

MIM Notes



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Iraqis' heroic resistance deals hard blows to US

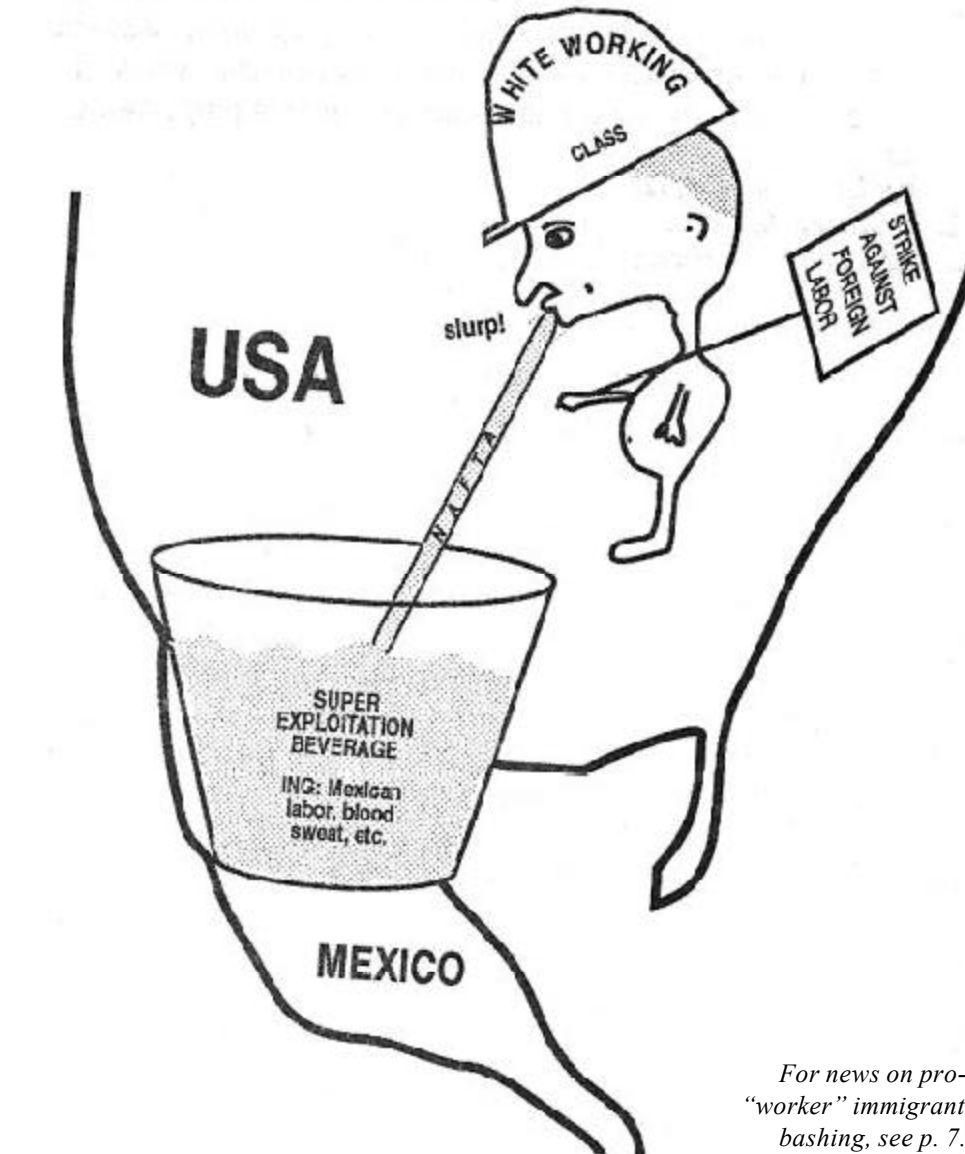
By a correspondent

Gov. report points to more extensive parasitism

By HC116, July 31, 2005
From *mimnotes.info*

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics came out with its June 2005 employment situation summary on July 8th, a few weeks ago.(1)(2) Since then, there have been two changes of relevance: the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) passed, and the AFL-CIO split. Opposition in the united States to CAFTA has coincided with fears about declining manufacturing employment, which intersect with the AFL-CIO's own fear of a loss of American manufacturing jobs and its fear of declining union membership of manufacturing workers. The movement of the larger labor aristocracy to retain manufacturing jobs for Americans, while it contains a demand for job security, is reactionary and expresses itself in attacks on both migrant and Third World workers, and supporting the unionization and other organizing of Third World workers only insofar as they benefit the parasitic economic interests of the labor aristocracy. The labor aristocracy is comprised of the vast majority of u.\$ workers, particularly Euro-American workers.

The labor-aristocrat fear-mongering has resonated with extremely reactionary imperialists. For example, Republikkan Party Chairman Ken Mehlman last week said he backed anti-CAFTA and anti-migrant fascist Congresspersyn Tom Tancredo, a Minutemen-supporter who



For news on pro-
"worker" immigrant
bashing, see p. 7.

has also spread fear about the loss of American manufacturing jobs, for a fifth term in Congress. "That's a sharp change from 2002, when a spokeswoman for the party said Tancredo did not speak for mainstream Republican values."(3) Colorado Congresspersyn Tancredo opposed Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' employment situation summary for last month is interesting in this context, showing changes that are relevant to

discussions of manufacturing employment, as well as where American workers' living standards come from and whether

reactionaries actually have cause to attack Third World workers. The June BLS employment situation summary shows that while manufacturing employment decreased by 24,000 overall between May and June, the fall would have been greater were it not for an increase of 7,000 in computer and electronic products manufacturing employment. We may say that the manufacturing part of the productive sector of the united States both contracted and changed in its composition, perhaps becoming more skilled (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing," 27 February 2004, <http://www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs010.htm>); although, there were substantial decreases, accounting for most of the decline in manufacturing employment, in transportation equipment manufacturing employment, and motor vehicles and parts manufacturing

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August 4, 2005
From *mimnotes.info*

In what has been nearly thirty months since the beginning of the American-led occupation of Iraq, the Iraqi people have yet to show a sign of giving up. Their resilience has proved to both anger and demoralize oppressors back at home as residents of Brook Park, Ohio, grieve over the losses from what has been one of the largest blows to a single military unit since the start of the war. 19 pig occupiers from the town's Marine battalion died in just this week. The casualties took place near the Iraqi town of Haditha, which is northwest of Baghdad.(1)

To start off this month's systematic devastation of the poverty-stricken region, 21 pig occupiers have died fighting for imperialism. Within the past ten days, Iraqi liberation fighters have killed 43 Amerikkkan soldiers, over half of whom were from the allegedly elite, well-trained u.\$ Marine Corps. As internationalists, we should be relieved that they are now Marine Corpses, rather than Iraqi people's corpses, and that the Iraqi national liberation fighters are still expectedly showing determination to drive the Yankee imperialists back home; the liberation struggle will never die out while the American-led troops or the imperialists' lackeys remain. The latest body counts reported by the bourgeois media bring the total number of American dead to 1,820 and the total number of coalition dead to 2,012.(2) We can only expect more violence to happen as the Iraqi resistance develops both strategically and in numbers. Judging by the rapid troop deployments and backdoor drafts targeting the u.\$ Army's Individual Ready Reserve (ex-soldiers who are mostly obese and middle-aged), American imperialism will continue to choke on its own vomit. We can confidently say that this month has gotten off to a pretty good start.

Moreover, the recent upsurge in violence abroad and the climbing American death toll can't help but raise the looming threat of a draft. The majority of American men eligible for the draft are already weary of this lingering possibility. Relatedly, an old March 15th Gallup telephone poll (on January 17th to February 6th, 2005) of u.\$ teenagers between 13 and 17 years of age showed that only 9% of the male youth thought

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Gov. report points to more extensive parasitism

employment. Another indication of changes in both the size and skill of the manufacturing sector is that the third-largest decrease in the BLS selected industry detail under manufacturing was in apparel manufacturing employment, 2,500 employees, while there was an increase of 700 employees in chemicals manufacturing employment.

Employment in goods-producing industries in general—not just manufacturing, but also natural resources and mining—declined by only 4 thousand overall between May and June (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail,” 8 July 2005, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t14.htm>), a tiny change in comparison to the total employment in goods-producing industries. Yet, health care employment alone increased by 25 thousand between May and June, an increase larger than the decrease in manufacturing employment.

Looking at monthly changes over the year, it is clear that there has been a decreasing trend in manufacturing employment, not just between May and June. Yet, this has been more than offset by an increase in industries that Marxists would count as being part of the “unproductive sector,” which is not primarily involved in the production of commodities—not all jobs in the productive sector are involved in the

production of commodities either, and this is partly reflected in the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ distinction between production and nonproduction workers. In contrast, the productive sector is primarily involved in the production of commodities—even if, as in the United States, the country’s productive-sector workers as a whole don’t produce any surplus value and are exploiters. The economic life of the U.S. white oppressor nation is like a great big mall where goods and services are shifted around, and finishing touches are occasionally put on goods; most of the value of the goods is created by oppressed-nation workers inside and outside the United States.

Far from signaling an impoverishment of the contemporary imperialist-country working class, the relative expansion of the unproductive sector in the United States, so-called services, and the shift away from productive labor in the form of manufacturing, indicate parasitism on a greater scale in the population. Contrary to those who view the decline of manufacturing as a sign of the immiseration of American workers, it is not enough to look at changes in relative income inequality to gauge the conditions of U.S. workers. We have to look at changes in the production and consumption of what Marxists call “labor value.” Most new jobs in the United States are in the unproductive sector and involved in the circulation and distribution of commodities, rather than their production.

This implies a peculiar role in the world economy and division of labor—that of an exploiter.

Moreover, while manufacturing employment has declined during the past twelve months(4), the average hourly earnings of manufacturing production/nonsupervisory workers has increased slightly(5), even in real terms based on both CPI-U (Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers) and CPI-W (Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers), according to this writer’s calculations.(5)(6) (Martin Hart-Landsberg and Paul Burkett in a July 30th article in the MR Webzine say the real wages of U.S. manufacturing workers “have been stagnating if not declining,” which seems inaccurate.)

Regardless of these latest data, we are long past the point where we know: even if productive workers in the United States were paid absolutely nothing, zip, and were the most exploited workers on the planet, there still wouldn’t be enough surplus value for the U.S. working class as a whole to produce any net surplus value since such a large proportion of the U.S. working class consists of unproductive workers. This is the static picture. However, historically it has been the case that temporary downturns in U.S. manufacturing wages have been more than made up, in both real-income and labor-value terms, by the increasing size of the unproductive sector as well as an increasing trend in manufacturing wages. Parasitism can increase despite—or, rather, because of—manufacturing employment’s falling, and even if manufacturing wages fall in the short

term.

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) was among the unions that split from the AFL-CIO. Hundreds of thousands of SEIU’s members are unproductive workers who don’t produce commodities. Many oppressed-nation workers are affiliated with the SEIU, but the SEIU’s approach of agitating for the economic demands of parasitic workers, inevitably at the expense of Third World workers, plays into bourgeoisifying its members and other workers even more and undercutting the revolutionary movement in the United States. The movement to keep manufacturing jobs in the United States is characterized by Euro-American reactionary nationalism and chauvinism, but the attempts to give the increasing number of U.S. productive workers a bigger slice of the superprofit pie, made out of the sweat and blood of Third World workers, also has no progressive character. Instead of organizing to end the imperialist system, various labor aristocrats and their advocates seek a greater share of the imperialist loot.

Notes

1. “Unemployment Rate Continues to Trend Down - Manufacturing Employment Fell by 24,000,” 8 July 2005, <http://www.przoom.com/news/926/>

2. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Employment Situation Summary,” 8 July 2005, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>

3. Steven K. Paulson, “GOP chairman says Republican Party backs Colorado congressman despite rift with Hispanics,”

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MIM Notes

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What is MIM?

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) is the collection of existing or emerging Maoist internationalist parties in the English-speaking imperialist countries and their English-speaking internal semi-colonies, as well as the existing or emerging Maoist Internationalist parties in Belgium, France and Quebec and the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist Internationalist parties of Aztlan, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.S. Empire. *MIM Notes* is the newspaper of MIM. *Notas Rojas* is the newspaper of the Spanish-speaking parties or emerging parties of MIM. MIM upholds the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and is an internationalist organization that works from the vantage point of the Third World proletariat. MIM struggles to end the oppression of all groups over other groups: classes, genders, nations. MIM knows this is only possibly by building public opinion to seize power through armed struggle. Revolution is a reality for North America as the military becomes over-extended in the government’s attempts to maintain world hegemony. MIM differs from other communist parties on three main questions: (1) MIM holds that after the proletariat seizes power in socialist revolution, the potential exists for capitalist restoration under the leadership of a new bourgeoisie within the communist party itself. In the case of the USSR, the bourgeoisie seized power after the death of Stalin in 1953; in China, it was after Mao’s death and the overthrow of the “Gang of Four” in 1976. (2) MIM upholds the Chinese Cultural Revolution as the farthest advance of communism in human history. (3) As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM has reiterated through materialist analysis, imperialism extracts super-profits from the Third World and in part uses this wealth to buy off whole populations of oppressor nation so-called workers. These so-called workers bought off by imperialism form a new petty-bourgeoisie called the labor aristocracy. These classes are not the principal vehicles to advance Maoism within those countries because their standards of living depend on imperialism. At this time, imperialist super-profits create this situation in the Canada, Quebec, the United States, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Israel, Sweden and Denmark. MIM accepts people as members who agree on these basic principles and accept democratic centralism, the system of majority rule, on other questions of party line.

“The theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin is universally applicable. We should regard it not as dogma, but as a guide to action. Studying it is not merely a matter of learning terms and phrases, but of learning Marxism-Leninism as the science of revolution.”

- Mao Zedong, Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 208.

State governors declare states of emergency along united States-Mexico border after criticizing the Minutemen

By HC116, August 18, 2005

From *mimnotes.info*

On Friday, August 12th, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson declared a state of emergency along half of New Mexico's border with Mexico. This was followed by Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano's declaring a state of emergency along Arizona's border with Sonora on Monday, August 15th, reportedly after a couple days' consideration. Allocating emergency funds for law enforcement in border towns, both Demokkratic governors cited concerns about violence, drug smuggling, people "smuggling," and undocumented migration. Richardson also cited property damage and violence against law enforcement, reports of which are questionable. News stories indicate Richardson was concerned with gunfire directed at Columbus Police Chief Clare May, though it is not clear from these stories whether the gunfire was related to migration.

In an interview with MSNBC's Norah O'Donnell on "Hardball" Wednesday night, Governor Richardson said:

"I want trained law enforcement people to do the work. Many of the Minutemen are very well-intentioned. They're patriots. But I worry that because they're not trained, because they don't have the skills and equipment to deal with illegal aliens and illegal drugs, as law enforcement does, as Border Patrol, that

we're going to have some unfortunate incidents."(1)

Bill Richardson has criticized the Minutemen in the past, in April. And Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano was criticizing the Minutemen as early as March. Both preferred trained law enforcement to the Minuteman border vigilantes. In a June 10th article, the Associated Press quoted Governor Richardson as saying in regard to the New Mexico Minutemen (led by ex-military, self-described ex-CIA Clifford Alford, who has openly admitted to infiltrating the ACLU): "The Minutemen should not feel that they need to come to New Mexico. We've got the Border Patrol. We've got New Mexico law enforcement," Gov. Bill Richardson said Friday. "We can enforce our laws." Monitoring the international border, the governor said, is not a job for citizens."(2) So, Richardson was saying in June that the Border Patrol and New Mexico police could enforce the law, and now he's saying there's an emergency. The truth is that Richardson wants to increase the already harsh repression of migrants.

In March, the Associated Press reported: "Gov. Janet Napolitano said she is concerned about untrained people coming to do a law enforcement function. . . . 'People have a right to assemble—it's a constitutional right to assemble—but they don't [have] a right to take the law into their own hands,' Napolitano said."(3) The Minuteman Project, founded by Jim Gilchrist and Chris Simcox, took place in April and succeeded in terrorizing many migrants, not just those whom the Minutemen detained while violating their own rules. Influential politicians and prominent voices in the media have lent their support to the original Minutemen and other border vigilantes while using them as a backdrop for proposals for extremely reactionary migration policies.

Jim Chase's California Minutemen plans to do more "border watches." These are set to begin on September 11th and October 9th. Andy Ramirez's Friends of the Border Patrol plans to patrol the border beginning on September 16th. Chris Simcox's Minuteman Civil Defense Corps, which already has operations in Arizona, plans to patrol the border in California, New Mexico, and Texas, in October. Organized border vigilante activity involving various vigilante groups is already underway in these States and others.

Following the Arizona and New Mexico governors' declarations, there are reports that California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has considered joining the two governors and declaring a state of emergency along California's border with Baja California. After his office apparently backpedaled and said a declaration wasn't necessary at the

moment, Schwarzenegger has been pressured to declare a state of emergency. Today, Reuters reported:

"On Thursday, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez called on Schwarzenegger to follow suit with an emergency declaration for the two California counties that border Mexico. . . . 'Border security is a shared responsibility,' Nunez said. 'We need to face the fact that a shared border policy is harming both California and Mexico. People are dying. Vigilante groups are springing up.'"(4)

Fabian Núñez is the same politician whom the ultra-reactionary anti-migrant activist organization American Patrol called a "Mexican government puppet." In reality, Núñez acts as a puppet of U.S. imperialism in Aztlán; although, he did organize opposition to the vicious California Proposition 187, which would have prevented undocumented migrants from receiving health, education and other public services. Like powerful forces in the government and the media are doing, even critics of the Minutemen, Núñez uses the Minuteman border vigilantes as an excuse to step up government-sanctioned pig repression at the border.

All of this is clear confirmation of a prediction made in previous *mimnotes.info* reports, and MIM Notes reports, that some purely anti-racist opposition to the Minutemen would turn into support for what the Minutemen stand for: intensifying the already harsh repression of migrants. Núñez has in the past said that armed vigilantes were "fanning the flames of resentment"—which was correct.(5) But imperialist mouthpiece Núñez also said that documented migrants were harmful to Latinos, pitting Latinos against Latin American migrants though they are all oppressed by imperialism. A *mimnotes.info* report pointed out in early July that Núñez's comments were a justification for "further repressing migrants and artificially creating more so-called illegal immigrants. But Núñez dresses it up as 'justice' for migrant workers already residing in the united States."(6)

Opposition to the Minutemen without any class analysis can lend itself to fascist reaction against migrants. Arnold Schwarzenegger has pointed out Governor Richardson's Mexican ancestry in an attempt to discredit the notion that repressing migrants is racist. Although having Latin American ancestry doesn't disprove racism against Latin American and Latino people, focusing on only the racism of anti-migrant activists, or whether or not they are racist, diverts attention away from their fascist nature and contributes to confusion when a Latin American-descended persyn defends la Migra or even the Minutemen. Fabian Núñez and Bill Richardson do not use racist language, but they are still Liberals paving the way for fascism against

migrant proletarians. And Minutemen-supporters Andy Ramirez and Lupe Moreno may not use openly racist language, but they are nonetheless fascists.

The Arizona and New Mexico governors' declarations also illustrate the futility of exaggerating the tactical differences between Minutemen-supporters and supporters of trained law enforcement (these groups overlap), and siding with proponents of trained law enforcement personnel. Even some so-called critics of the Minutemen support training and deputizing border vigilantes. For that matter, the trained, legitimized pigs, whom some critics of the Minutemen are supporting, can be more efficient at repression and more terroristic than the untrained border vigilantes, but that hardly means we should side with the Minutemen.

It is imperialism that creates the conditions in Latin America leading to drug smugglers' taking drugs to parasitic Americans, often with the help of Americans, and the theft of livestock from American settlers' farms, in territory stolen from indigenous and Mexican people. The governors declare states of emergency because of a situation created by imperialism and move to step up the offensive against migrant proletarians. Imperialism is the real emergency, sucking the blood of oppressed-nation people, imprisoning them, and murdering them. Where was the declaration of a state of emergency after hundreds of proletarian wimmin were brutally raped and murdered over several years in just one city, Ciudad Juárez, near Sunland Park, New Mexico? Where was the emergency declaration after thousands of migrants died in the desert due to fences along the border—a situation created by repression at the border, not by a supposed lack of enforcement of laws? These attacks are still going on, and the deaths continue, but Bill Richardson portrays oppressor Americans as the greatest victims of the situation at the imperialist border. Not only are the imperialists and the repressive pigs incapable of dealing with the social causes of crime, they selectively target the oppressed for repression while pandering to the most racist anti-migrant sentiments, about migrants' being a threat to Americans' physical safety.

Reuters, the conservative Washington Times and others are describing the Arizona and New Mexico governors' moves as symbolic, the Washington Times suggesting that the Demokkratic governors are tailing Hillary Clinton's stated opposition to "illegal immigrants" for election campaigning purposes.(7) There is a grain of truth to this claim—the amount of emergency funds involved is relatively little—but these conflicts

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Associated Press State & Local Wire, BC cycle, 29 July 2005.

4. Northeast Midwest Institute, "Manufacturing Employment: June 2004 - June 2005," 22 July 2005, <http://www.nemw.org/mfgemp.htm>

5. "ESTABLISHMENT DATA : EARNINGS : SEASONALLY ADJUSTEDB-11 : Average hourly and weekly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers(1) on private nonfarm payrolls by major industry sector and selected industry detail, seasonally adjusted," <ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/suppl/empst.ceseeb11.txt> (31 July 2005).

6. "Consumer Price Index Home Page," <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/home.htm> (31 July 2005).

7. "Employment, Hours, and Earnings from the Current Employment Statistics survey (National) Home Page," <http://www.bls.gov/ces/home.htm> (31 July 2005).

8. Steve Bates, "July LINE suggests weaker manufacturing job market," http://www.shrm.org/hrnews_published/CMS_013495.asp

9. Lynn Hicks, "Iowa regains jobs lost since 2001," 22 July 2005, <http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050722/BUSINESS04/507220365/1029/BUSINESS>

State governors declare states of emergency along united States-Mexico border after criticizing the Minutemen

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within the ruling class are the surface appearance of a drive toward fascist repression against migrant proletarians and other oppressed people. U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesperson Mario Villarreal has defended his agency's record. "An enforcement drive in the Tucson sector of Arizona has forced illegal immigrants to cross the border in the counties Napolitano had declared disaster areas, he said," according to the Los Angeles Times.(8) U.S. Customs and Border Protection is part of the Department of Homeland Security, controlled by the Bu\$h government. The Arizona and New Mexico governors' declarations will be seen as a criticism of Bu\$h's migration policy and his handling of the enforcement of immigration laws. So, there is a basis for Democrats to unite with Bu\$h's critics on immigration against Bu\$h and for establishing an even more reactionary migration policy than the one in place now. The governors' declarations provide an opportunity for more labor aristocrats to junk their phony rhetoric about supporting migrants' rights and openly support repressing migrants, not just reducing so-called illegal immigration as if the concern were just with enforcing laws and upholding legality.

Meanwhile, foolish reactionaries in Britain are saying that the "cricket test" (of cricket-team loyalty) could have been used to determine the Britishness of prospective migrants and prevented July's bombings in London.(9) Prime Minister Tony Blair has called for reviewing whether the Britishness test already in place for citizenship is strict enough. Outrageously comparing Brits with people oppressed under apartheid in India and South Africa, some are calling "multiculturalism" apartheid against Brits, who in reality are an oppressor nation. The British government is already planning to change the Human Rights Act to allow it to deport people whom it deems Islamic "extremists" to Islamic countries, and presumably other "extremists" since soon-to-be-unveiled legislation targets anyone who engages in "indirect incitement" to terrorism. "The government also plans to draw up a list of extremist Web sites, book shops and organizations that promote these extremists, [Tony Blair] said."(10) In his latest media briefing, Blair said: "One other point on deportations, once the new grounds [for deportation and exclusion] take effect, there will be a list drawn up of specific extremist websites, bookshops, networks, centres and particular organisations of concern. Active engagement with any of these will be a trigger for the Home Secretary to consider the deportation of any foreign national."(11) Blair wants to bar "extremists" from entering the country and even subject naturalized citizens (not

born in the United Kingdom) to deportation. In the united States, a New York youth was deported to Bangladesh in May for defending the Koran's definition of jihad, which can take different forms. Others in the united States have been targeted for deportation based on being an alleged apologist for terrorism.

Notes

1. "Richardson, minuteman discuss border crisis," 18 August 2005, <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/8997340/>
2. Anna Macias Aguayo, "Minuteman patrols to start in New Mexico," Associated Press State & Local Wire, 10 June 2005.
3. Ananda Shorey, "Mexican senators concerned about Minuteman Project," Associated Press State & Local Wire, 11 March 2005.
4. Kevin Krolicki, "Calif. faces pressure to join border emergency call," 18 August 2005, [http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyID=2005-08-](http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyID=2005-08-19T011822Z_01_HO904694_RTRIDST_0_USREPORT-SECURITY-BORDER-DC.XML)

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5. Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez, "Opposing illegal immigration is one thing, fanning the flames of resentment is not." 24 June 2005, http://hispanicvista.com/HVC/Opinion/Guest_Columns/062705Nu%C3%B1ez.htm
6. HC116, "Anti-migrant reaction not limited to vigilantes," 7 July 2005, <http://mimnotes.info/news.php?file=20050707antimigrant>
7. "Border-control Democrats and President Bush," 16 August 2005, <http://washingtontimes.com/op-ed/20050815-101641-8774r.htm>
8. Nicole Gaouette, "Border Troubles Divide States, Feds," 18 August 2005, <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/lan-border18aug18,0,2043481.story?coll=la-tot-promo&track=toppromo>
9. Robert MacPherson, "'Cricket test' could have averted bombings," 19 August 2005, <http://dailytelegraph.news.com.au/story.jsp?sectionid=1268&storyid=3638601>
10. "Blair in anti-hatred crackdown," 9 August 2005, <http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/>

11. "PM's Press Conference - 5 August 2005," 5 August 2005, <http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page8041.asp>
12. Tom Chorneau, "Schwarzenegger urged to declare border emergency," 18 August 2005, <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/news/archive/2005/08/18/state/n171440D94.DTL>
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15. Farah Stockman, "Effort ties citizenship to 'Britishness'," 18 August 2005, http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2005/08/18/effort_ties_citizenship_to_britishness/

Bill Richardson calls for bulldozing of populated Mexican village

By HC116, August 23, 2005

From *mimnotes.info*

On August 12th, the same day he declared a state of emergency along New Mexico's border with Mexico, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson also called for bulldozing the Mexican village of Las Chepas, near Columbus, New Mexico. According to a press release by Richardson's office, "[t]he Governor also called on Mexico to bulldoze the abandoned town of Las Chepas, which is directly over the border from Columbus. Las Chepas is a notorious staging and resting area for those who smuggle drugs and immigrants into the United States."(1) Richardson repeated this call on "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer," saying that "there's a little town south of our New Mexico border called Las Chepas, which is an abandoned town which is a staging area for drug smuggling, human smuggling and I have asked the Mexican government and we'll work with them, how can we bulldoze and terminate that town. That would be a very practical step that at least for the New Mexico border would make a big difference."(2) Yet, the Associated Press reported on Monday that there are "60 to 100 residents who remain in Las Chepas," in Chihuahua, and that they "make a living selling food to the migrants, officials told the Texas-New Mexico Newspapers Partnership. . . Richardson suggested bulldozing Las Chepas—the widely-used nickname for the town called Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez—the day before he declared a state of emergency. Mexican

officials have not responded to the suggestion."(3) The U.S. Border Patrol already surveils the village using a camera.

La Jornada has reported that 60 people inhabit Las Chepas, which is near Puerto Palomas.(4) According to Frontera NorteSur, Las Chepas is a communally-held ejido that "is home to 40 families that try to survive on farming and a few head of cattle. These businesses are not sufficient however so the families have stores that sell to would-be emigrants as they pass through the area on their way to the US."(5) The exact number of people currently in Las Chepas is unclear to this writer, but Governor Richardson has sinisterly attempted to portray Las Chepas as abandoned, to make the proposed bulldozing seem harmless, when in fact it is a village with inhabitants who would be displaced if there were a bulldozing. The Las Cruces Sun-News points out that Las Chepas "is neither a ghost town nor is it abandoned."(6) "More than 50 families reside here, some raising watermelon, chiles and cattle on small farms nearby."(6) According to the Las Cruces Sun-News, reports have exaggerated the dirtiness of the village, making it seem more run-down than it really is. Also, there are about thirty school-age children in Las Chepas, but no school, because it closed down several months ago.

The New York Times speaks of a "border crisis" in the context of Columbus and Las Chepas, and makes a point of saying Columbus was "plundered" by

Pancho Villa, outrageously painting migrant proletarians as occupiers of the united States.(7) Others, such as the Silver City Sun-News, call migrants "invaders" and say Columbus is "terrorized" by undocumented migrants.(8)

The media is focusing on the Israeli eviction of ultra-reactionary settlers in Gaza, often neglecting to point out that thousands of Palestinian homes have been bulldozed. Meanwhile, u.S. troops have flattened homes in Iraq, and in the united States, a lying governor is setting sights on Las Chepas, calling for it to be destroyed when people still live there. Even Columbus farmer James Johnson has said that "[t]here are still some good people that live there, elderly people who have nothing else"; although, this implies that Las Chepas should still be bulldozed.(8) Inevitably, some criticisms of Richardson's bulldozing proposal will turn into calls to increase pig repression in Las Chepas instead of destroying the village.

The Euro-American settler movement continues. The oppressor nation, through its fear-mongering mouthpiece Bill Richardson, moves to assert its dominance by trying to destroy the infrastructure of oppressed-nation people's communities along the border. Pandering to the most racist sentiments about migrants being physically and sexually violent, it uses alleged physical and sexual attacks, and theft, by migrants as a pretext. In reality, the imperialists

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Tom Cruise is right, Brooke Shields wrong

by mim3@mim.org

Hollywood movie star Tom Cruise took some good shots at capitalist psychiatry in a dust-up involving Brooke Shields. On television, Cruise laced into the culture of overprescription and medicalizing of social problems. He said Brooke Shields would be better off with vitamins, minerals and exercise than psychiatric treatment for post-partum depression.(1)

After Tom Cruise's criticisms received air play because of his fame, the network television stations trotted out white males in laboratory coats to suggest that maybe Tom Cruise does not know what he is talking about since he is not a psychiatrist.(2) In actual fact, what Tom Cruise did was valuable and an example of how the outside world has to police the medical profession.

Tom Cruise is in excellent company with some psychiatric professionals in agreement with him and statistically trained intellectuals in various fields able to see the truth. In fact, what is often considered the leading intellectual competitor to Marxism these days called "post-modernism" has produced a leading light named Michel Foucault who also denounced psychiatry as a flim-flam.

99% of psychiatry could be abolished and the remaining legitimate 1% can be easily absorbed by primary care givers. The money in the profession comes from attractive mostly female upper-middle class clients concerned about their sexual lives, parents concerned about their children's discipline problems and various people properly depressed by the capitalist system. The extreme cases where medical attention has warrant are quite rare.

The New York Times actually paid to distribute its article from Brooke Shields on the Internet, but in typical incompetence, NYT failed to direct its link readers correctly. The article that the New York Times put on its editorial page is an example of how corporate instigated entertainment pollutes the reasoning abilities of the public. In the unabridged edition for the July 1 New York Times not run in all the syndicated papers,

Brooke Shields said, "I'm going to take a wild guess and say that Mr. Cruise has never suffered from postpartum depression." The fact that the New York Times allows that to pass as reasoning shows that the New York Times simply places entertaining bromides on its editorial page for the sake of circulation. Obviously her reasoning about men not suffering postpartum depression would rule out the male psychiatrists who generally invent, regulate and prescribe her and others psychiatric drugs. Worse still the subjectivist so-called reasoning that Brooke Shields employed destroys a lot more medical science than Cruise took aim at! If no therapy is correct because the therapist has not experienced the condition in question, we are going to be doing without most advances in medicine.

Others warmed up to defending Brooke Shields. Typical was this supposedly so convincing argument in the Denver Post against Cruise's so-called ignorance: "The cause isn't known for sure, though doctors believe it's caused by a hormonal imbalance, an alteration in brain chemistry, stress or isolation. My hunch is that it's all of the above,"(3) said a womyn trying to validate a disease of unknown causation yet supposedly affecting one in ten wimmin. It does not even occur to the author that if the cause is isolation, then the relief of the problem is also social.

In the United States, the corporations pay and run their own studies of their own drugs' effectiveness on conditions that they define with government regulation. It's known as the fox running the chicken coop. So when something like Paxil comes along, the proof of its effectiveness comes from professionals with a self-interest in saying psychiatry is effective to begin with.

Psychiatrists are not going to go through years of graduate education and necessarily realize that their profession is ineffective relative to socially caused change. There's no money in that.

Karl Marx commented on the phenomenon of how professions organize themselves under capitalism and create space for themselves where it did not exist

before: "The great mass of so-called 'higher grade' workers—such as state officials, military people, artists, doctors, priests, judges, lawyers, etc.—some of whom are not only not productive but in essence destructive, but who know how to appropriate to themselves a very great part of the 'material' wealth partly through the sale of their 'immaterial' commodities and partly by forcibly imposing the latter on other people—found it not at all pleasant to be relegated economically to the same class as clowns and menial servants and to appear merely as people partaking in the consumption, parasites on the actual producers (or rather agents of production). This was a peculiar profanation precisely of those functions which had hitherto been surrounded with a halo and had enjoyed superstitious veneration."(4)

Generally the same professionals in charge of researching diseases and therapies own stock in the drug companies and the regulators are in a revolving door relationship with the drug companies as with any other industry and the u.s. government. Combined this self-interested profession has decided that 10 million Americans have "social anxiety disorder" requiring Paxil that Cruise rightly ranted against.(5)

The self-interest of professionals not to mention capitalist corporations bribing people to see things their way is a reason that the Cultural Revolution under Mao in China points the road forward for science production. People should not have to worry that their drugs serve the self-interests of professionals and corporations, but under capitalism they do worry about that or surely play the fool.

One blogger did get it right: "Their logic

goes like this: 'Tom Cruise is an actor. Therefore, he has no right to state his beliefs about anything other than acting.' Wow! Since I work at Guide Corp., I guess I'm limited to having viewpoints only about headlamps and tail lamps."(6)

Psychiatry persists despite its weak record because of the class structure. Individualism and the belief that individuals can be treated individually is a near-religious dogma of Amerikan society. It's rooted in the settler pioneer days of each individual having his or her own farm.

The Scientology that Cruise has taken up is itself an ideology of individualism seeking to fill in for psychiatry's inevitable demise. Scientology does damage to the struggles against racial, national and gender oppression, but on this question the Scientologists are right and their cult is much preferable to psychiatric therapy for the vast majority of cases. Instead of writing our own article on the statistical ineffectiveness of psychiatry, we recommend the following link: antipsychiatry.org

Notes:

1. <http://celebrity.aol.com/people/ataol/articles/0,19736,1067822,00.html>
2. For a blog handling this in a typical way, see <http://www.bloggingbaby.com/entry/1234000067044838/>
3. <http://celebrity.aol.com/people/ataol/articles/0,19736,1067822,00.html>
4. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/wyl/crypto/text.php?mimfile=unproductivelabor.txt>
5. http://www.gsk.com/press_archive/press2003/press_10172003.htm
6. <http://www.theheraldbulletin.com/story.asp?id=14633>

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and their white-worker allies seek to control the mobility of Third World workers and reinforce Euro-Amerikan settlers' control of stolen land.

Notes

1. "Governor Bill Richardson Declares State of Emergency Along New Mexico Border With Mexico," 12 August 2005, <http://www.governor.state.nm.us/press.php?id=119>
2. "U.S.-Mexico border disputes," 18 August 2005, http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/latin_america/july-dec05/borders_8-18.html
3. "Richardson to press for demolition of border town," 22 August 2005, <http://www.dfw.com/mld/startelegram/news/state/12449008.htm>
4. "Retirar la emergencia, pide Chihuahua a Nuevo México," 14 August 2005, <http://>

www.jornada.unam.mx/2005/ago05/050814/016n1pol.php

5. "Immigration," May-June 2004, <http://www.nmsu.edu/~frontera/may-june04/immi.html>
6. Sylvia Brenner, "Targeted town faces own plight," 21 August 2005, <http://www.lcsun-news.com/cgi-bin/artman/exec/view.cgi/193/18643>
7. Ralph Blumenthal, "For One Family, Front Row Seats to Border Crisis," 23 August 2005, <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/08/23/national/23border.html>
8. "Border town sees new invasion," 21 August 2005, <http://www.scsun-news.com/cgi-bin/artman/exec/view.cgi?archive=773&num=6991>
9. Louie Gilot and Walter Rubel, "Governors to discuss border," 23 August 2005, http://www.lcsun-news.com/artman/publish/article_18684.shtml

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the united States "should return to the military draft at this time," compared with 13% of the female youth; the same poll shows only 36% of the male youth were "not at all worried" that "you might be drafted."

Military recruiters have repeatedly voiced their concerns about their inability to adequately fulfill their recruitment quotas, while the Bu\$h administration is still playing dumb and absolutely rejecting the notion of a draft reinstatement despite the backdoor draft already underway that was responsible for deploying 5,600 members of the u.s. Army's Individual Ready Reserve in 2004. Bu\$h rejects the idea of an early pullout or a full retreat in any shape or form. Bu\$h is persistent with his intention to keep u.s. troops in Iraq until "the mission" is complete. The u.s. military still has soldiers in countries such as Japan and Germany. That's for over 60 years! To believe that the imperialists will accomplish their "mission" in Iraq within the next few years is wishful thinking. Even Donald Rumsfeld himself said, "We're not going to win against the insurgency. The Iraqi people are going to

win against the insurgency. That insurgency could go on for any number of years. Insurgencies tend to go on five, six, eight, 10, 12 years."(3) This could mean a future draft. At least it means a continued u.s. military presence in Iraq even if the united States ever withdraws a large number of its troops. There is no sign that the united Snakes will back down as sore losers in the face of the entire world. They are adamant in pursuing a large chunk of imperialist pie and cementing their control of the Middle East for more imperialist profit. Winning the Iraq War and consolidating their puppet regime in Iraq is crucial to their strategy for consolidating u.s. imperialism in the Middle East.(4)

The u.s. Army, Amerika's largest military branch, missed its quota in February for the first time in nearly five years and, though there have been fluctuations, the recruitment gap has increased since then.(5) As MIM said in its last draft update, if dying for imperialism, lower gas prices, or security contracts, is not reason enough to go to war in your mind, or if you or someone

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A lot to agree on with Ward Churchill

Book Review

On the Justice of Roosting Chickens: Reflections on the Consequences of U.S. Imperialist Arrogance and Criminality
Oakland, CA: AK Press, 2004, 309pp. pb

Acts of Rebellion: The Ward Churchill Reader
New York: Routledge, 2003, 483pp. pb

Reviewed by mim3@mim.org August 11 2005

The white supremacist movement trying to deny Americans' own collective responsibility for September 11, 2001 is trying to fire Ward Churchill from the University of Colorado. The natural effect of this yahoo movement will be to increase readership of Ward Churchill's books. In this review, we explain why we not only defend Ward Churchill's "free speech," but also agree with him on the substance of some basic political problems ethically speaking. After we beat back the attack on Ward Churchill, we will also publish a review on our disagreements with his essays on Marxism, dialectics, post-modernism and indigenism.

"The justice of roosting chickens" refers to a phrase that Malcolm X used in the 1960s. Today the popular phrase for the same idea is "what goes around comes around."

Much like earlier Noam Chomsky, Ward Churchill pushes his audience with an ethics of internationalism: "There is the matter of political guilt. It is the collective responsibility of citizens in a modern state to ensure by all means necessary that its government adheres to the rule of law, not just domestically but internationally. There are no bystanders. No one is entitled to an 'apolitical' exemption from such obligation. Where default occurs, either by citizen endorsement of official criminality or by the failure of citizens to effectively oppose it, liability is incurred by all." (Imperialist Arrogance and Criminality [JR], p. 21)

Ward Churchill goes on to explain that whatever happened to Germans in 1945 can apply to Americans as well, because the responsibility is analogous. (JR, p. 24) At the time, Americans convinced Germans that they had "collective

responsibility" for the devastation of their own country. In truth, the Allies were right about that. There is no way for nations to co-exist in peace and therefore have a basis for positive mutual economic relations without that basic ethical understanding.

The basic idea of ethical internationalism and collective responsibility is the reason that Ward Churchill faces firing as a tenured professor at the University of Colorado. His comment on the World Trade Center that the victims were not simply innocent victims galvanized his American nationalist opponents. Most of On the Justice of Roosting Chickens is a day by day and year by year timeline of u.S. history that explains what was really behind many conflicts in u.S. history. Instead of a series of unprovoked attacks in history, we Americans see in Ward Churchill's book the historical reasons "they hate us."

Acts of Rebellion is a book of essays on various topics. These chapters are often concentrations of his previous work on indigenous subjects.

MIM found the maps of indigenous territory especially useful. According to Ward Churchill, the land owned by the government and corporations of the Western region of the united States would be fair compensation for the unceded land claims of the First Nations. He shows the reader that most of New York state and Florida have no proper title conveyed from the original inhabitants. The same is true of Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota. (AR, p. 69) Churchill proposes consolidating the First Nation land claims into one Western region land claim where population is still sparse. (Acts of Rebellion [AR], p. 291)

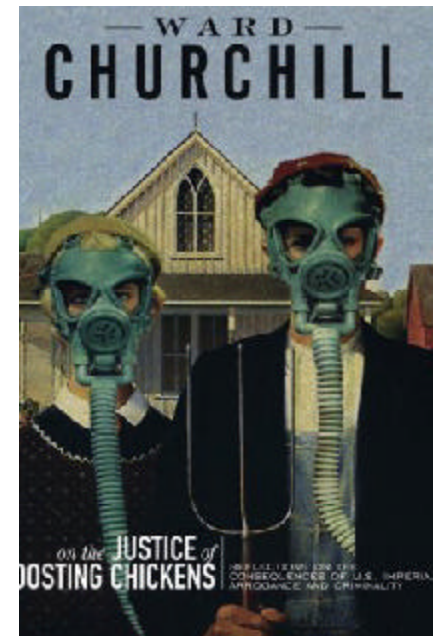
The land owned by individual settlers in the Western region of the united States is still so small that Ward Churchill says the First Nations could allow whites and other nationalities to keep their houses and backyards while still obtaining a third of the land mass of the continental united States. What he proposes leaves out California, Florida and New York and instead concentrates the new indigenous republic in the Rocky Mountain region.

Few people may realize how extensive land designated as "public" by Uncle Sam is. It would thus seem that Churchill's land plan is more feasible because of its unwillingness to take on the settlers directly. If settlers want to keep their land they need only submit to the new republic.

As we wrote this review, Census estimates of population data from 2004 came out in the press. USA Today reporters Paul Overberg and Haya El Nasser said on August 11 that there is a trend of Black professionals to move to the suburbs of the South from the North. It was Stalin and the Comintern that said in the 1920s and 1930s that there is a Black-belt nation in the South. The trend of population after World War II has generally opposed the Black-belt nation until now. This is relevant as we picture the revolution of the oppressed nations.

Churchill left open California and part of Texas; although he also said that the territory claimed could be adjusted in other ways. Aztlan may want to claim these territories, so there is something to work out among the indigenous peoples and the Mexican nation in particular. Once we take out the Black belt nation as well, we may see a rump united States in the northeastern quadrant of what we now call the united States. Churchill only raised the idea of an indigenous owned Rocky Mountain region. He also believes there are Asian-descended nations that need a relationship to land.

Churchill covers the corruption of the law to steal land for settlers, nuclear waste abuses of indigenous peoples, sports teams and rituals named after offensive views of the First Nations and



the American Indian Movement (AIM). By itself, the "Fantasies of a Master Race: the Cinematic Colonization of American Indians" is sufficient to condemn the entirety of Hollywood and justify the joint dictatorship of the proletariat of the oppressed nations over u.S. imperialism for years to come. Churchill shows readers just how many poisonous movies and TV shows there are when it comes to just the so-called Indians alone. Just reading this chapter, we see how it is impossible to grow up untwisted.

What is militarism?

Militarism is war-mongering or the advocacy of war or actual carrying out of war or its preparations.

While true pacifists condemn all violence as equally repugnant, we Maoists do not consider self-defense or the violence of oppressed nations against imperialism to be militarism. Militarism is mostly caused by imperialism at this time. Imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism—seen in countries like the United States, England and France.

Under capitalism, capitalists often profit from war or its preparations. Yet, it is the proletariat that does the dying in the wars. The proletariat wants a system in which people do not have self-interest on the side of war-profiteering or war for imperialism.

Militarism is one of the most important reasons to overthrow capitalism. It even infects oppressed nations and causes them to fight each other.

It is important not to let capitalists risk our lives in their ideas about war and peace or the environment. They have already had two world wars admitted by themselves in the last 100 years and they are conducting a third right now against the Third World.

Even a one percent annual chance of nuclear war destruction caused by capitalist aggressiveness or "greed" as the people call it should not be tolerated by the proletariat. After playing Russian Roulette (in which the bullet chamber is different each time and not related at all to the one that came up in previous spins) with 100 chambers and one bullet, the chance of survival is only 60.5% after 50 turns. In other words, a seemingly small one percent annual chance of world war means eventual doom. After 100 years or turns of Russian Roulette, the chances of survival are only 36.6%. After 200 years, survival has only a 13.4% chance.

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you know is eligible for the draft, then you need to prepare yourself ideologically and take the politics of war much more seriously before you or someone close to you becomes cannon fodder for the Yankee imperialist war machine. (6)

It took over 50,000 body bags to force Americans to rethink their "mission" during the Viet Nam War, which resulted in a u.S. withdrawal from Southeast Asia in 1975. Of course, the three million lives taken by the Yankee imperialist army never crossed the mind of the American chauvinists. These ruthless parasites won't stop until their children's caskets

drop en masse. Those who are sitting in complacency hoping things will fix themselves should get up off their asses and do something to stop the imperialist war machine and its crimes against the world's exploited and oppressed, otherwise they are beating the same war drum as the imperialists and their lackeys. Whether it be out of narrow self-interest, such as opposing militarism to save the planet from destruction, or genuine sympathy for the international proletariat, do something. Resist imperialism!

We won't stop until imperialist plunder is torn asunder!

Social-fascist Internet poster expresses Amerikan so-called workers' attitude toward migrants

By HC116, August 17, 2005
From *mimnotes.info*

An Internet poster identifying himself alternatively as Jeff S. and "Fletcher Christian" (after the famous English mutineer) is currently carrying out a seeming psywar on the San Diego Independent Media Center Web site (<http://sandiego.indymedia.org/>) to try to demobilize opposition to the Minutemen. This individual has posted multiple articles and several comments on San Diego Indymedia's open newswire in the past two months criticizing anti-Minutemen protesters for allegedly being capitalist mouthpieces and doing nothing to organize migrant workers and include them in the Amerikan so-called labor movement, claiming that Mexican migrant workers have abandoned the Mexican labor movement and avoid class struggle in both Mexico and the united States, asserting that migrant workers are harming the Amerikan "labor movement," and suggesting that repressing migrant workers is actually for their own good—all while purporting to defend socialism. Fletcher's first articles focused on telling migrant workers to stay in Mexico and encouraging activists to organize migrant workers, who remain in the united States, into unions. Fletcher barely distinguished between documented and undocumented migrants and said that even documented migrants can harm Amerikan workers, showing that anti-migrant reaction is not just about enforcing laws and upholding legality. Jeff's latest article openly panders to chauvinist sentiments against "cheap labor immigrants" who allegedly ruin Amerikan workers' Sunday mornings with gardening and construction noises, and contribute to the gentrification of so-called working-class neighborhoods.

Fletcher's first articles appeared at a time when anti-Minutemen protests, and counter-demonstrations against Save Our State, were already underway. Jeff's latest article comes about a month before Friends of the Border Patrol's planned border vigilantism project in California, and days before anti-migrant forums and organizing events, as well as the upcoming No Border Encuentro (the o.r.g.a.n.i.c. collective, "No Border Encuentro - Aug 27-28 - Update!" 16 August 2005, <http://sandiego.indymedia.org/en/2005/08/110576.shtml>). Last Friday, August 12th, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson declared a state of emergency along the State's border with Mexico, and Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano did the same on Monday, both Governors citing concerns, such as drug smuggling, that, even if real, are caused by u.\$ imperialism's oppression of Mexico and other Latin American nations. Napolitano as early as March remarked on the risks posed by untrained border vigilantes, which now seems to be a justification for stepping up legitimized pig violence against

oppressed-nation people. Other politicians and border vigilantes are egging each other on to escalate their attacks on migrant proletarians and other oppressed people. Yet, Jeff chooses this time to attack migrant workers as "workers who don't want to struggle for a better life in Mexico. They buy into the US employers' bribes to come to the US as an alternative to class struggle." (1) Jeff goes on to say:

"These workers from Mexico need to stay in Mexico and straighten out the labor movement there instead of coming to the US and wrecking what's left of the labor movement here. In other words, when your house is a mess, don't go over to your neighbor's house and mess it up too. Stay in your own house and straighten it out." (1)

Baiting anti-Minutemen protesters into disclosing their identities, and diverting attention away from questions of ideological and political line, Jeff in one reply to a reader of his articles paints anti-Minutemen protesters and supporters of migrants' civil and humyn rights as "academic elitists and revolutionary romanticists who claim they are socialists yet they rely on the most sickening capitalist excuses to promote immigration at the behest of the capitalists and to the detriment [sic] of working people on both sides of the US-Mexico border." (1) (Commenting on Fletcher's other articles, some readers have taken the bait and described in detail their union activities and involvement in mass organizations.) Jeff is referring to opportunists and pragmatists who argue that migrants benefit parasitic Amerikan so-called workers, and that Amerikan "workers" should oppose the draconian repression of migrants for this reason.

The Liberal San Diego Indymedia Web site is one Web site on the Internet and is among many forums and places where people are agitating against the Minutemen and organizing opposition to the Minutemen. However, we should take this attempt to discredit anti-Minutemen protesters seriously because it targets a Web site that, along with the Los Angeles Indymedia Web site, has played a discernible role in the organization of mass movements against the Minutemen and other rabid anti-migrant activists. San Diego Indymedia volunteers have said they are tolerating Jeff's posts only because the posts are generating good responses.

Revolutionaries are opposed to the approach, which Jeff alludes to, of trying to convince Amerikan workers of the benefits of immigration and sucking up to these labor aristocrats. We should not pander to labor-aristocracy chauvinism for the sake of getting a handful of labor aristocrats to oppose the fascist repression of migrants. But this does not mean taking Jeff's own, superficially different approach and opposing migration when it

negatively impacts Amerikan workers' living standards in the short term, in some cases. We are not oppressor-nation or imperialist-country chauvinists. Even people who do not recognize that the workers of big imperialist countries partake in the imperialist exploitation of Third World workers will be repulsed by Jeff's utterly phony internationalism, which consists of using the repressive imperialist state machine to force migrants to stay in Mexico ostensibly to pressure them to carry out class struggle there, and saying that migrants, allegedly abandoning their country's labor movement, have no role to play in the revolutionary struggle in the united States.

Although most migrants are not from Mexico—many migrants come from Latin American countries other than Mexico, and Asian and Caribbean countries—Jeff focuses on Mexican migrants. Opposing migration in general, Jeff lumps together Mexican and other migrants even as he singles out Mexican migrants for attack and addresses these migrants only as workers, which is typical of profit-motivated imperialists and labor aristocrats who view migrants in terms of economic costs and benefits.

Jeff says nothing about the role of u.\$ imperialism and the labor aristocracy in the corruption of Mexican unions and instead concentrates on faulting migrant workers for the state of the Mexican labor movement and for allegedly harming the Amerikan labor movement. Jeff focuses on class struggle in terms of economic struggles, with primarily economic, rather than political demands. Never mind that, even looking at just economic struggles, relatively more Mexican workers are on strike now than Amerikan workers. Of course, exploited Mexican workers' economic struggles are just, whereas the Amerikan workers seek a greater share of the imperialist pie to the detriment of exploited workers in the Third World. To illustrate, mine workers in the united States get several times more pay than mine workers in Mexico (who are themselves relatively high-paid compared with other Mexican workers)—wages differences that can't be explained by cost-of-living differences.

Jeff purports to support revolution in Mexico, but, obscuring the workings of imperialism, neglects to address the reasons for the relative success of the Amerikan "labor movement," so successful that the vast majority of Euro-Amerikan workers are now not only parasites, but also exploiters benefiting from imperialism. Jeff in effect puts Amerikan and Mexican workers on the same footing when he portrays Amerikan workers as progressive compared with Mexican migrant workers, whom he considers selfish individualists who are callously hurting Amerikan workers. A Pew Hispanic Center poll released on

Tuesday, the 16th, shows that millions of Mexican workers would migrate to the united States if they could.

Jeff, like other anti-migrant advocates and even pragmatists who are quick to argue that migrants aren't so harmful to Amerikan workers, ignores that it is Third World workers who are harmed by imperialist-country workers' economic struggles. Jeff compares Amerikan-worker me-firstism with Mexican migrant me-firstism, but this obscures the fundamental difference between the proletariat's economic struggle and the economic struggle of a reactionary, parasitic and exploitive labor aristocracy that enslaves the toilers.

Jeff's only evidence of Mexican migrants' alleged harmfulness to the Amerikan labor movement is that Mexican migrant workers supposedly undermine Amerikan workers' economic struggles. One would think that migrants' alleged impact on Amerikan workers' employment and wages would contribute to radicalizing Amerikan workers, but Jeff vaguely suggests that it is Amerikans' successful economic struggle will result in their radicalization.

The perceived impact of migrants on Amerikan workers' employment and wages is indeed radicalizing Amerikans workers—turning them into fascists. Jeff pays lip service to socialism and opposing capitalism and imperialism. His posts sound like a caricature of social-fascism, and indeed Jeff's writings are at the cutting edge of fascism masquerading as Liberalism and even socialism. Jeff's posts are a concentrated expression of a tendency among labor aristocrats to either "support" or oppose migrants, even agitate for deporting them, depending on whether they are perceived as benefiting Amerikan workers. What Jeff wrongly calls "socialism in one country" is in actuality u.\$-worker chauvinism and has nothing to do with advancing the revolutionary struggle in the united States, just deeply reactionary fearmongering about migrant workers' impact on Amerikan workers' job security and high wages.

A San Diego Indymedia reader has correctly pointed out that Jeff's comments are similar to those of some Minutemen, who have even called for "revolution" in Mexico to change conditions there to encourage would-be migrants to stay. The point is not that Jeff is a Minuteman or even a white supremacist. Rather, the Minutemen are fundamentally a fascist movement of the labor aristocracy and inevitably attract the support of all sorts of fascists, including those who call themselves "socialist" and criticize the Minutemen only for using openly racist language. Far from being to the "left" of the Minutemen, Jeff, who calls for revolution in the united States, is

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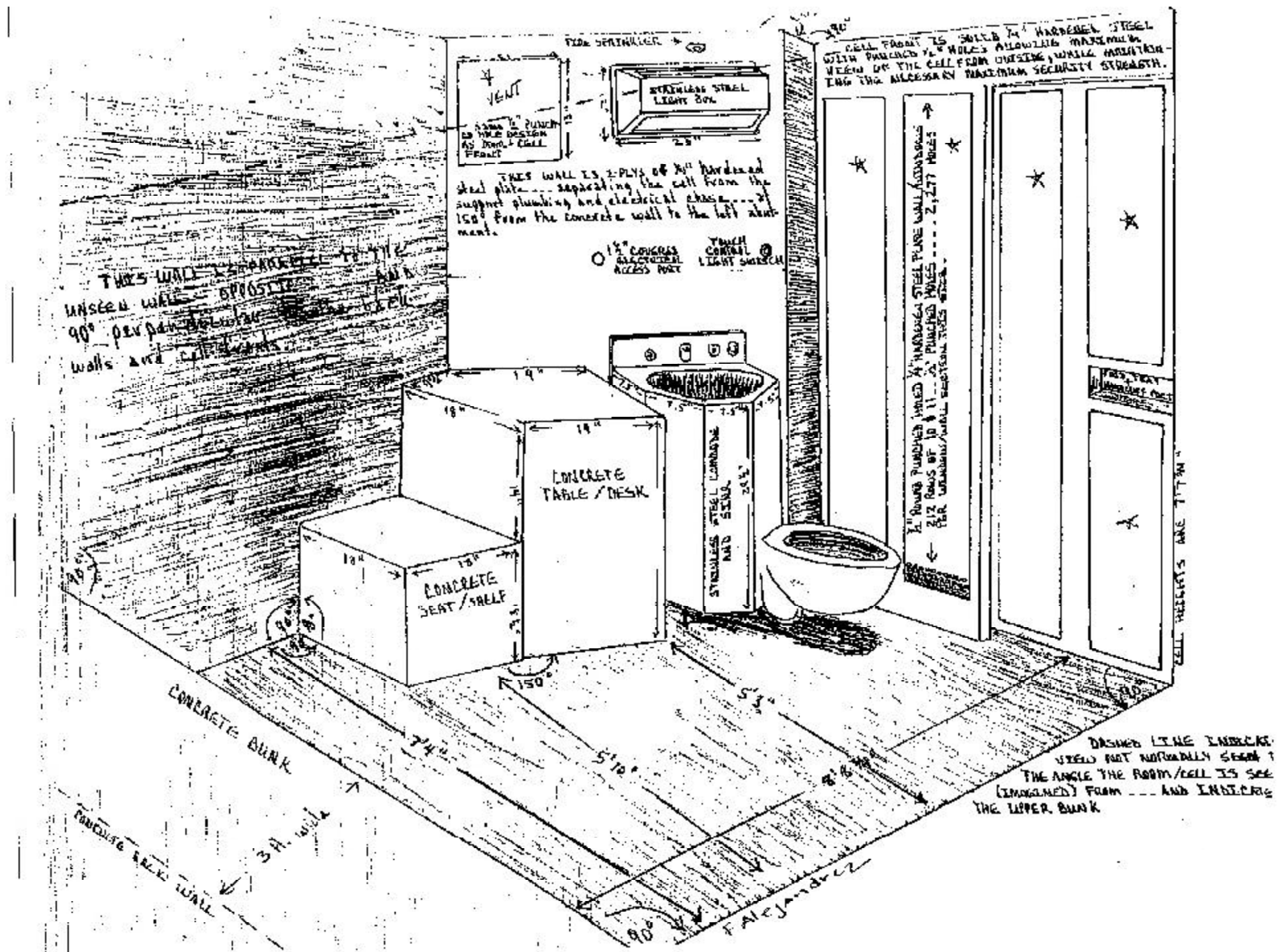


Diagram of a Control Unit Cell by a prisoner.

Unlock the Box

An Organizing Conference to Shut Down Prison Control Units

Unlock the Box is a product of many years of struggle to shut down the Security Housing Units in California. During this time, the United Front to Abolish the SHU was created as a forum to coordinate the actions of everyone involved in this campaign. Since its creation, the United Front has continued to expand in membership and in the number of people we reach with our message. This conference is a step in the process of building more unity with groups all over the country and the world who are engaged in the struggle to end this torture.

The goals of Unlock the Box include increasing communication between groups over a wider geographic area, coming up with plans of action that we can agree to work on as a whole to help strengthen those connections and strengthening our cause thru mass participation. The event will be a combination of presenters with vast experience in this struggle and working groups to come up with plans of action, with performances and food in between. As the date approaches we will be contacting everyone with a more specific schedule and plan. Until then, we welcome your input, help and donations to make that happen.

Saturday, October 8, 2005
9:30 am - 6 pm Cell Space
2050 Bryant Street (near 18th street)
San Francisco, CA

The United Front to Abolish the SHU includes: Maoist Internationalist Movement, Barrio Defense Committee, Justice for Palestinians, Chicano Mexicano Prison Project, Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League, African People's Socialist Party, Committee on Raza Rights, California Prison Focus, African People's Solidarity Committee and other concerned individuals

Other Endorsers of Unlock the Box include: Break The Chains prisoner-solidarity organization (Eugene, Oregon USA), Idriss Stelley Foundation, DeBug (the online magazine of the South Bay), Proyecto Common Touch, Campaign for Justice for Rudy Cardenas, Justice Action (Australia), Black August Organizing Committee, Families to Amend Three Strikes (FACTS)- San Jose, Books Not Bars, South Bay Committee in Solidarity with Cuba

Boricuan Jihadists Drop Anti-Imperialist Album

**Mujahideen Team
Clash of Civilizations
Remarkable Current, 2005**

In an interview, Ensahbanor of Mujahideen Team (M-team), described the band's latest album: "It's like Malcolm mixed with The Young Lords lyrically revolutionary." Though there are lots of references to both of those revolutionary legacies throughout the album, we wouldn't rate M-team as high as them. Somewhat reminiscent of Fundamentals, M-team samples heavily from Malcolm X and gives props to Maoists in their propagation of Islam through hip hop. Their recent album has a very complete feel to it with lots of nice beats, incorporating Latin, Middle Eastern, rock and synthesized music. Politically, M-team brings a progressive message from the perspective of the oppressed that MIM can ally with.

The most obvious difference we have with M-team is in our overall world-view based on dialectical materialism as

opposed to Islam. A thorough review of their lyrics reveals more religious motivation than the scientific analysis that many of their political influences had. This is the biggest weakness of their work. While they consistently stand on the sides of the oppressed in their lyrics, they provide little in terms of real solutions for the oppression and poverty that they rap about. They get into this the most towards the end, in "Action Speak." They describe their dreams, "i wanna catch a fresh air/ watch a sunset/spend one night with no fights and no death/ where no one's hopeless, stressed or depressed" and "Imagine walking the streets without having beef/ Not having to deal with the pigs and police/ a day we could free our people from prison." They start to look for solutions, "who would you die for?/ who would you kill for?/ who do you destroy for?/ who do you build for?" And then conclude, "we can make it happen if we stop the division" and go on to say, "we want change/but we don't make sense." They're right to recognize that we need to make sense of the world around us in order to unite around our desire for change, but that understanding comes thru the application of scientific materialism.

One thing M-team is clear on is that they are down to fight for freedom and self-determination, "revolution hasta mi muerte." They seem to be challenging

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even more militant of a fascist than the Minutemen who call for "revolution" only in Mexico. Jeff aims to replace through revolution one imperialist regime in the united States with another imperialist regime, a social-imperialist regime. And both the confused Minutemen and Jeff, who obscures the flow of super-profits to the united States, call for replacing the imperialist-lackey regime in Mexico with another comprador regime.

One San Diego Indymedia reader has responded to Jeff by posting the AFL-CIO's resolution calling for legalizing undocumented migrants, as non-citizen permanent residents, and unionizing them. But the same resolution, promoting an alliance with the imperialists, also says: "Labor and business together should design mechanisms to meet legitimate needs for new workers without compromising the rights and opportunities of workers already here." The whole resolution is from the perspective of chauvinist Amerikan workers and equates Amerikan workers' interests with the interests of workers as a whole. Jeff and the AFL-CIO's positions are similar; the anti-communist AFL-CIO just doesn't pretend to be socialist.

Instead of defending the reactionary and counterrevolutionary AFL-CIO, known as "AFL-CIA" for undermining labor movements and progressive movements throughout the world and in Latin America and Mexico in particular, people should be asking themselves how they have contributed to this situation

where people get away with confidently calling themselves "socialist" while all but openly supporting the terroristic border patrol and immigration pigs. Wrongly portraying Euro-Amerikan workers as exploited and saying there's nothing wrong with these workers' pursuing their own improved material conditions plays right into fascism against migrants. Part of being internationalist is to understand how struggles in one nation are connected with the struggles of the world's exploited and oppressed. The interests of one nation's working class should never be simplistically equated with the interests of the world's proletariat, and it is even worse when a nation's working class is considered exploited when it is actually a reactionary class that engages in fearmongering about job security and wages to stir up support for fascist repression against migrants.

Notes

1. Jeff S., "immigration and today's suburbia," 14 August 2005, <http://sandiego.indymedia.org/en/2005/08/110515.shtml>

2. Fletcher Christian, "Immigration as a labor issue," 19 July 2005, <http://sandiego.indymedia.org/en/2005/07/110011.shtml>

3. fletcher, "Organize the Unorganized," 6 August 2005, <http://www.sandiego.indymedia.org/en/2005/08/110371.shtml>

Web page maintained by mimnotesinfol@mimnotes.info

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others to join in their militancy in the high-energy "Dead Have Risen" by sampling Malcolm: "you haven't got a revolution that doesn't involve bloodshed... and you're afraid to bleed." Constantly welcoming martyrdom, M-team takes a militant stance against "Kuffars", which they define as, "any person, being or system that attempt to cover the Light and Mercy of the all encompassing Divine Reality... Those who wish to subject humanity to the tyranny of their greed and thirst for worldly power... Those who wish to frustrate the unfolding of a global unity that binds together all humans under the banner of peace through submission to the Creator of all things." Clearly, imperialism falls into this category, but M-team is never so clear, often leaving the identity of the enemy muddled in religious terminology. Lyrics like, "today is the day of retribution/ today is the day of jihad/ today is the day of martyrdom or victory," put martyrdom and militancy above the needs of the people. We don't need revolutionary martyrs or sacrificial lambs: we need revolutionaries who can put in the hard day to day work for the long haul.

When it comes to art, and particularly music, there is often a focus on the militant side in order to rally the troops (or just to get the crowd jumping). We can give more leeway to song lyrics and fictional stories where taking things to the extremes is expressing the feelings and impulses of the oppressed whether or not those impulses are actually going to accomplish anything. In contrast, we would expect political polemics to be consistent in promoting effective strategies. That said, M-team has a continuous stress on militancy and martyrdom that is never really balanced out with any mention of the more time consuming aspects of revolutionary organizing.

If we could drop one track from this album it would be "Blue Nile." MIM agrees that the so-called "sexual

liberation" in the Western world is an example of imperialist decadence. But we say so with the understanding that those behind it can afford to prioritize their right to sleep around above their right to eat since the latter is not threatened. Unlike M-Team, we do not have any religious belief that wearing a mini-skirt demonstrates a lack of self-respect, nor that wimmin are obliged to stay true to their man. Under the patriarchy we can recommend certain practices in relation to gender and sex, but these are merely attempts to adapt to an oppressive situation. Hopefully some day, if for some reason a persyn desired to wear a mini-skirt they could do so without being subject to calls to cover up from conservative gender oppressors and take it all off from the "sexually liberated" ones.

Currently, the principal contradiction that we face in trying to move towards a better world is that between imperialism and the oppressed. In that respect we can ally with anti-imperialist forces that hold religious beliefs, even if those beliefs serve to prop up other power structures such as the patriarchy. We can ally against imperialism, while struggling over gender. And when dealing with the masses, religion only becomes an issue when it is negatively affecting a group of people. Therefore, we can ally with M-team now against imperialism, but must struggle against their paternalistic views of gender in hopes of resolving that issue through comradely struggle. If it is not resolved, at some point the question will become antagonistic, and no religious ideas that support hierarchy between groups of people will be tolerated by the people.

What is Mimnotes.info?

<http://mimnotes.info>

Mimnotes.info publishes news articles and culture (media, movie, music, video game and other) reviews from the standpoint of the world's exploited and oppressed under imperialism, capitalism, and patriarchy. Inspired by the Maoist Internationalist Movement, mimnotes.info ("MIM notes dot info") opposes all group oppression, including the oppression of gays and lesbians, wimmin, and youth. The imperialist-patriarchy is full of horrors and misery for the world's oppressed majority. Mimnotes.info aims to build public opinion for revolutionary change. Nothing short of revolution can end this messed-up system.

Knowing the world and conditions inside the belly of the beast is key. Equip yourself with mimnotes.info and write for mimnotes.info.



We must strive to unblock the minds of the people by abolishing the patriarchy.

Building Solidarity in NY: fighting medical neglect

I got your letter today and I'm a little tired and frustrated after just organizing these brothers to hold their food tray in their cell because these racist, sadistic, coward pigs were denying a komrade his medication. So I mobilized these misguided brothers who are stuck on oppressing each other. I made them realize that the enemy is not us but the pigs, and we all held our trays until a sgt. pig came to talk to the komrade. Then we asked the komrade if he was satisfied with what the pig was telling him. When he said 'yes,' I told the brothers to give their trays back.

This is what it is about, "solidarity," organizing brothers for our basic human rights. Instead of wasting all of that negative energy amongst each other, let's use our energy for a righteous cause! A quote from Mao states: "The unity of our people and the unity of our various nationalities, are the basic guarantees of the sure triumph of our cause"! Let's fight until we overthrow this capitalist-imperialist government!!

— a NY prisoner, August 2005

Washington Control Units Typical of uS Prisons

My brother was placed in IMU, Intensive Management Unit, which is the same as the SHU in California. You receive 3 showers a week, and 5 hours a week in the small recreation area by yourself. He's been there since September 2004, but there are others that have been there for 2,3 and even 4 years.

Our IMU holds around 110 beds and we also have two other units for overflow when IMU is full. Each of those units hold an additional 100 convicts. That is 310 segregated convicts at Walla Walla alone. We have IMU units at nearly all of our prisons here in Washington and I was recently told by a C/O that every segregation unit in the state is full.

They've even resorted to contracting us out to other state: Minnesota, Nevada, Colorado and Arizona. Washington State is out of control and in my opinion is a time bomb waiting to explode.

— a Washington Prisoner, July 2005

Federal lockdown in KY

The other day I woke to find the entire prison on lock-down status. They fed us bologna and cheese three times a day. They strip-searched us, no showers, recreation, commissary or calls. They shook our cells down, took little knick-knacks, and left our cells ransacked. And they talked all this greasy-tough-guy yang in the process. This lasted for over seven days. This collective punishment stemmed from a fight that occurred with a few people. This type of collective punishment in the prison system is the norm and it never fails to amaze me. How they don't realize that they actually make the overall problem worse when they go into their collective-punishment mode.

Let's keep it real: starving, mistreating, pushing the prisoner for something s/he was not involved in is not only unjustified and counter-productive, it is also harmful and can lead to volatile situations.

Repression will always breed resistance. The real problem that creates violence in all prisons is over-crowding. Racist officers, lack of education and communication, foul conditions and many other similar things are symptomatic of malaise in a prison. Instead of ameliorating those problems, over-crowding is making them worse. Administrations cover for and defend racist

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

officers, and when fights do break out, they go on a collective-punishment spree and leave the causes of the violence intact.

So I laid on my bunk, confined to my cell, stomach rumbling, eating a wish sandwich (that's two slices of bread with I wish something was in it), and I ponder some more of the correlations between prisons and society. I note that these folks always take a tough and even obsessively brutal stance on everything. I look abroad. In Vietnam, they murdered entire villages. Men, women and children, hoping that tough stance would make the Vietnamese submit. Today in Iraq it's the same concept: beat them into submission. It never works.

What [the imperialists] are actually doing is creating more enemies and even turning allies into enemies. That's stupid. When are they going to learn that it just doesn't work? I look at the war on drugs and get-tough-on-crime policies. We have now added another million prisoner to the system with no end in sight. The majority going to prisons are non-violent offenders who have committed economic crimes.

But poverty, unemployment and a lack of education aren't the only problems. There's an underlying problem of capitalist greed for profit at the expense of warehousing human beings. To the capitalist, these humans are worth more in prison than in the streets where they are doing nothing. In prison they generate \$40,000/year per head. It costs more to keep a person in prison than it does to get them a university education. Noticeably, in California only one university has been built, compared to 23 prisons, since 1980. California alone has more prisoners than Japan, England, Singapore, France, Germany and the Netherlands combined! I agree with those who say these capitalists just don't want to remedy the problem. Too much money is involved.

— a Federal prisoner in Kentucky, 17 June, 2005

Whaddaya know? MIM censored in the MDOC

I recently wrote you about the Michigan Department of Corrections. I'd like to say thank you for your response, but regrettably I never got to read it. The MDOC said the letter was a Security Threat. How? I do not know. I believe it is because you people care about all the corruption that's going on behind bars.

I am not sure it is legal to hold the mail you send me, but as I and you have said, they do whatever they want to do. We are not here for justice, we are here for security and profit. We are hostages.

We are begging you to help us in any way you can. The things going on in here are way worse than anything a lot of us have done to be here.

I do want to read your letters, but what can we do to get them delivered to me?

— a Michigan prisoner, June 2005

MIM responds: Censorship of MIM Notes and correspondence often boils down to disapproval of the political opinions we express. This is illegal in any state, by decision

of the U.S. Supreme Court. That said, Michigan is a pretty bad state for censoring MIM (check any edition of the MDOC's Restricted Publications List) and often correspondence as well. But there are steps you can take to fight censorship no matter what state you are in, and some of the most effective things you can do involve preparing for the event before it happens:

1. Read the mail policy for the state or federal system you're in. If the prison you are in has its own policy, read that too. This will tell you what types of mail you are permitted to receive and how to register a complaint if your newspapers or correspondence are rejected.

2. Summarize your experience. Whether you have experienced censorship in the past, or fought it successfully, your acquired knowledge will be useful to others. Write about censorship for Under Lock & Key. Prisoners and people on the outside need to know who censorship is directed at, whether policies are uniformly enforced, and what types of materials are most vulnerable.

Remember: MIM is every bit as entitled to publish as Abraham Lincoln was when he said that any people anywhere, disapproving of their government, have the right to replace it either by constitutional or revolutionary means. And prisoners have as much right to read our work as they have to read wall-to-wall coverage of U.S. war-mongering in Iraq. MIM has a guide to fighting censorship that we send free to prisoners.

Strike urged against OR phone rules

The following is excerpted from the EOCI News:

"Due to security concerns and changes in technology, later this year the Department of Corrections (DOC) plans to make changes to the inmate phone system. No changes will occur until a permanent rule is adopted. When this happens, we will turn on a security feature that will require that you maintain a list of the phone numbers you want to call... every inmate will be limited to a list of 40 numbers, not counting attorneys and some transitional resource phone numbers."

The DOC pigs tried this last summer while I was at OSP, and we broke the pigs with unity by a phone/commissary strike. It lasted 2 weeks and they put the supposed leaders of the strike in administrative segregation but the strike continued. We won the release of our comrades from ad-seg plus the abandonment of this phone rule (the same one they're trying now). We were also able to be heard on other issues, but the people, I'm sad to report, were sorely unprepared for this and made no significant demands.

As of now, the comrades of Oregon State Penitentiary are again peacefully protesting this restrictive policy and invasion of privacy by not using the phones (I haven't heard any other positions taken). DOC is losing money and face when our comrades stand united and must listen to the cries of the oppressed within Oregon gulags. Comrades, this is a major weakness in the capitalist economy within ODOC that can be exposed, they use

our slave labor to profit, they sell us their products at one price (a prison monopoly), they profit by phone service. They are at our mercy! Stand together.

— an Oregon prisoner, July 2005

California bans smoking, limits soap and cosmetics

The California prison system seems to get more oppressive with each passing year. Lately, as of July 1, 2005, California has banned smoking tobacco in all California prisons. This is a great change considering I began smoking tobacco over twenty years ago, when California prisons used to give out free tobacco with supplies.

At Salinas Valley State Prison there is a new policy of limiting necessary cosmetic items to be purchased at the prison store and received through packages. The new limits on each monthly prison store purchases is 4 bars of soap per prisoner and 2 each of every cosmetic item. On the quarterly packages there is a limit of 2 each of every cosmetic item.

These limits do not sound severe, but consider that prisoners are placed on constant

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

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

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

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

lockdowns for real and imagined reasons. During these lockdowns prisoners are not allowed store or packages, so that it can be months between prisoners receiving packages and prison store purchases. These new limitations shall challenge California prisoners to overcome and fight these unreasonable restrictions as always.

The most surprising thing about these unreasonable restrictions is that California prison administrators seem oblivious to how these policies affect the violent atmosphere that is in all these California prisons.

I close this letter hoping that more people become aware of the true nature of this oppressive system. And I give my heartfelt thanks that MIM is holding a light to all the injustices of the united States.

- a California prisoner, July 2005

Three strikes reform bill

I am writing you in regards to the new "Three Strikes Reform Bill" (AB-50). This bill is being introduced by Assemblyman Mark Leno, who is very sincere about amending the current Three Strikes Law. But the language in AB-50 was written by a handful of District Attorneys.

Their proposal calls for re-sentencing all non-violent and non-serious three strikes offenders, except those who have prior convictions for murder, kidnap, rape, child molestation, and prior weapon charges. The problem with this proposal is that the majority of non-violent third strike inmates have prior weapon charges due to prior robbery convictions. Some convictions that occurred back when they were just juveniles. In my case I gave a girlfriend a ride to a computer store, she stole a laptop computer and ran to my car. The store clerk chased her to the car, seen a knife laying on my seat, and ran away. I was later arrested and charged with 2nd degree robbery, and being in possession of a weapon.

I never robbed the store or the clerk, but was pressured into taking a plea agreement because of my prior convictions. And now I am serving 25 years to life for a traffic violation (evading arrest). And that same robbery and weapons charge is being used to justify my sentence. I've never murdered, raped, kidnapped, molested, or robbed anyone, but under this new reform bill I will still be serving a life sentence based on the weapons clause in AB-50.

The problem with AB-50 is that there is no individual, judicial process to make any distinction based on factors such as how long ago a person committed the prior act, how serious it really was, or weather the person convicted of the prior offense was the person who actually committed the crime. We need your help in addressing these issues. Please fax a letter to Assembly member Mark Leno at 916-319-2113 or call toll free 888-642-0252 and ask him to amend AB-50, otherwise there is

no recourse for non-violent offenders like myself serving a life sentence based on prior weapon charges, coerced plea agreements, and crimes we did not commit.

- a California prisoner, July 2005

MIM adds: This is just one of the many problems with the California three strikes laws. While amending the laws will make progress towards getting some people out of prison, MIM calls for the elimination of Three Strikes laws in their entirety. See the article below for more on this topic.

California and North Carolina unjust punishment

Recently there was a story in the news media about a 65-year old inmate by the name of Junior Allen who was released from a North Carolina prison after serving 35 years for stealing a black and white television set. This story attracted widespread attention mainly because, while other inmates convicted of murder, rape and child molestations were being released, Junior Allen remained in prison for 35 years.

But hey, isn't this the same form of extreme punishment being practiced here in California under the Three Strikes Law. There are well over 4000 men and women sitting in California prisons with life sentences for stealing aspirin, video tapes, batteries, golf clubs, Levi's., joy riding, receiving stolen property, and minor drug possession, all under the guise that these are dangerous criminals. Our Governor, in the name of business as usual, went on TV last November, and deceived the public into voting "no" on proposition 66, which would have brought about needed reforms to an unjust/unfair law, not to mention the sky rocketing cost of warehousing non-violent offenders in state prisons.

The Governor said 26,000 murderers, rapists and child molesters would be released under prop 66, when in fact there are only about 4000 non-violent men and women serving life sentences under this law. Most are drug and alcohol abusers who have received no treatment, and have repeatedly been sent back to prison for drug and alcohol related offenses. Most have never committed a violent crime, and were coerced and pressured into pleading guilty to most of their prior offenses, some were crimes they did not commit. And the few who have committed prior violent offenses have already paid their debt to society many years ago, and are now serving life sentences for crimes that normally merit a 6 month county jail sentence.

So yes, what happened in North Carolina with 65 year old Junior Allen is happening right here in California, but on a much larger scale. Everyone else is being paroled and released, but the 4000 non-violent offenders under California's Three Strikes Law will remain in prison until they have served at least 25 years of a life sentence.

Californians have much more in common

with North Carolina than they realize, and should work towards reforming this law. Otherwise there will be 4000 more 65 year olds like Junior Allen in the next 25 years.

- a California prisoner, July 2005

More on Father's Day Riot at EOCI

Here is more information regarding the "Father's Day Riot" at EOCI, which happened 6/19/05 in EOCI's DSU.

The situation had been brewing for some time. Officers disrespecting, abusing and assaulting inmates. Several DSU officers intentionally harass inmates for the sole reason of getting them to "suit-em-up" so they could spray and extract them. During these "extractions" they then assault the inmate.

So on the fateful morn of June 19th, the following scene occurred:

Officer Pease, a large man of more than three hundred and seventy pounds, was escorting inmate X. Inmate X is nineteen years old and only weighs a hundred and fifty pounds soaking wet. X's hands were cuffed behind his back while he was being escorted down the DSU section 3 hall. Officer Pease said something to the effect of "You fucking little punk", to which X replied, "Yeah, you're pretty hard when we're cuffed up." At this, per procedure, Officer Pease had X's shirt in his left hand, while holding X's shirt, Officer Pease struck inmate X to the side of the head with a closed fist sending him sprawling to the ground. As X tried to stand up Officer Pease struck him with a closed fist again, and then slammed X into the ground.

After this incident, myself and others attempted to speak with the on-shift Sgt and requested that an investigation be done into the actions of Officer Pease. The Sgt. refused to cooperate and would not call a Lt. or Cpt. to the scene. So, as my misconduct report shows the inmates at EOCI in DSU sections 1,2 and 3 effectively rioted against the terrorist cops that had tormented us.

Gang members united in this struggle, enmities were cast aside, race did not matter, even sex-offenders participated in this. During this spectacular 12 hour ordeal EOCI mainline was shutdown (ended up closed for 2 days). Lts, Cpts, Security Managers, Asst. Superintendents and the Superintendent Blacketter herself was called in, effectively destroying all of their precious plans for Father's Day; BBQs were canceled, fishing trips cut short and through it all, the shift Sgt. that could have prevented it all was seen crying several times.

Over 40 of us were left outside for hours on end in nothing but our underwear, with no shade, and no food. I was finally given a sack lunch at around 11:45 pm, which I was forced to eat while in full restraints, belly chain and black box.

As a result of my participation I was fined \$400 and possibly will be going to IMU. Last I heard, Officer Pease was put on leave pending an investigation. So, our cause was just and we prevailed.

- an Oregon prisoner, 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 censor books, newspapers and magazines coming from MIM's books for prisoners program. We need help from lawyers, paralegals and jailhouse lawyers to fight this censorship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Facts on US imprisonment

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

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

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

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

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

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

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

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

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.



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

ESPAÑA: TORTURAS COMO EN LA ÉPOCA DE FRANCO

www.eldiariointernacional.com

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 registrado en Bilbo, Arrigorriaga, y Zornotza. El organismo anti-represivo, Askatasuna, ha confirmado que uno de los detenidos es Iñaki Peña González (25 años), mientras que fuentes policiales han difundido las identidades de otros tres: Sonia Marin Vesga (32 años), Arkaitz Ormaetxea Etxebarria (29) e Igor Zearreta Garai (27).

El primer arresto se ha producido en un piso de la calle Encarnación de Bilbo y horas después una mujer ha sido detenida en una vivienda de la calle Olatxu, en Arrigorriaga, siempre según fuentes policiales. Algunos medios de comunicación han señalado durante esta mañana que podría haber sido detenida otra persona en Zornotza, hecho que ha sido confirmado posteriormente por fuentes policiales citadas por Europa Press. A mediodía 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 pasada 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 españoles. Además, la Guardia Civil ha registrado las viviendas de todos los detenidos. Durante el registro de uno de los inmuebles en Bilbo, vecinos de la zona se han acercado para mostrar su apoyo a uno de los arrestados. La operación permanece abierta 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 Atxuri), la santutzuarra Sonia Marin (detenida en Arrigorriaga), Arkaitz Ormaetxea e Igor Zearreta, 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 incomunicación que posibilita la aplicación de torturas". Exigencia que desde Torturaren Kontrako Taldea de Santurtzi hacemos nuestra y a la que nos sumamos mostrando nuestra repulsa hacia esta nueva razzia

policial. 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 denuncias por las torturas padecidas a manos de la policía han sido una constatación en este comienzo de año 2005.

Según fuentes policiales, los arrestos se habrían producido a raíz de las declaraciones efectuadas por Amaia Urizar 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 capturada el 29 de octubre pasado, 2004) ocupa diez folios (si alguien no tiene su testimonio íntegro y quiere conseguirlo no tiene más que ponerse en contacto con santurtzikt@euskalerrria.org). En ellos, la joven detalla que fue violada con una pistola por los guardias civiles encargados de custodiarla, además de sumergida en una bañera, entre otros tormentos. Para la mejor comprensión de algunos extractos del testimonio difundido por Torturaren Aurkako Taldea (www.stoptortura.com), cabe citar que Urizar es compañera de Garikoitz Azpiazu, a quien la Policía atribuye importantes responsabilidades en ETA. Cualquier comentario añadido está de sobra:

«En el coche iba en medio de dos hombres, llevaba la cabeza agachada. Nada más entrar, el que iba a mi derecha me empezó a hablar: 'Has caído, Amayita, y esto lo tienes que asimilar; a nosotros nos da igual porque sabemos todo, pero ten claro que nos lo tienes que contar tú, y tienes dos formas de hacerlo, por las buenas o por las malas'. «Nada más se abrió la puerta del calabozo, oí la voz del guardia civil que había ido en el coche hasta Madrid diciéndole a otro, al que llamé Garmendia, que hiciese lo que tenía que hacer. Se tiró sobre mí, me echó a

la cama y me agarró muy fuerte de los brazos. Empecé a gritar que me dejase, y ellos me gritaban 'cállate, puta'. Entonces les ví. Estaban encapuchados y el que había ido en el coche tenía bajados los pantalones y los calzoncillos, y venía hacia mí mientras me decía entre risas 'nos vamos a follar a la novia del jefe'. Se tiró sobre mí mientras restregaba su cuerpo contra el mío (...) Me gritaba '¿qué te dice tu pareja mientras te folla, gora ETA? ¡Seguro que estás poniéndote cachonda, puta, te vamos a follar todos y le vas a dar asco porque nos lo vamos a pasar muy bien contigo!'. Los que estaban en la puerta estaban pidiendo su turno y entre risas me decían 'te va a follar hasta la tía que está aquí con nosotros'. «Me gritaban y me insultaban 'puta, zorra, mentirosa', y me colocaban una bolsa por la cabeza mientras la apretaban por detrás. Al principio sentía calor, tenía la cara empapada en sudor, intentaba moverme cuando la bolsa me tapaba la boca, no podía respirar y comenzaba a marearme: conseguía romper la bolsa con los dientes, y en aquellos momentos, cuando empezaba a respirar de nuevo, me golpeaban en los oídos sopapos con la mano abierta». «Estaba cansada, asustada, temiendo lo que irían a hacer, tenía ganas de devolver, así que una de las veces

que abrieron la ventanilla de la puerta aproveché para pedirles ir al baño. Entonces uno de ellos me respondió: 'Si vomitas, te jodes, y como se te ocurra te lo comes'. «Las paredes del calabozo eran de gotelé y no sé cuál sería la razón, pero veía dibujos en ella, y se movían. Tenía miedo de salir de allí loca, el calabozo se hacía grande y se empequeñecía, la puerta se me acercaba y se me alejaba, el suelo también se movía». «Me llevaron de nuevo a la habitación de las baldosas blancas. Al entrar allí oí ruido de agua, era como si estuviesen llenando algo, y ellos se reían mientras me susurraban al oído 'Amaia, Amayita'. No sé si fue a causa de limpiar toda la habitación con la lengua. Se cortó el chorro de agua, me obligaron a dar un par de pasos hacia delante y a ponerme de rodillas. Me quitaron el antifaz. Me apretaron las esposas, estaba esposada a la espalda. Ante mí estaba la bañera... Me puse muy nerviosa e intentaba echarme para atrás, pero no había escapatoria, estaba rodeada. Ya sabía lo que me iban a hacer (...)Entonces, entre dos hombres, uno agarrándome del cuerpo y el otro estirándome del pelo, me metían la cabeza en la bañera muy bruscamente, de forma que me golpeaba el pecho contra la bañera; sentía que me ahogaba, intentaba echarme para atrás con las piernas, a los lados, pero no podía; movía la cabeza con todas mis fuerzas para sacarla del agua, pero era imposible mientras ellos no quisieran. Tragué demasiada agua, tanto por la boca como por la nariz, tenía la cabeza mareada, estaba sin fuerzas, pero a ellos les daba igual y seguían gritando y diciendo nombres y más nombres, que lo asumiera, que lo asumiera. El llanto no me dejaba decidir nada. Ya no esperaban ninguna respuesta puesto que no daban opción a responder, sólo me daban tiempo a que respirase un momento. No podía más, en aquellos momentos pensaba que no iba a salir viva de allí, que no podía hacer nada, y dejé mi cuerpo como si se tratase de una marioneta. No hacía fuerza, sólo quería que aquello acabase; si su objetivo era matarme, que lo hiciesen cuanto antes».

«Me cubrieron los ojos mientras me decían que me llevaban donde el forense (...) Allí había un hombre, me enseñó el carné un momento, y yo le notaba como con desconfianza. Lo primero que me preguntó es si había sufrido malos tratos, y yo entre sollozos le contesté que no. Le dije que me mirase los ojos, porque tenía hinchado y rojo el ojo izquierdo. Me echó un vistazo y me dijo que aquello no era nada, que seguramente se habría infectado al hacerme la bañera, y me preguntó si quería un colirio. No me lo podía creer. Me preguntó si había sufrido malos tratos y luego él me dijo lo de la bañera. No quise el colirio». «Estuvieron enseñándome fotografías y más fotografías hasta que se cansaron, y entonces el que hacía el papel de jefe empezó a gritarme '¡puta zorra, si no has aprendido nada en estos días, lo vas a aprender!'. Me dijo que en aquel momento le daba igual pegarme dos tiros, y me puso de nuevo el antifaz (...) Me dijo que el juego se había acabado. Me levantó un poco el antifaz y me enseñó una pistola, era de metal. Yo intenté revolverme, estaba aterrorizada pensando que me iban a pegar dos tiros... Entre risas me preguntaron si la quería coger con las manos, a ver si tenía 'cojones' como mi hermano y mi compañero para dispararles; yo les decía que no, entre sollozos, temblando, y ellos entre risas me decían cosas

del estilo de 'puta traidora'. Entonces sentí el metal entre mis piernas y un guardia civil me susurró que no me moviese. Yo lloraba y empecé a gritar como una loca, mientras hacía fuerzas por juntar mis piernas, pero no podía porque tenía atados los tobillos a las patas de la silla... Me puso la pistola entre las piernas y con su mano me apartó el tanga; yo le gritaba que me dejase en paz, pero él comenzó a golpearme en los oídos con las manos abiertas a la vez que me gritaba que estuviese quieta o que se le iba a escapar un tiro porque la pistola estaba cargada. Oía las carcajadas de los demás diciendo cosas del estilo de 'zorra, guarra, puta, si te va a gustar...'. Me introdujo el cañón de la pistola en la vagina mientras me gritaba al oído una y otra vez '¿qué te dice (por mi pareja) cuando te folla, gora ETA?' No podía parar de llorar y ya no tenía fuerzas para gritar. Empezó a introducirme y a sacarme la pistola de forma más violenta, lo que me provocaba dolor, mientras el que me estaba violando me susurraba 'si te gusta, puta', 'no vas a tener un hijo porque te voy a pegar dos tiros'... Su olor se me metía hasta dentro, me daba asco, no sé si alguna vez se me irá ese olor de la cabeza... Todos estaban riéndose, uno me sujetaba por el cuello mientras el otro, una y otra vez, me metía y me sacaba el cañón de la pistola en la vagina y me sobaba el pecho de forma muy brusca, apretándome el pecho con las manos. Notaba dentro de mí el frío del metal, ellos me repetían que la pistola estaba cargada y que si disparaban sería mi culpa... No sé durante cuánto tiempo se prolongó la violación, pero me quedé muda, estaba como perdida; en aquella habitación estaban violando mi cuerpo, pero por un momento yo conseguí huir de allí, entre sollozos, pero conseguí huir de allí; me acordaba de la gente de mi entorno, estaba con ellos y con ellas, estaba protegida... De repente sacó muy bruscamente el cañón de la pistola de dentro de mí, mientras les decía a los demás 'mirad, si se ha corrido la puta ésa', 'habrá que repetir, que a la guarra le ha gustado'... Volví a la realidad, me encontraba completamente dolida... De nuevo me enseñaron las fotografías, de una en una, y me decían respecto de cada persona lo que yo les había dicho (de qué pueblo eran...) más lo que ellos les querían imputar; me decían que tenía que aprenderlo todo de memoria para repetirlo todo cuando me subiesen a declarar... Lo repetieron en muchas ocasiones, yo tenía que repetirlo todo una y otra vez, y si me confundía en algo de nuevo empezaban a golpearme en los oídos con las manos abiertas, y a amenazarme diciéndome que iban a violarme de nuevo».

«No podía conciliar el sueño, estaba aterrorizada y nerviosa (...) Me sentía sucia, me daba asco el mero hecho de pensarlo, no sabía la razón por la que me habían violado y no podía dejar de llorar (...) Nada más entrar en el baño me quité el tanga para comprobar si me habían causado un desgarró o algo del estilo, porque me dolía mucho, pero estaba 'bien'. «Me dijeron que ante el juez tenía que ratificar las declaraciones, que si no ya sabía lo que esperaba y que no le dijese nada sobre las torturas si no quería volver allí... Entonces se fueron. Después me metieron en un furgón quitándome el antifaz, me llevaban a la Audiencia Nacional. Empecé a llorar. Por fin estaba fuera de aquel infierno».

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