



## Iraq: Imperialist War is a Crime

### L.A. ANTIWAR PROTEST TURNED INTO OINKFEST FOR IMPERIALIST-COUNTRY PRIVILEGE

By mimnotes.info  
September 24, 2005

The Amerikan antiwar movement is in a regrettable state if one protest in Los Angeles on September 24th is any indication. Although many protesters, as illustrated in the below pictures, did connect opposition to the Iraq War to anti-racism, humyn rights, and national liberation, A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition organizers quickly turned the Saturday protest into a means of garnering support for more privilege for the majority of Amerikans, and of whitewashing this majority's role in the Iraq War, and marginalized genuinely anti-imperialist voices at the march.

Shortly after the march started, an ANSWER organizer speaking into a microphone at the head of the march cited a Gallup poll showing 67% of Amerikans disagreeing with Bu\$h's handling of the war to prove that most Amerikans oppose the war, but this is very misleading; according to the exact same USA Today / CNN / Gallup telephone poll conducted on September 16-18, only 30% of adult Amerikans tended to agree with withdrawing all troops.(1) And some of those who didn't approve of Bu\$h's handling of the "situation in Iraq" actually supported sending more troops! This kind of distortion of poll results is typical of people sowing illusions about the strength and popularity of the antiwar movement and is actually a way of saying that 37%



At least not everyone at the anti-war protest was blatantly pro-Amerikan (MIM photo).

of Amerikans don't need to be struggled with since, it is suggested, at least they disagree with Bu\$h's particular handling of the war. In the long haul, this approach does not lead to drawing out people from the woodwork to oppose militarism. On the contrary, it leads to exaggerated expectations and demoralizing defeats and is actually demobilizing.

Actor Martin Sheen onstage at the rally outside the Federal Building said it was "patriotic" to oppose the Iraq War and prayed to God for "my country" to "awake." "Last time I checked, Congress had not yet declared war on Iraq. This war is ill-conceived, ill-advised, and illegal, and is a colossal mistake we can ill-afford." This certainly resonated with protesters holding various "patriotic" antiwar signs or carrying Amerikan flag-draped mock coffins, and with Christian antiwar protesters. A prominent antiwar celebrity, Sheen was obviously chosen to fire up the crowd at the rally, but he just provoked imperialist-patriotic and religious pragmatic sentiment against the Iraq War.

The veterans, Catholics and other who-would-Jesus-b o m b Christians who said they didn't want people dying or killing in wars for

any reason at all had a better message even though it was correct only in the imperialist-country context.

At the rally, Sheen, a Roman Catholic, praised "responsible protest and earnest prayer" and mixed up taking responsibility for the Iraq War with nonviolent protest. "We are only as powerful as we choose to be, meaning how much responsibility we are willing to accept. . . . We dare to say peace be with you. Lord, make us nonviolent instruments of your peace." The context of this was a protest pen at the rally, as well as herding all along the march route, with heavy pig presence. According to an article on the Los Angeles Independent Media Center newswire, one arrest involved a protester who allegedly chalked "buy less crap" on a concrete bollard, among other things. This writer saw Los Angeles police telling protesters not to go up the stairs of the City Hall. One of the pigs told another to "cop" anyone who broke the police line strung up. At the beginning of the march, ANSWER asserted its status as the official march permit holder and told everyone else to follow them whether they were part of ANSWER or not.

Ian Thompson, representing ANSWER, also spoke at the rally, and he implied that the vast majority of Amerikans had no interest or complicity whatsoever in the Iraq War, and that most Amerikans had more in common with the Iraqi people

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### U.S. ARMY CLAIMS SOLDIERS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SNUFF PICTURES

By mimnotesinfo1  
September 30, 2005

This whole imperialist war is a crime, under international law and is reactionary in any case, but if imperialist soldiers have mistreated the bodies of war and occupation dead in Afghanistan, Iraq, or anywhere else, then all those accountable must be prosecuted for war crimes. Just a slap on the wrist for "conduct unbecoming" is unacceptable.

According to Reuters, the U.S. Army investigation into the photos of killed and maimed Afghanis and Iraqis apparently posted by Amerikan soldiers on nowthatsf-edup.com (NTFU) is already over. The Army claims it could not, with the evidence available, determine even whether any u.\$ soldier posted the pictures.

"The Army Criminal Investigation Command in Iraq conducted the preliminary inquiry within the past week but closed it after concluding no felony crime had been committed and failing to determine whether U.S. soldiers were responsible for the photos and whether they showed actual war dead, Army officials said."(1)

With all the face recognition technology out there, the Army is undoubtedly lying about its ability to determine who was responsible for taking and posting the pictures. Even if there is no other identifying information, faces of u.\$ soldiers clearly appear in photos in some cases. The Army doesn't even have to show the pictures to all troops and veterans to find out who is in them.

The Army has accidentally let the cat out of the bag in a way. If individual u.\$ soldiers are not responsible for the pictures, then perhaps the U.S. Government is responsible, as is the case with the pictures of torture and humiliation at Abu Ghraib prison (which reflect systematic practices of abuse even in

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# California prisons target so-called disruptive groups after indicting prisoner in alleged terrorist plot

By MIM, September 18, 2005

In late August, a federal grand jury in Los Angeles indicted a prisoner in California on charges that he was conspiring with three other men to attack U.S. military facilities, synagogues, and other places in the Los Angeles area. Officials claim the prisoner founded Jamiyyat Ul Islam Is Saheeh (JIS), an alleged Islamist terrorist organization. U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez is lauding the indictments as a victory, foiling an imminent attack.

Prison and government officials are saying they will now assess possible terrorist threats posed by prison groups, including the many prison gangs, and presumably the political groups behind bars as well. The FBI recently ordered its agents to conduct "threat assessments" of prison inmates throughout the country. (1) This focus on potential "terrorist" threats from prison gangs has dangerous implications, particularly for the Black and Latino prisoners in California who are often assumed to be gang members just based on nationality. Prisoners who already live in extremely repressive conditions where looking at a guard wrong can lead to vicious beatings, and political organizing can mean even more severe retaliation. Now the government has a new excuse to go after prisoners by labeling them "potential

terrorists."

In one example of retaliation, a prisoner wrote to MIM in September describing how prison guards took his TV, claiming that he broke the seals that ensure prisoners are not opening up the backs of the televisions: "The day before [they took my TV] I got a letter from a lawyer asking me some questions about an inmate that got the shit beaten out of him in a different unit I was in about two years ago. I don't know really, the real reason for them beating him to a bloody mess. I wrote back to him, telling him that I don't know much but I'll be willing to help him."

According to the Los Angeles Times, "[o]verall, California's correctional system, with about 165,000 felons, is home to seven major prison-based gangs and 1,100 other groups viewed as 'disruptive' enough to be of concern." (2) MIM can only assume that United Struggle from Within, the revolutionary organization of prisoners working with MIM, is on that list of "disruptive" groups that are "of concern."

Roderick Hickman, secretary of the California Department of Corrections, said: "There is an attempt by various groups to radicalize things, and our intent is to work collaboratively with ... other law enforcement agencies to nip that radicalization of a religion in the bud." (3) To people familiar with the inner workings

of the criminal injustice system, this is a thinly veiled threat against any prisoners working together or organizing against injustice.

Hickman's statement, and the aggressive position taken by others in the government, also reveal that the government recognizes what MIM has long known: prisons are a breeding ground for discontent with the Amerikan government. However, the real threat to the Amerikan government is not that al Qaeda will recruit prisoners, but that prisoners will see the imperialist system for what it really is, and will take up revolutionary organizing, which in Amerika at this point entails tactics that are largely legal. Though al Qaeda may be able to do some damage to Amerikan property — while unleashing vicious attacks against the exploited and oppressed under the pretext of combating terrorism — ultimately it is the oppressed people of the world, rising up under the banner of revolutionary science, who have the real potential to overthrow imperialism.

MIM will be closely monitoring the "investigation" into so-called disruptive groups in the prisons, and we call on our comrades behind bars to report abuses of the terrorism threat excuse in the pages of MIM Notes.

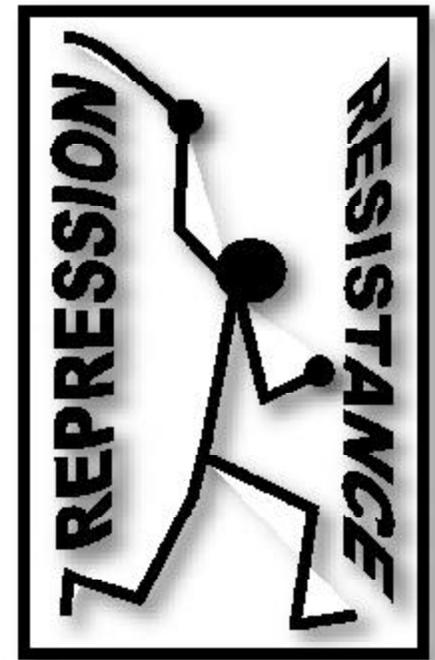
Notes:

1. Jeremiah Marquez, "Four indicted in alleged terrorist plot against LA-area targets," 1 September 2005, <http://>

[sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/n/a/2005/08/31/state/n143135D24.DTL](http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/n/a/2005/08/31/state/n143135D24.DTL)

2. Jenifer Warren and Greg Krikorian, "Prisons Weigh Threat of Radical Islamist Gangs," Los Angeles Times, 4 September 2005, <http://list.afsc.org/pipermail/rights-and-liberties/2005-September/000075.html>

3. San Jose Mercury News, 18 August 2005.



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## MIM Notes

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

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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 humyn history. (3) As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM has reiterated through materialist analysis, imperialism extracts super-profits from the Third World and in part uses this wealth to buy off whole populations of oppressor nation so-called workers. These so-called workers bought off by imperialism form a new petty-bourgeoisie called the labor aristocracy. These classes are not the principal vehicles to advance Maoism within those countries because their standards of living depend on imperialism. At this time, imperialist super-profits create this situation in the Canada, Quebec, the United States, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Israel, Sweden and Denmark. MIM accepts people as members who agree on these basic principles and accept democratic centralism, the system of majority rule, on other questions of party line.

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

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

# Amerikan soldiers humiliate Iraqi occupation dead

By mimnotesinfo1  
September 27, 2005

A correspondent told us about nowthatsf-edup.com (adult site) more than a week ago, pointing out that in “Amerikkka it’s somehow wrong to show a picture of one of Uncle Sam’s dead piglets, but posts called ‘What every Iraqi should look like,’ showing a man shot in the head, is a-okay.” Mimnotes.info put off reporting on this site for a couple of reasons. One is that we weren’t sure it was even legal to link to a site humiliating occupation dead using pictures of their corpses, which are next to amateur pornographic pictures of “girlfriends” who may in fact be minors. The other reason is we don’t want to perpetuate pornography unnecessarily. Even the photographs of Lynndie England at Abu Ghaib, which MIM Notes has run in the past, are porn, as are news stories about these photos and the documented sexual humiliation. In that case, the need to expose the brutality and barbarity of militarism outweighed concerns about validating the use of pornography to sensationalize and popularize news and culture. The whole of Amerikan culture is pornified anyway, and everything is evaluated in relation to it; it is idealism to think refraining from telling the Lynndie England story in itself would help end patriarchy.

Chris Thompson has written a good article summarizing the photos on the bulletin board-style nowthatsf-edup.com (NTFU), which has what Thompson calls a “snuff-for-porn arrangement with American troops.”(2) An Amerikan in Florida created the site and offered the arrangement as a way of allowing soldiers, who encounter problems paying for “supporter access” with their credit cards, to access restricted parts of the amateur “wives and girlfriends” pornography site. The site is “owned and operated out of Amsterdam,” according to a June 17th post in an NTFU forum by Thompson in regard to the 18 U.S.C. 2257 pornography performer record-keeping law.

Amerikan soldiers “stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat area” in particular are invited to submit gory photos, but “garylem” writing on August 4th says the “site will not let pics of our dead or wounded be posted here.” The section on the site for the photos has been up for almost a year. To Thompson’s article, I would add that there is nothing obscene about these photos from the viewpoint of Amerikans. Everyone has seen the censored videos of alleged beheadings by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi’s group. The gory photos of dead Iraqis on the amateur porn site will be seen as payback by Amerikans. Amerikans pretend to be prudes, but they enjoy all sorts of sexual and violent imagery on a daily basis. As much as Web sites, with Amerikkka’s finest making sport of the unburied bodies of killed Iraqis, are embarrassing from an international public opinion standpoint, Amerikans deep down

inside lust for close-up photos of slain Iraqis since they are the culmination of news reporting of the Iraq War that Amerikans turn to more for self-gratification than for information. (A relevant term that has gained some currency is “warnography,” which is the consumption of war reporting for its own sake. Pornography is in fact a leisure-time activity, but it also serves particular purposes, justifying different oppressive and reactionary practices.)

NTFU has an Alexa traffic rank of 9,129 as of the time of this writing, which makes it more popular than The Nation (which incidentally has reported on the amateur/occupation porn site). A spike within the past week in traffic to the site reflects increased media coverage, though not by the most popular news outlets. The juxtaposition of photos of war dead and traditional pornography is definitely not without precedent. As an obvious example, rotten.com established a long time ago that sex pictures and photos of massacres, mass graves, etc., go hand in hand on the Internet; slightly less blatant but more prevalent is the combination of gore and sex, and sex appeal, in the Amerikan movie culture, and the mainstream media has sexy news anchors talking up the need to wage genocide against civilians in so-called terrorist countries. Rotten.com’s deliberately disgusting collection of sex pictures is the icing on the cake of pictures of decayed, disfigured and other bodies that are supposed to be repulsive. Rotten.com has published everything from photos of Jenin massacre victims, and also well-known Abu Ghraib torture and humiliation photos, to photos of the remains of Josef Stalin and Mao Zedong in an anti-communist context.

I’m not going to sum up rotten.com here; suffice it to say if rotten.com’s “F-of-the-Month Club” was censored by the U.S. Government for failing to conform to the federal law for porn actor record-keeping, it will be interesting to see how the same government responds to NTFU, not just to the amateur pictures of people who are possibly minors but also to the occupation porn. This isn’t to say the government should have more means to control speech on the Internet. The point here is that the imperialists are being inconsistent in their approach to material that may reinforce child rape; the use of computing resources to distribute what is in effect propaganda for raping occupied children is apparently protected as “free speech.” If the sexualized and humiliating pictures of occupation dead are not illegal under any u.s. law, then the imperialists must own up to why they pretend to oppose the exploitation of children but then allow Web pages to stay on the Internet that contrast pictures of “cute” “kids” with pictures of people who may be their dead parents, and have text ads for porn sites beneath the pictures of children. This writer saw links, with the titles “Real Latinas live on webcam! : Sexy Latinas masturbating live, no credit

card, no bullsh\*t! Just Click Now And Start The Show!!” and “Dude check this out! My ex girlfriend choking on my c\*ck!,” beneath a picture, posted by a u.s. soldier, of dark-skinned Iraqi children and youth. On NTFU, including the sub-section for general pictures from Iraq and Afghanistan, there are relatively few pictures featuring Iraqi adults who aren’t dead or injured.

Photos of Iraqi youth posted by soldiers typically describe the “kids” as falling head over heels to ingratiate themselves to the occupiers. A soldier with the handle “Gunslinger007” on March 15, 2005, says: “Kids dig us.” “In some neighborhoods, people go crazy when we patrol. Especially kids. It’s like being a rap star. Everyone loves you except for the few in the crowd trying to shoot at you.” All of this and similar things were said on a Web site full of text advertisements, appealing to fantasies of child rape and incest (this went beyond the typical “barely legal” theme that is so common), for pornography Web sites. In a society in which youth are already highly sexualized and the abuse of children is rampant, for pictures of Iraqi youth to appear in such a blatantly pornographic context is both outrageous and unsurprising.

Rotten.com publishes photos of mutilated children, but doesn’t claim to be liberating them. This writer has so far not come across any pictures on NTFU of dead bodies that clearly belong to children, but I can’t be certain with some of the photos because of the angle a photo was shot at or the level disfigurement; there are some bodies that could belong to youths. Still, this did not stop users of NTFU from lashing out against Iraqi children appearing in soldier-submitted photos in the non-gory section for general pictures from Afghanistan and Iraq. One soldier, “embrya,” who posted “a few of the pics i’ve gotten of da kiddies” did say on January 10th that the war was never justified and was about “one man’s” greed (letting the Amerikan oppressor majority off the hook), to which some NTFU users responded by saying “fuck iraq; bomb it to the ground . . . [they’re] all potential terrorists,” and “don’t feel too sorry for the kids; I have some pics with them, too, but remember the first war: the kids then are the ones we are fighting now” — showing how u.s. soldiers themselves view their “mission.”

All UN-member imperialist and Third World countries except the united States and Somalia (which due to imperialist machinations doesn’t have a strong government) have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a Liberal piece of paper that gives some protections to children within the confines of a system that still oppresses them. Among many other things, the Convention obligates countries to ensure that “[n]o child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” Also, “States Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international

humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child.” As Chris Thompson points out, Protocol One of the Geneva Conventions prohibits treating the remains of occupation dead in a disrespectful way. Despite all of this, Amerikan soldiers on NTFU post pictures of unrecognizable killed Iraqis while claiming to be bringing civilization to Iraq. Those accountable for occupation soldiers’ desecrating the remains of occupation dead must be prosecuted for war crimes, and the system that made these crimes possible must be smashed.

Amid reports of the rape of Iraqi adults and children, of both sexes, by u.s. soldiers, the willingness of Amerikan soldiers to trade photos of Iraqi occupation dead for access to photos of wives and girlfriends, on a demeaningly named Web site, raises the familiar specter of sexual assault against occupied and invaded people, including children, this time in Iraq. In the now-infamous “Nice puss / bad foot” thread on NTFU, “ohmichael,” a heavy user who hasn’t been banned, writes of a photo of a womyn (an Iraqi civilian, according to the site administrator Chris) with a horribly injured leg: “Man you could get some easy access to [her shaved vagina], and one more is: she ain’t gonna run away. For such a gory pic, she has a nice [vagina].” More than one NTFU user questioned whether the photo was actually of an Iraqi womyn, but that didn’t deter others from fantasizing about having sex with the dark-skinned womyn (or youth) in the picture, even if she was a u.s. soldier.

Iraqis’ relative inability to post pictures of dead imperialist soldiers goes to show that Iraqi men are also subject to gender oppression by the occupying nations. This raises the possibility of more of a different kind of solidarity between Iraqi men and wimmin in the struggle against the occupation and the imperialist-lackey government. Occupation soldiers in Iraq are not just openly using gruesome photos of Iraqis killed by the imperialist army to intimidate liberation fighters, they are ridiculing dead and injured Iraqi men and wimmin on the same Web site. NTFU user “hardcorepha” seeks to ridicule a dead Iraqi with a dismembered body by feminizing him: “looks like he’s wearin’ panties.” The context of this is homophobic remarks throughout NTFU.

Lynndie England is just the tip of the iceberg of the increasingly sharp differentiation between imperialist and oppressed nations on the basis of gender. Unfortunately, England’s sentencing on Tuesday to three years in prison obscures how ingrained and widespread this relationship is, and not just as a policy of the U.S. Government. What’s going on is bigger than just a policy, or even a culture fostered by the imperialist army. The fact that several news sources have called the soldier-submitted pictures on

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# CNN and *NY Times* cover occupation porn, create a distraction

By [mimnotes.info](http://mimnotes.info)  
September 28, 2005

Mimnotes.info learned from Eric Muller's *Is That Legal?* blog that CNN and the New York Times have started covering the amateur/occupation porn Web site containing soldier-submitted photos of often-unidentifiable killed Afghans and Iraqis. Since they neglect to mention previous news coverage of the pornography site, the appearance is that these mainstream news sources broke the story, but on the English-language Internet, Stan Goff of the Feral Scholar

blog wrote about the site and its gore-for-porn arrangement with American soldiers almost a month ago (<http://stangoff.com/?p=182>). Whereas Stan Goff and [mimnotes.info](http://mimnotes.info) have addressed the patriarchal implications of the site, CNN and the New York Times are diverting attention to the legal aspect. Neither news source provides the address of the Web site, but both focus on government investigation of the site. According to CNN, Army spokesman Paul Boyce said that a preliminary investigation found no evidence of a

felony, but that there may have been a violation of the provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice that deal with conduct unbecoming an officer.

Mimnotes.info demands that those accountable for soldiers' desecrating the remains of Afghans and Iraqis killed under the de facto occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq be prosecuted for war crimes under the Geneva Conventions, whether these acts violate any U.S. Government law or not. At the same time, however, we call for an end to the wars and occupations, and the

imperialist-patriarchy — the whole system of capitalist and gender privilege on a global scale — that made these war crimes possible.

The New York Times describes the captions of some of the photos on the amateur/occupation porn site (CNN does not), calling them "crude." The specific examples the Times gives are: "Cooked Iraqi" and "Burn baby, burn!" But even this does not give the full picture of how soldiers are describing the pictures. Reading the CNN and Times articles, one

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domestic prisons) — or even the whole Euro-American nation, which benefits from both imperialist militarism generally and the pornographic culture prevailing in America.

Photos of just charred bodies of people who are sometimes totally unrecognizable do not prove membership in the military. Soldiers did not need to send these and other gory pictures in to prove that they were soldiers to get access to the restricted parts of the amateur "wives and girlfriends" [nowthatsf-edup.com](http://nowthatsf-edup.com) porn site. Yet, there is a demand for these pictures nonetheless.

It is telling that the operator of NTFU, Chris Wilson, is actually a former police officer.(2) But we can tell from the fact that [rotten.com](http://rotten.com), another site containing pictures of war dead among a variety of other pictures that are intended to be repulsive, has an Alexa ranking of 1,397 as of the time of this writing, and is probably one of the most popular sites on the Internet, that this is not just a pig culture thing, confined to law enforcement institutions. Or perhaps it is reflective of a pig culture, but one that is present in American culture in general. The relationship between pornography, and militarism and other forms of repression and reactionary violence, is nothing new, but it is interesting to look at how people, presumably not part of the "porn community" on NTFU, are responding to the NTFU pictures.

A discussion on [Fark.com](http://Fark.com) of a September 26th AMERICAblog post covering the gory pictures on NTFU shows much of the same callousness and cynicism that appears in comments in NTFU forums. Several [Fark.com](http://Fark.com) users object to the pictures or just find them disgusting; although, some object because they are afraid that another "Abu Ghraib" will make the United States look bad again. Other [Fark.com](http://Fark.com) users simply see nothing wrong with the pictures, or have any problem with them at all, one going so far as to say that because some people in the pictures are so maimed or burned beyond recognition, it's "really not that gross." "War is hell." Another user says: "Every war has its trophy gatherers. At least they're not taking ears this time."

Some are trying to justify the pictures by pointing to execution videos of civilians and contractors in Iraq, even though NTFU pictures of maimed people may in fact be pictures of civilian victims of suicide bombings or U.S. rocket attacks.

The [Fark.com](http://Fark.com) user admitting that the pictures are illegal, but saying that they just "happen," like traffic violations, ignores the racist and anti-Muslim captions against "Hajjis," and the rape threats, accompanying the pictures. So are all the mainstream media and blog sources focusing on how gruesome the pictures are but not dealing with the racism and the sexism, much less the broader, uncomfortable political issues ranging from: how America's pornographic culture made even the thought of taking the photos possible, to the relationship between soldiers' ridiculing killed and maimed Iraqis, on the one hand, and new reports of abuse in Afghanistan and Iraq.(6) CNN on TV Sunday afternoon went out of its way repeatedly to say that the pictures haven't been authenticated. The imperialist media wants to portray barbarity as an isolated problem to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, but the barbarity may have its origins in a culture that many Americans, with no direct relationship with each other, partake in.

A U.S. federal judge recently ordered the release of more images of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib.(7) There is a fear that these images will further scandalize the military and government, but what's also scandalous are the attempts by civilian Americans to justify the images in various ways, some by suggesting that taking pictures of themselves torturing and humiliating prisoners is what they would do as soldiers in similar circumstances. That's not to mention the millions of Americans who support the acts of abuse and humiliation themselves. If prisoner abuse is not a formal systematic military and correctional practice, but arises sporadically, then it may have its roots in a culture that is widespread in American imperialist society.

If we are to take the person who operates the less-reported Web site Under Mars: An Online Archive of Soldiers' Photos at face value, he is not a member of the U.S. military, but this did

not stop him from publishing photos of what appear to be the dead bodies of killed Arab people (other pictures on the same site have captions indicating that they were taken in Iraq and Kuwait), with disrespectful and sometimes homophobic captions.(8) One photo shows a dismembered leg: "where's da rest of my shit." Another picture: "roadkill +10pts" (ten points). A picture of dead bodies collapsed onto each other: "pile 'em up, fellaz." A picture of a disembodied head: "new meaning to giving head." A picture of a bloated body: "does this death make me look fat." A picture of bodies collapsed onto each other or piled together: "damer buffet" (Jeffrey Dahmer). A close-up picture of a dark-skinned person with a white substance covering his face: "come on and give me some sugar." These pictures are different than those on NTFU. Whether these photos are authentic or not may not be as important as how an increasingly decadent militarist society could give rise to such productions and interest in them.

Amateur porn showing sexual humiliation at Abu Ghraib prison is but an expression of the practice of Americans spending their leisure time taking pornographic pictures of themselves or their partners with cameras, particularly Web cams that are often marketed to appeal to aspiring amateur pornographers. Lynndie England and Charles Graner's taking pictures of themselves with abused prisoners, culminated by soldiers laughing at a charred Iraqi in a photo on an amateur porn site, is an increasingly popular All-American pastime on display.

Notes:

1. Will Dunham, "U.S. Army ends probe on porn site photos of Iraq corpses," 28 September 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N28310515.htm>
2. Dana Willhoit, "Lakeland Man's Web Site Floods With Traffic," 29 September 2005, <http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050929/NEWS/509290409/1004>
3. <http://forums.fark.com/cgi/fark/comments.pl?IDLink=1684508>
4. "Army: No Felony in Release of Corpse Pics," 28 September 2005, <http://cbs5.com/topstories/national/>

[local\\_story\\_271165456.html](http://local_story_271165456.html)

5. <http://www.isthatlegal.org/>

6. Adam Zagorin, "Pattern of Abuse," 23 September 2005, <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1108972,00.html>

7. Judge orders release of Abu Ghraib photos," 30 September 2005, [http://www.cbc.ca/storyview/MSN/world/national/2005/09/30/abu\\_ghraib\\_photos20050930.html](http://www.cbc.ca/storyview/MSN/world/national/2005/09/30/abu_ghraib_photos20050930.html)

8. <http://www.undermars.com/>

9. Firas Al-Atraqchi, "US: War pornography inquiry closed," 29 September 2005, <http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/051644CC-5E6E-43F6-B7B2-5EFE296020BF.htm>

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NTFU "war porn" even though the pictures aren't "sexually explicit," according to the bourgeoisie's definition, alludes to the reality that the Euro-American oppressor as a whole can enjoy these pictures, which are an expression of the gender oppression of Third World people by First World people.

Notes:

1. "U.S. Soldiers Involved in Trading War Pictures for Porn," 2 September 2005, <http://www.infoshop.org/inews/article.php?story=200509021045103>
2. Chris Thompson, "War Pornography," 21 September 2005, <http://www.eastbayexpress.com/Issues/2005-09-21/news/news.html>
3. Suzanne Goldenberg, "US soldiers accused of sex assaults," 8 March 2005, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,2763,1432691,00.html>
4. Charles A. Radin, "Rumors of rape fan anti-American flames," 4 January 2005, [http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2004/01/04/rumors\\_of\\_rape\\_fan\\_anti\\_american\\_flames/](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2004/01/04/rumors_of_rape_fan_anti_american_flames/)
5. Adam Tanner, "Tearful Lynndie England gets 3 years in prison," 28 September 2005, [http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2005-09-28T012815Z\\_01\\_YUE759521\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_UK-IRAQ-ABUSE.xml](http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2005-09-28T012815Z_01_YUE759521_RTRUKOC_0_UK-IRAQ-ABUSE.xml)

## L.A. ANTIWAR PROTEST TURNED INTO OINKFEST FOR IMPERIALIST-COUNTRY PRIVILEGE

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than the imperialists. “We don’t want to be deployed in another war in another place. It’s not in our interests. It’s not in their interests. Those imperialist wars, they only serve the rich, like the Bush[es], and the Cheneys, and the Haliburtons, of the world. Everyone else, all of us, we suffer.” Thompson rightly supported the Iraqi national liberation fighters and the defeat of the “United States” (by contrast to Martin Sheen), and connected the Iraq War to u.s. militarism in Afghanistan, Haiti, and the Philippines, but he denied that even the majority of Euro-Americans had an economic interest in imperialism and the militarism that necessarily comes with it. (And protest leaders rarely mentioned the u.s. imperialist domination of indigenous peoples inside and outside u.s. borders, Korea, and other nations; although, there were protesters who represented these nations, as well as Chicanas and Latin American wimmin against the war.) Thus, some of the most progressive- and internationalist-sounding rhetoric at the rally served to conceal the extent to which Americans exploit Third World workers and justified further privilege for all but the wealthiest

Americans.

Prior to Ian Thompson’s speech, ANSWER organizers at the beginning of the march, in some of the most often repeated chants, called for blood-soaked super-profits to be spent on health care, jobs, and schools, rather than war, without saying for which Americans and at whose expense. Differences between u.s. workers of different nationalities were treated as unimportant. A protest sign, asking how many American “lives per gallon” of oil does it cost, was more correct even though it pandered to Euro-American nationalism; Euro-Americans’ self-interest in not dying in wars can be less reactionary than their economic reasons not to wage a costly war. “How many lives per gallon” is certainly more effective for opposing wars against oil-producing countries than complaining, as ANSWER did at one point, about the price of gas for Americans. It is possible and necessary to have temporary alliances with veterans and others who don’t want to see more Americans dying in wars of questionable merit. A broad mass movement is urgently needed to struggle against u.s. militarism around the world, but not one that lends support to fascism

against migrants and Third World peoples for the sake of “American jobs” — or changing the target of the phony “war on terror” to another country under the pretext of continuing the hunt for “Osama bin Forgotten.”

One protester commenting on the march said that the turnout was “pathetic” for a city the size of Los Angeles. The turnout was in fact small compared with even the January 2003 protests in Los Angeles before the invasion of Iraq, but turnout numbers aren’t decisive, and focusing on the turnout size on Saturday obscured the problem of how to generate — and sustain — opposition to all u.s. militarism. In fact, pandering to the narrowest interests of the population to get them to show up is going to have the opposite effect sooner or later. When certain antiwar activists are telling Americans to judge the war based on their self-interest, it is no wonder that many cynically think some occupations are good. The long-range problem is not an inadequate number of oppressed people turning out at protests (few people in an imperialist country like the United States have an economic interest in opposing imperialism

and many of them had to work at the time of the protest), but an inadequate number of people opposing the Iraq War for altruistic and non-economic reasons. It is better to have an environmentalist protesting militarism just to prevent devastation of the planet, or people opposing warmongers who are homophobic, than to have someone opposing some imperialist wars, but not others, while covering up Euro-American aerospace machinists’ fundamental interest in imperialism for instance.

Even Christian religious pacifist denunciations of the Iraq War are preferable to misplaced antiwar opposition that prioritizes Americans’ wages and benefits while pretending that Euro-American labor aristocrats are the “sisters and brothers” of the Iraqi people — or people living in Skid Row a few blocks away. The class “brothers and sisters” talk by many organizers and protesters, in and around the ANSWER-led part of the march and rally, let the vast majority of Euro-Americans off the hook for perpetrating national oppression against Iraqis as well as Blacks, suggesting that the money for Hurricane Katrina

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## CNN and NY Times cover occupation porn, create a distraction

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could get the impression that all of this is what any soldier in any war would do, presumably as a coping mechanism — which is how some reactionary commentators have tried to justify the pictures and the humiliation of the occupation dead. But one series of photos has the racist, anti-Muslim and genocidal caption “die Haji die,” and another caption is an explicitly sexual remark about a horribly injured woman, identified as an Iraqi, whose genitals appear in the corresponding photo. The description that immediately follows the caption reads: “not sure if this goes here or in one of the nudie forums. She stepped on a land mine.” Killed Iraqi men are also shown partially nude in some cases. And imperialist soldiers have also posted pictures, with belittling descriptions, of children on the amateur pornography site, which contains text ads promoting the violent rape of teenagers and advertising “the youngest, hottest girls in nude art.”

CNN and the New York Times focus on the legality of the pictures and posts because the imperialist media is interested in diverting attention away from the sweeping political implications of the soldiers’ activity on the amateur porn site. First, there was the amateur Abu Ghraib torture and humiliation porn, which already reflected a systematic practice by the imperialist army and intelligence operatives. Now, this has been followed up with what we can almost literally say is snuff porn because of the context on the Web site and the fact that there is

little that could come in-between the uncensored Abu Ghraib pictures and the pictures of killed Iraqis, at least one of whom appears to have been bludgeoned to death in the street.

There is nothing really subtle about any of this — the Web site after all calls itself pornography and solicits any gory pictures from combat areas, not just those of “terrorists,” but has a blanket ban on similar pictures of American soldiers. Yet, the imperialist media is treating the legal aspect of the pictures and postings as more relevant and real than even the blatant racism and sexism. There is simply no excuse for this; what the soldiers are saying about the photos they’ve taken is right there in black and white. There is no question as to the motive or the mentality. Regarding the sexism aspect, one can only imagine that the imperialist media isn’t sure how to talk about this without compromising the whole pornographic culture, which it helped create and relies on. That’s the case even though the existence of the kind of pornography represented by nowthatsf-edup.com (NTFU) wouldn’t be threatened anyway. Pornography is so entrenched in decadent imperialist society that nothing less than revolution will end it. Even before the u.s. mainstream media began covering it, NTFU was probably more popular than any Web site on the Internet calling itself feminist or a women’s site. There is a basis for even snuff war porn to become acceptable.

Militarism and pornography have for a long time fed each other, in the u.s.

military — whose soldiers could until recently openly buy pornography on military bases, and now have access to pornography on the Internet — but also in the general population. The imperialists will be compelled to justify the snuff war porn in one way or another, first by hypocritically defending it as “free speech” — at the same time it represses revolutionary activists and political speech. Chris Thompson quotes Army spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Chris Conway as saying: “There are policies in place that, on the one hand, safeguard sensitive and classified information, and on the other hand protect the First Amendment rights of service members. . . . In plain English, if you’re on the job working for the Department of Defense, you shouldn’t be freelancing. You should be doing your duty.”(5)

Even if any soldier is convicted of conduct unbecoming an officer, there still remains the question of whether snuff war porn in general is acceptable. Americans who are against torture but support killing Afghani and Iraqi liberation fighters will be compelled to justify the snuff war porn apart from how it was produced. The pictures of torture and humiliation at Abu Ghraib prison are difficult to separate from the actual acts of torture and humiliation, and so it may be with the snuff war porn, which is a record of militarist violence, even though the soldiers who originally produced the porn may be punished. In other words, some Americans will defend the photos

because they support the killing. This is, of course, to say nothing about the 45% of adult Americans, according to a May 10, 2005, Pew Research Center telephone poll conducted on March 17-27, who thought “the use of torture against suspected terrorists in order to gain important information can often be justified” or “sometimes be justified,” and may even praise the NTFU photos. And even many of those who do oppose the pictures or captions/posts will do so for pragmatic public relations reasons. Their persynal perception of “America’s finest” will remain untarnished.

Notes:

1. <http://www.isthatlegal.org/>
2. Michael Hill, “Defining images,” 9 May 2004, <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bal-pe.images09may09,1,3699034.story?coll=bal-oped-headlines>
3. Thom Shanker, “Army Investigates Photos of Iraqi War Dead on Web,” 28 September 2005, <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/28/international/middleeast/28site.html>
4. Barbara Starr, “Web site: U.S. troops traded Iraq photos for porn access,” 28 September 2005, <http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/09/28/web.photos/index.html>
5. Chris Thompson, “War Pornography,” 21 September 2005, <http://www.eastbayexpress.com/Issues/2005-09-21/news/news.html>

*Katrina is the proof, but can they get it?*

# Amerikkans are the lowest of the low

By [mim3@mim.org](mailto:mim3@mim.org)  
September 2005

Saddam Hussein, Osama bin Laden and Kim Jong Il — we cannot say for sure that any of these people would leave their country's elderly and people with disabilities to die by the thousands when they had the means to do otherwise. Even if Saddam Hussein or the like left elderly and disabled people to die, they would only be following the u.\$ example. There is no way Amerika has any right to froth at the mouth about other countries.

In a few hours, the political decisions of the U.\$ Government killed more Black people than 9/11 did. This is why we say that the real terrorists, the real enemies of Black people are right here in the imperialist government. The daily decisions of the u.\$ rulers have always killed far more Black people than anything Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussein and Kim Jong Il combined have done.

So far, and the counting is far from

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rebuilding should come from only millionaire Amerikkans' pockets. Simultaneously, there was a greater concern for predominately white Amerikkans' wages and benefits than the conditions and rights of migrants; although, ANSWER organizers did sometimes briefly connect the heightening repression of migrants with the bogus "war on terror." (The fact is that activists will pay lip service to migrants' humyn rights in order to assimilate them into Euro-Amerikan-controlled labor unions and eliminate their so-called "cheap-labor" competitiveness, but even at anti-vigilante protests, not to mention anti-Migra protests, the protesters are mostly Arab, Asian, Caribbean or Latin American, and youth of different nationalities.)

Misleading rhetoric about Euro-Amerikan workers' class solidarity with the Iraqi people took the place of anti-imperialism and exposing national oppression. Some clueless protesters openly wondered why some Asian and Latino workers, shoppers and shopkeepers on the march route near the Fashion District were not responding enthusiastically when protesters shoved or waved placards in their faces that made no connection between the Iraqi people's struggle and the struggles of the internal semi-colony peoples and national minorities in the united States. How it came to be that proto-fascist, Amerika-first-protectionist people were among the protesters marching in Aztlán did not seem to cross these protesters' minds.

This writer at the rally observed outbursts by individuals, from different parties, vying for leadership of the decrepit tendency in the antiwar movement that promises Euro-Amerikan workers better jobs, higher wages, and more benefits, as the rewards of opposing the Iraq War. The contenders essentially had the same

done, 1033 people have died in Katrina.(1) Ordinary bourgeois news reporting of Katrina exposed Amerika to the core: "A majority of them died at hospitals, nursing homes and other large facilities."(2) This alone is proof enough that Amerikkka is the lowest of the low, scum of scum.

When we at MIM say U.\$ imperialism is "decadent" or "running out of gas" as an economic system, we can get the picture from the deadliest hurricanes history of the united States. All the top 10 deadliest hurricanes occurred before 1958 — before Katrina in 2005. With today's modern transportation and communications and the huge improvement in weather forecasting, we would not expect to see a 2005 hurricane make the list at all, never mind ranked third or higher. Massive death in hurricanes should be such a 19th and 20th century thing. The united States has gone so far backward politically that it now

white-worker and petty-bourgeois chauvinist politics, but they were willing to engage in heated argument in front of everyone and divide over which of their parties should lead antiwar protests. Unity sporadically gave way to bickering about how to bring about socialism in the united States before ending the imperialist oppression of nations inside and outside u.\$ borders.

The most visible aboveground organizers of the Los Angeles march and rally illustrate why it is necessary to have a united front with real proletarian leadership, rather than one that represents chauvinist imperialist-country parasites with different visions of how to mobilize people angry with u.\$ militarism to seek more imperialist loot for the Amerikan majority. ANSWER is a coalition, but its leadership had a peculiar line that actually turned off people who could have been united against imperialism, not to mention the attempts by certain political parties present at the protest to turn the protest into a sectarian membership drive. The imperialist system is rotten to the core and no amount of Amerikan flag-waving "antiwar" opposition can cover that up completely for the masses who know what the system is about. On the contrary, it shows that imperialists have co-opted the antiwar movement and are trying to deflect righteous anger against militarism and bring about the transition to yet another imperialist government. The most righteous demands by protesters were against the whole imperialist system and for the defeat of the united Snakes, but many (some trying to sound more hardcore than others — "regime change") limited their demands to getting Bu\$h out of office and "taking back the country" for another imperialist clique.

Notes:

1. "USA TODAY/CNN GALLUP POLL," 19 September 2005, <http://www.usatoday.com/news/polls/2005-09-19-poll.htm>

rates more like the United States of the early 1900s when it comes to handling hurricanes.

On September 22, it was still the case that dead bodies were on the streets of New Orleans.(3) It was this sort of thing that caused writers to send letters to the New York Times denouncing the U.\$ fall into being a "Third World country." For these chauvinists used to reading in the New York Times how Third World dictators are the center of all evil, these were the strongest words possible; yet, we would point out to them that many Third World countries, socialist or not, would not leave their elderly to die in natural disasters, if they had the money that Amerikkans have and even if they didn't have quite as much.

Except for people accustomed to the complexity of politics, politics has a way of obscuring basic truths. In Saddam Hussein's U.\$-backed repressions of Iraqi communists and Kurds, there was a political explanation about the unity of

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## The 10 deadliest hurricanes in U.\$ history

1. Galveston, Texas, 1900 — 8,000 to 12,000 dead.
2. Lake Okeechobee, Florida, 1928 — 1836 dead.
3. Katrina, New Orleans region, 2005 — 1033+ dead and still counting.
4. Florida Keys & Corpus Christi, Texas, 1919 — 600 to 900 dead.
5. New England, 1938 — 600 dead.
6. Florida Keys, 1935 — 423 dead.
7. Northeastern United States, 1944 — 394 dead.
8. Southwest Louisiana, Northwest Texas, 1957 — 390 dead.
9. Louisiana, 1909 — 350 dead.
10. New Orleans, 1915 — 275 dead.

Source: <http://www.nbc6.net/weather/4908506/detail.html>



## 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.

# We don't miss Louisiana

By a correspondent  
September 2005

From *mimnotes.info*

With Hurricane Rita delivering another blow to Louisiana starting September 23rd and 24th, we have to say we don't miss Louisiana. In this writer's opinion, New Orleans was the most interesting city in the u.s. South, maybe the whole united States. It was a combination of architecture, geography and even cuisine that made travel sales easy among Amerikans. I don't look forward to the rich white New Orleans already in the making in the fantasies of government-contract-fed, KKK-voting whites. Mayor Nagin is making plans for a New Orleans of 250,000 people and it is clear that he is talking about a mostly white New Orleans.(1) The contracts will go to whites rebuilding the parts of New Orleans on higher ground which happen to be occupied by whites in the vast majority. That is the unstated truth when either the New York Times or George W. Bush says that they are going to rebuild New Orleans better but smaller. For revolutionary nationalists, it's something of a balancing act; while plans to repopulate New Orleans with mostly Euro-Amerikans are sinister, we must be clear that the territory that must be recovered by the Black nation is not limited to so-called Black cities like New Orleans that are actually dominated by the Euro-Amerikan oppressor nation in

addition to being prone to floods.

Even after Katrina was over, people in New Orleans continued to die, because of the lingering economic and geographic consequences of the ongoing oppression of the Black nation, but also Amerikan white supremacy. Many Amerikans heard the stories — whites who pretended that Blacks and Latinos were relatives so that white law enforcement would allow them into neighborhoods safe from flooding; several times more troops to fight "looters" than fire officials to rescue drowning people; and FBI officials looking for their chance to make arrests — at just the moment rescue and recovery operations should have gone forward. In Texas, the white fright reached the point where the coastal towns were calling in fictional looter stories half a day before Rita even hit. All of that is Amerika not changed a bit since the 1600s.

USA Today reported on the typical white Texan attitude about people being able to move out of New Orleans at all: "Ann McMullen, 52, of Killeen, Texas, who works as a school administrator at Fort Hood, says she worries about gang violence, simply because of the prodigious numbers of people flowing into Texas communities. 'They can't even locate the sex offenders,' she says. 'And every population has gang members. It's theft, it's murder, it's more chaotic crimes in the community. Hopefully we'll be able

to put these people back to work.' "(2) It's not hard to see that with people like Ann McMullen common, "driving while Black" is practically a felony deserving a beating. No wonder there weren't any cracker law enforcement agents within a hundreds miles who could do anything about Katrina.

MIM had reported on all this before Katrina hit. Louisiana was already infamous for the campaigns of David Duke, an ex-KKK and neo-Nazi leader who ran for statewide office and won 55% of the white vote in the 1991 governor's race, only to lose because 30% of the vote in Louisiana is Black.(3) Neighboring Mississippi only barely legalized interracial marriage in a statewide referendum, 52% to 48% in 1987.(4) To this day, Louisiana has the highest imprisonment rate — in the country that has the highest imprisonment rate in the world. The imprisonment rate for Blacks in Louisiana exceeds wildly speculative rumors about Kim Jong Il's prison camp system in northern Korea for numbers of prisoners per population. Even the overall imprisonment rate of Louisiana people including whites is in range of anti-communist estimates for Kim's northern Korea.(5) None of the facts here had any mention from the USA Today and CNN, for example, despite their mock concern about the profound social issues uncovered by Katrina. It is only MIM and its allies injecting the hard

truth about the situation while various others sugar-coat what happened with bland statements about "race relations."

So no, we cannot say we miss Louisiana as an institution of Amerikan imperialism and white supremacy, it being the prison-state leader and Texas being the juvenile execution leader. We cannot say we are surprised that the government is more concerned about protecting whites from their own irrational fears than in saving people from disasters. It's too bad hurricanes can't end the imperialist system as quickly as they can unleash imperialism-created social disasters falling harshly on Blacks and migrants. Revolutionary mass struggle is needed. White supremacy is alive and well throughout the united States despite the destruction in Louisiana.

Notes:

1. Naomi Klein, "This is turning into the Ethnic Cleansing of New Orleans," 24 Sept 2005, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/hurricanes2005/story/0,16546,1577415,00.html>
2. "Poll: Storm changed Americans' attitudes," 23 Sept 2005, [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-09-23-katrina-poll\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-09-23-katrina-poll_x.htm)
3. "Louisiana Gov. Foster admits connections with Klansman David Duke," 15 June 1999, MIM Notes 188.
4. Time Magazine, 16 Nov 1987, p. 32.
5. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/freedomorfiction.html>

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Iraq and how to move forward economically. Unfortunately, such political explanations do succeed in fogging many people's brains. Not so with Katrina. Katrina provided a natural scientific experiment that revealed to the world the character or lack thereof of Amerikan politics, if it needed revealing yet again.

A newspaper for first-generation immigrants of an ethnic group that shall remain nameless has done an abrupt about-face. After supporting Bu\$h and the Iraq War, this publication now remembers that Amerikans are guilty of having a "savagery" culture — and yes, it has condemned Amerikan culture across-the-board in what is a semblance of a return to political sanity. Gone are the ass-kissing gestures of the powerless immigrant lobbyists, now replaced by common sense on how to treat elderly and disabled people. Unfortunately, such a change of heart is all too rare in Amerika and it proves MIM's decades-long contention that what potential there is inside u.s. borders is greatest in people exposed least to Amerikan culture. To answer the question many have asked us: yes, Amerikans are thinking about Katrina, but no, there is no chance they will come to any correct answer on their own or with anyone's help even after Rita and more category-five hurricanes should they arrive this hurricane season.

Amerikkans blame the mayor, the governor, Bu\$h or the victims forced to

stay, but the fact is that Katrina is a disgrace to Amerikans. Amerikans should be able to figure out that whomever they blame, Amerika has no business imposing so-called civilization on other countries that likely have more of it. To even say this in the united States is the act of an internationalist apparently so extreme there is only a handful willing to do it. Far more numerous are the Rush Limbaugh imitations saying "America right or wrong." These scum saying MIM is "anti-Amerikan" are correct, but "anti-Amerikan" is the only right stance compared with their love for Katrina-loving and love for similar social disasters. The next time they say you are "anti-Amerikan," point out that is the only way to avoid being pro-Katrina like Bu\$h or Ru\$h Limbaugh.

Thanks to the reactionaries' approach, Katrina could happen all over again. They even want to avoid political finger-pointing, even though there is nothing saying there won't be a hurricane a few days later, as Rita proved. The people trying to avoid quick evaluation were just setting up the Black nation for another hit like Katrina.

These mush-headed Amerikan nationalists are so weak-minded they do not realize that Mother Nature is not going to wait for them to come to career-safe conclusions about what went wrong in Katrina. Yeah, maybe some white-collar bureaucrats and politicians should lose their jobs and more, and maybe they are

completely wrong and there is no way to hide how wrong they are without costing more lives a la Katrina. When Baltimore A.M. radio station WBAL came under attack after Katrina for having no Blacks that disagree with Rush Limbaugh et al., the defense was that WBAL is the most profitable station in its market niches! It did not even occur to these WBAL people that racism and profits might be one and the same thing. Fighting white supremacy is not the same thing as making the most profits or protecting the resume-padding bulk of mediocre Euro-Amerikans needing some justification for why they rule over Blacks and other peoples of the world.

The sad truth is that Amerikans as of yet have no internal compass, no bearings on what is right and wrong — only a willingness to do wrong for profit. The elderly and disabled people die in their institutions, and still Amerikans don't see anything wrong. 40% even still support Bu\$h, just to measure by the weak political gauge of their hopeless political system. The support is even higher among Euro-Amerikans. More than two out of three whites even claim to believe Bu\$h cares about Black people compared with the less than one in four Blacks who believe the same.(4)

After the fact, Amerikans would like to impress the world with their charity work. If you die "by an act of God" in Amerika, some Christians will gather some charity for the orphans you leave

behind. Likewise after a nuclear war, there would be no shortage of Amerikan Christians handing out food and blankets before we all rise to Heaven in the vapors. The stress has to go on the word "after." Doing something political before catastrophe is not in Amerika's capabilities. It would be considered "socialism," in which case even our most politically innocent readers know why it is necessary to be communist. It is the lack of political capability in Amerika that explains why it is best for the world that Amerika be ruled from the outside, by taking as leaders in government people from the Third World with the drive and determination to implement the joint dictatorship of the proletariat of the oppressed nations.

Notes:

1. "Katrina's official death toll tops 1,000," 22 September 2005, <http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/09/22/katrina.impact/index.html>
2. " 'Rita scares us to death'," 21 September 2005, <http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/09/21/katrina.recovery/index.html>
3. "Body hunt turns up children, the elderly," 22 September 2005, <http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/09/22/katrina.bodies.ap/index.html>
4. "Poll shows racial divide on storm response," 12 September 2005, [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-09-12-katrina-poll\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-09-12-katrina-poll_x.htm)

# The rescuers, where were they?

By [mim3@mim.org](mailto:mim3@mim.org)  
September 2005

Now that people are dead, Amerikans launch a door-to-door search in New Orleans and the region for corpses. Rescuers explain now that “drastic situations” require the use of force to break down doors.(1) When the living needed door-to-door help in a “drastic situation” before Katrina, there was nothing to be found but “prayer” from George W. Bush, and fear of “socialism” if the government did too much.

Truth be told, those fearing that the mayor had no authority to order an evacuation never mind do house-to-house searches have a point under capitalism. The reason “privacy” is so important under capitalism is that the government is so corrupted by exploiter and oppressor interests. It is right to fear large organizations like governments, and it’s just to protect “privacy” rights under capitalism where so-called special interests (different exploiter and oppressor interests) are the rule.

Yet, even the supposed benefits of avoiding so-called big-government socialism with regard to Katrina are false. We at MIM can tell the people of New Orleans where the U.S. Government was. Some full-time agents were doing things like participating in Internet discussion groups with MIM and other activists. Some are working on turning the lives of MIM and others into those of third-class citizens. A considerable number are working on reasons why prisoners should not receive MIM and other political literature, and let’s not forget secret operations at libraries in the name of the Patriot Act — and that’s just to mention law enforcement, people who think they work for a living but don’t know

better because of the current political climate in Amerika.

One National Guard said that the “only terrorist in New Orleans” is Katrina.(2) Yet the FBI and CIA did not agree: they were busy salvaging their files on people in New Orleans and looking for people to arrest. Meanwhile, while Rita landed, FBI agents surrounded Puerto Rican nationalists allegedly “guilty” of stealing a few million in 1983 for their revolutionary cause. CNN called them “terrorists.”(3) Puerto Rico is not a U.S. state yet; people on the island cannot vote in U.S. elections (without moving to the Mainland) and Puerto Rico (Boricua) is still a colony, but a huge FBI operation was in effect at the time Rita hit Texas and Louisiana. Repressing the anti-colonial struggle in Puerto Rico was first priority, Rita second.

One writer also pointed out the perverse profiteers of Katrina: some people secretly took out life insurance policies on people about to die and then helped them die. That was added incentive for the crackers to keep Blacks out of safe neighborhoods.

The perfectly legal practice of “dead peasants insurance” would not be possible under socialism. Under capitalism, people can take out life insurance policies on others and then collect and use the cash. Extreme right-wing reporters for Drudge and the Moonies originated these reports in connection to Katrina.(4)

At the same time, there was a small minority of heroes working on the situation in Katrina and its aftermath. The small minority of heroes had many unnecessary obstacles — above all the obstacle of not knowing they are good communist material who need a communist system to do their duty the best that they can.

Bu\$h’s activist supporters say that the mayor of New Orleans did not evacuate people by bus because of the cost of overtime and also because one-third of the bus staff had fled Katrina anyway. Yet, the infighting among reactionaries only lays bare the evil of the overall capitalist system: whether it was the mayor who had no money for buses or Bu\$h who did not spend money on planes, the cost should not have been a factor in saving the people of the New Orleans region. That consideration is the fault of capitalism, not any particular politician trying to blame another individual.

The heroes had the costs situation to deal with and they also had the fact that the New Orleans police force abandoned their people: comrades can be in short supply. Capitalist “law enforcement” can stay motivated to enforce oppression, but when it comes to a real experiment of nature, we find out who really “serves” the public. In ordinary times, propaganda clouds perceptions, so in a way we can be thankful that Katrina revealed the truth; albeit at great cost in lives devalued by Amerikans.

Days after MIM Notes pointed it out, mainstream media also attacked resume-padders leading the rescue efforts. So the heroes had these problems to handle — and so it will always be for the foreseeable future in Amerika.

The political problem is that the people who wanted to lead an altruistic effort, the tiny minority of people with the will to sacrifice their lives to save others’ lives, the people who wanted to spend money to save people — these people were not in charge. Resume-padders and profiteering scum were in charge. So at bottom, the problem is political, even though Katrina itself may seem apolitical.

The revolution is in the self-interest of the oppressed, but even leaders from the revolutionary masses must be willing and allowed to act contrary to their personal interests. It is only with MIM Thought that we will have a government led by the altruistic minority. In life-and-death questions, it is absolutely key that their will and role come into full play. Some questions are good for popularity contests in Amerika — but life-and-death questions of government are not. When the Amerikan public realizes that, it will be ready to have MIM in power. Not everyone has to be an altruistic communist for an altruistic minority to run society and have a hugely positive impact.

Notes:

1. “Rita scares us to death,” 21 September 2005, <http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/09/21/katrina.recovery/index.html>
  2. Henry Schuster, “Katrina ‘the terrorist,’” 26 September 2005, <http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/09/21/schuster.column/index.html>
  3. “FBI agent wounded in Puerto Rico shootout,” 24 September 2005, [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-09-24-agent-wounded\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-09-24-agent-wounded_x.htm)
  4. Liz Pulliam Weston, “Does your boss want you dead?” <http://moneycentral.msn.com/content/Insurance/P64954.asp>
- The Katrina angle on this came from a right-wing reporter quoting Moonies among others who apparently did not understand what an indictment of capitalism it involved:
- Judi McLeod and David Hawkins, “Al Gore & friends in eye of the storm,” 13 September 2005, <http://www.canadafreepress.com/2005/cover091305.htm>

## Some Katrina survivors to be deported

By HC116  
September 22, 2005

From [mimnotes.info](http://mimnotes.info)

Reactionaries have been calling for undocumented migrants to be deported to free up jobs for Hurricane Katrina survivors, a great many of whom are Black. This proposal has gained some currency despite (or perhaps because of) the fact that white supremacists are calling for the same thing. That even open racists are backing this proposal should be a clue as to its true nature. There are also calls to seize the assets and housing of undocumented migrants and give them to hurricane survivors.

This attempt to pit Black people against Latin American as well as African and Caribbean migrants is an example of a long-standing tactic of anti-migrant white nationalists who want to co-opt oppressed-nation people in the united States into supporting the imperialist pig repression of migrants. They pander to the First World chauvinism of people in

the u.s. internal semi-colonies to generate support for Euro-Amerikan domination.

The deeply reactionary, fascist-leaning calls to take jobs from migrants by force now coincide with possible deportations of Hurricane Katrina survivors who are undocumented migrants. The El Paso Times yesterday reported that three undocumented migrants without criminal records were ordered to appear for deportation hearings. There were many documented and undocumented Latin American migrants in New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina, particularly from Mexico and Honduras. Many are living in fear and uncertainty right now.

The U.S. Government said on September 6th that, for 45 days, it would not punish employers for hiring hurricane survivors who couldn’t show that they were “legal.” Of course, this did not necessarily mean that the government wouldn’t go after undocumented migrants. As worded, the declaration had nothing to do with the government

“protecting” undocumented migrants from its own repressive wrath. A few weeks ago, Mexican President Vicente Fox said that the U.S. Government had promised (in Fox’s words) that “those who were not documented at the time will not be subject to any pressure or persecution whatsoever.” Fox has apparently turned out to be a liar in this respect, and advocates for migrants and their families are calling for the U.S. Government to refrain from deporting hurricane survivors who are undocumented migrants.

The imperialists and their mouthpieces have encouraged undocumented migrants to ignore the risks and seek help from u.s. authorities after Katrina, but now some of them are being repressed for doing so. Underlying this is an Amerikans-first sentiment — both in the sense of serving Amerikans before anyone else, and in the sense of being Amerikan before anything else. The disturbing (at best shamelessly pragmatic) rhetoric of

“American citizens, not refugees” has shaped much of the controversy over the media’s use of the word “refugee” with reference to people affected by Hurricane Katrina, and now we are seeing its ugly and utterly reactionary consequences. “American” patriotism has exposed itself as white nationalism, even toward Black Hurricane Katrina survivors who are legal U.S. citizens.

Mimnotes.info reported on August 31st that white supremacists and other virulent white nationalists were at that time already complaining about Black hurricane survivors’ arriving in areas occupied by Euro-Amerikans. Now, there is a report of an actual exclusion of a “90 per cent black” group of evacuees from “idle land” in Estherwood, Louisiana, whose population is about 95% whites.(5) Estherwood is a few hours from New Orleans by road, but still in Louisiana. Local officials objected to the relocation, citing concerns about inadequate infrastructure to support the displaced

# Heart disease, cancer now major killers in China

## Health care system inadequate, weakened by capitalist reforms

Heart disease, cancer, and stroke are now responsible for two thirds of the deaths of people over the age of 40 in China, according to a new study of 170,000 people followed throughout the 1990s.(1) This is a striking change from 50 years ago, when the leading killers were infectious diseases such as pneumonia and tuberculosis. In 1957 heart disease, cancer, and stroke combined accounted for 17% of deaths.(1)

The relative increase in deaths from chronic disease is in part due to the decrease in infectious disease. People are now living long enough to get diseases that occur later in life, like cancer and heart disease. Other demographic changes also play a role: more people are living in cities, more are leading sedentary lifestyles, and more are smoking—especially men. The profit-driven economic and health policies of the current Chinese government both contribute to the problem of chronic disease, and make it more difficult to address the problem.

The decline in infectious diseases is largely the result of energetic public health policies adopted by the Communist government after victory in the 1949 revolution, up to Deng Xiaoping's capitalist restoration in 1976. The Communists placed primary emphasis on preventive measures, such as improving sanitation, vaccination, and controlling pests such as the snails that carry the schistosomiasis parasite.(2) The government also heavily invested in medical infrastructure and education, sectors the Nationalist government had neglected. For example, in 1949 there were 430 hospitals and nine maternity and child care centers for all of China; by 1957 there were over 4100 hospitals and over 4500 child care centers.(3) As a result, life expectancy in China quickly doubled, from 25 in 1949 to 50 in 1957.(4)

However, Deng Xiaoping's capitalist economic reforms have placed these health gains in danger. In 1975, 85% of the rural population and almost all of the urban population had medical insurance. But Deng and his cronies dismantled the rural communes in the name of private enterprise, and with the communes went the health insurance. By 1998, 87% of the rural population and 44% of the urban population had to pay all medical expenses themselves.

As a result, one survey found that 41% of those who were referred to the hospital for care did not go there, because they were afraid they could not pay hospital fees.(4)

The Dengists' profit-driven development schemes have also shredded safety and environmental protections, and encouraged the profitable tobacco industry. Accidents are the fourth leading cause of death among Chinese men.(1) Air pollution has increased to the point where six of China's biggest cities are among the most polluted in the world, and respiratory diseases have also increased.(3) Major sources of fresh water have been polluted by industrial waste and pesticides. Residents complain that the Huai river, which supplies the drinking water for about 200,000,000 people, can run "black, like soy sauce, with a lot of foam. It has a noxious smell." Over the last fifteen years 118 people from the 2,500-person village of Huangmenying have reportedly died of cancer—about 7% more than the national average.(1,10)

Cigarette consumption in China increased three times between 1977 and 1997.(5) China is now the biggest producer of cigarettes. The largest Chinese tobacco firm, Hongta Group, earned \$4.2 billion last year.(8) State-run tobacco companies cooperate with foreign firms like Phillip Morris, Gallaher, and Japan Tobacco to produce brands like Marlboro both for domestic consumption and export.(3,6-7) First World tobacco companies look to China to offset declining demand at home.(6)

In China, about 63% of men smoke, compared to about 13% of women. The recent New England Journal of Medicine study found that cancer was the leading killer of men, and that lung cancer was the deadliest cancer among men. Men were also 1.7 times as likely to die of heart disease than women.(1) This is consistent with the fact that smoking increases the risk of both lung cancer and heart disease.

The New England Journal estimated that eliminating smoking could reduce the mortality rate among men by 10%, from 14.8 per 1,000 per year to 13.3 per 1,000 per year.(1) In a country as large as China with a male population of about 650,000,000 men, that would be 975,000 fewer deaths per year. Other researchers say that if current trends continue, more than 3,000,000 people will die from smoking every year by 2050. Even halving the number of adults who smoke could save 35,000,000 lives by the middle of

the century.(9)

Amerika no model

Responding to the New England Journal article, Robert Beaglehole from the World Health Organization "urged China to learn from the struggles of wealthier countries and develop a strategy to combat chronic diseases."(11) MIM Notes is not sure whether Beaglehole is encouraging China to copy the health care policies of exploiter countries, or subtly criticizing those policies for not effectively addressing the problems of preventable chronic disease. Certainly China has already adopted much of the Amerikan model—to the detriment of its people—placing profit above human health, making individuals pay for their own health care, cutting back funds for preventive medicine and vaccinations, etc. Large inequalities in health care have developed along urban-rural and rich-poor divides: the infant mortality rate may be 10 times higher in the countryside than in the cities.(3)

Not that the Amerikan model serves everybody living in the United States. Despite the United States spending 20 times more per person on health care than China,(12) the infant mortality rate in 2000 among US Blacks was 14.1 per 1,000 live births compared to about 5 per 1,000 in large cities like Beijing and Shanghai.(13,14) (Overall the infant mortality rate in China was 30 per 1,000—illustrating the gap between urban and rural health care.)

Although several US states have banned smoking in places of business and initiated anti-smoking public awareness campaigns, other states have frittered away fines levied on the tobacco industry for dishonest marketing on the usual graft—and the Federal government recently reduced the amount the industry had to pay to a polite slap on the wrist.

As long as the government—whether in China or the United States—upholds the capitalist principle of profit ahead of humyn needs, and as long as capitalists and their hired hacks staff the government, activists who consider basic humyn healthcare a fundamental right face an uphill and ultimately losing battle. Activists in the United States face another obstacle: the bourgeoisified white "working class" that has fetishized "choice" and recoils from anything that smells like socialism—so much so that recent, not-radical-at-all attempts to reform the US health insurance system were defeated by TV ads

that (deceptively) suggested faceless government bureaucrats would be making health care decisions for white suburbanites. God forbid, these Americans say—we'd rather the faceless accountants at the insurance company make those decisions, or go without insurance altogether.

Under socialism, production for profit will be banned, so nobody will be able to get rich off products that cause hundreds of thousands of deaths each year. Production will be organized to meet humyn needs, including basic health care. Some of the most effective preventive health measures such as vaccinations are not profitable, but quite affordable—certainly compared to all the money currently wasted on bullets and bombs dropped on Iraq and Afghanistan. Finally, the goal of socialist medicine will be to realize the Communist slogan, "from each according to her labor, to each according to her needs," so access to health care will not depend on ability to pay for it, whether you work in a machine shop or a government office, whether you live on a farm or in the city, whether you are Chinese or Iranian, Black or white.

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6. AFX Asia, 10 August 2005.

7. Asia Pulse, 31 May 2005.

8. SinoCast.com, 30 August 2005.

9. Bradbury J. World's largest study of tobacco deaths gives dire warning to China. *The Lancet*. 1998. 352:1683.

10. Reuters, 22 September 2005.

11. *The Boston Globe*, 26 September 2005.

12. [http://www.undp.org/hdr2003/indicator/indic\\_59\\_1\\_1.html](http://www.undp.org/hdr2003/indicator/indic_59_1_1.html). Accessed 03 October 2005.

13. <http://www.cdc.gov/omh/AMH/factsheets/infant.htm>. Accessed 03 October 2005.

14. *People's Daily*, 11 September 2001.

people, but the local airport commission president disagreed.

Not-in-my-backyard feelings are undoubtedly impacting Hurricane Katrina survivors, especially those who were stranded in New Orleans and relocated to Texas, and then to other States. It is well-known that the media was full of stories about States in "crisis" and "struggling" to support people displaced by Hurricane Katrina. One town's callousness toward hurricane survivors is just the tip of the iceberg of Amerikkkan indifference toward the plight of oppressed-nation people affected by the imperialism-created social disaster. One can only imagine that many Americans,

with Hurricane Rita approaching, are again more worried about gas prices than anything else.(7)

This barbaric and predatory imperialist system is not in the interests of the majority of the world's people. Blacks and migrants of different nationalities must resist the machinations of the reactionary Euro-Amerikan labor aristocracy and unite with each other and the world's exploited and oppressed in a powerful revolutionary movement to end this system. Dispossessing migrants, and attacking them for laboring as construction workers in hurricane rebuilding efforts, are a dead end and only serve fascism.

Notes

1. Louie Gilot, "Katrina immigrants ordered to deportation court," 21 September 2005, <http://www.borderlandnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050921/NEWS/509210307/1001>

2. "Notice Regarding I-9 Documentation Requirements for Hiring Hurricane Victims," 6 September 2005, <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4788>

3. [mimnotesinfo@mimnotes.info](mailto:mimnotesinfo@mimnotes.info), "Debate over 'refugee' designation reflects First World chauvinism," 9 September 2005, <http://www.mimnotes.info/news/20050909debaterefugees/>

4. Temis Tormo, "Groups Want Katrina Aid for Undocumented Immigrants," 21

September 2005, <http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/news/newsbyid.asp?id=25575&cat=Headlines&more=/news/more-news.asp>

5. Jacqui Goddard, "Katrina refugees? Not in our backyard, insists 'racist' town," 22 September 2005, <http://news.scotsman.com/international.cfm?id=1975192005>

6. "A handful of Katrina victims put in deportation," 19 September 2005, [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-09-19-immigration-katrina\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-09-19-immigration-katrina_x.htm)

7. "Gas Gouging Investigation," 21 September 2005, <http://www.wkowitz.com/index.php/news/story/p/pk/22312>

### Let's hear from the MO prisoners

Why does MIM not document the injustices and unfairness going on in the Missouri Department of Corrections in your Under Lock & Key section?

In struggle, a Missouri prisoner, 12 August, 2005

**MIM responds:** Any time you see MIM Notes failing to report on something we should, you can assume the problem is a lack of people doing the work to get the story covered. Instead of asking why does MIM not do something, use that stamp to send us an article you've written. Prisoners: Under Lock & Key is your publication, its pages are here for your submissions.

### AZ DOC: churning out revolutionaries

I would've written sooner, but we just switched our store process over to a private company, and we were unable to shop for a few weeks so stamps were low.

When I came to prison, I was barely 18 years old and I wasn't too interested in world politics. Now, 14 years later, after reading and following the world news, I've come to realize my views and theories are almost the same as in your articles. I've always felt the U.S. was a bullying imperialist country just getting fat on other weaker and Third World countries. The U.S. is like the conglomerate companies using sweatshops, just on a much higher scale.

I know you said books were reserved for those who may be able to help in the movement, and that's understandable. I wish my skills were a little better to offer you revolutionary fighters a lil help. I am enclosing five stamps. It ain't much, but when I get more I will be sure to send more to the cause.

Right now I too am in one of those Super Max prisons, supposedly a Security Threat Group (STG) member. But they are so full of shit. If you guys can state court cases that other convicts are using to fight our case in the courts to overturn this government's right to keep us locked down indefinitely, that would help.

—an Arizona prisoner, 28 August, 2005

**MIM responds:** Stamps are as good as cash to us, and we value your financial contributions every bit as highly as we do your writing efforts. We're sending back an issue of MIM Theory, with study questions and a guide to forming an effective study group — just one more thing you can do in exchange for more revolutionary lit from MIM.

And to the prisoners engaged in court struggles: please include case citations where you can when you report on your work for Under Lock & Key, this will help other prisoners benefit from your hard work.

### Ad-seg mental health unit denied yard and basic necessities

I have recently been housed inside of an ad-seg unit where they specifically house prisoners who are classified as CCCMS. This basically means that everyone over here is on psychopathic medication and needs to be monitored but nobody is straight up nuts.

But here is the problem, we receive yard for approximately 5 hours once every 2 weeks. The rest of the time we are confined to the cells for 24 hours a day. California Code of Regulations 3343 (h) states that inmates assigned to special purpose housing units will be permitted yard no less than 1 hour per day, 5 days a week. They started group yards for crips and bloods only and now while they receive their regular amount of yard, everyone else is stuck in these cells for 2 week stretches.

# Under Lock & Key

## News from Prisons & Prisoners

Not only that but there is no laundry exchange for our underclothes and we are forced to wash the same laundry by hand because there is no program for our laundry to be washed either. We have filed 602 after 602 and they are not being responded to.

We don't receive everything that is supposed to go inside of our lunches, the showers aren't cleaned, we don't receive cleaning supplies at all and we are ignored by the cops that work over here. I've heard men banging and screaming until they were exhausted only to be ignored while cops sit inside their office, play dominoes, eat chips and collect over there.

This prison is violating our human rights simply so that it can provide more overtime for corrections officers. We are being "stored" within this place while they label it "ad-seg over flows." And what makes it even worse is the fact that this building is 95% African American prisoners and there are no Black cops working over here what so ever. These people are taking pleasure in the mental torture they are inflicting on the inmates that are being housed in this place. Because there are primarily Black prisoners here, they don't want to do anything for us.

These pigs all come across as though they take great pleasure on mentally torturing these men in here. It seems as if they themselves are bitter. One of them walks around yelling at these prisoners that are so mentally broken that they can only smile and put their heads down while he yells at them and humiliates them.

I could go on telling you about the sick things and the blatant neglect for pages. None of these cops have any kind of training dealing with people that are part of this mental health program, and I can only see a person becoming worse after having spent time in this place. But the main issue I believe is the one about yard. Our voices are just not being heard and our rights are straight out being violated.

- a California prisoner, August 2005

**MIM responds:** We are under no illusion that Black cops would treat the people better than white cops. Black pigs are traitors to their nation and should not be seen as allies.

### Punishment for refusing to double cell

I am currently housed at Pelican Bay state prison. I arrived here in May 2005 and appeared before an all white classification committee who, without having violated any rule/regulation elected to place me on privilege group "c" (I'm an American Indian), for refusing to be double celled. As a result of being on privilege group "c", my TV set was not issued to me, it was confiscated, and I've been allowed access to a small concrete yard twice since May 25, 2005, for one hour each time. I'm not allowed access to telephone, dayroom. I'm not allowed to receive quarterly packages, not allowed to work, or attend vocational programs. Although I would be only allowed to spend \$45, a quarter of the maximum amount (\$180) at canteen if I went, it's always assured that "c" status prisoners get no canteen. On July 13, 2005 I was

removed from my general population housing, all my property (legal materials, books, and hygiene items) were confiscated, and I was housed in the orientation/ad-seg overflow/contagious disease unit, for being on "c" status.

After being placed in that unit, I found out that there were four African Americans housed there for refusing to double cell, according to the white administrators. While housed there we were denied everything, our personal property, access to hygiene items, exercise yard, canteen, regular reading materials from library, physical access to law library, access to religious services, access to clean laundry, linen, and the opportunity to exchange it or have it laundered (washed), visits, etc. All this without having violated any rule/regulation, or being afforded all the procedural safeguards afforded to those housed in administrative segregation and SHU (security housing unit) for disciplinary reasons.

Our placement in that unit, which is more restricted and isolated than ad-seg and SHU, was the practice of an underground policy by Pelican Bay officials, as a punitive measure while circumventing all procedural safeguards, due process. On August 3, I was re-housed in general population, not out of justice, but due to officials needing my bed space to house inmates involved in a racial riot. Since July 13, 2005 until today official refuse to issue me my personal property alleging they do not know where it's at.

- a California prisoner, August 2005

### Financial fraud at Soledad?

Is the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) committing fraud against the California tax payers, especially at Correctional Training Facility . Soledad?

Recently (June 24 and July 8, 2005) CTF's J.M. Wiggins, a correctional captain, wrote memorandums authorizing suspension of inmate programs for "staff training."

The California taxpayer, through legislative authority of Pen. Code 2700, authorizes money to be afforded to prisons for inmate pay. However, during "staff training" periods, during inmate program periods (e.g. work, school, trade), limited inmate pay is dispersed. Thus, CDCR "staff training" enables the prisons to receive money, for inmate pay, that does not appear to be spent according to law. It is inevitable that prisons/California legislature project inmate pay budgets for full months of pay. It isn't known whether the CDCR reimburses the Cal State treasurer for this alleged fraud.

Now that the state has re-recognized rehabilitation as part of the purpose of prisons (e.g. Senate Bill 737), how is it that the prisons are allowed to impose "staff training" during time periods where inmates are supposed to be participating in rehabilitative activities?

Compounding the alleged fraud is that teachers/instructors are being paid to educate even though CTF prison administrators will not let inmates out of their cell/dorms because of "staff training." An examination should also probe "staff training" days occurring on CCPOA/retirements/holiday activities. Inmate programs have even been suspended for

CDCR promotional tests.

In the opinion of this writer, any correctional peace office should not be at a prison, responsible for care and custody of inmates, if not trained already.

- a California prisoner, July 2005

### Retaliation at Pelican Bay

I'm writing to tell you of the recent retaliation I received from the officer's in the Pelican Bay SHU.

About two months ago the cops searched the unit I am in and when they got done searching, they took my TV. The officer that searched my cell said that I had all three TV seals on my TV broken. There are a couple of things that are wrong here.

First of all, I have a clear TV with no speaker, so there is no reason for me to go into my TV. Second, just two weeks before my TV was taken, the floor officer in my unit had searched my cell and found nothing wrong with my TV seal.

Well this is what I believe the reason was for them to take my TV. The day before I got a letter from a lawyer asking me some questions about an inmate that got the shit beaten out

## 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.

of him in a different unit I was in about two years ago. I don't know really, the real reason for them beating him to a bloody mess. I wrote back to him, telling him that I don't know much but I'll be willing to help him.

Well I guess the cops love it when another inmates gives up info on an inmate, but when it's about them (no matter how little the info) they don't like it.

When the officer took my TV I asked the officer on the floor what's going on. "He looked into it and said that somebody took their fingernail and cut the seals, it just happened to be a female officer who took my TV.

I had to wait 25 days to go to a 115 hearing "to plead my case." I told the officer at the hearing that I believe the cop must have broken my seals while searching my cell because I didn't break them. He said he looked at the TV and the seals were broken, he also looked inside my TV and found nothing wrong, so he kept asking me why I wanted to go inside my TV. I told the cop, man I didn't break my seals. I've had my TV for five years, I have to be a fool to mess with my TV while I'm in the SHU. He found me guilty for damaging state property because the seals belong to the state, and took 90 days of canteen.

The funny part is after he put in all the paper work for finding me guilty he told me "I don't believe a word you said to me, I think you're lying to me, I believe you wanted to get into your TV and now you wanted to put it all on the officer."

All this trouble because I received a letter from a lawyer and wrote back to him. What's even crazier is that the lawyer never came to see me or wrote back to me. We'll see if these cops try to pull a fast one on me again for writing this letter. There is only one good thing that came of all this whole mess. I started to read more. I won't be a part of these mind games these cops try to play on us inmates. There is nothing more for me to say except that I will continue to keep up the struggle.

- A prisoner at Pelican Bay, California, September 2005

### Outside protest needed

In your MIM Notes #317 you printed a subject that I expressed myself about "escape attempt leads to repression" in which I wish to point out that a grievance log #CAL-A-05-0029 was filed and denied at the first and second levels by the corruptors, which is not a surprise to me at all.

Their claims to COs T. Galvan, K. Williams and their superiors Aguirre, Duran, Price and other neither violated departmental policy nor laws is false and fabricated statements.

So since it's time to turn up the heat, I implore all your civilian readers to log their complaints with the Governor at the State Capital Building, Sacramento California 95814

and the State Personnel Board at 801 Capital Mall, Sacramento, CA 94244 in regard to these retaliatory style cell-searches and illegal confiscation of prisoner's personal property behind the foiled escape of two inmates with keys.

- a California prisoner, July 2005

### Censorship victory leads to more censorship

It was MIM Theory #2 and #3 that was denied. The reason that was given to me was that it (MT2/3) was sent in by a private party, and not by a "regular book vendor."

However, this of course is incorrect. Never once has this happened to me with a thing you guys have ever sent me! Unfortunately, ever since we won an appeal against the "free staff" in the mailroom, we have been experiencing very heavy censorship. The appeal we inmates were able to win was concerning the withholding of our mail for no apparent reason at all, except of course for the sole purpose of trying to play psychological games with certain individuals. Anyway, the warden has promised to add some very much-needed oversight to the mailroom, and has also said he would properly notify us if any of our mail is to be delayed.

Well, I guess the mailroom staff didn't like that too much, hence the heavy censorship.

Due to our limited communication with other inmates, I've only heard of three to four cases of censorship, not including myself. However, the cases I've heard about were very disturbing to say the least.

One case involved the disposal of an individual's personal mail without a chance to challenge it through the appeals system. Another case involved the censorship of a predominantly African newspaper. The reason given to this individual is still somewhat unclear. They refused to give a specific reason. But I can almost guarantee it's racially motivated. By the way, it's been close to a year since my "validation packet" was submitted to Sacramento for approval or disapproval. However, they have yet to respond to it one way or another, which leads me to believe Sacramento has rejected my gang validation. My regular S.H.U. term was up nine months ago. I go in front of committee in a few weeks. So I'm interested to see how or what excuse they give me in order to keep me back here in this damned dungeon.

Oh, and by the way, I'm unable to send you guys the "censorship slip" that was given to me. The reason for that is because the censorship slip has to be attached to the appeal, and we're not allowed copies until the final level of appeal. However, here goes another slip that was given to me. It's just basically a notice to let me know my appeal is being processed. Once I receive the final outcome I'll notify you guys.

-a California prisoner, July 2005

### Prisoner work is always open

We are currently on lock down here in SATF State Prison in Corcoran California. Our oppressors have said the reason for this lockdown is because of a kite an inmate handed over personally.

The pigs say the kite said that white and Mexican inmates were supposed to stab the pigs, so they cancel visits for whites and Mexicans. By six o'clock I had to get my Heb C medication, now I was expecting to be cuffed up being white and all, the door opened and I just walked to medical with no escort. And on my way, I saw many whites and Mexicans working.

Now what's funny is we can't get visits for being a threat to staff, but yet they will slave drive us.

- a California prisoner, August 2005

### Racist Minos

By slowpoke  
August 2005, Corcoran SHU

In the state of California  
They say 3 strikes you're out  
If you don't know what that means  
Let me explain what the game's about  
Now strikes are known as felonies  
And they could cause some strife  
With 2 you're going to prison  
With 3 you're going for life  
This law will break up families  
And uncover society's fears  
The streets will fill with blood  
And little children's tears  
I say the streets will fill with blood  
With this law you choose  
A two strike criminal facing life  
Has nothing to lose  
And what about all the children  
And all the parents they have lost  
Suicide and welfare lines  
Are just a fragment of the cost  
And what about all the prisons  
Filled beyond their max  
It's those that voted for this law  
The government will tax  
This law was passed in ignorance  
By the people of this state  
I pray to God that it is corrected  
Before it is too late



## 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.

## **The Constant Gardener is stylish thriller with nuanced politics**

By MIM, September 25, 2005

### **“The Constant Gardener”**

Directed by Fernando Meirelles  
Focus Features; R / UK:15, 2005

*What kind of times are these, where  
A conversation about trees is almost a crime  
Because it keeps so many atrocities silent!*  
—Bertolt Brecht,  
“To those who come after,” 1939

“The Constant Gardener” is one of those thrillers where all the usual mystery and mayhem gets traced back to a few people who benefit from the suffering of many (think of “the Company” in the Alien movies). What makes “The Constant Gardener” stand out is that “the few” is not restricted to a handful of fat-cat bosses and corrupt politicians; it includes the majority of the population of First World countries, who implicitly consent to the shenanigans carried out in their name. “The many” are the oppressed masses of Africa.

“Constant Gardener” follows a British Diplomat (Ralph Fiennes) as he unravels his wife Tessa’s murder. He learns she had been investigating a multinational pharmaceutical company that was testing a new drug in Nairobi, with the support of the British government. She discovered that the tests were a sham: those receiving the drug were not told what it was for; they were lured into taking the drug by false promises of free health care; and when they died from the drug’s side effects, the company and the British hushed it up. Billions of dollars of profit are at stake, and just before Tessa (Rachel Weisz) can go public with her findings, she is murdered.

As in the best thrillers, the details have a ring of truth. As MIM Notes has repeatedly reported, imperialist-country pharmaceutical companies do in fact test drugs on Third World people, putting trial participants at great risk even though they themselves may not benefit from the drugs being tested (either because they cannot afford them or because the drugs do not address their most pressing health needs).<sup>(1)</sup> Imperialist-country researchers have used bribery, deception and false promises of general health care to lure participants into medical research.<sup>(2)</sup> One of the British characters in “The Constant Gardener” sums it up, with appropriate outrage: “they” are expendable, cheap raw materials to be used to improve “our” lives.

And here, “our” is rather broad. Of course, the pharmaceutical company stands to make billions marketing its drug in the First World, using the bogus African trials to make it appear safer than it actually is. Of course British and African officials get rich off of company bribes. But beyond that, “The Constant Gardener” hints that the First World working class benefits from and consents to the whole shady business. An official says the British government got involved as part of a quid-pro-quo with the pharmaceutical company: the company builds a new plant providing 15,000 jobs in a depressed working-class district, and the government helps them with their trials. This jibes with what MIM has said about the First World working class for years: it is a labor aristocracy, a junior partner in the exploitation of the Third World. The film leaves it open whether the British government is more interested in making scads of money or in pandering to labor-aristocracy voters.

Aside from the financial gains for both First World capitalists and workers, imperialist-country people stand to benefit from the medical knowledge that Third World people are paying for with their lives. The Third World takes all the risks in developing the new drug, but it is clear they will share none of the benefits, as the drug will be far too expensive for them.

Under socialism, the elimination of the profit motive makes it easier for the government to ensure that medical research is undertaken in a safe and equitable manner, so that risks and rewards are fairly distributed. Socialism also guarantees everybody a job, so there is no need to worry that tough health or environmental regulations will throw tens of thousands out of work.

While the film takes the typical if-white-people-didn’t-see-it-it-didn’t-happen approach to Third World oppression, it also aims to unsettle imperialist-country audiences, to make them question whether they are part of the problem or part of the solution. All of Tessa’s “friends” come to realize that they ignored the danger she was in out of self-interest: some because they were in on the pharmaceutical deal, others (like Tessa’s husband, the gardener of the title) just because they had their heads too far up their own petty asses. Tessa’s husband comes to understand and respect his wife’s work, and takes it up as his own.

What makes the callousness and inactivity of the majority of First Worlders even more sad and aggravating than “The Constant Gardener” suggests is that the information Tessa dig’s up is not that secret. A few hours reading the morning newspapers or browsing the Internet will turn up dozens of stories on how First World pharmaceutical companies exacerbate health problems in Africa. And for the most part nobody is sending armed goons after those who post this information on their blogs. It’s easier for pharmaceutical companies to let it go unnoticed by a First World public that is not paying attention, while taking out slick ads on NPR proclaiming better health through chemistry.

Notes:

1. MIM Notes no. 264, 15 August 2002; MIM Notes no. 92, September 1994; MIM’s review of Betsy Hartmann’s *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs*, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/books/gender/hartmann.html>

2. See the “Body Hunters” series published in the *Washington Post* in 2000, e.g., *Washington Post*, 20 December 2000, p. A01.

## **Phony pseudo-feminism supports reactionary fear-mongering in *Flightplan* and *Red Eye***

By HC116, October 2, 2005  
From [mimnotes.info](http://mimnotes.info)

“Flightplan”; Directed by Robert Schwentke; Buena Vista Pictures; PG-13 / UK:12A; 2005

“Red Eye”; Directed by Wes Craven; DreamWorks SKG; PG-13 / UK:12A; 2005

*Spoiler warning*

Among the many similarities being drawn between the two “airplane” thrillers “Red Eye” and “Flightplan,” an obvious one that is getting little attention is the fact both movies suggest white people would only commit a crime on an airplane to get a large sum of money. In different ways, these post-9/11

movies do go out of their way not to portray an Arab as a terrorist or hijacker. Indeed, “Red Eye” has been criticized for being too politically correct; although, the movie hints that Cillian Murphy’s employers are vaguely Eastern European. “Flightplan” even toys with the minds of racist moviegoers at a number of points, before revealing that the harassed Arab passengers aren’t the villains and even exposing the protagonist, Kyle Pratt, played by Jodie Foster, as prejudiced. But this movie does not rise above the most superficial treatment of the political issues underlying Amerikan moviegoers’ fear of airplane hijacking. And both movies, diverting attention to how they portray (or don’t portray) Arabs, East Europeans, and Africans, distract attention from how they portray Euro-Amerikans and British people. This is true in terms of both class and gender.

“If someone wants to send a big brash message, that’s their business.” The terrorist operative in “Red Eye” doesn’t reveal who his employer is. He excuses himself by implying that he’s just doing his job. The villain in “Flightplan” just wants money, millions of dollars of it. Both are either Amerikan or British white males who are portrayed as greedy and unprincipled. One would expect these characters to be just as dislikable as “ideologically” motivated terrorists, but they are strangely less frightening than villains in some previous movies about hijackings and airline-related terrorism. The pitting of strong wimmin against ultimately weak men is another thing in common between “Flightplan” and “Red Eye.”

At least one prominent reactionary movie reviewer on the Internet ranted about how both movies supposedly “emasculate” their male characters by juxtaposing them with strong wimmin protagonists. The protagonists are both Euro-Amerikan adult wimmin. One (Lisa Reisert) is a manager of a big hotel. The other is an engineer. Both seem to be successful. Much has been made, by openly sexist commentators and others (including people considering themselves anti-sexist but opposing the radical transformation of society and its structures to end wimmin’s oppression), about how the strong and level-headed wimmin protagonists refuse to “give in” — as if such strength in wimmin is either unexpected or undesirable. Male moviegoers’ discomfort with the portrayals of wimmin in “Flightplan” and “Red Eye” shows that they have no business pretending to be the vanguard of wimmin’s liberation in Third World countries, but if these portrayals are what pass for feminism in imperialist countries, then these movies show how bankrupt pseudo-feminism is.

In “Red Eye,” the glorification of a strong, heterosexual bourgeois Euro-Amerikan womyn gives legitimacy to fear-mongering about attacks against U.S. Government officials. The terrorist target in “Red Eye” is the family of fictitious Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security William Keefe. In “Flightplan,” Jodie Foster’s character plays a role in encouraging moviegoers to imagine new ways of being victimized by terrorists. Nevermind that Amerikans are much more likely to die from airline accidents than hijackings.<sup>(3)</sup> The white-people-can-be-hijackers-too theme is a pretext for reinforcing Amerikans’ obsession with terrorism-related deaths, rather than preventable obesity- and tobacco-related deaths, or Amerikan casualties in imperialist wars, for instance.

Even in its pseudo-feminist aspect, “Flightplan” reinforces sexism. In showing that Kyle is not really the grief-stricken

mother whom she is made out to be by fellow airline passengers and a therapist who happens to be onboard, the movie does not really deal with the stereotype of mothers as being prone to mental illness. The movie’s shying away from these and other stereotypes only reinforce them more. In addition, in a moment of weakness, Kyle is seen pleading for guidance from the corpse of her deceased husband in a casket in the cargo hold. It is a living nightmare with Kyle’s daughter inexplicably lost on the airplane. “Red Eye” also resonates with angst about family afflictions; the father of Rachel McAdams’ character is divorced.

In “Flightplan,” the backdrop of the action on the luxuriously fitted aircraft consists of attractive stewardesses, and there is airline Captain Rich, played by celebrity Sean Bean. In “Red Eye,” the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security is played by former underwear model Jack Scalia, and even the villain played by Jackson Rippner has sex appeal. “Flightplan” and “Red Eye” do nothing to disturb the pornographic and romantic culture on which much of the oppression of women is based, and there is simply nothing subversive about their indulgence in this culture either. Although Lisa in “Red Eye” fights the attractive Cillian Murphy, she in essence risks her life only to dump the pretty-boy terrorist for the oh-so-helpless hunk Homeland Security Deputy Secretary.

There is nothing necessarily progressive at this point in time about the portrayal of strong privileged Euro-Amerikan wimmin. Just portraying strong wimmin characters in itself can be non-threatening to patriarchy, but Hollywood has yet to come out with a positive movie about oppressed-nation wimmin righteously putting their lives on the line to fight the terrorist imperialists and their lackeys, or even a white womyn doing the same thing (except in a symbolic way as in “The Matrix”).

“Flightplan” and “Red Eye,” which have been praised by bourgeois movie reviewers for their realism, are ways for imperialist-country populations to fantasize about heroically fighting terrorists without dealing with uncomfortable questions that threaten their privileged positions, not least of which is their powerful position relative to children and youth. One airline passenger in “Flightplan” remarks that all child passengers should be made to wear cowbells. This is irritating when Kyle is frantically searching for her daughter (Marlene Lawston), but is unsurprising in a movie that romanticizes parenthood and motherhood and shamelessly plays off of child abduction fears to stir up fears of terrorism. In real life, the overwhelming majority of moviegoers will never have to deal with protecting their children from hijackers, but many will leave the theater with a renewed sense of jingoism against “terrorist” countries and a paranoia that “even” white people can be hijackers.

Notes:

1. “Flightplan (2005),” <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0408790/>

2. “Red Eye (2005/I),” <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0421239/>

3. “Table 10. Accidents, Fatalities, and Rates, 1985 through 2004, U.S. General Aviation,” <http://www.ntsb.gov/aviation/Table10.htm>

<http://www.tkb.org/IncidentTacticModule.jsp>

4. Borys Kit, “‘Flightplan,’ ‘Red Eye’ welcomed at airports,” 17 August 2005, [http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/thr/crafts/feature\\_display.jsp?vnu\\_content\\_id=1001018255](http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/thr/crafts/feature_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1001018255)