Media continue to spread lies about Churchill’s indigenous identity

March 5, 2005
by a contributor

Despite retraction of one news story by a Honolulu newspaper that said Ward Churchill was not a native North American (see below), the news media and thugs from the Internet continue to focus on questions relating to Ward Churchill’s indigenous identity and persist in misrepresenting what Churchill has said about his indigenous identity. For instance, an individual nicknamed “roothog229,” in a blog post appearing in Google News search results for ‘Ward Churchill’ as of today, completely misses the mark and calls on the Cherokee Nation to dissociate themselves from Churchill, but Churchill has never claimed to be enrolled in any of the three U.S.-recognized Cherokee tribes. Church has never claimed to be fully enrolled in any tribe, only saying that he is an associate member of the Keetoowah band of Cherokee, a membership that was never revoked according to “UKB historian and former tribal secretary” Ernestine Berry. But these people lying about what Churchill has said pretend to be defending indigenous people. Oh-so-concerned, the white nationalists supposedly defending other nations’ bloodline purity do not bother to do any research at all.

On The O’Reilly Factor, March 3, 2005, Bill O’Reilly repeated his lie about Churchill “using his questionable data in getting his job in the first place and in sustaining an academic record.”(3) O’Reilly, like others, evidently does not know what “unenrolled” means on Churchill’s résumé and is obscuring the University of Colorado’s responsibility for hiring Churchill in the first place. The University of Colorado should object to O’Reilly’s making them look so incompetent; the critics of Ward Churchill make it look like University of Colorado does not really know what “unenrolled” meant, and did not bother looking into what “unenrolled” meant. Moreover, Churchill explicitly says and clarifies on his résumé that his “tribal heritage” is “Creek/Cherokee (unenrolled);” although, he would not have been unjustified in saying that his nationality or “ethnicity” was indigenous without any qualification.

The National Ledger, which has repeatedly published blog-like articles appearing on Google News in what appears to be a sustained effort to attack Churchill’s character, repeats the lie that Churchill is a “fake Indian college professor.”(4) There is absolutely no evidence for this claim. Even if we indulged the blood quantum argument, there is no evidence showing that Churchill knew he had no indigenous blood quantum, which he does. By other criteria, such as community recognition, Churchill is of First Nation ethnicity.

Others, such as Hawaii Reporter editor and president Malia Zimmerman, have recently insinuated that Churchill is lying about his indigenous identity, saying that he “ducks the subject” of “his claims to being an American Indian.”(5) Zimmerman has also spread KHON and Michelle Malkin’s lie about what Churchill said at a bookstore in August 2003, in quotes taken out of context from three hours of

Honolulu paper retracts attack on Churchill

Pivotal chief had less Cherokee blood than Ward Churchill

by a contributor and mimm3@mim.org

February 24 2004

The Keetoowahs formally verified that Ward Churchill is “at least 3/16 Cherokee Indian by blood.” This quantum accrues strictly from his lineage through his mother. “I was asked if I wanted to try to document my father’s [Creek] side of things,” Churchill recalls, “because he was at least as much Indian as Mom. But he’s dead now. I never knew him, and I don’t know my relatives on that side. So I just let it go. I make the reference in my self-identification out of respect, but I’ve never claimed the quantum because I don’t believe in [quantum]. To me, it’s no different whether I’m 3/16 or 3/8. You don’t measure identity by either pounds or percentage points unless you’re some kind of Nazi.” (Source: http://www.coloradoaim.org/why.html)

A tiny victory has been won in the Ward Churchill media struggle. The Honolulu Star-Bulletin at about 9:30 AM EST initially reported Churchill as denying he was an Indian without any qualification (Craig Gima, “Churchill attacks essay’s critics,” February 23, 2005); actually, even with the Star-Bulletin’s distortion, he only denied being a full member by the rules set by one particular indigenous organization’s bureaucracy. The Honolulu Star-Bulletin has posted a correction.


The Nation Ledger at about 2:45 AM EST also repeated the Star-Bulletin’s mistake in “Ward Churchill Admits He’s not an American Indian” (February 24, 2005).

Colorado Daily at about 2:30 AM EST published an article repeating the same mistake and even further distorting what Churchill said (Jeannette J. Lee, Associated Press Writer, “I am not’

On the web: www.etext.org/Politics/MIM
Over 100 petition signatures collected

New Paltz, NY

A firefighter and a firefighter’s son were among over 100 signatures on a petition calling for the witch hunters of Ward Churchill to be held responsible for their actions. New Paltz is the home of the State University of New York, New Paltz, a university in a similar position as the University of Colorado, where Ward Churchill was a tenured professor.

The support for the petition in New Paltz is overwhelming. There was one youth strongly upholding the media perpetrated attack that Ward Churchill is a “fraud,” because supposedly “he is not an Indian.” When told that the Honolulu newspaper was responsible for the original story retracted, the youth persisted. A woman also declined signing and argued saying that Ward Churchill should have used less emotionally charged language.

As MIM wrote in its article about “Talking Points,” there was also one person opposed to our petition who opposed the Allied bombing of Dresden but did not take a consistently pacifist position either. As predicted by MIM, that discussion took longer than other ones.

MIM informs activists that it is necessary to have the necessary statistical knowledge of American views in order to know which views to address and when to tell people that their own views are rare and that the main problem is the one that sees Amerikkkan civilians as the only innocent citizens in the world or maybe only Amerikkkan, British and Israeli ones—another common position. Even professors who do not study public opinion for their profession are likely to have spoken with large numbers of students and have a relatively better idea of the common constellation of views. Ward Churchill knows the inconsistencies in his audience’s views and how to bring them out.

Another critic said that Ward Churchill wanted to “wipe the United States off the face of the map.” Our newly trained petition activist retracted: “Have you been down South? They’re talking about the Confederacy every day and no one says anything about that.” This was not enough to win the signature, just “I’m going to have to think about it.”

Told that Ward Churchill has been called a “post-sympathizer” and “traitor,” few people seemed impressed. Larger than the number of people disagreeing with the petition was the number of people who not only agreed with the petition but also agreed with Churchill. The quick and stunning success in New Paltz shows that the longer the enemy attacks Ward Churchill the more will come out to demolish the mythology created by the BuSh media spectacle about 9/11.

Petitioning is not always smooth sailing

College Park, MD

The petition drive for Ward Churchill started at College Park, Maryland at the end of February but proved that not all campaigning is smooth sailing. The first attempt netted only seven signatures, all from prospective Black students; even though the University of Maryland is brimming with 30,000 students.

There was no one opposed to the petition drive for Ward Churchill, but the majority of people would not respond at all. One young male said, “I don’t want to get involved, but nice Banana Republic bag.” Banana Republic is a popular clothing line and the comment indicates the self-satisfaction of the shopping culture, and a social group MIM sometimes refers to in theory terms as the “gender aristocracy.”

The people of the dedicated shopping subculture generally serve as a self-satisfied prop of the status quo, but at times this group of people clashes with the interests of the imperialists. For example, the imperialists attempting to recruit new soldiers with any real world message about “freedom” or “terrorism” will also stumble in their efforts with the shoppers. If the corporations slip something into their subculture, the shoppers buy it, but any open appeal for extra political exertion fails with the pure gender aristocracy.

MIM’s advice for people who stumble in their campaigns is that at particular moments, people in particular locations may be preoccupied. That’s important for us to know, but we are sure that at College Park, there is a way to get around the difficulties. It may require effort in time and place not exactly the same as the first effort. Even so, the score at College Park was still 7-0 for Ward Churchill.
Nationality still matters: Italians say No to U.S. global empire

On March 4, U.S. forces in Iraq assassinated an Italian secret service agent and wounded an Italian newspaper reporter at a checkpoint. The agent had just secured the release of the Italian newspaper reporter Giuliana Sgrena, who liberation forces in Iraq were holding hostage.

The news would be unremarkable except that Italy has 3,000 troops aiding the United States in the occupation of Iraq. So in the guise of "friendly fire" something has happened that resulted in the death of Nicola Calipari.

The initial U.S. military explanation was that the Italian car was speeding up to a checkpoint. Only the most hardened in the media—that Amerikkkans at checkpoints in Iraq were shooting up everybody, so the Italians should not take particular offense. As if to play to such a peanut gallery, the Bush administration announced a simultaneous investigation of how coalition ally Bulgaria had one of its own shot in friendly fire too.

Credit goes to the explanation that Amerikkkans just shoot everything that moves at checkpoints and other places in Iraq would have to have some plausibility given the normal mass murdering ways of Amerikans, but MIM would be remiss not to point out something more. We should understand in a mission like this one where the Italians go to negotiate with the Iraqi liberation forces is that we can be sure that the Amerikans cleared it first. Italy would not attempt this and risk American fire by going secretly.

Two measures of how powerful the forces opposed to U.S. empire are are the diplomatic measures Italy has had to take to appease its own people. First, it refused the initial U.S. explanation at the diplomatic level. Then, Italy demanded punishment of the aggressors and exposed that the United States knew of the whole mission. According to the ex-hostage Sgrena, the shooting looked like a U.S. "ambush" and she offered two possible explanations: 1) that her paper Il Manifesto was anti-war; 2) that the United States had a problem with Italy's policy of allowing ransom payments in hostage situations.

We join with the Italian people in demanding imprisonment of the perpetrators of this assassination. At the same time, we remind Italians that the kernel of truth in the Bush league propaganda is that murderous checkpoints exist in both Palestine and Iraq.

This case is proof that the exploiters themselves are at risk in their own system. In a global system of private property, each faction of exploiters keeps secrets from the others, partly through the organization of states. Contrary to some globalization and Kantskyst ultra-imperialism theorists, the Italian people are not going to take the Nicola Calipari case lying down as a price of living in a united exploiter empire. The whole idea of a peaceful world of united exploiters has never worked in history and it's not going to start working now.


AmeriKKKan “generosity”
USA abolishes juvenile death penalty, pats self on back

March 3, 2005
Associated Press Writer Gary Tanner is reporting that a 14-year-old male high school freshman has been charged with shooting his womyn school bus driver in Tennessee.(1) Already, a “public defender” Jack Lockerrt is attributing the act to mental illness: “We obviously feel like he has severe mental issues.” He’s an A and B student and had never been in trouble before. The idea here is that a student who gets good grades should be well-adjusted, and if they so defy the stereotype of the well-behaved, studious student, then they must be mentally ill. Typically, children’s good behavior is not put in the context of their being disciplined, punished or beaten. The deviations from good behavior are viewed as manifestations of psychological, individual problems, rather than the group oppression of children and their gender socialization, for instance. For this increasingly popular view, we can thank folks like DemOCRat Tipper Gore, who chaired the June 1999 White House Conference on Mental Health, which promoted the products of the psychopharmaceutical industry. Gore opposed the stigma against “mentally ill” individuals, but did nothing to challenge the policy of the subjugation and the repression of mental illness itself. Gore has gone as far as comparing children’s “mental illness” symptoms to broken arms, which surely need medical attention.(2)

In Tennessee, “Community members” are shocked at the alleged “murderer,” who apparently has “mental issues.”(3) Supposedly, the only thing the bus driver who apparently has “mental issues.”(3) were shocked at the alleged “murderer,” were younger than eighteen. In MIM, increasing popularity is a view, we can thank the Supreme Court’s decision. The average persyn in this age group is thinking of free health insurance. One case reported in the media is that Amerikans at checkpoints in Iraq were shooting up everybody, so the Italians should not take particular offense. As if to play to such a peanut gallery, the Bush administration announced a simultaneous investigation of how coalition ally Bulgaria had one of its own shot in friendly fire too.

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Media continue to spread lies about Churchill

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audio publicly available on the Internet (http://www.radio4all.net/prorginfo.php?id=7592). These files, which have long been on the Internet, are not “tapes,” and they were not “obtained” by Dan Caplis, Craig Silverman, or any other persyn.

In a racist, Ann Coulter-inspired fashion, blog thug Ralph Kinney Bennett, appearing in Google “News” search results, repeats as fact the lie that “It’s Injun that could” Churchill is a “pseudo-Indian.”

A Pacific News Service writer pointed out recently that the idea of blood quantum has been used to attack indigenous people and even to deny resources to individuals who have an indigenous blood quantum, but who cannot join Uncle Sam-recognized tribes. (7) Honorary white oppressor David Yagley, on FrontPageMagazine.com, builds up an argument that could actually prove that Churchill has an indigenous blood quantum. The National First Nations people refused to register themselves as such with the U.S. government, but then he makes a ridiculously simplistic argument about how Churchill “advocates the non-existence of the Indian race” because he doesn’t believe in measures of “Indian blood” and actuality. Yagley’s argument is the equivalent of Uncle Sam’s not recognizing Italians as Italians. What gets left out is that nation-formation of Italian ethnicity is not left up to Uncle Sam, but Italians.

Ward Churchill’s 1993 Indians Are Us!: Culture and Genocide in Native North America, for example, Churchill writes extensively on misappropriations of indigenous culture. Churchill does not say that a white persyn should be able to declare him/herself native whenever s/he wants. In fact, it is David Yagley who threatens the existence of the indigenous peoples of North America. Churchill defines “native” in such a way as to make the number of indigenous people decline over time on the basis of blood quantum. Yagley talks about a dilution of indigenous blood, but there is no scientific basis for saying that blood quantum by itself determines nationality. Genocide is the destruction of peoples, not specific genes.

Where the “blood” of a people is sufficient to sustain a strict blood-related approach to enrollment in a nation, MIM does not oppose a small First Nation’s using blood criteria. There’s no argument there that except MIM makes for only the smallest nations in the world. In particular, the idea that someone would marry into the dominant culture and then expect to receive tribal benefits may in fact be not very helpful to First Nations. On the other hand, if such people recognize him, while the federal one does not “tapes,” and they were not “obtained” by a white who just so happened has gone to First Nations schools and a full-blooded “native” who abandoned First Nations schools and other First Nation ties, blood is subordinate to culture. Even having hundreds of years of native ancestors is no perfect guarantee that someone will not completely abandon First Nation culture and take up 110% assimilation into imperialist empire.

There is also a class question in assimilation. In Taiwan, the imperialists have managed to buy off so many people, that the “Indian” fanatics for the sake of a white Chinese influence from so far away on Taiwan, there will be those natives who also take the sugar-coated bullets of empire.

Interestingly, about one hundred Uncle Sam-recognized tribes have “no minimum blood quantum requirement for enrollment.” (9) Apparently David Yagley is such a bloodline purist that he would encourage these tribes to adopt a specific blood quantum requirement—even when there are not enough “full-blooded” people to sustain the tribe’s existence.

In 1985, the Canadian government amended the “Indian Act” Bill C-31. Among other things, the amendments allowed First Nations to determine the criteria for membership in their own tribes. Between June 1985 and May 1992, First Nations adopted 236 membership codes, only 13% of which included blood quantum criteria. While the changes to the “Indian Act” had the effect of increasing total band membership, some bands were restrictive, fearing that federal funds would be spread too thinly if there were more members. (10)

Notes:

Honolulu paper retracts attack on Churchill

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Native American, says Churchill,” February 24, 2005).

The AP article and the Honolulu Star-Bulletin article (in addition to the emotional outburst in the Rocky Mountain News at about 2:45 AM EST reported on the Honolulu Star-Bulletin’s correction (Charlie Brennan, “Hawaiian newspaper misquotes Churchill: CU prof did not back away from Indian heritage claim,” February 24, 2005).

The main problem here is the white man does not sit down with indigenous issues. The AP article and the Honolulu Star-Bulletin’s correction (Charlie Brennan, “Hawaiian newspaper misquotes Churchill: CU prof did not back away from Indian heritage claim,” February 24, 2005).

As an Indian Country writer Scott Richard Lyons explains, it turns out that Ward Churchill has 50% more Cherokee blood (3/16 vs. 1/8) than Cherokee Chief John Ross, who fought against Andrew Jackson and was an absolutely pivotal chief in Cherokee history. Lyons said, “Unlike the full-blood “Treaty Party” who signed the illegitimate agreement with the Americans, thereby paving the road we now call the Trail of Tears, the light-skinned Chief Ross is fondly remembered by many Cherokee today as a great leader who fought hard against the ethnic cleansing that eventually took place.” So orchestrated that action speaks louder than blood, and as far as that goes, Ward Churchill has strong ties to his community within Colorado borders. The Colorado AIM (American Indian Movement organization) recognizes him, while the federal one does not know where he is.

So we should try to understand this carefully. The current rules of the band he is affiliated with would not have recognized Cherokee Chief John Ross. As MIM has explained in other articles before this dispute, there are good reasons for excluding. There are at least 50,000 people in the 1/8 attendees, and the main point is that’s it’s a difficulty because of the genocide wiping out 90% of the full-blooded indigenous people. For the white media to yell out screaming “Hah, you First Nations have problems with your blood quantity!” is truly obscene. So now they want tolynch a man based on the fact of changing bloodline rules made difficult by the original North American invasion by the white man. The white man creates the problem and then fans it so there is infighting.

Sadly, not all indigenous people thought through the attack and counter-attack logic inevitable in all this. Why they want this discussion in the white man’s media is beyond MIM. We can only think that they are afraid for their federal grants, because influential Republicans who orchestrated the attack on Ward Churchill and Republicans are in charge of grant money in the Congress. Surely his indigenous critics knew that friends of Ward Churchill would counter-attack and this would open a whole can of worms.

MIM to media: Slow down. It isn’t that simple! We’re sure that Ward Churchill would be accepted in other First Nations and could even receive benefits. He chose to affiliate with one band that rejected him as a full member by 1/16 of blood. All these news outlets clamoring have not changed one thing. The facts are that there have been all along Stupid media outlets have not uncovered anything new. He’s an associate member, not a full member, but Chief John Ross would not have been one either.

Notes:
3. Transcript 030306chb.256

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source than Fox News,(1) on June 9, 2003 Saudi Arabia arrested and detained a U.S. citizen with no Saudi charges. Then according to Fox News yet again, the same citizen appeared in U.S. courts in a “surprise,” because the U.S. government had never admitted to anything in the meantime. In other words, even according to the Fox News account, the U.S. Government allowed a foreign country to detain one of its own citizens for some length of time, probably more than six months and perhaps a year and a half; yet the United States did not declare war on Saudi Arabia to get its citizen back.

Circumstantial evidence seems to back the claims of Ahmed Omar Abu Ali and 600 petition signers. Not only was he willing to show the signs of torture in Saudi Arabia to torture Ahmed Omar Abu Ali. The next time someone asks you what the people can restore the balance against abusing prescency. The court cases. In this case, the added difficulty for the co-conspirators stem from the fact that the Pentagon now says was flawed. The prosecution has provided the evidence against Mubanga that the Pentagon now says was flawed.

The Martin Mubanga case and many others seem to point to a new world government in formation where national governments kidnap their own citizens and others for detention at new facilities in a legal limbo. In this way, Blair does not have to send police or the army to shut down the English court system. He just sidesteps it.

For now, the participating governments put up a show for public opinion about wanting their own citizens back from these secret prisons; yet in secret, they are actually partaking in the kidnapping and detention of their own citizens outside the legal systems of their home countries. The British Guardian well explained the attitude of the British government toward its own citizens: “Last night a Foreign Office spokesman said he could not comment on the activities of British intelligence or security agencies. He said Mubanga’s ‘transfer to Guantanamo Bay is consistent with British interest in the wider fight against terrorism.’” (1) Ordinarily in the previous history of national rulers, when one country kidnaps another’s citizens, it is a cause for war. Now it is something deferred to Zambian and American authorities.

Fitting into the same pattern is the belated admission of the British government that its own senior lawyers played a role in drafting interrogation rules for the infamous Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.(2)

The political climate allowing for these occurrences comes about as a result of economic globalization and the political propaganda from the “war on terror.” It would be far more honest for the Anglo-Saxon imperialists and their many co-conspirators to establish a world government and admit they don’t care about the governments in their home countries anymore. The political difficulties for the co-conspirators stem from the fact that exploiters always fight among themselves. In this case, various nations of exploiters are not yet accustomed to a shared world government.

USA abolishes juvenile death penalty, pats self on back

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are “categorically less culpable than the average criminal” (“Syllabus,” p. 3). They follow this up with: “Juveniles’ susceptibility to immature and irresponsible behavior means “their irresponsible conduct is not as morally reprehensible as that of an adult.” Their own vulnerability and comparative lack of control over their immediate surroundings mean juveniles have a greater claim than adults to be forgiven for failing to escape negative influences in their whole environment.” (“Syllabus,” p. 3)

Yet, a December 14, 2003, ABC News telephone poll shows that 56% of AmeriKKKans supported “the death penalty for [Washington Sniper Lee] Malvo if he is convicted of murder.” Only 30% said “oppose.” 7% said “depends.” A 1998 500-persyn telephone poll by the Sam Houston State University College of Criminal Justice Survey Research Program showed that 6.3% of Americans in Texas felt that a juvenile should be at least twelve “before they can be given the death penalty.” 8.9% indicated “age 13.” 5.6% said age 14. 12.6% said age 15. 25.6% said age 16. 7.8% said age 17. 25.9% indicated “don’t know.” In total, 33.4% said less than fifteen.

Another example of the same argument that minors are categorically incompetent:

“In recognition of the comparative immaturity and irresponsibility of juveniles, almost every State prohibits those under 18 years of age from voting, serving on juries, or marrying without parental consent. . . . The second area of difference is that juveniles are more vulnerable or susceptible to negative influences and outside pressures, including peer pressure.” (“Opinion of the Court,” p. 15)

The Court makes another, strange argument, and one that has a direct bearing on mental illness. They say that the death penalty sentencing “system is designed to consider both aggravating and mitigating circumstances” (“Opinion of the Court,” p. 18). Then, they say that it is difficult to determine mitigating circumstances (making sentences less severe) because of psychologists’ self-imposed rule (the Court appears to be referring to APA’s DSM-IV-TR, but this isn’t clear in the slip opinion) “forbidding psychiatrists from diagnosing any patient under 18 as having antisocial personality disorder, a disorder also referred to as psychopathy or sociopathy, and which is characterized by callousness, cynicism, and contempt for the feelings, rights, and suffering of others” (“Opinion of the Court,” p. 19). Let’s make clear and point out that the Court is implying that some juveniles on death row may have (had) “antisocial personality disorder” even though the great bastion of psychology the American Psychological Association itself says that no such thing exists for children. This is how badly the Court wants to defend psychology; it pretends like it knows better than the quacks at the APA.

The twisted thing about this is that Antonin Scalia’s dissenting opinion, supporting the continuance of the juvenile death penalty, is the only one that acknowledges the competence of many children:

“The APA brief [in Hodgson v. Minnesota ], citing psychology treatises and studies too numerous to list here, asserted: “By middle adolescence (age 14–15) young people develop abilities similar to adults in reasoning about moral dilemmas, understanding social rules and laws, and reasoning about interpersonal relationships and interpersonal problems.”” (“Scalia, J. dissenting,” pp. 11-12)

Whether children are categorically less competent than adults isn’t really the issue for MIM’s line. (Typically, it is only assumed, in a pre- or unscientific way, that children are categorically less competent than adults. But if it turned out that children were less competent than adults, that wouldn’t justify the continuance of patriarchy or the forms and practices by which children are oppressed under patriarchy.)

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reports Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty Director Abraham J. Bonowitz as saying:

“Recent science has shown brain development continues into your 20s. We don’t allow children to buy cigarettes, or buy alcohol or sign contracts. The only time we consider children to be adults is when they commit a horrid crime, then we want to punish them harshly.”(7)

The Court has another reason, other than opposing repression, for banning the juvenile death penalty. They are embarrassed that the united States “now stands alone in a world that has turned its face against the juvenile death penalty” (“Opinion of the Court,” p. 23). They fear

Glimpses of fascism

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U.S. Congress whitewashing all bureaucratic and civilian authorities by Navy Vice Adm. Albert T. Church came out the same day as Volksy’s article.(1)

Yes, Igor, but you should have pointed out that the new director of Homeland Security sworn in March 3rd is Michael Chertoff, whose last name means something like “son of the devil” in Russian.

Note: http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory?id=567234

Attorney General Gonzales provides the new slimy glue

The new U.S. Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales is providing the new legal and ideological justifications for the new global prison system. In cases where the united States turns over people to other countries, “We can’t fully control what that country might do,” he said.(1) He only said that the CIA and State Department ask for assurances from the other governments where the prisons are located. Gonzales admitted he does not know and has not followed it up on whether other countries torture suspects despite assurances.(2)

At the same time, Gonzales made it evident for anyone willing to look that there is an ulterior motivation: “Once we put someone in the criminal justice system and they get lawyers, it makes it more difficult to get information.”(2) The public should be clear that that is fascist ideology. The net effect is the same as if BuSh sent the army or FBI to break up a court proceeding so it could obtain “evidence” from confessions.

Despite the move to a globalization of repression, the BuSh administration still plays to American public opinion to increase its leverage with other government players. An example is the just announced u.S. decision to withdraw from the Optional Protocol of the Vienna Convention on Consular Rights granting

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 accidental 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.
Juvenile death penalty

From previous page... for the United States’ being associated with “Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and China” (ibid.), who have allegedly executed juvenile offenders since 1990. China, for one, has officially banned the execution of people who were younger than eighteen when they committed their offenses, and China, unlike the United States, has ratified the limited United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

“Only seven countries other than the United States have executed juvenile offenders since 1990: Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and China. Since then each of these countries has either abolished capital punishment for juveniles or made public disavowal of the practice. In sum, it is fair to say that the United States now stands alone in a world that has turned its face against the juvenile death penalty.” (“Opinion of the Court,” p. 23)

Justice Anthony Kennedy, who wrote the majority opinion, expands on these ideas and says that international opinion is a guide for deciding what constitutes “cruel and unusual punishment.” In a dissenting opinion smacking of typical imperialist arrogance, Justice Scalia disagrees, pointing to examples of where foreign criminal justice practices disagree with American practices, and saying that “the Court should either profess its willingness to reconsider all these matters in light of the views of foreigners, or else it should cease putting forth foreigners’ views as part of the reasoned basis of its decisions” (“Scalia, J., dissenting,” p. 21).

But BBC News has reported Amnesty International USA Executive Director William Schulz as saying, “Now the US can proudly remove its name from the embarrassing list of human rights violators—which includes China, Iran, and Pakistan—that still execute juvenile offenders.” (8)

Other news reports focus on the Supreme Court’s decision’s boost to the United States’ image in the “international community”: “The US has stood almost alone in the world in officially sanctioning juvenile executions, a “stark reality” that can’t be ignored,” Kennedy wrote. “(9)

The Galveston County Daily News emphasizes that the United States now joins other “civilized” countries which have banned the death penalty for juveniles. (10) So now the United States has covered its ass and given itself better moral credentials to wage imperialist war against the exploited and oppressed of the Third World.

Children are (mis)represented in an inconsistent, moral way

In the contemporary United States and several other English-speaking countries, such as the United Kingdom, the public typically views children in a contradictory, seemingly incoherent way. They view children as either dangerous, vulnerable, or both. Connected with this is the notion that children are categorically incompetent, which actually supports both views of children. Supposedly, children are dangerous because they are irresponsible, and they are vulnerable because they are inept and in eternal need of protection, which translates in most people’s minds into protection in the patriarchal family. So, it’s not at all surprising that the “Tennessee school bus killing suspect has been described as a “murderer” who committed an “unprecedented” “chilling” “criminal” act and insulted away what the yellow school bus is said to symbolize (“freedom”), while at the same time, on the other side of the same coin, the media portrayed various juvenile offenders as being either mentally ill or mentally inferior—or both.

This does not necessarily mean that individuals are that nuanced when dealing with student violence. While some will focus on whether the Tennessee suspect is mentally ill, others will already be worrying for the suspect’s transfer to the adult/criminal court as a show of being “tough on crime.” (11) Both of these two poles have a wrong view of juvenile offenses and crime in general.

For several different reasons, the whole criminal injustice system is self-contradictory when it comes to children. For one, the basis for the juvenile court is what is called the “rehabilitative ideal” (reflecting the notion of children as a still-developing group, deserving of a “second chance” to become “productive members of society”, and so on), but people are already presuming that the Tennessee suspect may be incorrigible.

Exactly a month after the Columbine High School killings, the United Snakes Senate passed by a large margin the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Incompetency and Rehabilitation Act in May 1999. A part of a larger package throughout the United States of “getting tough” on juvenile crime, the 1999 act contains, among other things, provisions making it easier to transfer children to criminal court and easier to house children with adults in facilities, provisions for mandatory jail sentences for “gangs,” and removes language from previous legislation in a way that encourages states to stop addressing the issue of disproportionate “racial” minority detention.

A supposed “copycat” in Florida where the juvenile death penalty was permitted, unlike in Tennessee, where another high school student allegedly shot at another school bus driver with a pellet gun, raises the question what new forms of youth repression will arise. (12) The media’s depiction of the demise of idyllic white-bread America school buses has the prison industry and prison guard unions drooling.

The shock expressed at a white “A and B” student shooting a school bus driver is particularly disturbing. For the white oppressors’ media, oppressed-nationality school violence, presumably involving “C, D and F” students, is not worth reporting except when it disturbs “communities” in white neighborhoods. Now that even white “A and B” students can commit heinous, senseless murders, the Americans are in a frenzy with no logical outlet.

Commentators are now warning that with the juvenile death penalty gone, there will be less deterrence to violent juvenile crime. For the public, drugging children to prevent them from developing into delinquents suggests itself as a way of avoiding juvenile crime. (13) This does not mean even more children on drugs, which are a form of social control, as well as a form of repression.

Drugs or more parental monitoring and control—a February 10, 2002, telephone poll by Parade Magazine shows that 89% felt that “lack of parental involvement” was a “leading cause of school violence.” 82% felt that “unstable home environment” was a leading cause.

Notes:
White lynch mob uses Churchill to deny biological warfare
Crackers in denial on smallpox warfare against natives

Amherst, MA

There is no statue to Lord Jeffrey Amherst at Amherst College or the town it resides in in Massachusetts. According to the Town Manager—there being no mayor yet—there is also no exhibit. Yet, this small town in Western Massachusetts and Lord Jeffrey Amherst are in the news, because of a concerted reactionary effort to remove Ward Churchill from a tenured professorship at the University of Colorado.

Typical of the slander and libel campaign against Ward Churchill is a statement by “Chad Fairbanks” at the website “Free Republic,” which is a website of military veterans often in the top five for all political websites in terms of website popularity in the United States—thanks to a band of hard-core but aging crackpots who wanted a nuclear exchange over the Vietnam War. Writing to “fuaquudikie,” “Fairbanks” said, “The man is a chronic liar, a poseur, and intellectually dishonest. If his claims of genocide were true, the first thread acknowledging the documented government smallpox epidemics against Indians done deliberately, for instance) and has done more to harm American Indians than any other white man in recent decades.” (1) As of almost a month later on March 8, there is still not a single thread anywhere on the Free Republic website follow-up or rebuttal or acknowledgement of the documented cases of whites’ giving indigenous people smallpox infected blankets. It is Lord Jeffrey Amherst who left behind this lying dishonesty; why not a tenured professor and advertising brainwashing and less brainwashing by professors. Then they wonder why American educational standards do not compare internationally while U.S. colleges are one of the few export industries.

In these rabid threads opposing Ward Churchill there are no attempts at factual argument. That is not the point. The real point of Free Republic chauvinists like chauvinists across the United States is that only U.S. civilians are innocent and things like the documented use of biological warfare against indigenous people are matters of opinion, not fact.

To be sure, there are those who dispute Ward Churchill’s particular accounting of one smallpox outbreak in 1837. The ultra-right loonies are using that academic dispute the same way they are using the bloodline “fraud” idea. They assert something, only to take it back, while knowing full well that most of the infotainment press will report the simple version. So, a Honolulu newspaper publishes that Ward Churchill is not an indigenous person. A thousand white trash comments come up and any ignorant slobs will do: “My daughter is a tenured professor and I would fire her in a heartbeat just for some of the nutty ideas she has. But that’s just me. I should have taken her to the woodshed more often when she was little. Back then she knew better.”

The university education twisted her mind and it got worse when she married a flaming liberal who is worse than she is. There’s no hope of ever convincing either of them that they are brainwashed. They truly believe that they are more intelligent than anyone else and the elitism and arrogance makes me ill.” (1)

We should be clear that this is not some kind of radical proletarian attack on the class structure. Quite the contrary, it is a religious defense of the class structure, an attack on the Enlightenment itself. The theocrats come up and point more particularly at the university and advertising brainwashing and less brainwashing by professors. Then they wonder why American educational standards do not compare internationally while U.S. colleges are one of the few export industries.

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It’s all obviously discriminatory extra academic review of Ward Churchill’s work; even though he received tenure in 1991. It’s clearly motivated by a speech he made on his own and his political education while these same lynch mob activists would claim education is not political. When Mao had the Cultural Revolution, education across-the-board had discussion and struggle involving the public. Here in the United States, the new McCarthyist counterrevolution targets one man in a conspiracy against civil rights and in alliance with genocide-deniers. That’s the difference. We Maoists apply principle across-the-board. McCarthyists apply it only to suit their militarist and genocidal agendas.

The other difference is that in any Maoist government, the state will pay for education. The cheap bastards degrading education in Colorado and the rest of North America by extension are up in arms at the University of Colorado’s paying Ward Churchill’s salary, when the state only pays 7% of the school’s annual income! The rest comes from students paying to attend. So much for the loony reactionaries’ respect for free enterprise! There’s no consistency needed when the first priority is denial of white genocide.

Notes:

Next page...
“Little Eichmanns” and the bombing of Dresden: Talking points for the Ward Churchill campaign

A German poll came out in February showing that a relatively large portion of German youth thought the World War II bombing of Dresden by the Allies was wrong. 27% of Germans under 30 called it a “bombing holocaust.” Yet among those over age 60, only 15% said so.

The use of the term “holocaust” draws a deliberate and snide comparison to the Holocaust of Jews, and thus we doubt that many of those 27% are principled pacifists. The international proletariat opposes the German neo-Nazis who commemorated the Dresden bombing February 13 2005. We are not surprised that the hard-fought results of the “collective responsibility” movement in 1945 and 1946 are eroding in Germany as older people die and younger people live in a still decadent imperialist system, which could yet give rise to another internal fascism.

Dresden city officials taking the correct approach commemorated the bombing while emphasizing: “the contributions of citizens and institutions in Dresden to war-mongering, National Socialist oppression and the crimes committed — for example on the Jewish inhabitants of the city.”

On February 13, 1945, hundreds of British bombers killed tens of thousands of Dresden residents in a raid. Even if the wildest propaganda stories are true though, the total civilian deaths were small compared with what happened at the hands of Nazi Germans. A much larger advance to get the German majority to accept responsibility for countless oppressive actions in the Nazi period. That lesson needs to be learned and extended.

The only possible alternative would be a militant pacifist approach, but people who have not experienced war are not likely to approximate the collective responsibility movement in Germany. It was possible for people to own up to their responsibilities for making predatory wars, much more than we see in the United States today.

The problem is that for those raised in smallpox ignorance as the ultimate touchstone, to be a pacifist movement in America. They don’t realize that we have to be able to relate to hundreds of millions of people consistently to be able to build something that is going to work, build unity and move forward.

The United States illustrates the problem by the number of people who say the World Trade Center bombing victims were innocent. Yet no one from the Dresden victims were not. That would be the most common single opinion in America today. It’s at the root of our global political difficulties.

We at MIM are tired of these hypocracies risking our lives with backward nationalist ideologies that are never going to work. If northern Koreans can get nukes, anyone can and it’s about time the Ann Coulters, David Horowitzes and ultra-reconstructed McCarthyists of the white trash figured it out. We did not hear them calling Dresden city officials at the 2005 commemoration to accept collective responsibility (essentially admitting Germany was composed of “little Eichmanns”) “quasi-traitorous” or “anti-German” and “pro-terrorist,” though several times more German civilians died in Dresden than American civilians did in the World Trade Center.

Too often petty-bourgeois critics focus on their own inner spiritual questions when they take to political activism, and this results in criticism of Ward Churchill who is actually advancing a more consistent and advanced line of ethics than 99% of the public. The bottom line is that people who think the bombing of Dresden and Hiroshima was right cannot turn around and complain when anti-American fighters also bomb civilians. In fact, even those of us who are consistent pacifists or anarchists cannot complain, because as consistent pacifists or anarchists we have not been effective. We must join in collective responsibility and not think that our own inner spiritual purity is good enough.

The people complaining about the World Trade Center obviously do not know or don’t care about the CIA office destroyed there and the ex-French secret weapon in charge of pursuing Bin Laden killed in the World Trade Center or they would have realized they cannot complain about what the U.S. military commanders called “collateral damage” in killing civilians in Iraq. Christians upholding the golden rule cannot believe only American civilians are innocent. Only uber-patriotic scum believe that and they’re going to get us all killed. Maybe if America were not so wrapped up in military bases, there could actually be a place where people could live and not become “collateral damage” in the eyes of a colonialist.

If the bombing of Dresden were right, then so was the bombing of the World Trade Center. Unfortunately, given the public opinion situation in Germany then and America now, reality is on Ward Churchill’s side, not the anarchist- pacifists’. Had the anarchist-pacifists had any clue how to get something done, Ward Churchill would not have needed to say what he did. If the bombing of Iraqi civilians was right and the killing of 500,000 Iraqi children through sanctions was right, then like the participants of World War II, we should not be shocked by retalatory bombing.

Most people in the world are concerned about the loss of civilian lives everywhere. It’s only the war-mongers—the Coulters, Horowitzes, BuShes—who are saying that American civilian lives are innocent but no one else’s civilians are. The imperialist war-mongers must be removed from power, before the world’s northern Koreans teach us all a lesson.

From previous page...

http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/cda/article_print/0,1983,BCD_24883536907,ARTICLE-DETAIL-PRINT,00.html

Addendum

People of Amherst not pleased with reactionary spin on smallpox

Over 50 people of Amherst have signed the petition for Ward Churchill and launching a criminal investigation into the conspiracy against his civil rights. Everywhere people expressed amazement at how the discussion of smallpox warfare against natives had been so grossly simplified and obliterated. In Amherst, MA, “the story of the smallpox blankets” is not associated with Ward Churchill.

Some town residents simply said, “why don’t they check with a historian?” Town officials advised the same thing.

For reference: Web links

Lord Jeffrey Amherst’s letters on biological warfare against natives: http://www.nativeweb.org/pages/legal/Amherst/lord_jeff.html

Not just one, but two separate U.S. officers documented as involved: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/smallpox1.html

British army used smallpox against American revolutionaries: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/coldwar/pox_weapon_01.shtml

Talking points

Passer-by: What’s that?
Activist: It’s a petition for Ward Churchill, a professor at the University of Colorado. He’s in the process of being fired for a speech about 9/11.

Passer-by: What did he say?
Activist: He called Americans “little Eichmanns.”

Passer-by: Who was Eichmann?
Activist: He was a Nazi.

Passer-by: But those World Trade Center people were totally innocent.
Activist: We believe we are little Eichmanns and have to take collective responsibility.

Passer-by: How can you say that about the World Trade Center victims?
Activist: Did you favor the bombing of Dresden in World War II?

Passer-by: What?
Activist: The German city. The Allies bombed civilians in Nazi Germany.

Passer-by: Why?
Activist: They said it was making industrial contributions to the war.

Passer-by: Yes. [Pointed: This is the single most common white trash view in Amerika, combining the view that German civilians were worthy of bombing but American ones were not.]

Activist: So you only think American civilians are innocent?
Passer-by: How can you make that comparison?
Activist: Ward Churchill pointed out that 500,000 Iraqi children died from U.S. sanctions and was admitted by Secretary of State Madelaine Albright. We’ve been engaged in countless wars since World War II. We can’t be surprised by the World Trade Center.

Passer-by: No, I think the bombing of German civilians was wrong. [Will come up more often as advanced places.]
Activist: Ok, I see you are consistent then. Are you a pacifist?
Under Lock & Key
News from Prisons & Prisoners

Institutional slavery - Tool of oppression

There is a popular saying that comes to mind: ‘Slavery isn’t dead, it’s just changed form.’ Racism is now widely institutionalized across America. There are so many brothers and sisters incarcerated in Amerikkka’s prison systems held under the iron hand of the corporate ‘security’ and oppression behavior modification techniques, being given numbers and ranks, are used to degrade, dehumanize. This is done by prison staff and prison guards in an impersonal and very cold method. They are used to humiliate someone probing into their bodies and to cause them pain. The use of strip searches is not something - we’re taking care of the problem. Millions of tax dollars are being used to build these concentration camps under the guise that it makes our world (society) safer. These prisons are built relatively clean in a sterile prison environment that only conceals a more pernicious type of confinement. The use of sensory deprivation, the use of mind control drugs, the use of behavior modification techniques, being given numbers (CDC #) like cattle. We are being treated as products instead of human beings. All this is done to bring about the deterioration of the prisoner in whole or in part.

The constant use of strip searches is not designed to ensure security because you are being watched 24 hours a day. They are used to humiliate someone probing into their bodies and to cause them pain. The use of strip searches is not something - we’re taking care of the problem. Millions of tax dollars are being used to build these concentration camps under the guise that it makes our world (society) safer. These prisons are built relatively clean in a sterile prison environment that only conceals a more pernicious type of confinement. The use of sensory deprivation, the use of mind control drugs, the use of behavior modification techniques, being given numbers (CDC #) like cattle. We are being treated as products instead of human beings. All this is done to bring about the deterioration of the prisoner in whole or in part.

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and parole officers are in the same “union” which would explain the high violation rate (job security). Even Gov. Terminator got slapped by their combined powerful hand, which they protected their CDC 4 billion dollar yearly budget, which Cross yearly.

When you have so many prisons, prisoners, then you can conclude that a large section of society has been locked up, and even worse, prisoners feel that running their institutions take a lot of lock-downs and confinement because maybe this many people were not meant to be locked up in so many hidden institutions scattered around the state, for purely political and other state and government reasons.

—a prisoner in California, February 2005

MIM responds: We agree with this comrade’s assessment of the divisions that exist among prisoners, but we also see that imprisonment is a politicizing event for many people. And the brothers and sisters in United Struggle from Within, working with MIM’s support and labor on the outside, are slowly building greater scientific thinking and struggle behind the bars. We need to unite the un-political groups and show them that we can unite in fighting the oppression behind bars. In this way we will build a movement to take on the Criminal Injustice System.

Horrible conditions at new SHU in California

Back in June 2004 a lot of us that were in the ad-seg in D-upper facility, were moved over to Z-unit “new ad-seg.” This unit is designed like a SHU. Since we have been here, we have been deprived of the necessities. The place was not even ready to be opened yet. The heating/air conditioning was not fixed yet. Our law library only had a very small section of society has been locked up, and even worse, prisoners feel that running their institutions take a lot of lock-downs and confinement because maybe this many people were not meant to be locked up in so many hidden institutions scattered around the state, for purely political and other state and government reasons.

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—a prisoner in California, February 2005

Bush government is wolf, sheep’s clothing

I am a prisoner here in Pelican Bay SHU. I am extending my cordial regards to all like minded revolutionaries who stand against capitalists and imperialists. I received your missive and it was embraced. Your mission contained a lot of sound views and collective goals. I am not much of a writer, however I will strive to learn and do my part to contribute to your newspaper and keep MIM abreast to grievances against C.D.C for any injustices and misconduct.

My condolences to all the families and victims enduring hardships from the tyranny in a lot of ways. The suffering we live in poverty around the world struggling to survive. Bush and his cronies quickly began sending the U.S. military muscle to establish a foothold in the region of southeast Asia, and exercise their capitalists strategies to export wealth and also give their freedom to the natives there.

The U.S. wants to win people’s minds for their so-called “war on terrorism.” Bush and his regime are the wolf in sheep’s clothing. The hidden motive of the U.S government is to use humanitarian propaganda to gain from the tragedy in Asia and plant spies for the war on terrorism. The U.S. will negotiate loans for the country to keep them poor in Asia and with the U.S. government. The people who will feel the burden of Asia’s debt years from now will be some of those orphaned by the tsunami.

On American so-called world news, Bush has used his poker face to deceive the American public to give donations. Most the donations Bush requested will probably never reach Asia but go to help Bush pay for the war in Iraq. Bush is bammboozling the tax payers. The Bush regime doesn’t care about Asia, Bush and his regime bombs innocent citizens all the time in Iraq and other places, so what are the U.S. reasons for wanting to help Asia? The U.S doesn’t even care about its own troops! Bush deceived Americans by saying that invading Iraq was a “just war”. He’s lying in his perpetual debt destruction. None of those were ever found.

When the so-called world news showed the U.S. government announcing their contribution to the tsunami hit area of Asia, the world criticized the U.S government’s greediness. The greediness of the U.S is typical, after all the money and wealth and land the U.S acquired was stolen and came from slaughtering people of color. Just like we land stolen from Native indigenous people. This is why it is in the U.S government’s nature not to give, it is in all the history books.

—a prisoner in California, February 2005

Poetry

I live within stone walls surrounded by tall towers. Guns aim down but I’ll never be tamed. I was grown in cages so I am full of hate. This rage ticks with time...chains bind my body but not my mind or soul, I am in control. My mind is sharp as the razor wire. With time to burn here in solitary I learn revolutionary study. Revolution is the solution to wipe out capitalist pollution and imperialist institutions. Like many I was born in poverty, from the slums to prison living situations created a time bomb that ticks—soon to be released and unleash the wrath on the dysfunctional capitalist society who confined me and tried to blind me by hiding history and keeping us minorities in poverty and in prison. The sun is rising. It’s a new day - time for uprising, we are no longer the minority but the majority. The rich are few but the poor many. The sun is demanding retribution—the blood of the rich. We must remember our ancestor’s the Cuauhtemoc. The Mexican honored the sun god, Huiztilopochli. With the capitalist Spanish blood we must follow the path of armed struggle. Zapata refused to live on his knees but choose to die on his feet fighting. When the rich give us nothing but poverty or a prison cell, we should give them hell!

by a prisoner in California

February, 2005

Facts on US imprisonment

The facts about imprisonment in the United States are that the United States is the world’s leading prison-state per capita for the last 25 years, with a brief exception during Boris Yeltin’s declaration of a state of emergency.(1) That means that while Reagan was talking about a Soviet “evil empire” he was the head of a state that imprisoned more people per capita. In supposed “hard-line” Bulgaria of the Soviet bloc of the 1980s, the imprisonment rate was less than half that of the United States.(2,3)

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

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

2. Ibid., 1992 report.
4. Figure of 51.2 percent for state prisoners there for non-violent offenses. Abstract of the United States 1993, p. 211.

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 working, 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/agitaton/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 law: 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 needed to push laws 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 harm to 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?
Tras las elecciones, las formaciones que llamaron al "voto de paz" consideran que la victoria de la coalición iraquí fue un paso hacia la paz. La coalición, formada por los partidos democráticos del Kurdistán (PDK) y el Partido de la Reelección de la República ( HAR), obtuvo más de un 40% de los votos. La coalición también se ha comprometido a llevar a cabo una reforma política y social en el país, incluyendo la creación de una nueva constitución. La coalición ha destacado su compromiso con la paz en el país, y ha anunciar que está dispuesto a trabajar con todas las partes interesadas para lograr un futuro estable y seguro para el país. Por otra parte, el gobierno de Iraq también ha expresado su satisfacción con los resultados de las elecciones. El presidente de Iraq, Jalal Talabani, ha dicho que "las elecciones han sido un gran paso hacia la estabilidad y la paz en el país". Talabani ha destacado la importancia de las elecciones para el futuro del país, y ha expresado su esperanza de que las nuevas instancias políticas en el país puedan trabajar juntas para lograr un futuro mejor para los iraquíes. En el contexto de la paz en el país, las elecciones han sido un momento de esperanza para los iraquíes, y han sido vistas como un paso hacia la construcción de un futuro mejor para el país.