Minuteman Gilchrist joins fascist activists in Campo

CNN praises Minutemen along with new anti-immigrant law

By HC116, July 23, 2005

After media reports of James Chase’s estrangement from Arizona Minuteman Project leaders, it appears that in practice the leader of Border Watch and at least one leader of the original Minuteman Project are working together. From this writer’s perspective, Minuteman Project founder Jim Gilchrist has been just as critical in public of Minuteman Project co-founder Chris Simcox as he has been of James Chase, so it wasn’t too surprising to find out that Gilchrist was in Campo with James Chase and the California Minutemen, a chapter of Chase’s Border Watch. Several articles on the Los Angeles and San Diego Independent Media Center Web sites record, some with photographs (1, 2, 3) and video, that Gilchrist was in Campo at the VFW post on the weekend of July 16-17 and has called for “reinforcements” to participate in the border vigilantism, an ugly manifestation of fascist activism, near Tecate. (4) In one video, Gilchrist “accuses” a protester of being a “drag queen.” Although Gilchrist claims in his bulletin that the protesters of the Minutemen were “death-threatening,” there is a report of Minutemen threatening to shoot protesters. (5)

Someone who was among the group that threatened to shoot the protesters has since gone on to say: “Had they [the protesters] started to come down the Hill, the shooting would have begun in defense of our base camp and its occupants. . . . I am proud to have been there to partake of it.” (6)

Fellow Minutemen aren’t the only ones uniting with James Chase, accused by other Minutemen of behaving like Rambo, according to the Associated Press. An extremely reactionary faction of imperialists, finding Bush’s proposed guest-worker program to be insufficiently repressive, seek to use publicity of the California Minutemen to promote an even more reactionary migration policy.

By several accounts, there have only been a handful of people working with James Chase’s organization in Campo at any given time. The question arises don’t we have bigger fish to fry, and for that matter, aren’t the Minutemen in general a fringe and motley group of little significance except as a lightning rod for activists, a distraction from the politicians who are elected and have a better chance of realizing their plans for the repression of migrants?

The imperialists are indeed moving forward with their own reactionary plans for the repression of migrants, but they are helped in a substantial way by border vigilantes, who directly and indirectly spread fear about the situation at the border and seek to establish a new normalcy in the public’s views on migrants for the purpose of intensifying the repression of migrants. Minuteman James Gilchrist, so it wasn’t too surprising to find out that Gilchrist was in Campo at the VFW post on the weekend of July 16-17 and has called for “reinforcements” to participate in the border vigilantism, an ugly manifestation of fascist activism, near Tecate. (4) In one video, Gilchrist “accuses” a protester of being a “drag queen.” Although Gilchrist claims in his bulletin that the protesters of the Minutemen were “death-threatening,” there is a report of Minutemen threatening to shoot protesters. (5)

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By comrades in Oregon

[This article has been slightly edited by MIM to remove criticisms of persons that we cannot confirm at this time. —ed]

Once again our theories and political practice have achieved amazing results. Throughout these past six years of captivity I’ve heard from almost every Anarchist publication that we revolutionary prison gangs have NO revolutionary potential. Yet we are the only ones, it seems, who through political protest and actions, not just words, are constantly fighting to change this oppression in their system we are held captive in.

Our movement exceeds far beyond the mere throwing of rocks or the extremism of burning an SUV vehicle, period. We are those who are the recipients of the oppression of their system. We are the troops on the front lines. Here, in the prison system, we risk bodily harm, and death daily by attempting to protest against the political wills of their elite. When you know that your very life may be forfeited, yet you still act, that is true ACTIVISM.

Yet, we are condemned for being gang members. With each prison gang, some who are enemies with each other, who supported and participated in unity in this uprising and protest against police brutality. And they say that we are the mere throwing of rocks or the extremism of their system we are held captive in.

Some say that there is no potential for activism among us gang members, yet you ignore the wealth and knowledge that we possess, and the extensive cultural history that goes into the foundations of the American people. Had this been 1776, we would have been lauded as revolutionaryaries, as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Adams, Benjamin Franklin and all others who have fought for their beliefs.

Do you think that those who rise against unjust authorities deserve to be heard? I do!

On June nineteenth 2005, at EOCI, at 10:00 am, a young man, 18 years old and weighing in at 150 lbs, was brutally assaulted by officer pease, who is an x-competition power lifter weighing in at at least 360 lbs, while he was detained in handcuffs. This delegated officer assaulted this young man with no physical provocation form the prisoner. So all of Us got together in a united uprising. It started with as many as 100 prisoners, and at least 70 prisoners went through. This turned out to be the Oregon Department of Corrections biggest protest against the brutality and violence by its officers in recent history. Anyone who doubts need only look at the death of Billy Owens at the hand of the department of corrections own GANG (“the Outlaw Prison Guards”), the proof of which was already reported by the author.

Combined and in participation in the oppression against us and the violence perpetrated against a young 18 year old adolescent, that is reminiscent of recent abuses of authority as shown in footage and photographs in the mainstream media, in Abu Ghraib, Guantamamo Bay and Camp Freedom in Afghanistan. Where is the cry to amend and fix these inhumane actions and behaviors to ward people in our own country??? Are the aforementioned emotions and reactions reserved only for the “terrorists,” who have shown a willlingness to throw away their lives? What about those who wish for change, or have made mistakes and became victims of the system in the United States of America. Where is our supposed freedom? If you are fighting for change in a distant land, you are not to be abused or oppressed. Yet it is perfectly alright for “our own” people to be abused and oppressed, simply because we are convicts and/or gang members, or against the establishment. [MIM’s OR Prison Coordinator responds: To claim that the american people care more about Iraqi, Afghani and other foreign lives is probably incorrect. Oppressed nations from the Middle East to Oregon are facing repression at the hand of u$ prisons with support from american chauvinism. There are political reasons why Abu Ghraib is bigger news than EOCI, and we need to use that to our advantage, while uniting the national liberation struggles and aspirations of all oppressed people under unkle Sams boot.] It is our intention that here in our own systems, that these things happen and that as activists and Americans We need to protest against this type of behavior, and that this be clearly pointed out.

Has it been so long that when these abuses happened in these distant lands, that it was shown that the majority of those who carried out the abuses, and those who missed the authorities given to them, were actually prison guards and workers in the correction systems in America.(1)

In the fateful words of one of those accused, found guilty and sentenced for these crimes against decency... “Things like this are commonplace back home in prisons in Pennsylvania...” How Absurd!

Send letters of protest and concern to:
Sharon Blacketter, Superintendent
2500 Westgate
Pendleton, Oregon 97801-9699
(541) 278-3602
Please cc MIM as well so that we can continue to cover this struggle

Notes:

MIM Notes

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

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China pulls plug on the dollar

By MIM, July 21, 2005
From mimnotes.info

In July, China announced it would stop pegging the yuan to the U.S. dollar and fix its currency to a basket of other currencies instead of just the dollar. For now, China has increased the value of its own currency to 8.11 yuan to the U.S. dollar.

Figures from the first half of 2005, obtained from the annual report, show that bilateral trade with the European Union ($100.1 billion) by China now surpasses China’s trade with the United States ($96.3 billion) and Japan ($86.5 billion). This might partially explain the reasoning underlying China’s shift away from the dollar.

In a small discrepancy with China’s figures, the U.S. Government claims that the China trade was $103.9 billion in the first five months of 2005, with $88.2 billion in imports from China. Only Canada ($114 billion) exported more in the first five months of 2005 to the United States. Japan and Mexico have fallen behind China in exports to the United States.

Forbes magazine has referred to China as the world’s third-greatest trading nation. At current annual rates of growth in trade (32.7% for exports, 14 percent for imports), China will surpass the U.S. total global trade in about two years. Becoming the world’s largest trading nation is well within reach for China.

MIM reported in 1997 that China’s exports alone involve more industrial workers than the total of all industrial workers in France, Germany and the ‘‘United Kingdom’’ combined.5 In 1997, China’s exports to the world totaled $182.7 billion. By 2004 they were $593.4 billion.

Since 1997 and MIM’s calculation, China’s exports have tripled again; yet, few of the oppressor-nation “Left” have reached or paid attention to the critical internationalist conclusions. It does not occur to the various chauvinists and opportunists that this sort of thing is possible only when most of the U.S. and European Union economy stems from parasitism. Americans are roughly aware of the truth that the average industrial wage is 61 cents an hour in China as of 2003,(7) but what that means for the flow of surplus-labor into the United States, and how Americans are exploiting the Chinese overall and to what extent, is just a subject of attempted understanding.

Much more politically active in attempting to relate to reality are the protectionist reactionaries on the far-right of the imperialist countries. How Americans are exploiting the Chinese is revealed in the exhibition of the United Snakes. When it comes to talking about a proletariat today, China has come to mind first, and not just China in the context of its domestic economy. When we think of the contribution of proletarian work in the economy of the United States and the European Union, again, China should come to mind first. That’s how important China’s exports are.

Table 1. China’s exports to the United States in billions of dollars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>41.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>48.5</td>
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<td>54.4</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>65.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>75.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>87.8</td>
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<td>109.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>133.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>163.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>210.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: See note 6.

The intellectuals and activist leaders of the oppressor-nation so-called Left go on telling the same provincialist tales about the history of the American labor movement instead of a history of the American exploiter movement. The whole intellectual atmosphere of the American so-called Left is about as broad-minded as a genealogical search for family roots. American history books will become as relevant as the photo book of a family vacation—great for some particular people but not appropriate as a replacement for world history. If you did not realize that the Third World proletariat is doing almost all the work, ask yourself about the competence of the sources you read other than MIM Notes.

Notes:

united States leads in superprofit blood-sucking

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of these people were in North America. (These are “High Net Worth Individuals,” HNWI, who are financial-asset millionaires.)

Exports in China are growing at a phenomenal rate—32% at an annual rate, as of the latest figures—but despite China’s growing faster than the United States economically, wealth is accumulating even faster in the United States than in China. According to the report authors, China and India are growing faster than other countries. Yet, the booming Asia-Pacific region added 500,000 new HNWI between 2002 and 2004 for an 8.2% annual growth rate, China has to come to mind first, that’s how important China’s exports are.

Moreover, the HNWI of Latin America gained the least at 7.9% annual growth. (2) The usual assumption of rich, country-so-called leftists is that Third World people face more intense exploitation, but that the benefits go to Third World exploiters. In actuality, exploitation is indeed more intense in the Third World, but most of the benefits go to imperialist countries.

Although Asia has over half of the world’s population, and China and India alone are about 40% of the world’s population, only about 28% of the world’s HNWI are Asian.

Less than 24% of the wealth of the world’s HNWI goes to Asian HNWI. African HNWI have only $0.7 trillion of the 30.8 trillion in global HNWI assets; Middle Eastern poverty, $1 trillion; Latin Americans, $3.7 trillion. The approximately 10% of the world that is North American or European accounts for approximately 60% of the total wealth of the HNWI and that is true even with categorizing the world’s second-largest economy—Japan, an imperialist country—as an Asian country!

The lop-sidedness in wealth flows mirrors the one in income,(3) but social-imperialists (socialists normally) and other counterrevolutionaries calling themselves “leftist,” opposing the Maoist Internationalist Movement, argue simplistically against MIM that wealth and income are separate, as if more wealth in the imperialist countries didn’t mean more income to the imperialist-country populations, out of proportion to the number of exploited workers in these countries. In fact, wealth and income are connected. People who have wealth are able to extract more income. People getting under $10,000 a year, let alone $5,000 a year or less, are not likely to be millionaires. Such a thing happens so infrequently, it is not worth talking about. The global pattern of wealth ownership and income distribution is the same: the exploiters of the United States, Canada, Western Europe and Japan get the lion’s share despite the bulk of exploitation happening elsewhere.
### Destroying white exploiter myths

**Poor countries are not as well off as rich ones because of lower prices**

By a correspondent, July 9, 2005

International price data released in 2005 continue to show that there is not as much difference in prices between the rich countries and poor countries as stereotype might suggest. Fitting the stereotype, Tokyo (134.7) was the world’s most expensive city out of 144 cities surveyed by interests representing multinational corporations placing employees globally. The standard of reference is New York City set to 100.(1)

Nonetheless, Ottawa, Kanada and Winston-Salem, North Carolina were at the lower end of expenses, coming in at 66.4 and 66.6 respectively. Third World cities that are actually more expensive to live in range from Sao Paulo, Brazil (66.6) to Hong Kong (109.5). Also more expensive are Beijing (95.6), Douala, Cameroon (93.8), Istanbul, Turkey (93.8), Abidjan, Ivory Coast (93.0) and Hanoi, Vietnam (84.9). Using the most conservative definition of “Third World” there are at least 30 Third World cities more expensive to live in than Ottawa, Kanada!

In places that do the lion’s share of the world’s manufacturing while receiving a fraction of rich country wages, the cost of living is about the same as San Francisco (84.9) or higher-Seoul, Korea (115.4), Beijing (95.6), Hong Kong (109.5), Singapore (88.0), Shenzhen (81.3) and Guangzhou, China (80.6). There are other easily available sources of worldwide cost-of-living data, such as ERI Economic Research Institute’s Relocation Assessors & Cost-of-Living Survey (http://www.eri.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=EIRU.AMain&tkid=76-22), which uses data as current as April 2005; although, the demonstration version of this database software is limited to places beginning with the letter “A” or “B.” You can use this tool to research cost-of-living differences based on a variety of parameters, such as annual earnings and number of automobiles owned. According to this tool, to have the same standard of living in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, and other Third World countries, actually requires a higher income level than in the United States for several income levels.

The real slam dunk in all of this is that it actually does not matter precisely how much higher the cost of living is in some Third World places. Even if Third World wages were substantially lower than imperialist-country prices, the vast majority of Euro-Americans would still be exploiters due to other adjustments that would have to be made in calculations as a consequence of the price differences. Those who use cost of living to wrongly justify exploitive income levels in imperialist countries should try out ERI’s Relocation Assessor demo as an exercise in actually doing a tiny bit of investigation to back up their erroneous claims, which are so harmful to the world’s exploited and oppressed people.

Notes:

### Gilchrist joins fascist activists in Campo

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Chase might claim, as he has done so before, that he’s always wanted to be a newsman before, that he’s always wanted to prove that cost of living is not lower anywhere in either US or abroad as in any other place... he’s always wanted to be a war correspondent... he’s always wanted to be a war correspondent... he’s always wanted to be a war correspondent... he’s always wanted to be a war correspondent...

After repeatedly describing protesters as “communists,” “pro-imperialist, labor aristocracy mouthpiece “Lou Dobbs Tonight” went on to talk about “the China trade problem” with “communist China,” and how politicians in Congress are allegedly using China to distract from CAFTA’s impact on American jobs.

News networks have for several months been broadcasting interviews and news of border vigilantes throughout the country, but “Lou Dobbs Tonight” within the space of a few minutes achieved the feat of using border vigilantes as a backdrop for supporting the greatly intensified repression of migrants as well as reactionary chauvinist attacks on Chinese workers, rather than the imperialists and their lackeys. Yet, most of the demonstrators in Campo who were supporters of “socialist” organizations (particularly one opportunist organization unable to separate party-building activity from participation in a mass movement) were not communists or other revolutionaries. Regardless, the reactionary media has conjured up images of a communist takeover of America on different fronts and fueled hostility toward those who rightfully oppose the fascist and racist Minutemen.

Protests of the Minutemen continue in Campo despite the negative media portrayals.(13) Chris Simon’s Minuteman Civil Defense Corps, a different border vigilante organization, plans to begin operating in California. And Andy Ramirez’s Friends of the Border Patrol is set to begin “watching the border” and helping the abusive and murderous Border Patrol on September 16—a slap in the face to Mexicans and indigenous people who desire to be treated with respect, not denied full access to the land they have occupied for thousands of years. The real Minutemen are those who are armed and controlling the border in ways that are harmful to the world’s exploited and oppressed people.

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Tancredo shoots to polarize Amerikkkans on ‘immigration’

By HC116, July 24, 2005

From minnnotes.info

Republicano Colorado Congresspersyn Tom Tancredo has for several months hinted at running for President in 2008. Many anti-migrant activists have certainly supported the idea of Tom Tancredo’s running for President, but Tancredo himself has seriously considered running.

As early as February 4, 2005, based on a Denver Post report, Tom Tancredo was in New Hampshire “railing against illegal immigration to 50 or so Republican activists . . . Just about anyone in New Hampshire will tell you, members of Congress come to snowy New Hampshire in February for one reason—to run for president.”(1) The Denver Post quoted Tancredo as saying that a bid for the Presidency is “a possibility.”(1) However, Tancredo said his running for President would be his last run.

In New Hampshire, Tancredo wanted to encourage voters to use immigration as a “litmus test” for choosing candidates in the New Hampshire presidential primary. Tancredo said he was searching for candidates who would be tougher on undocumented migrants. Enough, though, Tancredo and his Team America Political Action Committee openly oppose both documented and undocumented migration. The Denver Post also reported that “much of the political team of Pat Buchanan,” including Angela “Bay” Buchanan, has helping Tancredo. Pat Buchanan has openly upheld the 1950s INS-named Operation Wetback, which also affected persons who were U.S. citizens and other legal residents, as a model for deporting undocumented migrants. During the fascist and racist Operation Wetback, supported by Euro-American workers who claimed Mexicans were stealing American jobs, hundreds of thousands of Mexicans and Latinos in the United States were rounded up and deported in a vicious attack on Mexican workers and Latino communities.

Back in April 2001, the Denver Westword quoted bow-tie-wearing Tucker Carlson as saying on CNN’s “The Spin Room”: “There’s a man [Tom Tancredo] who ought to be running for president.”(2) Tancredo had just criticized Congress giving Permanent Normal Trade Relations status to China.

Now, the Associated Press is reporting that “Tancredo is pressing on and even hinting at a long-shot presidential bid in 2008,” but the AP also cites “experts” who say Tancredo wouldn’t win that election, that he just has a chance at forcing other Republicans to move closer to his position.(3)

Minnnotes.info reports have previously pointed out that the Minutemen and their supporters in the highest levels of government, such as Tom Tancredo, Chairman of the increasingly powerful Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus, aren’t necessarily shooting to achieve their most reactionary and fascist goals. But for the most part, they seek to polarize the population to whip up support for intensifying the repression of migrants, which may take the form of creating an environment in which it is impossible to survive without proper documents, as well as creating the groundwork for a fascist trajectory of deportations and terrorist repression of migrant workers and other oppressed-nation people, including those in the internal semi-colonies of the united states. It is not enough to wait until politicians and the media are openly calling for the immediate deportation of all undocumented migrants; although, some have done so. We must resist this reactionary movement now and stop it before it develops further and unleashes the groundwork of white nationalism that will threaten the lives of many people. We are facing a resurgent white nationalism that cannot end with the replacement of the Bush administration. The Bush regime has made up a labor aristocracy, to wield the openly racist National Vanguard, to deport, “illegal” border-crossers simply for crossing the border, putting even more pressure on migrants, which may not pass in its present incarnation, other “immigration reform” proponents (and supporters of the status quo, the already harsh and deadly repression of migrants) will be pressured to address this legislation and respond to it. Tancredo wants to imprison, not just detain and deport, “illegal” border-crossers simply for crossing the border, putting even more migrants in jail. It also appears to this writer that the REAL Guest Act of 2005 would reduce legal immigration and admission for several different categories.

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### Human Rights Abuses in the Philippines: Shades of El Salvador and Vietnam

By Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research (EILER)

**From minnotes.info**

Every Philippine government has resorted to employing death squads every time the people’s movement makes great strides. In the 1950s, while peasant uprisings were on the upswing, there were the “skull squads” of Colonel Valeriano that terrorized the people of Central Luzon. Then there were the “Monkees,” “Military Lost Command,” the hit squads of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG), National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISAI), and others during the Marcos dictatorship. Human rights groups estimate that the Marcos dictatorship was accountable for 1,166 killings from 1972 to 1983 alone.[i] This is surely apart from those summarily executed and massacred by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) during military operations and the numerous cases of desaparecidos (disappeared).

During the Aquino administration’s entorsement of their activities reflects its adherence to a “total war policy” against the progressive movement.

The U.S. is behind the use of death squads in the Philippines as a counterinsurgency measure. Colonel Edward Lansdale, an operative of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), masterminded the 1950s counterinsurgency program of the Philippine government. Lansdale brought his expertise gained from his experience in the Philippines to Indo-China to help implement the brutal counterinsurgency program called Operation Phoenix in Vietnam.

The role of the U.S. in the vicious counterinsurgency program Opplan Lambat-Bitag (Operation-Plan Net Trap) of the Aquino administration is no secret either. The features of the program show that the U.S. tried to replicate its “EL Salvador Solution” to defeat the progressive movement after the ouster of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

This includes installing Corazon Aquino as a pliant instrument to shield the state’s fascism like it did in installing the pseudodemocrat Jose Napoleon Duarte as President of El Salvador to camouflage the atrocity activities of the fascist d’Andrea death squad gangs that terrorized the people of El Salvador in the 1980s.[ii]

A U.S. newspaper reported that the U.S. government’s involvement in Opplan Lambat Bitag included psychological warfare (psywar) operations and the formation of vigilante groups and death squads. It pointed to the United States Information Agency’s (USIA) activities in psywar operations like distributing anti-communist films and written materials.[iii] However, perhaps the most direct and concrete evidence linking the U.S. to the death squads was U.S. President Ronald Reagan’s March 1986 approval of increased CIA involvement in Philippine counterinsurgency operations. Following the visit of Vietnam War veteran Major General John Singlaub, the Aquino administration appointed Jaime Ferrer as Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government. Secretary Ferrer justified and encouraged the formation and activities of the death squads and he became their virtual godfather. Aquino also appointed General Rafael Itelo as Secretary of National Defense to oversee the implementation of “total war.”

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark investigated the activities of the death squads in 1987 and wrote in June that year that the Filipino government’s use of the term “terrorist” was itself a type of “total war.” This forced the U.S. and the local ruling elite to retreat temporarily and reduce the activities of the death squads.

However, beginning from the last quarter of 2004, attacks against members of cause-oriented groups intensified anew under the present Arroyo administration. This coincided with the achievement of extraordinary growth in strength made by the revolutionary movement after years of gradual advance. Kidnapping and murder of known activists, workers, and peace advocates are signs of this.

### Tancredo shoots to polarize

*From p. 5...* of people. The Act would add more Border Patrol agents, allow the Army and the Air Force to be law enforcers “at or near a border,” and require the Department of Homeland Security to certify that all non-citizens have biometric documents (uniquely identifying individuals through biometric data such as fingerprints), readable at every port of entry.

Resonating with anti-migrant activists’ most racist sentiments, the REAL QUEST Act, short for “Rewarding Employers that Abide by the Law and Guaranteeing Uniform Enforcement to Stop Terrorism Act,” portrays migrant workers as terrorists. Others, such as Americans for Legal Immigration PAC (http://www.allpac.us/) and many other organizations, portray migrant workers as drunk-drivers and murderers, and we can now add baby-killers since AL-PAC has accused “illegal alien” Raúl Peña, not the white-controlled pigs, of killing Susie Peña in Los Angeles.

### 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. They are not the true prophets of the world they 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.
Sith fails to go beyond shallow, Liberalism, plays into fascists’ hands

By HC116, May 24, 2005

From minutemotes.info

Star Wars: Episode III -- Revenge of the Sith
Directed by George Lucas, 2005

[This review was approved by MIM Congress 2005. ed.] At the world premiere of “Sith,” Director George Lucas drew a comparison between the Iraq War and the Viet Nam War after saying one of the themes of “Sith” is how a “bad guy gets into a government --- into a ‘dictatorship.’”(1) However, distinguishing between the movie’s impact and the movie makers’ intentions, David M. Halbfinger of the New York Times views the “partisan debate” resulting from “Sith” even before its release as “more a measure of the nation’s apparently permanent political warfare than of a filmmaker’s intent.”(2)

By Celtic Lounge

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The debate over what the dialogue of “Sith” is aimed at could shed some light on the movie’s impact. However, what’s important is the movie’s actual objective impact, not the movie’s intended subtext, however obvious it is. On the other hand, if “Sith” polarizes Democrats and Republicans, then that is a reality, and it has to be taken into consideration. So, this writer must ask why it is that BuSh and Frist are compared to Chancellor Palpatine, but not Bill Clinton, who led an imperialist country that attacked Iraq and Yugoslavia after engaging in maneuvers leading up to these attacks. Many moviegoers will perceive the movie as anti-BuSh. Any movie that exacerbates division among the exploiting enemy deserves a modicum of praise. But what next is an important question. Anger against an individual imperialist can lead in vastly different directions depending on the context. “Sith” has encouraged people to draw comparisons between the character Palpatine, and BuSh and Frist. That’s a fact that is independent of any analysis.

It is not enough for a movie or anything else to be just against BuSh or against certain Republicans. There is no such thing as pure anti-BuSh sentiment anyway. Revolutionaries oppose BuSh, but many fascists and other pro-imperialists oppose BuSh, too. In the United States, some anti-BuSh sentiment coincides with fascist politics. For example, many people supporting the intensified repression of migrants view BuSh as a puppet of Vicente Fox.

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Sith fails to go beyond Liberalism...

Fox despite BuSh’s being an imperialist and supporting reactionary migratory policies himself. Others view BuSh as a puppet of Jews. The anti-BuSh sentiment of these fascists is shallow—they support imperialism to the hilt and disagree with BuSh either on tactical grounds only or out of some reactionary fear of “Jewish supremacy.” Such shallowness resonates with the quality of the potshots “Sith” takes against BuSh, regardless of the movie makers’ intentions. Shallow anti-BuSh sentiment is not limited to fascists, but is found in the chauvinist, pro-imperialist Demokrats and so-called leftists. It is not just fascists who say that the united states is oppressed by Third World countries, such as Mexico, and by imperialist countries smaller than the united states.

“Sith” mocks certain language strongly associated with the Republicans: the language of absolutes, of “us” versus the “enemy,” and of “either us or against us.” This is the old ideological versv of “Sith.” The movie’s inclusion of lines such as “if you’re not with me, you’re my enemy” will infuriate Republicans, but it also serves to obscure the movie’s support for imperialism. As obvious as they may be, the references to Republicans are subterraneous in the science-fiction movie. Moviegoers will feel that they’ve “discovered” the movie’s anti-Republican content. The effect is to camouflage the pro-imperialist content of the movie. For all the impact “Sith” has on anti-BuSh sentiment—and there is no denying the real impact the movie has in fact had on generating dichotomous discussion between “conservatives” and “liberals” of the movie’s politics—“Sith” has another, important impact underneath the surface.

There are different explanations for the rise of Hitler. Some fascists see it as inevitable, others see it as an expression of the decadence of capitalism. In any case, the rise of Hitler is a manifestation of the rise of Fascism. The movie “Sith” portrays the rise of a new power, the rise of a new order, the rise of Fascism.

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The movie’s so-called opposition to absolutes becomes reactionary in another way. This isn’t limited to “Sith.” Nothing could be more “absolute” than the jedi’s religious opposition to the dark side, yet later episodes also seem to be saying “don’t get angry at oppression, Luke, or you’ll turn into another Vader.” “Sith”’s criticism of Anakin’s hotheadness chasises the masses for being angry at their oppressors. Only those who aren’t angry are left to fight the oppressors. The movie focuses on emotions, rather than differences in ideological and political line.

There are materialist absolutes, which are necessary, and then there are idealist absolutes. At any given point in revolutionary struggle, a person is in fact either part of the solution or part of the problem; although, dealing with a person who is part of the problem is not so simple as just pointing out that they are part of the problem. In contrast, the jedis associate with certain emotions and the use of electricity bolts. It is left to moviegoers’ imagination what these manifestations of the Dark Side are supposed to represent in the real world. One imagines that violence, by anyone following the orders of a control sitting in a chamber at the top of a tower in a metropolis, is an expression of the Dark Side.

This writer does not seek to discover the one enduring subtext of “Sith.” That is the job of idealist bourgeois art critics. What is important is the movie’s objective impact. If the movie comes off as being anti-Semitic and fascist to fascists themselves, then that has to be dealt with along with the movie’s polarizing Demokrats and Republicans, and we should search for evidence that “Sith” is anti-Semitic. What fascists seem to have in mind is a supposed anti-Semitism in “Sith” is a consequence of fascists’ wishful thinking. “Unfortunately,” “Sith” does in fact lend itself to fascist politics. This comes out in the way “Sith” and its prequels show the rise of Palpatine.

“Sith” portrays the rise to power of a single, conspiring individual who takes advantage of a war with separatists to put himself in power. Palpatine even supports the separatists as a maneuver to put himself in power, but pretends to oppose the separatists. Palpatine isn’t the only one who opposed the separatists. Bail Organa himself is anti-separatist. There is a consensus that the separatists are bad, like there is consensus in the real world that resistance fighters are bad. Palpatine manipulates anti-separatist sentiments to his own ends. The idea is that Loyalists are good, and the separatists are evil; the Loyalists are just fooled by Palpatine, who is a traitor.

The parallel idea in the real world is that BuSh took advantage of an otherwise just “War Against Terror,” or that some faction of the u.s. government even helped to carry out the September 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center. Some fascists say it was Israel that either provoked or was behind the attacks of the World Trade Center attack or itself attacked the WTc. In effect playing off of fascist ideas, Michael Moore’s “Fahrenheit 9/11” (2004) suggests that BuSh was a puppet of Saudi Arabia, rather than Israel, and portrays the united states as oppressed by a Third World country. BuSh himself reported: “Alluding to Michael Moore’s remarks about ‘Fahrenheit 9/11’ at Cannes a year earlier, Mr. Lucas joked, ‘Maybe the film will waken people to the situation.’ “(2)

George Lucas’ seemingly offhand remark does not prove how moviegoers will interpret “Sith,” but it does point to a problem with the movie. In general, “Sith” has no fundamental disagreement with imperialism. Demokrats would call “Sith” “patriotic,” while some Republicans have called “Sith” unpatriotic and agitated for boycotting the movie. In truth, “Sith” does portray the rise to power of what is at most a tiny clique surrounding a single individual acting against the interests of the vast majority of the population. In the context of the united states, in which the majority of Americans are not only privileged but exploiters benefiting from imperialism—a fact that both fascists and opportunists deny—this story is a distortion of reality with the exception that BuSh’s actions may lead to nuclear devastation of the planet including the united states. But nuclear devastation of the world is a threat posed by the interplanetary government, the Galactic Republic. And importantly, the Galactic Senate has at least some Senators from planets with monarchies. So, the Galactic Senate is internally democratic, but the Galactic Republic isn’t democratic necessarily in its individual member planets. It is supposed to be something terrifying when Palpatine declares the Galactic Empire, but meanwhile there are Kings and Queens on member planets of the Galactic Republic, and the movie lets that slide.

In addition, “Sith” portrays the resistance to Palpatine as growing mainly out of the Republic itself. The man who adopts Leia, the twin sister of Anakin’s son Luke, is Bail Organa. Organa is the Viceroy of Alderaan. He is a rallying point for opposition to Palpatine even though Organa does not does not aggressively try to stop Palpatine’s rise to power. Revolutionaries do not foreclose temporarily uniting with small oppressed-nation monarchists against imperialist powers, but “Sith” chooses to portray monarchists, not even bourgeois democrats, as leading the resistance. “Sith” illustrates the decadence of imperialism. In the real world, imperialist bourgeoisies do not play a progressive role in the class struggle and can prefer monarchy over a bourgeois democracy that is not subordinate to the imperialists. U.S. imperialism supports monarchists, against the people, and that is going to show up in the movie culture at some point. “Star Wars” should be understood in this context otherwise the implication is that decadent imperialism’s support for monarchy never shows up in the movie culture. Any movie that glorifies monarchists fighting rebels has problems with it even if the rebels seem to be reactionary, like the capitalist...
plays into fascists’ hands

separatists in “Star Wars.” Most moviegoers cannot tell the difference between monarchists who side with imperialists and monarchists who side against imperialists. Movie glorification with monarchists translates into support for monarchist lackeys in the Third World.

Even though Princess Leia does not appear in “Sith” except as an infant and is a prominent character throughout episodes IV, V, and VI, Han Solo even ridicules Princess Leia for being royal at one point, and Princess Leia comes off as being anachronistic surrounded by the high-tech, armed rebel forces. The latter three episodes of “Star Wars” may be anti-fascist and anti-imperialist despite the quirk that is Princess Leia and the movies’ somewhat ambiguous attitude toward her; although, the masses, such as the Ewoks, even in Episodes IV-VI strangely seem untouched by the imperialists before they are forced to battle the Empire’s army. Whether “Sith” is anti-imperialist is less clear. “Sith” portrays the separatists as greedy capitalists—as if that weren’t redundant. Separatists, influential in the Galactic Senate previous to “Sith,” include merchants who opposed some tariffs under the Republic. The separatists even include a “Commerce Guild” and a “Trade Federation.” Much is made in episodes II and III of the romance between Anakin and Padmé, formerly Queen Amidala. Figuratively and literally, “Sith” romanticizes monarchy. The end result is that the glorified Jedi favor a semi-monarchist Galactic Republic over the imperialists who make up the separatists. Although the Jedi claims to defend democracy, “Jedi Knights” is itself not-so-subtle crypto-monarchism. This is not simply “a matter of style” or a question of who wields power, as the Jedi are a caricature of Medieval knights, complete with apprentices, a code, and an almost mystical attitude toward the “Force.” The Jedi are blood-based (midichlorians).

So, “Sith” pits a monarchist decadent imperialism against a rogue faction of imperialists: an inter-imperialist war. Monarchy isn’t just something symbolic in “Sith” and the first two episodes. Although there is some question about how Queen Amidala was “elected” and whether she is only symbolic, whole planets’ governments are monarchies. In Episodes IV-VI, what could be called Third World planets join the armed struggle against the Galactic Empire; although, “Episode VI” portrays the Ewoks’ “primitive” as a matter of Ender’s isolation. In “Sith,” however, the budding resistance is coming from the Old Republic. The focus in IV-VI trilogy is on defeating the Galactic Empire. The focus in III is on keeping the Old Republic. The second trilogy isn’t just better material for anti-imperialist politics: the monarchists’ role in second trilogy is less than it is in the first trilogy with Queen Amidala.

There is one positive aspect of the relationship between Anakin and Padmé, and that is to illustrate in a strategically interesting way how intimate relationships can interfere with the work of individuals (revolutionaries or not) who are critical to a struggle. Anakin and Padmé must keep their marriage secret because it is against rules. Anakin’s vision of Padmé dying in childbirth leads to his siding with Palpatine. But other relationships, such as that between Han Solo and Princess Leia in the second trilogy, are not so disastrous. Consequently, “Sith” blames Anakin’s conversion to Darth Vader on an individual persyn: Padmé, who dotes on Anakin and is ignorant of Palpatine’s scheming. This is the typical theme in the patriarchal movie culture of wimmin being either the Achilles Heal seductresses of heroic men or damsels in distress (with both the seductress and the damsel in distress as sexual objects). With the coup of Anakin and Padmé, and Han Solo and Princess Leia, the “Star Wars” series portrays wimmin in both of these ways.

“Sith”’s portrayal of a senate form of government with underhanded intrigue is interesting, but the movie barely hints at how imperialist democracy gives rise to fascists. Palpatine comes off as an aberration. “Sith” lapses into subjectivism when it relies on the mysterious, impenetrable “Dark Side of the Force” to explain Palpatine’s abilities and Anakin’s conversion. The process of good turning into evil is relevant to Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, and the M-L-M line on the new bourgeoisie within the party has something to say about the process of degeneration. It is notable that it is a high-ranking Jedi, Anakin, who turns into a Sith Lord. “Sith”’s explanation of the transformation is no less psychological and interpersonal. Remembering his mother’s death, Anakin doesn’t want his wife, Padmé, to die. He has a vision of Padmé dying in childbirth. That leads him to seek out ways to prevent what he foresees—except abortion, which strangely never occurs to the characters in the movie. Tempted by Darth Sidious, Anakin moves toward the Dark Side.

Probably the closest approximation for this situation in the real world is a revolutionary selling out to pursue a personal agenda or convenience. In “Sith,” Anakin’s conversion, however, is just a matter of evil Darth Sidious. The Jedi Council is supposed to be models of goodness, and Darth Sidious is evil. Characters in “Sith” mention that Anakin would have been the youngest member of the Jedi Council. As a result, “Sith” turns Anakin’s hotheadedness into a function of his age, rather than political degeneration.

However, Anakin, like the Jedi Council, never has a revolutionary goal to begin with. Like other Jedi, he is a soldier of a “peace-keeping” imperial army.

Notes:
2. “This was written during the Vietnam War and Nixon era, when the issue was how a democracy turns itself over to a dictator—not how a dictator takes over a democracy,” he said.
Under Lock & Key
News from Prisons & Prisoners

Washington USW leader thrown in hole for activism

On June 21, 2005, Ronald Henderson was thrown into isolation for organizing a work strike in the mess hall at Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla, WA. “I’ve been placed on isolation; no phone, no yard, only a shower every three days. This is part of the disciplinary sanction for the work strike. 10 days iso[lation], 30 days d-seg and a possible IMU [Intensive Management Unit] program.”

In prisons across the country long term isolation cells have become common tools of punishment. Generally, they exist to house the most violent and incorrigible prisoners, what they call ‘the worst of the worst.’ The only thing that has proven incorrigible is the U.S. injustice system that has always served the interest of the settler nation and has only increased its use. Once in isolation, we know that people are a product of their environment, and a violent oppressive system begets violence and oppression. People can change, but imperialism can not.

However, this incident is a blatant example of a well-established trend that MIM has seen over the last couple decades with the advent of the control unit. People are being thrown into long term isolation not because they are a threat to other people, but because they are a threat to imperialism. Comrade Henderson has been an active participant in a number of actions to support the United Struggle from Within, and this is not the first time his organizing has landed him in isolation. In California, the largest prison state in the United States, half of the people in the control units didn’t even break any rules. They are in there on ‘gang-affiliation’ charges, based on things as little as who they get mail from or talk to, whether they have tattoos or speak another language or what part of California they come from. So we see a preemptive effort to prevent organizing as well the use of isolation as punishment to those who are becoming leaders. As a result people are being tortured and suffering for basic human rights, or because they might do so in the future.

Comrade Henderson’s recent lock up was a result of his demands for better sanitation. His story begins, “I had been working in the kitchen a few months and as a result came up. I was asked by prisoners what should we do? What were our options? I first initiated a petition, which I was only able to get five signatures before it was snatched up by a c/o and given to his superiors. That was on 6/19/05. I was summoned a few minutes afterwards to the shift Lt. Then I was interrogated and interviewed by custody superiors, Lt. Sgt. and others. I was told I could not circulate this type of document, and was ordered not to and returned to work. They kept the petition document after I clearly asked for it back.

The next few days I was approached and asked by numerous prisoners, ‘where was the petition?’ They wanted to sign. I relayed to them that it had been confiscated. On 6/21/05, as you can read in the enclosed document, I initiated a work stoppage of my own accord. I was the only prisoner taken to the hole after four hours and an institutional lock down.”

The referral that was used to put Comrade Henderson in isolation read as follows: “On 6/21/05 at approximately 1045 hours, officer Craig Jensen announced count in the south dining hall. Instead of proceeding with the kitchen count procedure, all but one inmate remained seated. Count was announced a second time with the same inmate response as had previously transpired. Inmate Henderson then made a comment about inmates wanting showers. Sgt. Bob Patton intervened, explained that showers would be discussed later, ordered the inmates to comply with count procedures. Again, the inmates refused and remained seated. Sgt. Patton ordered the south dining hall doors secured. The gun cage was manned and inmate Henderson was observed and identified as the primary instigator of the work strike. He was heard and observed making inciting statements such as singing among the other inmates not to return to work. Other statements were “We need to stand together” and “We need to stand up for what is right.” He was continually observed addressing the group of striking inmates. Only after intervention of CPM Knight, CP Schettler and Lt. Kirshaw did the inmates comply with count procedures.

Again, the inmates refused and remained seated. Sgt. Patton ordered the south dining hall doors secured. The gun cage was manned and inmate Henderson was observed and identified as the primary instigator of the work strike. He was heard and observed making inciting statements such as singing among the other inmates not to return to work. Other statements were “We need to stand together” and “We need to stand up for what is right.” He was continually observed addressing the group of striking inmates. Only after intervention of CPM Knight, CP Schettler and Lt. Kirshaw did the inmates comply with count procedures.

The pigs don’t mince words, Comrade Henderson is being thrown in a torture cell for uniting the prisoners and encouraging struggle for basic human rights. This is one reason why MIM calls for the closing down of all control unit prisons. They are a threat to progressive organizing on the inside and they are torturing thousands of people as a means of social control. Despite having one copy of the petition confiscated, Comrade Henderson was able to get a copy out with dozens of signatures by co-workers in the mess hall. The petition now has about 100 signatures and can be found at http://www.petitiononline.com/TPR1/petition.html. Supporters can also email the WDOC Director Harold Clarke or WSP Superintendent Richard Morgan at doccorrespondence@doc1.wa.gov to demand that Ronald Henderson be released to general population.

Why bother with the Parole Board?
I am writing you all to express my concerns about receiving another 18-month continuance within the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC). This latest continuance has led to a confirmation of my hypothesis that prisoners are being denied emancipation not due to a “lack [of] reasonable assurance that the prisoner will not become a menace to society or the public safety,” but rather because of politics, ideology, fear of backlash, racism, and cultural and generational backwardness.

I was convicted in a bench trial of assault with intent to do great bodily harm, felony firearm and being a habitual offender 3rd. I was sentenced to a term of five to 10 years in state prison on the assault and habitual charges, plus two years for the firearm charge, respectively.

At the time of my offense, I was a high school dropout, active gang member, living a misanthropic and chaotic lifestyle. My only needs and concerns at that time were how much money I could make and/or take from someone, how many women I could sleep with and material things.

If the inducement to rehabilitation is emancipation, then every day past my calendar minimum-release date is based on someone’s subjective and arbitrary belief that I may be rehabilitated.

Therefore, every day I am confined past my minimum-release date, I define myself as a political prisoner. Moreover, if the judge wanted me to do more than seven years, he would have given me more time, don’t you think?

One could speculate as to whether I’ve discontinued my barbarism, idealism and simplistic thinking, but let’s look at my institutional adjustment from a holistic point of view: I have completed a university course; the GED examination; vocational, job-seeking and therapy programs; and I have a total of four self-help programs. The first time I went before the Parole Board I had all my RGC recommendations completed and received an 18-month continuance.

The second time I went before the Parole Board, we discussed my offense, prior criminal record, institutional adjustment, recent major-misconduct citations, RGC recommended programs and my parole plans. I received another 18-month continuance.

If the Parole Board has no intention of granting me a parole, then why put me through a sadistic and fruitless interview process? These actions by the Michigan Parole Board are mercilessly harsh and outright cruel. I would prefer to have been through a sadistic and fruitless interview process, but rather because of politics, ideology, fear of backlash, racism, and cultural and generational backwardness.

Therefore, I am formally and decisively requesting not to be interviewed by anymore Parole Board members. You all, as customary, can forward my next denial(s) of parole through the U.S. Mail. May I look forward to the day of my Emancipation.


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

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

MIM does not advocate that all prisoners go free today; we have a more effective program for fighting crime as was demonstrated in China prior to the restoration of capitalism there in 1976. We say that all prisoners are political prisoners because under the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, all imprisonment is substantively political. It is our responsibility to exert revolutionary leadership and conduct political agitation and organization among prisoners whose material conditions make them an overwhelmingly revolutionary group. Some prisoners should and will work on self-criticism under a future dictatorship of the proletariat in those cases in which prisoners really did do something wrong by proletarian standards.
Lockdown at High Desert

I am an inmate housed at High Desert State Prison here in California. I am currently on lockdown status due to rumors of inmates planning attacks on prison officials. I am now seeking information on how to bring these issues before a court. This lockdown has been in effect since January 12, 2005. The lockdown does not allow any out of cell time except for a ten minute shower three times a week.

- a California prisoner, June 2005

The Warden D.L. Runnels and administration here at High Desert State Prison are prejudicially discriminating against the whole inmate population, in violation of knowingly deliberate isolation found elsewhere as a “cruel and unusual punishment” clause, by outrageously denied outside fresh air and exercise yard. The united states federal courts has already made very clear; denial of out door exercise constituted “cruel and unusual punishment”(Deren, F. p. 189) (9th Cir. 1979). For you to be denied all out door exercise and recreation locked in a cell 24 hours a day 7 days a week is an 8th amendment violation (see Lopez vs. Smith, 203 F. 3D 1122).

This inhumanity of cruel and barbarous treatment strikes at the heart of federal law well established: the Eighth amendment written as part of the “bill of rights” in 1791, see: Troy vs. Dulles 356 U.S. 86, 785 C.T. 509, 630 (1958). Together infrequent access to active recreation, long hours of in cell time and over crowded cell conditions is mentally and physically unhealthy (see: Allen vs. Sakai, 48F 3D 1082 (9th Cir 1995) and Lopez vs. Smith 203 F. 3D 1123, 1133 (9th Cir 2000).) Staff officers are breaking the law to provoke and incite a violent atmosphere applied psychologically and physically to the inmates, by “mysteriously” receiving info on future plots to assault staff. It’s amazing how this tactic can be used on every level in every way and the capitalist just keep on keeping on.

- a CA prisoner, June 2005

Freedom of religion denied in California

The warden L. Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP) staff officials, particularly Captain G. Lewis, have discontinued Islamic religious service without any justification or any legitimate penological interests. Prison officials here at SVSP have their own policies and arbitrary and capricious rules, which violate our constitutional rights to exercise religious faith and worship of the religion of Islam. This is a deliberate violate of our (Muslim) rights. The Muslim community is being subjected to an arbitrary and unreasonable exclusion without any lawful justification. We are compelled to hold prayer in the yard instead of the chapel, which violates our constitutional rights of religious freedom, and denies us equal protection of the laws. 488 U.S. 1047 (1989); Thomas V. Gunter, 32 F. 3d 1258, 1260 (8th Cir. 1994). I ask MIM to assist the Muslim community at SVSP with this negative assurance that can be provided. Call and complain please.

- a California prisoner, July 2005

Segregation at SVSP unjust

As of now I have been in administration segregation going on nine months due to confidential information alleging I have substantial influence over my peers, which is bullshit. I’ve only been in prison for six months, and above all I’m a 22 year old first timer. It is extremely impossible for an individual sentenced to life in prison, first prison sentence, no psychological knowledge on psychological warfare, no experience, etc. Plus I’m on the most violent yard in CDC, which is C-yard. Also while in ad-seg I have received three CDC 114s, I was kicked out of ad-seg and brought back to ad-seg in 48 hours, it’s crazy.

- a California prisoner, July 2005

Deaths from negligence

Just yesterday morning in building #1 cell yard 1st floor in SVSP a prisoner named C became unresponsive. I was not trained properly to work around us. I’ve been locked away in these death traps 3 different times, it doesn’t get any better. - a prisoner in Represa, California, July 2005

No focus on rehab in California

We are still on punishment. It’s been 6 months now stuck in the cell 24-7. I read in the Christian Science Monitor dated 6/20/05 that on July 1 the California Department of Corrections will be renamed the CDC and Rehabilitation. The focus on Rehab, says a spokesperson of the DOC, is intended to cut down on recidivism. The vocational classes here were shut down more than a year ago and some of the vocational teachers were laid off. There’s no rehabilitation programs in these level 4 prisons. There’s always a conviction of “Not enough” of “mysteriously” receiving info that can be provided. Call and complain please.

- a California prisoner, July 2005

Facts on U$ imprisonment

The facts about imprisonment in the United States are that the United States has been the world’s leading prison-state per capita for the last 25 years, with a brief exception during Boris Yeltsin’s declaration of a state of emergency.(1) This means that the United States was taken as the head of a state that imprisoned more people per capita. In supposedly “hard-line” Bulgaria of the Soviet bloc of the 1980s, the imprisonment rate was less than half that of the United States.(2,3) To find a comparison with U.S. imprisonment of Black people, there is no statistic in any country that compares including apartheid South Africa of the era before Mandela was president. The last situation remotely comparable to the situation today was under Stalin during war time. The majority of prisoners are non-violent offenders(4) and the U.S. Government now holds about a half million more prisoners than China, even though China is four times our population.(5)

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

- a prisoner in California, July 2005

Join the fight against the injustice system

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

Stop Censorship in Prison: Prisons frequently censors 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. See article 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 prison for those prisoners who are listed as psychological inmates. The people who are listed as psychological inmates are often incarcerated 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 most important elements of a successful release program?

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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.
La Guardia Civil española viola y tortura a una prisionera vasca.

ESPANA:

TORTURAS COMO EN LA ÉPOCA DE FRANCO

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Agentes del instituto militar español han detenido esta madrugada en Bizkaia a cuatro personas, a quienes relacionan con la organización armada ETA. Los arrestos se habrían realizado en Bilbo, Arrigorriaga, y Zornotza. El organismo anti-represivo, Atxanatza, ha denunciado que los detenidos son Iñaki Peña González (25 años), mientras que fuentes policiales han difundido las identidades de otros tres: Sonia Mariñ Veiga (32 años), Arkaiz Ormaeta Axebarría (29) y Igor Zearena Gari (27).

El primer arresto se ha producido en un piso de la calle Encarnación de Bilbao y horas después una mujer ha sido detenida en una vivienda de la calle Olatxu, en Arrigorriaga, sitoguado según fuentes policiales. Algunos medios de comunicación se han señalado durante esta mañana que podría haber sido detenida otra persona en Zornotza, hecho que ha sido denunciado posteriormente por fuentes policiales citadas por Europa Press. A media día se ha conocido que una cuarta persona ha sido arrestada en el marco de este operativo policial desarrollado en Bizkaia. Concretamente en Zornotza, según han informado testigos presenciales, el registro, iniciado a las 08:45 horas, ha concluido pasado la una de la tarde. Los agentes del Instituto armado han abandonado el lugar en posesión de un ordenador y dos cajas. El registro se ha desarrollado en presencia de uno de los arrestados, un joven, que ha abandonado el domicilio esposado por los guardias civiles de la Guardia Civil. También la Guardia Civil ha registrado las viviendas de todos los detenidos. Durante el registro de uno de los inmuebles en Bilbao, vecinos de la zona se han acercado para mostrar su apoyo a uno de los jóvenes detenidos. En uno de los inmuebles se ha abierto por lo que no se descarta que en las próximas horas puedan producirse nuevos arrestos. Ya que la Guardia Civil busca a una 5 persona que no ha sido hallada en su domicilio de Zornotza.

Askatasuna poco después ha confirmado que los detenidos son el joven del barrio San Inazio Iñaki Peña (arrestado en Atxurri), la sucesora suya Sonia Mariñ (detenido en Arrigorriaga), Arkaiz Ormaeta e Igor Zearena, ambos detenidos en Zornotza. Las detenciones han sido realizadas bajo la supervisión del Juzgado Central de Instrucción número 5 y de la Fiscalía de la Audiencia Nacional. El organismo anti-represivo ha denunciado con contundencia los arrestos y ha mostrado su preocupación por el trato al que los cuatro ciudadanos vascos puedan estar siendo sometidos durante el periodo de incomunicación en dependencias de la Guardia Civil española. Por esta razón, ha exigido que “se les levante la incomprensión oficial sobre la aplicación de torturas”. Exigencia que desde Torturaren Kontrako Talde de Sanuntziri hacemos nuestra y a la que nos sumamos mostrando nuestra repulsa hacia esta nueva raza de policiales. Las palabras en estos momentos están de sobra, ya sabemos lo sucedido en los últimos meses con las personas que han sido detenidas en régimen de incomunicación, las detenciones por ETA de los últimos meses han padecido infernales: religiones en los dos lugares de la mano las de la policía han sido una constante en este comienzo de año 2005.

Según fuentes policiales, los arrestos se habrían producido a raíz de las declaraciones efectuadas por Amalia Auzs del Instituto de Paz en dependencias de la Guardia Civil española durante su detención incomunicada. Urizar denunció haber sido torturada por agentes del instituto militar. Entre otras vejaciones, Urizar denunció haber sido violada con una pistola durante el periodo de incomunicación, que se prolongó durante cinco días.

El relato íntegro de Amaia Urizar sobre los cinco días de detención fue captado el 29 de octubre pasado, 2004 ocupa diez folios (si alguien no tiene su testimonio íntegro y quiere conseguirlo no más que ponerse en contacto con santurtzi@gmail.org). La joven detalló que fue violada con una pistola por los guardias civiles encargados de custodiarla, además de sumergida en una bañera, entre otros abusos. Para ello, las autoridades tomaron de algunos extractos del testimonio difundido por Torturaren Arikurak Talde (www.stoptortura.com), cabe citar que Urizar es compañera de Garikoitz Aztiau, a quien la Policía Nacional detuvo en las dos últimas horas (29) e Igor Zearreta Garai (27).

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