6.5 million less.

Even on NBC television, the disgruntled fans led the announcer to point out how “big business” has made itself unpopular in this context. Fans spoke on TV about how they wanted the game played for its own sake.

MIM refers to this conflict as one of leisure-time dynamics. Although salaries make it possible to have professional sports, the public somehow still wants in the back of its mind that sports have intrinsic value, apart from money.

Sports for their own sake and sex for its own sake are similar agenda items when it comes to capitalism. In fact, with the existence of capitalism it is not possible to know when people have sex for its own sake and it is not possible to know who would be the champions in sports without the influence of having to entertain for money. As the professional basketball player Dennis Rodman explained, even he does not believe the NBA is about who is the best player or team. Instead it’s about who the owners believe they should promote because of their capability to sell tickets and boost TV ratings.

In this particular conflict over hockey, the fans with a refined sense of leisure time gain some insight into the fight against capitalism. They realize that capitalism is destroying something they value external to money.

In most circumstances, people with a refined sense of leisure are contributing to capitalism’s stability. We call these people “gender aristocracy.” People who might otherwise be discontented find themselves entertained into apathy. Statistics on newspaper readership and TV viewing make it clear that such people are increasingly important while “hard news” reporting by MIM or the New York Times is less and less important in the majority-exploiter countries.

Another interesting point about the hockey season cancellation (and at the very least, the NHL has missed most of its season to negotiations thus far) is the salaries of the players, who average $1.8 million a year in salary. There are many foolish or deceptive “Marxists” who say that income does not matter and that hockey players are “proletariat,” because they receive a paycheck and do not own the stadiums.

In contrast, genuine Marxists believe that income derives from access to the means of production. High income generally comes from access to the means of production. In this case, high income is so high it is access to the means of production itself. $1.8 million is not the means of subsistence. It is an amount to save in the form of access to the means of production—stocks, bonds and savings accounts. The annual interest from $1.8 million in an account somewhere is sufficient to live on—proof that the average hockey player is not just petty-bourgeois but outright bourgeois. What matters is not who owns the skating rink but the fact that players are partners to the TV rights-access to the means of production in general, not particular lockerrooms or gyms.

Abolish the oppressor’s tool called ‘psychology’

Texas prisoners face professional brainwashing

By a comrade

A Texas prisoner has sent us a copy of his “Rational Self-Analysis” (RSA) worksheet. RSA is a simplistic psychological method used by quack business consultants and other charlatans trying to make an easy buck off of people’s insecurity. The method is designed to get people to dissociate themselves from things they “cannot” change and instead focus on the effects of their own actions. Like horoscopes, at a high enough level of generality these ideas may appear correct. For example, we should avoid ultraleft idealism, or the idea that we can take revolutionary action as if material conditions have already changed in the direction we want them to. But we do not say that we “cannot” change material conditions — just that we need to understand how much they have actually changed, and be scientific about how much change we can effect in a certain time period.

In this Texas prison, the counselor applying the RSA program is clearly just trying to get the prisoner to stop worrying about other prisoners’ conditions, to prevent the development of collective identity. Clearly, “an injury to one is an injury to all” would constitute a violation of the reprogramming the counselor is trying to impose.

The worksheet below says, “the way to change our feelings is not to change reality (this is impossible!) but to change our trouble causing patterns of thinking.” We agree that what we think and feel reflects the interaction of external events and our own consciousness and reaction to them. However, we must insist that our reactions in turn influence external events. If that were not the case, society would never change. The counselor wants to break the dialectical connection between consciousness and conditions, to insist that the only correct approach for the prisoner is to accept all material conditions as unchanging “reality” and settle for adapting his behavior to survival within these conditions.

We would agree that revolutionary prisoners need to put a very high priority on their own survival, and that idealism about the ability to affect conditions can lead to costly mistakes. But we reject the underlying philosophy in general and the shameless attempt to depoliticize this prisoner in particular.

We would like to see other examples of this or similar programs from other prisoners, so that we may expose them to prisoners and their supporters outside the walls.

Below is the excerpted text of the worksheet, with the prisoner’s responses as written shown in italics. The counselor’s “corrections,” marked in red, appear in [brackets].

Rational Self-Analysis

The A-B-C Model:

If we look at our lives, most of what is going on in our heads is focused on situations or events of some kind. Thousands of events are occurring all of the time but only certain ones get our attention. These events are called Activating Events. We often think that these cause us to feel a certain way and we believe we cannot help feeling the way we do because they “made” us feel that way. We believe that our feelings/behaviors are the consequences of the event. But if that were true, then everyone would react to the same event the same way. However, the Consequences of the event, our feelings and behaviors, are really caused by the Beliefs we hold about the event. The way to change our feelings is not to change reality (this is impossible!) but to change our trouble causing patterns of thinking. We need to create helpful, worthwhile, encouraging and useful Rational Responses that will help us feel and behave in healthy ways!

Worksheet

Rational Self-Analysis: A guide to help you challenge your self-talk

Across the top, in red, the prison counselor has written, “Please try again!”

A - Activating Event (Something happens):

Prisoner: Officer did this as a way to change the above situation. If the officer did this, I should not be feeling this way.

B - Beliefs, thoughts, self-talk (I tell myself something about “A”):

Prisoner: The officer did this as a form of punishment but only because he believes he can get away with it.

C - Consequences (I feel and do something):

Emotions (I feel):

Prisoner: Anger

Behaviors (I do): I question the officer as to why he didn’t feed the offender.

D - Dispute (Challenge) the above Beliefs by answering the following questions about each thought you listed above. If your answer is no, explain why.

A-live? Does this thought keep me safe?

Prisoner: No. It lets the officer know that I did not like what he did.

F-eel? Does this thought help me feel the way I want to feel?

Prisoner: Yes

O-thers? Does this thought keep me out of trouble with others?

Prisoner: No.

R-eal? Is this thought true? Is it based on objective reality?

Prisoner: Yes.

G-oals? Does this help me reach my goals?

Prisoner: No.

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Note: http://www.940news.com/news.php?cat=9&id=n0216110A

Support Ward Churchill

From page 1...


What this particular example shows is how the Trotskyists are being misled. They are also worse than the liberals, like the ACLU, who do not claim to be socialist, yet still manage to support Ward Churchill without strongly attacking him with the other hand. David Walsh conflates the “technocratic corps” with the “American people” and repeats the vague bullshit about Churchill being “callous” toward the Trade Center victims (without mentioning how callous Madeline Albright was). And he deliberately misreads Ward Churchill as saying there is no opportunity for any Americans to change, when Churchill clearly acknowledges the existence of a minority of Americans (albeit tiny) who opposed the Iraq sanctions in more effective ways than those who either did nothing or too little to oppose the sanctions.

David Walsh also attributes Churchill’s observations on American genocide to Churchill’s being an American Indian: “seen from the perspective of a Native American, American history must appear a particularly bloody spectacle.” However, it is David Walsh and other Trotskyists who practice identity politics by quickly opposing any line that locates the bulk of the revolutionary forces outside the “American people.” Also, David Walsh lies about Americans not knowing the effects of the sanctions before 9/11. It’s as if David Walsh did not even read Churchill’s essay. As Churchill points out, Madeline Albright herself admitted in a 60 Minutes in 1996 that half a million children died as a result of the sanctions. Peer-reviewed research on the child mortality effects of the sanctions appeared as early as 1992. David Walsh’s obnoxious nihilism with regard to what the American population could have known about the sanctions is exactly what Ward Churchill is talking about. And what could the American population have known, a decade before 9/11? Just looking at the Iraq sanctions:

On November 4, 1992, The Atlanta Journal and Constitution reported James Grade as saying Iraqi “children are in the greatest crisis, and 3 million people suffer from U.N. sanctions. He spoke of raw sewage and broken pumps, malnutrition and deaths from measles in a situation he called ‘very fragile.’” On September 24, 1992, the Toronto Star (Reuters) reported: “An international team of researchers estimated 46,900 children under age five died in Iraq between January and August, 1991, as an indirect effect of the bombing, civilian uprisings and a U.N. ordered economic embargo.” On September 24, 1992, USA TODAY reported: “Air attacks on Iraq during the Persian Gulf war, and subsequent trade sanctions, increased by threefold the number of war-related infant and child deaths, a postwar study suggests.” On December 23, 1991, a St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri) editorial reported: “The damage is so severe that it would take Iraqis to death. According to surveys, food prices in Iraq have risen more than 2,000 percent, per capita calorie intake has dropped to 1,500 calories from 3,000 before the war; cholera, typhoid, meningitis and diarrhea are epidemic; infant morality has quadrupled and 118,000 children are at risk of death.” On November 25, 1991, The Washington Post reported: “After more than a year of U.N.-imposed economic sanctions, Iraqis are accustomed to such shortages. But in what diplomats here say could become a major obstacle to U.S. efforts to sway Iraqi public opinion and influence government policy, Iraqis are expressing growing anger and resentment toward the United States for maintaining the economic blockade, now that Iraqi forces are out of Kuwait. . . . [Ayad Ramdani, surgeon in Mosul, Iraq, said]: ‘Your country is punishing our people. What the United States is doing is starving our children and depriving people of drugs and telling them to overthrow the government. This is torture, inhumane torture.’” On November 5, 1991, a St. Petersburg Times (Florida) editorial reported “George Bush repeatedly said we had no quarrel with the people of Iraq, but they are suffering from the continued economic sanctions imposed on them by the West and from the consequences of the air war. Eighty-eight thousand tons of food have been cut off, causing devastation that imperils the lives of thousands of children. . . . A group of Harvard doctors and public health workers visited Iraq last month and brought back harrowing statistics. After visiting 9,034 households in every region in Iraq, the team reached these conclusions: 900,000 Iraqi children are malarious. The mortality rate for children is 380 percent greater than it was before the war.” On December 19, 1990, The Herald Sun (Reuters) reported: “Iraq claimed today U.N. sanctions had killed 2,042 Iraqi children under the age of five years since August because of shortages of food and medicine.” On the same day, The Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA) (Reuters) reported the same thing. There are hundreds of other examples like these (not only before September 2001, but before 1996!), and these reactionary jokes like David Walsh have the nerve to claim the “American people” could not know have known anything about the consequences of the sanctions long before 9/11!

But subjects in an essay (“Ward Churchill: Right to Speak Out; Right About 9/11,” http://www.counterpunch.com/jensen02142005.html) posted in several places on the Internet, also misrepresents the content of Ward Churchill’s “Some People Push Back” essay. This may be even more damaging than the foul WSWS trash because Robert Jensen, unlike David Walsh, supports to give Ward Churchill’s main argument “firm” support.

What Robert Jensen does which is so devastating is to interpret Churchill as supporting the Trade Center attacks as a matter of strategy, when Churchill is only counseling readers on how to avoid similar attacks in the future. Robert Jensen: “It’s hard to read that as anything other than an endorsement of the use of deadly force against all those involved in ‘the mighty engine of profit’ to which the military dimension of U.S. policy has always been enslaved,” apparently at the level of stock traders and above.” Jensen proceeds to discuss why “the attacks of 9/11 don’t meet the test” of necessary and justified violence. However, Ward Churchill never said the attacks were effective. On the contrary, Churchill said: “For it to have been otherwise, a far higher quality of character and morality would have been found among average Americans than is actually the case. . . . It’s becoming increasingly apparent that the dosage of medicine administered was entirely insufficient to accomplish its purpose. Although there are undoubtedly excellent stock traders and executives for the most part still don’t get it.” Also, Churchill only said the “little Eichmanns” had it coming morally from the viewpoint of those who carried out the Trade Center attacks (thus Churchill’s use of the word “penalty,” which has a legal connotation). In the West, it was predictable based on a long history of American militarism and genocide. How much clearer can it get? Churchill said: “This might be seen as merely a matter of ‘vendange’ or ‘retribution,’ and, unquestionably, America has earned it, even if it were to add up only to something so ultimately petty.” Read that again: “petty.”

Petty

Petty, like Robert Jensen’s pathetic attempts to fabricate distinctions between stock traders on the exchange floor and higher-up brokers and portfolio managers, as if these people weren’t all parasites, as well as cogs in the machine, and didn’t have similar career goals and political aims. Petty, like Jensen’s claim that “high-level traders” bear more responsibility simply because their actions have more powerful immediate financial consequences. It’s as if Jensen were holding the high-level employees to a higher standard—perhaps because they are aware of the evil they are perpetrating (which reduces responsibility to a matter of “demonstrate [trade solidarity],” portrays Churchill as having an unrefined “demonstrate [true] solidarity,” portrays because Amerikan parasites hardly anything other than the Trade Center victims and elections, the people in the White House are the choice of the Americans. Ward Churchill is right; the American population as a whole (but particularly the white oppressor nation) has had more opportunity to be informed about imperialism, and more than enough opportunity to act, but they have not acted. Granted, many are too busy being decadent to be very well-informed. Yet, most were aware of the Iraq sanctions, for instance, but did absolutely nothing about them. For Jensen to speak of degree of responsibility here is ridiculous because Amerikan parasites hardly exhibit degrees of action in the first place. What it comes down to is that Jensen, under the pretext of “disagreeing” with Churchill’s writing in order to “demonstrate [trade solidarity],” portrays Churchill as having an unrefined terrorist mentality incapable of discriminating between different Amerikan parasites. But Churchill was not proposing terrorism as a strategy in the first place, so Jensen’s “disagreement” is just the same slander about Churchill’s supposed ulterior motives.
Unprincipled cowards from the Internet purposefully misrepresent Ward Churchill’s ideas as being yet another "technocratic corps" as "little Eichmanns." (Adolf Eichmann was a Nazi bureaucrat, who supposedly was just obeying orders.) Jeremy Robb falsely attributes statements to Ward Churchill, such as: “Churchill declared that the 2,977 people killed in the ‘sterile’ World Trade Center attack were innocent victims, but rather ‘little Eichmanns.’” Without nuance or qualification, Churchill argued that those killed in the World Trade Center were as culpable for US violence as top Nazi bureaucrat Adolf Eichmann was for Germany’s actions. Only those who did not obey orders are called “little Eichmanns.”

Given the outrage lies about Churchill going around in the blogosphere and the larger Internet, many will write off the ChronWatch article as being yet another intentional, blatant distortion of Ward Churchill’s “Some People Push Back” essay, this time under the pretext of parody or satire, and they will be right. The article is total bullshit, and the quote Jeremy Robb attributes to Churchill was not made up. But what’s interesting is that Google’s “computer algorithms without human intervention” portrays this as a news piece, like any other, and some persons have actually interpreted it as such.(1) Elsewhere, the body of the article was reposted, without comment, on right-wing University of Haifa Professor Steven Plaut’s blog.(2) However, the ChronWatch article does not actually parody anything in the San Francisco Chronicle. On the contrary, the Associated Press articles, covering Ward Churchill’s struggle with the Colorado board, reveal that the San Francisco Chronicle, have distorted and in other ways misrepresented the content of Churchill’s essay. Other blog posts, filled with shamelessness lies about Churchill and racist attacks (repeated off-line) having to do with his American Indian lineage, appear as legitimate “news” on Google. Thus, it was described as ‘technicians.’ Thus, it was obvious not directed to the children, janitors, food service workers, firemen and random passers-by killed in the 9-11 attack. According to Pentagon logic, were simply part of the collateral damage” (emphasis mine).(4) Steven Best insists on insinuating that Churchill was “back-peddling.” From MIM’s point of view, all Americans need to take collective responsibility for crimes of their government. Churchill’s argument on terrorism is based on his belief that the German communist example also portrays this.

The award for the greatest accomplishment of the Western white countries. That means that we are overdue for a correct summation of history. The award for the greatest accomplishment of the Western white can no go to the rebels of Paris in 1968, because there was no follow-up. The rebels had the physical power, but did not because of a lack of mission that the German comrades demonstrated in 1945 and 1946. The German comrades too had many flaws, but the one thing that they managed to do is still unparalleled elsewhere—provide political meaning to a majority on why it had been wrong.

The German communist example in 1945 continues to shine a brilliant light today. The German communists were not “terrorists” or “terrorist sympathizers” for talking about “collective responsibility” and that is something that even the ordinary American can understand, if political activists unite behind the MIM line to put forward the explanation necessarily. Just as today the various minorities scapegoated by the allies of the BuSh administration had nothing to do with 911, because it was Reagan and BuSh who armed and trained Al-Qaeda, the German comrades were involved with no terrorist armed actions while putting forward the “collective responsibility” line that advanced global peace. Certainly the ordinary Germans did suffer during and after World War II, but the German comrades held firm and did not let themselves be turned into scapegoats by the Allied powers.

The German communist example also lights the path, because it proves that in any strategic situation no matter how dire, what matters is the overall strength of the international proletariat in the world, not inside a particular powerful imperialist country. There is no reason to give up the fight, and in some circumstances it is absolutely necessary to resist the majority bitterly. Note: Weitz, Eric D. Creating German Communism, 1890-1990: From Popular Protests to Socialist State. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1997, p. 319.
The collective responsibility movement for Amerika

What could AmerikKAns have known about the Iraq sanctions?

By a contributor

February 18, 2005

Certain individuals, presuming to refute Ward Churchill’s “Some People Push Back” essay that is causing the governor of Colorado to ask for Ward Churchill’s resignation, are suggesting Americans could not have known about the effects of the Iraq sanctions long before 9/11, at least enough to act. The argument goes that since such people “did not know,” they cannot hold moral responsibility as “little Eichmanns” as Ward Churchill charged. What counts as actionable information is the underlying question.

The low quality of the imperialist media’s output is worth mentioning. Progressives should seek to raise the truth quotient in politics, and that includes raising the qualilty of the opposition to the mainstream media output. Some television news, media which both influences and reflects public opinion, can water down or otherwise distort the truth. To point out that the vast majority of Americans could have known about the child mortality effects of the sanctions against Iraq, for instance, is not to say that the media coverage of the Iraq sanctions was adequate politically. As Maria Alanis points out, mainstream media coverage of Iraq sanctions has been lacking, numerically speaking and otherwise, since September 11, 2001, yet more proof of the need for the oppressed to have their own independent institutions, including newspapers.

Undoubtedly, an Iraqi child mortality figure repeated matter-of-factly by a news announcer on a bourgeois news program is not going to be really inspiring; [insert characteristic of Iraq's populace]. No one can find a reference for the alleged Stalin quote “An individual death is a tragedy. A million deaths is a statistic,” but if he admit it. “(6)

For those who still do not get it, you are going to “defend” Ward Churchill, only to misrepresent what he said, just stay out of it. There may be a difference between distinguishing oneself from Churchill’s ideas, and misrepresenting his ideas, but many “liberals and Leftists” have certainly crossed this line into fueling the gross distortion of Churchill’s ideas. Steven Best says: “Numerous liberals and Leftists have defended Churchill’s First Amendment rights, while criticizing his ideas. Some have been criticized for their analyses of 9-11.” But many so-called leftists have also contributed to the butchering of Churchill’s essay.

Half-assed “defenses” of Churchill not enough

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it is “tempting” to agree that “titans” of finance are more guilty than the rest of us. But even though they’re better compensated than the rest of us, they’re no more guilty, really. We’re all little Eichmanns. Only the far left is willing to admit it. (6)

Steven Best asserts: “Left unqualified, Churchill’s words can be read as an endorsement of terrorism and mass murder; thus, they had obvious inflammatory potential that the Right exploited to full advantage to launch a new round of Culture Wars.” This is wrong. Churchill did indeed specify who the “little Eichmanns” were in his essay, and Churchill’s words do not endorse terrorism or mass murder. It is only open reactionaries and idiots like Steven Best with reading-comprehension problems who could “read” Churchill’s essay this way.

For those who are going to “defend” Ward Churchill, only to misrepresent what he said, just stay out of it. There may be a difference between distancing oneself from Churchill’s ideas, and misrepresenting his ideas, but many “liberals and Leftists” have certainly crossed this line into fueling the gross distortion of Churchill’s ideas. Steven Best says: “Numerous liberals and Leftists have defended Churchill’s First Amendment rights, while criticizing his ideas. Some have been criticized for their analyses of 9-11.” But many so-called leftists have also contributed to the butchering of Churchill’s essay.

Between now and the conclusion of the CU chancellor and regents’ investigation in March is not the time for so-called nuance. But now is the time to defend Churchill thoroughly. Individuals who cannot do this should at least refrain from making questionable “interpretations” of Churchill’s essay.

Notes:
5. A pattern exhibited by mouthpieces of the labor aristocracy (or even capitalists covering up for the labor aristocracy) who “defend” Ward Churchill for their own purposes, only to trash what he said and undermine his credibility. See: “Support Ward Churchill; don’t slander him all over again,” http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/sanctionspills.html
The collective responsibility movement for America

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encouraged the Kurds and Shites and other dissidents to rise up against Saddam Hussein when the war was over and then abandon them to the not-very-tender mercies of the regime. (4)

...and continue to have collective responsibility for American imperialist militarism and genocide. In his essay “Some People Push Back,” Ward Churchill adequately points out that the American population, and particularly the “well-educated,” had collective knowledge of the consequences of the sanctions against Iraq. However, Americans had knowledge of the child mortality and other undesirable effects of the Iraq sanctions even earlier than Dennis Halliday’s assessment in 1998. 1996, the year of the 60 Minutes broadcast with Madeline Albright.

The following is aimed at those who are spreading lies to the effect that Americans could not have known anything substantial, before the September 11, 2001, attacks, about the consequences of the Iraq sanctions. The focus is on U.S. mainstream newspapers, and these are just a handful of the articles Americans read in just 1991-1995. Several other similar articles from 1990-1992 are mentioned in “Support Ward Churchill; don’t slander him all over again” (http://www.etext.org/Politics/M I M/ m i n / s e p t l 2 0 0 1 / w ar chur till021705.html). The first part of “What could AmerikkKans have known about the Iraq sanctions?” (http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/ iraq/sanctionspol10.html) provides some television news media examples from 1991-1993. Keep in mind that this is not just about the viscerally repugnant effects of the Iraq sanctions, but rather a pattern of Americans, including leftist and even “socialists” (not to mention DemoKKKrats and RepublikKans), denying and then feigning ignorance about the consequences of American imperialist militarism and genocide generally.

Mainstream newspaper sources, 1991-1995

On March 28, 1993, the Washington Post reported for the more pragmatic American paranoids: “Economic sanctions don’t work very well. They sound tough, but in practice they often end up helping the very people who are supposed to be punished.”

“None of the sanctions are working,” said retired U.S. diplomat Robert B. Oakley, who just completed an assignment as special U.S. envoy in Somalia after serving at various times as ambassador to Pakistan, Zaire and Somalia.”

On June 19, 1992, columnist Charles Krauthammer, upholding military action as an alternative to sanctions, mentioned: “Almost a year and a half of the most severe sanctions in history, applied to a country devastated by war, U.S. intelligence agencies report that Hussein is stronger today than he was a year ago.”

The above is a case of pro-imperialist American paranites criticizing the Iraq sanctions for selfish pragmatic reasons, but it is revealing. Still, in 1996, 58% of telephoned Americans supported continuing “both economic sanctions and...”

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military operations, and 16% supported continuing “economic sanctions against Iraq” (poll by the Los Angeles Times, September 10, 1996). In 1992, three times as many Americans supported maintaining “economic sanctions” compared with giving “money to finance groups in Iraq that want to overthrow him” (poll by NBC News, March 2, 1992).

On July 24, 1991, USA TODAY reported:

“President Bush is looking for a way to relax U.N. sanctions against Iraq in order to persuade Saddam Hussein’s government to obey the United Nations.”(4)

It appeared that George H. W. Bush himself made decisions based on knowledge of “malnutrition and epidemics in Iraq.”

On December 18, 1991, The Washington Post reported:

“Iraq said more than 80,000 of its children under 5 have died because of shortages caused by U.N. sanctions imposed over its invasion of Kuwait. . . . Iraq said last month that 65,000 children had died because of shortages of food and medicine and were at risk this winter. The U.N. Children’s Fund said the figures were realistic.”(5)

On September 8, 1991, The Washington Post presented excerpts from letters sent from Iraq to the United States:

“Letters also describe the effect of sanctions in carefully chosen terms. . . . We are happy as a family. We enjoy reading by lamplight until our eyes are full of tears, then we sleep. Even in the daytime, we read when we have free time because there is no cooking gas, so we cook and make bread on kerosene space heaters. In the daytime — and I spend two or three hours making bread from flour more like animal feed than it is flour, but that is all that is available. More recently, of course, real flour is in the shops, but at outrageous prices. People are beginning to hunt deer out of malnourishment and hunger.”(6)

“The most recent letters date from mid-July. This is the last one from one family: “I went to Amman for a few days. I tried to get immigration visas for myself and the family to any country in the world. My dear, life has become extremely difficult in Iraq. The prices continue to rise in a mad way beyond imagination but we manage in one way or another. God protect us from what will come next, it is bound to be worse.”(6)

Feelings of distress resonated even among Iraqis in the United States who were against the Ba’ath Party. On July 24, 1991, an editorial in The Washington Post reported:

“But the greatest anguish is being endured now, as Iraqi Americans watch the governments of the United States and the allies listen to multiplying reports of hunger and disease with seeming passivity and indifference.

“The shortages of food and medicine in Iraq are at catastrophic levels. Children are dying daily from malnutrition, malnourishment and the absence of basic medical care and such common drugs as antibiotics. In addition to cholera, typhoid and gastroenteritis, previously unknown diseases in Iraq such as kwashiorkor and marasmus are killing children.”(7)

Other writers urged readers to consider the so-called unintended consequences of the Iraq sanctions. On November 21, 1991, William F. Woom commented in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri):

“Sanctions may be politically convenient or cheap for the nation imposing them, but their harsh effects upon civilian populations - despite so-called precautions to exempt food or medicine - in Iraq are real. . . . Sanctions on Iraq are a part of a strategy of economic strangulation in which news clippings and personal accounts of the suffering imposed by the sanctions are used to build international support for limiting trade and remitting foreign currency.”(8)

On April 9, 1993, Plain Dealer (Cleveland, Ohio) (Wire Reports) reported:

“Ordinary Iraqis struggle to survive from day to day as the sanctions bite deeper, law and order inexorably breaks down and a once rigidly structured society collapses.

Beggars, virtually unknown in Baghdad before the war, crowd the streets. They ask for food, not money. Crime is endemic, despite severe penalties that make even car theft punishable by death.”(9)

On April 9, 1993, Plain Dealer (Cleveland, Ohio) (Wire Reports) reported that:

“Iraq’s labor minister said yesterday that 170,000 Iraqi children could die from sanctions.”(10)

On October 22, 1991, The New York Times reported:

“A study commissioned by the U.N. Security Council resolutions, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said Thursday. But Boutros-Ghali said he hopes Baghdad will accept a U.N. offer to let Iraq sell $2 billion worth of oil to buy badly needed food and medicine for its 20 million people. “These sanctions cause me pain,” said the U.N. chief, referring to the misery the 5-year-old embargo imposed on Iraq by the United States and Russia, meanwhile, shipped 27 tons of food and medical supplies to Baghdad Thursday for Iraqi children who are reported to be suffering from malnutrition. Russian officials in Amman, Jordan, said the shipment was trucked to Iraq from Jordan because the United Nations refused to allow it to be airlifted to Baghdad.”(18)

On December 11, 1995, Barbara Crossette of The New York Times reported:

“The effects that five years of sanctions are having on children in Iraq has been a concern of UNICEF and other U.N. agencies. Experts say they believe that at least 500,000 children may have died because of the sanctions and because of President Saddam Hussein’s refusal to allow a United Nations-supervised sale of Iraqi oil to buy food, medicine and other emergency supplies.”(19)

On October 16, 1994, The Washington Post, as if anticipating Ward Churchill’s...
On the formation of MIP-Kanada

by International Minister
February 21 2005

MIM has been working with MIP-Kanada especially closely the last few years. Hoisting the red flag over Kanada February 18 2005 was not a casual event.

From our joint work, we know that the provisional Central Committee has the capability and determination to lead. This is not a case where MIM just received an email and a party arose. MIM would not encourage that; although no one can be stopped from setting up a party.

In the imperialist countries, the usual question in addition to ability is the desire to lead. The sugar-coated bullets lead to degeneration of many comrades.

At MIM, we also always assume a percentage of cops and other enemies in the party. As always we tell people to assume that when they deal with any MIM related party, they could be dealing with a cop or spy. Part of that understanding is breaking with Hoxta’s miseducations that chills up enemies in the party to the Liberalism of party leaders, as if all-knowing party leaders could ever stop 100% of the infiltration of the enemy. So each person must become more adept at his/her own security in today’s conditions. For now, communications from Kanada are still handled by

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“Some People Push Back Essay,” reported:

“Signs of Iraq’s agony — due in large part to the U.N. trade embargo imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 — are abundant in this once prosperous, oil-rich country. The health care system, once among the best in the Middle East, is in shambles; Baghdad’s raw sewage is being dumped for the third straight year into the Tigris River, the main source of drinking water; more babies are dying of malnutrition; the proportion of young girls dropping out of elementary school is up to 17 percent from 2.3 percent; crime and corruption are up; the educated are leaving and the middle class is in ruins. . . .

The sanctions also have generated anti-American sentiment among Iraqis that some observers fear could be exploited, either by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein — if he survives the U.S. challenge to his leadership — or by Islamic fundamentalists.” (emphasis mine)

The divergence between the U.S. government’s intentions with respect to the Iraq sanctions, and the “unintended” consequences of the sanctions, was apparent in other ways. The seeming lack of control gave pause to pro-imperialist pragmatists who were considering “military operations” against Iraq, but showed also how people can oppose the sanctions as part of expressing and resisting the crimes of imperialism.

On May 22, 1991, Patrick E. Tyler in The New York Times reported the following:

“The [Harvard University] medical team’s report raises new questions about whether the Bush Administration’s postwar strategy of continued economic sanctions against Iraq will lead to rising mortality rates in the nation of 18 million, where health problems, disease and malnutrition are reported to be growing out of control.

Senior Bush Administration officials have said in the past that they will not allow Iraqi civilians to starve as Washington calibrates a postwar pressure to military force,” Washington Post, June 24, 1991.


And others.


To read MIM’s analysis of Kanadian political questions, go to:
http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/countries/kanada/

You’ll read:

* Mohawks and the Quebecois national question
* Position paper on Quebec as another potential imperialist country
* On Kanada’s referendum of 1992

Kanada is an imperialist oppressor nation of whites dominated by a labor aristocracy and traditional petty-bourgeois population numerically.

m3@mim.org.

There are a number of people floating about in Kanada that has contacted MIM. We hope they will work with MIM more closely.

The situation in England and Australia also cries out. We know there are many from those two places whose hearts are with MIM. It’s a matter of dedicating oneself to arduous struggle for organization. The MIP-Kanada sets the self-reliant example.

Another party that needs to arise is among the Latin Kings/Queens (ALKQN) already working with MIM. The example is there, but we all must redouble our efforts.

Where MIM’s aid to the formation of parties has been insufficient, I’m sure everybody in MIM would like to apologize in advance. It really has been insufficient globally, for the Russians, ex-Yugoslavians, ALKQN etc. That’s not to mention what should be done for the rest of the world.

The Kanadian vanguard party

From page 1...

Kanada exists mainly to carry out revolutionary activities, such as propaganda, that are tactically easier for a party operating within Kanada’s artificial borders. Our responsibilities and aims, however, do not stop at the 49th parallel. We are internationalists committed to promoting Maoist revolution all over the world.

Together with our comrades in MIP-Amerika, with whom we currently share resources, we oppose armed struggle in the imperialist countries at this time. Instead, we devote our energies to legal struggles that contribute to the fulfilment of MIM’s central task: “to create public opinion and the independent institutions of the oppressed to seize power.

MIP-Kanada operates in both English and French. This UNIM News Bulletin who endorse MIM’s three main points. Comrades are invited to work and struggle with us.

DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM!
LONG LIVE MARXISM-LENINISM-
MAOISM!
PROLETARIANS OF THE WORLD.
UNITE!

Provisional Central Committee of MIP-Kanada
February 18, 2005
Federal prisoner demands education

I’ve been incarcerated ever since I was 19. I’m now 30 years old. All remedies have been exhausted. So they say that I will die behind these bars. I need to study so that I will not lose my mind when I am freed. I think: “the white man has no right to judge the white man is bound to respect.” Instead of appealing to this system we should discredit it.

A Federal prisoner in Colorado, 6 January, 2005

MIM responds: Our Free Books for Prisoners program is designed to give prisoners the chance for both an honest education on the history of the oppressed, and to become activists, organizers and educators, using their knowledge to bring others into political consciousness and participation. We Maoists are doing the work of making democratic participation an option for one of the most under-represented groups in this so-called free society.

Prisoners: We distribute books in exchange for political work, so when you write, tell us how you want to contribute.

People on the outside, read our book of the month club! You send us one political, legal, or historical book each month, and we’ll get that book to a prisoner who needs it.

One Small Account of Torture and a Lesson for CO’s

I am currently housed at the WSP/IMU [Washington State Penitentiary/Intensive Management Unit]. I have been at the receiving end of much abuse by Washington State prison officials since 1987.

I have been psychologically and physically abused, as well as tortured much over the years.

On 8/2/01, here at WSP, I was blasted directly in the face with OC [Oleoresin Capsicum commonly known as Pepper Spray]. I was in no defensive or offensive posture, when I didn’t even know the QRT (Quick Response Team) was there. All I knew was that I was being ordered to cuff up. In any case, immediately upon receiving a large burst directly in the face I jumped up from my Seg cell bed, said, “you won”, or something to that effect, put my hands behind my back to cuff up and was clearly cooperating. At that time, Sgt. Gains gave me another burst directly to the face. This all occurred in around a ten second period. Two bursts in a row is generally, not considered acceptable, but I was not doing anything defensively or offensively and was cooperating fully when I received a second large burst directly to the face. I was then placed and cuffed up and restrained from a hose over my face for almost thirty seconds. I was then paraded by an outside wall lined with prison staff by the QRT escorting me and placed in a seclusion room in the BMU (Behavior Management/Modification Unit). It was a strip cell with a hole in the floor to defecate in. Counselors Brad Graham and Cathy Bly refused to let me use a wet towel or rag to clean my face, arms and genitals which felt like fire, [instead they stood there] laughing at me. I then lost it and four points were approved, however I was six pointed for torture purposes. I was six pointed on the standard metal table they use, which is also part of the torture process they use on a regular basis.

They put each limb in leather restraints, which is called four pointing and was approved. However, I was six pointed, which involved a leather strap being placed around the ankles, and was the initial table. They would tighten all the way and a second leather belt strap was placed over my chest, then tightened around the table. They would give me the required limb releases as required, but would leave the leather belt straps tightened and would not release them as the law required. This caused a great deal of severe pain and discomfort. In fact, my right knee clearly was damaged and this resulted in severe knee pain. I was in six points for five days.

The first couple nights O/C spray was dripped in my eyes and once on my nipples. During the five days I was psychologically and physically abused. I have got documents that clearly show I was six pointed when only four points were approved, but many staff tried to cover up that I was six pointed. It shows I did not receive the required released as is required by law concerning the leather belt straps. They attempted to cover up that I was six pointed but I have documents that clearly show I was while restrained on the table. The video tape of the QRT cell extraction is also available.

Torture is much more common than most would think and I can document other acts of torture.

The Department of Corrections is a state sponsored organization for the criminal abuse of prisoners. Over the years I have assaulted many staff, mainly all male. I have thrown things and spit on female staff. I am no longer going to respond in that fashion to their mistreatment. But rather use my mind to shed light on their abuses and to attempt to make change for the better.

A Washington prisoner, February 2005

MIM responds: OC has been linked to the torture of prisoners.

So for all those CO’s that browse thru MIM Notes as it passes through the prison mail becomes a part of the struggle for a better prison culture by forcing people into stop reinforcing the hyper-violent amerikan system.

Better for you to do a more productive approach to the torture s/he has faced for years. Spending your life in a cage for years never knowing when your tormentors will choose to attack can have a lot of negative effects on a person. One understandable outcome is that you might become easily agitated and ready to fight anyone. And this is a lesson for those correctional officers who want to keep themselves safe at work. Anyone who reads our literature and reads Under Lock and Key might get insight into the fact that the more work a person does with MIM the less likely they are to get in fights with guards and other prisoners. This is because once someone becomes a part of the struggle for a better society, getting beat up or tortured is no longer just another bad day in a fucked up situation. Each injury suffered and each lost battle is a potential set back for the movement. The words of those of us that browse thru their Notes as it passes through the prison mail room: Unless you value the interests of state 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 bourgeois, 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 the overwhelming 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.

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisoners & Prisoners

26,000 Murderers, Rapists and Child Molesters

As a three strikes lifer with a bird’s-eye view of the California prison system, a single subject captured the attention of the entire population – Proposition 66. Liberation. A chance to be free again.

After months of hope founded on very promising poll numbers, the fear merchants relied on smear-tactics to cheat us out of a chance to go home.

“I can’t believe the people didn’t see through the governor’s lies,” said Thomas Wallen, a three striker from Kern County. He’s serving 26 years to life for receiving stolen property. “There are thousands of us buried alive for minor crimes.”

Gov. Schwarzenegger relied of “patently false” numbers in his anti-Proposition 66 attack ads by claiming 26,000 murderers, rapists and child molesters would be set free if the initiative passed. He abandoned the truth in his war-on-justice.

In this election, the truth lost by seven points. Nonetheless, hope remains. The underlying injustice of three strikes still exists. This law has been in place for too long, includes too many biases, and has survived each and every challenge. No other sentencing mandate receives as much criticism. No other law sends drug addicts and shoplifters to prison for life alongside murderers and molesters. Eventually, this law has to be amended. Despite the “mathematically impossible” numbers advanced by the opponents of Proposition 66, only 3,700 of 26,000 murderers, rapists and child molesters would be set free.

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

MIM seeks to build public opinion against America’s criminal injustice system, and to eventually replace the bourgeois injustice system with proletarian justice. The bourgeois injustice system imprisons and executes a disproportionately large and growing number of oppressed people while letting the biggest mass murderers — the imperialists and their lackeys — roam free. Imperialism is not opposed to murder or theft, it only insists that these crimes be committed in the interests of the bourgeoisie.

“All U.S. citizens are criminals— accomplices and accessories to the crimes of U.S. oppression globally until the day U.S. imperialism is overcome. All U.S. citizens should start from the point of view that they are reforming criminals.”

MIM does not advocate that all prisoners go free today; we have a more effective program for fighting crime as was demonstrated in China prior to the restoration of capitalism there in 1976. We say that all prisoners are political prisoners because under the dictatorship of the bourgeois, 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 the overwhelming 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.
Guards beat prisoners to death

In October 2004 two inmates were murdered, beaten to death by so called “peace” officers here at Lancaster. To cover up their crime they (Lancaster CDC) conducted a phony war on drugs search and in the process re-arrested two inmates for drugs. Now catch this. This administration claims that the people who they “caught” with the drugs sold the drugs to the people who were murdered and that the people who were murdered overdosed on the drugs. Now the people who so egregiously sold the drugs are being accused of the murders.

As if these people can’t see that these now dead people are severely wounded from the outside and that an autopsy would shoot their accusations down completely.

-a prisoner in California, November 2004

Frivolous lockdowns and repression at Salinas Valley

For the past few years this prison (Salinas Valley State Prison – The New Soledad), has been under intense investigation by the internal affairs and inspector generals office, two so-called watch dog groups that are propped up by CDC. Several incidents of inmate being beaten, property being destroyed or outright stolen, and vandalism, led to pressure being applied by state Senator Gloria Romero, who chairs the select committee on the California Correctional System. Romero’s questioning led to the investigation, which in turn caused then Warden Caden (who has since “retired”) to reveal facts surrounding a police prison gang called “the Green Wall.” This bonafide gang made it their cause to “ rough-up” rebellious captives and retaliate against prisoners that “disrespect” staff. Most of these most outlandish events took place before my arrival here in April of 2004. I recently read documented accounts of several incidents compiled by an organization that protests and demonstrates for prisoners rights. Most reckless of the entire raid (including a sergeant and lieutenant) were fired by CDC for beating an inmate, falsifying documents, and lying during the interview. The so-called mainstream media has paid little attention to these events, as they continue to develop.

During my time here, a pattern of frivolous lockdowns has manifest. On a regular basis, the administration will lockdown the entire yard for weeks at a time, based upon an “alleged” kite [letter] being received. The most minor displays of stalwart character are a cause for extended lockdown. An example is the “interview process” being employed by the administration here. Whenever an incident occurs, or when they (pigs) supposedly “hear” of a potential incident, they will lockdown the yard for a “threat assessment.” During which time, everyone is required to participate in a confidential interview with the pig, to answer a list of questions! Imagine that! I was shocked that the overwhelming majority of “interviews” with the pigs refused to submit themselves to these interviews. I immediately began organizing brothers to protest and refuse this blatant “snitch” policy! It is a violation of my Fifth Amendment rights and well as the First Amendment rights of those who remain silent. Beyond this, it is an attempt to de-sensitize the convict class to suspect activity. They desire to make it normal program to see inmates in the office, with the pig, with the door closed, answering questions and signing paperwork.

Their intent was made obvious (even to those initially blind) when they began to back track on the assurance of “suspect activity” and striving to enforce that everyone at least “come to the office.” This way, it is virtually impossible to distinguish who may be telling, and those who simply submit to “suspect” activity.

The true demonstration is to stand firm, refusing to participate in the interview process, and refusing to play a part in undermining the solidarity of the convict class. A small collective stood with me, which began to grow and develop with agitation. Of course, the pigs repression came, but pressure has a dual nature: it will bust a pipe, but it is also responsible for the formation of a hard core and hardened Kelso human substance to man! Their repression only helped to sharpen the understanding of the people, and move me to redouble my efforts to see truth succeed. I have since been locked in ad-seg for alleged weapons possession, weapons which I have never seen (to this day!).

My activism coupled with the spirit to get out front and pull the people forward, has allowed me to continue with their revolutionary efforts to see truth succeed. I have since been assaulted many times, beaten to death by so called “peace” officers, as soon as they had me in the darkened rotunda area, two pigs took me to the ground head first, then commenced to punch and kick me from head to toe. Another corrupted official who worked in the control booth just stood there watching the whole incident. Then once they were satisfied from all the blood they seen coming from my mouth, nose and eye area they pushed the alarm, then all of a sudden here comes the rest of that corrupted crew. They come right in front of where I’m laying on my stomach and spitting profusely from mouth, nose and eye area. One of them starts spraying pepper spray for no reason other than just for sport, all into my bleeding areas.

Then they put me in the shower with the hot water running so it would aggravate the pepper spray more. Then they refused to allow me any medical attention, just put me back into my cell.

Around 5pm the next day I was pulled out of a valued position to the interview room down the hallway where I was interviewed on camera for over an hour. Then I was escorted to the facility’s hospital where I got x-rayed, physically examined and given pain medicine, Tylenol and ice packs.

I filed a law suit against all the players but I was unable to make any copies because they corrupt kops would not give me any access to the law library. So I sent the court my only copy of everything.

-a prisoner at Corcoran, December 2004

Prisoner abuse at Corcoran

I’m here at Corcoran corrupational facility SHU and I’ve been here since 1999 for a bogus attempted battery on five rotten pigs while I was in handcuffs already behind my back.

Since my arrival here atcorrupted Corcoran SHU in April 1999 I have been assaulted many many times by [the guards], either while I’m in hand cuffs or in the ruse of an emergency cell extraction which has me with 13 stitches in my head and a trumped up DA charge against me of battery on a pig with a weapon. The DA rejected that shit as soon as the day it was filed. I was given the cover up tactic that is always used when these cowards pull a low down move on a convict or inmates.

Now here is my current issue with these clowns. In June 2003 while I was under the guise of being escorted to the law library by corrupted officials, as soon as they had me in the darkened rotunda area, two pigs took me to the ground head first, then commenced to punch and kick me from head to toe. Another corrupted official who worked in the control booth just stood there watching the whole incident. Then once they were satisfied from all the blood they seen coming from my mouth, nose and eye area they pushed the alarm, then all of a sudden here comes the rest of that corrupted crew. They come right in front of where I’m laying on my stomach and spitting profusely from mouth, nose and eye area. One of them starts spraying pepper spray for no reason other than just for sport, all into my bleeding areas.

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-a prisoner at Corcoran, December 2004

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 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 1980’s, the imprisonment rate was less than half that of the United States. (2,3)

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

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

Notes:
2. Ibid., 1992 report
3. Ibid., 1992 report
4. Figure of 31.2 percent for state prisoners there for non-violent offenses. Abstract of the United States 1993, p. 211.

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 be 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?
Trámites de Moqtadar As-Sadr.

En términos de participación, ha habido una notable creciente en el Kurdistán, donde el porcentaje de participación ha sido el máximo desde el 85% [4]. Tras las elecciones, el partido de Al-Marja’iyyah, que incluye a cuatro ayatollahs, ha recibido el apoyo de los seguidores del clérigo Moqtadar As-Sadr (lista Nacional Kurda), seguidores del clérigo Moqtadar As-Sadr (lista Nacional Kurda), lo que se pugna a fin de la designación de cargos como “[...]:...” [2] y otras decisiones —si es que cabe calificarlas como tales— que se ajusten para 2006 los acuerdos sobre la presencia de las fuerzas de ocupación.

El número oficial de participantes en las elecciones ha sido fijado finalmente en 8.456.250 votantes sobre un total de inscritos de 14,7 millones, es decir el 59%. De los 20 millones de potenciales votantes se ha contabilizado que 14 millones han votado. Según fuentes oficiales, es decir el 70%. Calculese el porcentaje final total de participación: en torno al 72% [2].

Hay discrepancias en la asignación del número de escaños que el nuevo parlamento habrá de ahorrar a la nueva Asamblea y las principales formas de la Sadr. es iraní, como las dos partes nacional y redacción de la [nueva] Constitución: “...” (el Pentágono) otorgados a mandos militares [