

# MIM Notes



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The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

## Bu\$h compares 'Islamic radicalism' with communism

By HC116

October 6, 2005

From *mimnotes.info*

President Bu\$h, in a speech this morning before supporters of the openly counterrevolutionary National Endowment for Democracy, compared the so-called war on terror with the struggle against communism. "Some call this evil Islamic radicalism; others, militant Jihadism; still others, Islamo-fascism. Whatever it's called, this ideology is very different from the religion of Islam." Bu\$h later contradicted himself, identifying the "radicalism" or "fascism" as a tendency in Islam while comparing it with communism: "The murderous ideology of the Islamic radicals is the great challenge of our new century. Yet, in many ways, this fight resembles the struggle against communism in the last century." Bu\$h specifically named Stalin, "the gulags," and the Cultural Revolution. Drawing from the Liberal distinction between democracy and totalitarianism, and paying lip service to poor people "exploited" by radicals, Bu\$h artfully drew several comparisons between communism and what he called "Islamic radicalism."

I'm not going to run down all the reasons why Bu\$h was being a hypocrite when he said both communists and Islamic radicals had "ambitions of imperial domination." However, Maoists do take responsibility for excess deaths during the Cultural Revolution. By Chinese anti-Maoists' own estimates, Mao Zedong and the "Gang of Four" were directly accountable for 34,000 deaths, not millions. Mao made self-criticism for unacceptable killing during the Cultural Revolution even though he ordered that the Cultural Revolution be non-violent. Even Maoists who weren't alive during the Cultural Revolution take responsibility for these deaths as a way of recognizing mistakes and drawing from historical experience.

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## Toledo residents resist nazis, police

October 19, 2005

From *mimnotes.info*

On October 15, the Minneapolis, Minnesota-based Amerikan neo-Nazi organization "National Socialist Movement," one of the largest neo-Nazi groups in the country, gathered to march in a predominantly Black neighborhood in Toledo, Ohio. Hundreds of people confronted the brazen fascists and also the police who were protecting the fascists. Protesters successfully forced the fascist activists to cancel their march. The counter-protest against the nazis eventually turned into a protest against the mostly white police force that occupies this part of Toledo. Hundreds of people

took to the streets, attacking the pigs, cop cars, media vehicles, and one military recruiter's vehicle. (1) More than 100 people —

activists and residents, but not nazis — were arrested.

In an interview on "Democracy Now" a few days after the protest(2), Mansour Bey, Pastor at the First Church of God, explained the complaints of the protestors: "So the people became more and more agitated because they felt three things. Number one, the neo-Nazis should have never been allowed to come into their neighborhood. Number two, they were angry at the mayor for, again, making the statement that the neo-Nazis had the right for freedom of speech to say what they were saying in their neighborhood. And thirdly, even when they were told that the neo-Nazis were gone, then they wanted to know, well, how come the police are still here then? How come they're still occupying our neighborhood?" Bey is far from revolutionary — in fact, he went out of his way to condemn the counter-protesters who threw objects at the police, and he called for arrests — but this analysis is on point. So-called freedom of speech is protected at great expense for the fascists, but it is denied to those fighting

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## UNLOCK THE BOX! CONFERENCE BUILDS STRUGGLE TO SHUT DOWN CONTROL UNITS

October 8, 2005

From *mimnotes.info*

Activists representing numerous organizations, former prisoners and family members came from across California to attend an organizing conference on control units in US prisons hosted by the United Front to Abolish the Security Housing Units (SHU).

Experience with promoting the event only underscored the need to have better access to independent media. We salute Indybay.org and their Enemy Combatant Radio program for promoting Unlock the Box. However, MIM Notes was the only newspaper advertising the conference. The larger alternative papers in the area prioritized their free listing space to things like nudists for peace and the Exotic Erotic Ball blood drive. Although organizers had a hard time getting mainstream or even alternative media to advertise the conference, it was featured on KPFA's 6 o'clock news that evening in a piece that included interviews with MIM and RAIL activists.

The day long conference opened with an overview of prisons and control units by a MIM activist, some poetry and essays by a prisoner, and a rousing speech from a member of the Barrio Defense Committee who talked about the classification of her son into the SHU for his organizing work.

The MIM activist placed control units in the context of the criminal injustice system as a whole. This country has the highest imprisonment rate in the world with more than 2 million people in prison. As of December 2002 the imprisonment rate was 701 per 100,000 people. The numbers become even more frightening when broken down by race:

- Whites: 353 per 100,000
- Latinos: 895 per 100,000
- Blacks: 2,470 per 100,000

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# What is Mimnotes.info?

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

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

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## MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement  
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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.

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

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## 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.

# Parental notification law, California's Proposition 73, is a vicious attack on female youth

By  
mimnotesinfo1@mimnotes.info  
October 12, 2005  
From mimnotes.info

A proposition is on the ballot for California's upcoming November 8 special election that would require doctors to notify parents of minors who are getting abortions 48 hours before the abortions are to be performed. Doctors would be subject to lawsuits for failing to comply. There would be few exceptions to the parental notification rule, and these exceptions would be difficult to meet, some requiring minors to go through the court system. Minors who don't want to wait 48 hours would be forced to have their parent sign waivers, preapprovals. Minors who don't want to, or can't, go through their parents at all would be forced to go to juvenile court to establish their "maturity" or become legally emancipated to avoid letting their parents know about their abortions.

Supporters of Proposition 73 are quick to emphasize that the proposed amendment to the California Constitution would not require parental consent, only notification. They also point out that 30 other States already have similar laws. Supporters also suggest that since youth can't get medicine and some invasive kinds of medical care at school without parental knowledge, minors shouldn't be able to get an abortion without parental notification. The assumption, of course, is that withholding the other treatments from minors as a group is uncontroversial and okay. This infantilizing view of youth appears in Proposition 73's official summary where it allows minors to get court waivers based on maturity but implies that minors are immature by default. Adding insult to insult, the proposed amendment contains a religiously inspired definition of abortion as causing "death of the unborn child, a child conceived but not yet born," the implication being that pregnant female youth will be subjected to various threats and risks of violence and harm (by disapproving parents and unlicensed abortion providers) for the sake of saving other "children" who are embryos or fetuses.

Youth do not choose to be born into a romance, pornographic and rape culture in which wimmin and youth constantly have to deal with various pressures to have sex. Nor can youth, particularly minors, easily leave or resist this situation. In this society, even people who enjoy sex either take part in relationships that come with a lot of baggage and strings attached, or engage in and perpetuate a culture that hurts other wimmin and youth in very real and tangible ways. There are no ideal choices here, only different degrees and forms of rape; this state of thing won't go away without a radical transformation of society. To top it off, most youth don't

have access to free condoms and sex education without apology, worsening the effects of sex that is rooted in inequality. The majority of public schools in the united States already require some form of parental consent before students can get condoms, and there are calls to require parental notification and even consent prior to the dispersal of birth control.

Reactionaries want to control female youths' pregnancies, but don't make it easier for them to prevent the pregnancies in the first place. Proposition 73 and proposals like it are about control. Not content with the majority of youth already voluntarily telling a parent before obtaining an abortion, often anxiously and fearfully, the patriachs want to force the other pregnant youth to deal with their parents' objections and questioning, but poor youth may not have the means or the time to go to court to get a parental notification waiver. Meanwhile, few people are calling for adults' pregnancies to be subject to the same intensity of scrutiny by the government or the community. Of course, there are those who would like to see a blanket ban on abortions for all adult wimmin and don't pretend to support case-by-case abortions in wimmin's "best interests," but certainly nobody is calling for men's reproductive functions to be controlled. The point is not that this kind of thing should be done, but that there are differences in the ways youth and adults are treated, and the long-standing movement to control youths' pregnancies is an example of this.

As Bill O'Reilly illustrated this evening, much of the motivation behind Proposition 73 is an obsession with so-called parental rights: the trump card that pushes aside health and medical safety concerns — to the point of making illegal and unlicensed abortions a more desirable option — and marginalizes even the paternalistic children's "best interests" that Proposition 73's opponents talk about. MIM Notes has previously sided with people who happened to support "parental rights" while opposing the imperialist government's attempts to subject youth, particularly oppressed-nation and queer/SGL youth, to failed and controlling psychological treatments. The contradiction in that context, of the expansion of mental health screening on national and global scales, is not between youth and individual parents. This is an instance where rhetoric about parental rights is not so harmful. In the case of Proposition 73, however, we denounce attempts to whip up support for more youth control under the pretext of "parental rights."

California's teenage (15-17 and 15-19 years old) abortion rates are among the highest in the united States, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute.(1)



Photo by David Hanks, from [www.indybay.org](http://www.indybay.org).

California also had the greatest absolute number of teenage pregnancies of any State in 2000. But there has been a long-term decrease in both teenage pregnancy and teenage abortion rates in California since more than a decade ago. There is no need for more parental rights to decrease abortions. And it is not just the government that is forcing youth to get abortions; it is an oppressive and decadent society that promotes sexual relationships based on inequality on a large scale and doesn't have the motivation to plan population growth in a way that serves the people and facilitates the liberation of wimmin and youth from the chains of patriarchy, leaving it up to anarchic cultural and economic forces to determine who becomes pregnant and often resulting in unwanted pregnancies. Nothing short of revolution will change this basic situation. As long as the oppression of wimmin and the patriarchal oppression of

children and youth continue to exist, there will be a basis for forms of repression like Proposition 73 to crop up and spread throughout society.

Notes

1. Alan Guttmacher Institute, "U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics : Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity And State-by-State Information," 19 February 2004, [http://www.agi-usa.org/pubs/state\\_pregnancy\\_trends.pdf](http://www.agi-usa.org/pubs/state_pregnancy_trends.pdf)

2. "Wrong proposition," 9 October 2005, <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-abortion09oct09,0,5731673.story?coll=la-home-oped>

3. "Proposition 73 : Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. Initiative Constitutional Amendment." [http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/bp\\_nov05/voter\\_info\\_pdf/entire73.pdf](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/bp_nov05/voter_info_pdf/entire73.pdf)

## CONFERENCE BUILDS CONTROL UNIT STRUGGLE

From 1...

consider that the imprisonment rate of Black adult men in South Africa in 1993 was 851 per 100,000 while the imprisonment rate of Black adult men in the United States under George Bush in 2002 was 7,150 per 100,000.

But even with all these people locked up in prison, statistics show clearly that prisons don't stop crime. As imprisonment has increased since the 1970s, government defined criminal activity has remained relatively stable. So why all the prisoners? The answer is social control. Prisons are a tool of social control.

The problem the imperialists have with using prisons as a tool of social control is that they have also become a breeding ground for resistance of the very system they were meant to enforce. Within prison, people completely uneducated and politically unaware are put in a position that encourages them to think about the system that locked them up. Extreme repression, overt racism, slave labor, mail censorship, and in many cases imprisonment of innocent people are among the realities they face. In general population (where prisoners interact with one another on a daily basis) there is the opportunity to discuss this system with others and to organize resistance.

The uprising in Attica prison in 1971 was a good example of this organized resistance that prisoners were able to pull off because of their interactions with one another. The system fears this kind of organizing and needs a tool within the prisons to stop prisoner activists from educating and organizing others.

Better defined as a prison within a prison, control units are used to defeat prisoners' revolutionary attitudes, organization, militancy, legal and administrative challenges, and anything else the prison administrators deem objectionable.

A past warden of Marion IL, one of

the first Control Unit prisons, stated: "The purpose of the Marion control unit is to control revolutionary attitudes in the prison system and in society at large." This is exactly what control units are used for.

Control units have serious mental and physical health consequences for prisoners locked in them. Fundamentally they are a form of torture. A prisoner in the Security Housing Units at Pelican Bay prison in California, described his conditions in August of this year: "I am currently housed 'indefinitely' in this prisons' Security Housing Unit (the SHU), which is an old typical isolation unit. It's a unique and stark environment of physical limits, visual sterility and sensory deprivation. I live in a 8-by-12 'windowless' cell nearly around the clock. There are no jobs, programs or human contact of any kind. Once a day, my remote controlled cell door slowly grinds open allowing 60 minutes alone in a near-by walled in courtyard which is nothing more than a larger cell than the one I already live in."

A member of the Chicano Mexicano Prison Project spoke at the conference, focusing on prisons as a tool of national oppression. In California, Mexican prisoners make up an overwhelming portion of those locked up in Security Housing Units. This is not an accident; it is a direct result of the criminal injustice system targeting oppressed nations. In 1998 (most recent statistics available) the CDC reported that 34% of the population in all CDC institutions was Latino, and 31% was Black. 82% of those in SHUs were non-white, and 52% of those in SHUs were Latino. This compares to a California population that was 32% Latino, and 7% Black in 1998. Half of all SHU victims are put there via a classification system based on supposed evidence of gang membership. Under this

system, signing a "get well" card, talking to another prisoner in the yard, or even just speaking Spanish can get you classified as a gang member. They also use confidential informants who have a strong incentive to make up evidence to get themselves released from the SHU. Prisoners cannot challenge this information.

In a recent issue of MIM Notes one prisoner in California wrote: "My ethnicity is Hispanic. When I arrived in the DOC I was asked by a C.O. if I was 'a Northern Hispanic or Southern Hispanic.' I said 'I don't know what you mean.' Then I was asked what city I was from. I stated Salinas, CA. It was then that I was classified as a Northern Hispanic. Now I'm labeled as a Northerner, which is a gang member from the prison/street gang Norteños. At that particular point in time I had no idea what that was or what I was about to experience behind these walls. The Southern Hispanics are classified/labeled Sureños, another prison/street gang. The DOC [Department of Corrections] currently has the Northern and Southern Hispanics on a 24 hour, 7 day a week lockdown. We are getting no visits from our families, no exercise outside our cells, and no State-issued hygiene."

A speaker from the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League made connections between the war on gangs within US borders and the so-called war on terrorism the United States is waging all over the world. This comrade stressed the connections between comrades struggling against control units in the United States and the outrage in the Middle East about prisons like Abu Ghraib. (See "Shutting Down Control Units and the World Revolution.")

A member of the African People's Socialist Party gave an inspirational talk

about the importance of fighting to shut down the Security Housing Units as a part of the fight to dismantle the entire oppressive system of imperialism, stressing organization and consistent work. The United Front to Abolish the SHU has been doing monthly protests around California for almost two years now. The effect is that people are getting to know us and know what we are trying to do and we are laying the groundwork for a potentially powerful movement.

The afternoon was spent in break out groups where conference participants worked together on action plans to work with prisoners, work with family members of prisoners, and organize actions to shut down the control units.

The working groups came up with a number of concrete action plans with volunteers to work on each idea. One topic that came up in all of the working groups was the need to help people visit family members, friends and comrades in prisons. This work helps the families while also helping prisoners stay sane and giving us a way to reach out to people on the outside by filling a need in the community. Comrades in California who are interested in such a program for themselves or their family should get in touch. The United Front also hopes to come out with a newsletter for prisoners and their allies on the outside that would provide information about how to fight the injustice system, resources upon release, legal aid and recent changes in the system.

In addition, volunteers made plans for future demonstrations and petition drives using more creative tactics. Finally, we are following up with the conference and building on these plans on November 5th, with a meeting from 11-2pm in San Francisco at 2955 18th Street and a rally to follow.

## Upcoming Bay Area Events

### Saturday, November 5

United Front to Abolish the SHU: Statewide Meeting and Rally  
11am - 2pm, 2955 18th St (@ Florida) in San Francisco  
2pm Rally, 24th St BART (@ Mission St)

First organizing meeting following Unlock the Box Conference, we will be following up on plans made at the conference and building with new groups joining the United Front. First Saturday of the month Shut Down the SHU rally to follow at 2pm.



### Alternating Mondays and Sundays

Prisoner Support working meetings

*Mondays 7pm*

3 Dollar Bill Cafe

1800 Market St @ Octavia St in San Francisco

November 7, November 21, December 5, December 19

*Sundays 5pm*

Berkeley Espresso

1900 Shattuck Ave @ Hearst in Berkeley

November 13, November 27, December 11

Come help: Correspond with Prisoners, fulfill requests for our Free Books to Prisoners Program, coordinate materials for political study groups, type and scan prisoners' art and writings for print and to post online.

# Shutting down Control Units and the World Revolution

October 14, 2005

*From mimnotes.info*

*Adapted from a presentation by the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League at the Unlock the Box conference on October 8, 2005. --ed.*

It is important to recognize that we cannot pick our battles frivolously. There are uncountable horrible injustices in the world that need to be resolved. So figuring out where to start in order to be effective in eliminating all injustice is a crucial step for us. The 'principal contradiction' is the term we apply to the struggle of opposing forces that once resolved will do the most to push forward all struggles in our society.

Through practice, and the summing up of that practice into theory, we have come to see that in the United States, the lumpen of the oppressed nations are one of the greatest allies of the world proletariat. In particular, the incarcerated lumpen are at the vanguard in dealing with the problem of imperialism due to their facing its repression on a daily basis.

Mao Zedong made great contributions in demonstrating that the principal contradiction was that between the oppressed and oppressor nations during China's war of liberation from Japan. His old adage that "In wars of national liberation patriotism is applied internationalism" still rings true today. Especially in a world where imperialism is the dominant force in more and more corners of the globe. This has been manifested in the recent internationalization of the US injustice system. While the United States has ran prisons and systematically tortured people throughout its neo-colonies for decades, this has usually been CIA and other secretive operations. With the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as with the whole so-called War on Terror in general, we have seen American soldiers of the occupying forces being the jailkeepers and interrogators.

The fact that the torture going on in these prisons is systematic is well-established by the number of reportings from both soldiers and prisoners. Just last week, after being sentenced to 3 years prison for abuse of prisoners herself, Lyndie England stated publicly that the Abu Ghraib pictures she was in were not the worst things going on and that everything they did was a result of orders from higher ups. U.S. Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld wrote a memo describing interrogation methods to be used at Guantanamo Bay that included everything depicted in the aforementioned photos before they happened in Iraq. Although he officially recanted the memo, the spread of these tactics through training

of soldiers shows clear links between Rumsfeld's orders and what is going on in Guantanamo Bay, Afghanistan and Iraq. And of course, we also know that the same types of things have been going on in US prisons in North America for decades.

This begs the question of why is there so much more outrage surrounding Abu Ghraib than Pelican Bay. The difference is that the Black, Latino and indigenous nations within US borders have been colonized for centuries, with the dual affect of being integrated to some degree into the oppressor nation and benefiting from its exploitation of the rest of the world and the development of a colonized consciousness that is the product of dealing with this reality. In contrast, almost every single person in Iraq remembers a time before the US occupation, and they aren't going to sit idly by while these Americans torture and humiliate, not to mention slaughter, their people.

To be powerful and effective in our struggle to stop torture in US prisons we must understand how this applies to our own conditions. This means recognizing the forces involved for what they are. The control units are often deemed 'gang units' and one of the primary excuses for their necessity is to deal with the supposedly out of control gangs. But we must see the War on Gangs, the War on Crime and the War on Terror for what they are, its all a part of the War on Oppressed Nations being led by the US imperialists and the American oppressor nation in general.

What is a gang? A gang is an organization, generally made up of lumpen proletariat, oppressed-nation youth. These lumpen organizations did not appear from thin air, nor from some alleged inherent barbarity of oppressed-nation people. These organizations come from the material reality in which whole nations are in subservient positions, and in which whole classes of people are prevented from participating in production and guaranteed consumption of basic needs. A recent program on Fox News, hosted by Newt Gingrich, spends an hour demonizing Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and calling for the imprisonment of lumpen youth, the militarization of the United States-Mexico border and the hunting down of al Qaeda. The latter comes from an alleged link that could lead MS-13 to helping al Qaeda bring dirty bombs into the United States. This link has been disputed by the FBI and appears to be pure lies and propaganda. However, Gingrich does get something right. He understands that all oppressed nations have the common interest of

overthrowing US imperialism and so he is rallying Americans around this fear in defense of their empire.

If reactionaries like Gingrich were actually interested in eliminating the anti-people activities of many lumpen organizations then they would try to understand where these organizations came from and why they do what they do. Specifically, MS-13 is said to have started with Salvadorian refugees in Los Angeles for the same reason that most such groups start, for self defense and meeting community need. Why were they in Los Angeles? They were there because the United States was backing right-wing paramilitary troops to crush the FMLN in El Salvador, as they were doing all over Central America at the time. After the bloody and terroristic 1980s, the region was decimated and many were left with one real option to meet their needs: to become active participants in the trade corridor that the Americans use to bring drugs North from Colombia. This effectively replaced the revolutionary organizations in the region with more criminal minded lumpen organizations.

When the refugees arrived in Los Angeles during the war one might ask why they needed to form a gang? Any oppressed nationals in LA will already know the answer to this question. The biggest impetus is the best armed rival gang in town, the LAPD, the infamous gang unit and other associated pigs. To make matters worse, you still have to deal with divisions and fighting between various oppressed-nation gangs as well. This is the legacy of an earlier period when the Black Panthers had unified the Black Nation under a revolutionary vanguard. The response from the FBI was COINTELPRO, which killed, locked up and otherwise neutralized the Panther leadership. In this vacuum arose organizations like the CRIPs (Community Revolution In Progress), that dressed like the Panthers, spoke like the Panthers and hoped to provide a better life for the people. But without a clear political outlook like the Panthers, and with the influx of crack as the fastest solution to their economic problems, these young people embraced a criminal mentality.

Now the government would have you think that this is the last thing that they want, that they are committed to "cleaning up the streets." Wrong. This is exactly what they want. They created it. When oppressed nations organize for positive change the imperialists destroy their organizations (ie. the Black Panthers and the FMLN). Then they bring in the drugs to simultaneously buy off and destroy the minds of the next generation. In California prisons they've gone as far

as forcing people into gangs. And the reality on the street has always been that groups of oppressed-nation youth are targeted for repression, in effect enforcing the necessity for gangs where they might not have already existed.

In the long run this works in our interests. It is vital to our struggle to organize oppressed-nation groups. If the pigs want to help by repressing people and forcing them into gangs, then they are digging their own graves. The 'gang problem' did not always exist. In Attica, in 1971, people from all nations and organizations came together for their common interests against their oppressor, while recognizing the revolutionary leadership of groups like the Panthers, Young Lords and American Indian Movement. This commonality is far stronger than any petty differences that currently exist between lumpen organizations. And this commonality is once again being recognized by leaders of these groups. In Oregon this summer there were hunger strikes and uprisings every month inside the prisons, where groups that at other times might have tried to kill each other stood side by side in the face of the common oppressor.

So, how do we create the outrage in this country that has been created around the Abu Ghraib scandal? The answer is in the consciousness of the oppressed nations. It is in the lumpen organizations coming together inside prisons and on the streets. And it is in the support of the family members and communities of those who are suffering in these torture cells.

When the Abu Ghraib photos came out, MIM Notes ran an article that broke the story on the history of people like Charles Grainer and Ivan Frederick, who had been involved in torture as prison guards in the United States before going to Iraq. The comrades who struggled against and wrote articles about this abuse where acting in concrete unity with the prisoners being held in Abu Ghraib today, even though they didn't even now Abu Ghraib would ever exist. That is oppressed-nation nationalism as internationalism in practice.

Every victory we have in ending torture and reducing oppression in prisons in the United States makes it harder for them to do the same things around the world. Similarly, the growing resistance and power of the Third World struggles create more opportunities for us to bring attention to and create opposition to what is going on here. Our struggles continue to reinforce each other. And as more struggles break out on more fronts, imperialism weakens and all of our battles become that much easier.

# Bu\$h compares 'Islamic radicalism' with communism

From p. 1...

This is more than the imperialists do. On Thursday morning, Bu\$h compared Hitler, Pol Pot and Stalin with each other, but did not take responsibility for the united States' killing hundreds of thousands of Cambodian people, with napalm and cluster bombs. Bu\$h did not even acknowledge this as a mistake, much less as an act in a reactionary or unjust war. Instead, Bu\$h justified every aggressive and counterrevolutionary war waged in the name of spreading democracy, and said all the killings have been worth it. "And all the cost and sacrifice of that struggle has been worth it, because, from Latin America to Europe to Asia, we've gained the peace that freedom brings." Bu\$h conspicuously used the word "militant" several times and also "radical," implying that the united States should go after people who aren't even using terrorist tactics, and that it should do so preemptively. "Evil men, obsessed with ambition and unburdened by conscience, must be taken very seriously — and we must stop them before their crimes can multiply."

In the middle of his speech, Bu\$h said that since "the Israeli presence on the West Bank, or the U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia, or the defeat of the Taliban, or the Crusades of a thousand" cannot be "smoothed or addressed," those who raise these "grievances" are "radicals" with "inalterable objectives." Through Bu\$h, the imperialists expressed their own stubbornness and their intention to drive forward with their own plans for aggression.

It is not surprising that Bu\$h has started giving credence to the term "Islamofascism." Even so-called leftists in the united States have legitimized the use of this term in various ways, some simplistically comparing the Bu\$h government with fundamentalist governments in the Middle East without highlighting that these governments are imperialist-lackey governments. Other "leftists" go as far as saying that fighting theocratic fascism in the Middle East takes precedence over fighting imperialism, disregarding what is the biggest prop of the imperialist system at this time.(2)

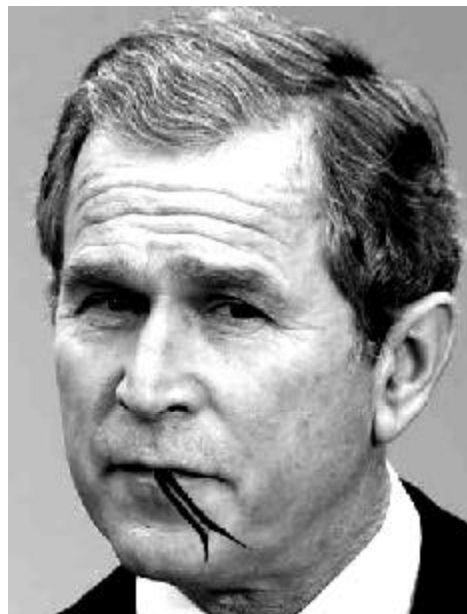
So, while many open reactionaries use "Islamofascism," this has been helped by all sorts of anti-war people sucking up to Americans who feel that fundamentalism of any kind, Christian or Islamic, is a threat to their imperialist-country privileges. (Christian fundamentalism is associated with Bu\$h.) In reality, both fundamentalist and "free-market" imperialist-lackey governments reinforce the oppressive imperialist system, which benefits the majority of Americans. By downplaying the imperialist economic basis of theocratic imperialist-lackey governments and refusing to take a consistent anti-imperialist position, the opportunists and pragmatists have given Bu\$h the signal to step up the rhetoric

about liberating the peoples of so-called terrorist countries from totalitarianism without addressing the economic features or motivations of oppressed-nation religious fundamentalism. Anti-war activists who have tried to appeal to Americans on a pragmatic level about the Iraq War being a "mistake" have also made it easier for Bu\$h to advance a long-range vision about what Bu\$h in his speech called "answering history's call" to engage in a "global struggle" against political and religious intolerance, and for "freedom" and "progress."

Americans support imperialist wars and "oppose" them in a piecemeal fashion. Regrettably, this is how many anti-war activists are approaching the war against Iraq, focusing only on some Americans' immediate self-interest in opposing the war. Americans' opposing the Iraq War out of self-interest is expected and needed, but there must be an explicitly anti-imperialist movement. Going easy on the imperialists at an ideological level has allowed the imperialists to perpetuate the myth about the historic role of the united States in serving as a bastion of freedom in the world. This myth is so powerful that many self-described radicals in the united States cannot envision a revolutionary movement in which the mythical American democratic melting pot does not play a central role.

It is not just the Bu\$h clique that is perpetuating this myth about America's democratizing role. The majority of Americans believe that America is the fountainhead of democracy and justice, including American flag-waving, "patriotic" opponents of the Iraq War. The myth has the potential to mobilize a large number of Americans to view the Iraq War as a mistake while saving face — the Iraq War is a blemish in the otherwise lustrous history of America — or to mobilize them to support the war, as is most often the case. The myth of America's democratic tradition can serve no progressive purpose, and buying into this myth, to criticize Bu\$h for not living up to this tradition, makes a consistent anti-imperialist stand impossible. So does confining oneself to the way the imperialists have framed questions in terms of combating fundamentalism.

The specific concept of Islamofascism is shared by a variety of imperialists, some of whom are extremely reactionary. A search of u.s. government Web sites shows that Congressmen Tom Tancredo and J. D. Hayworth are among the few elected officials who have gone on record describing the target of the "war on terror" as "Islamofascism." Both Tancredo and Hayworth have introduced vicious anti-migrant legislation, and Tancredo supported the threat of nuking of Mecca as a way of deterring fundamentalist terrorist attacks against the united States. The concept of Islamofascism has its origins in secularism, but is easily used by both atheist and Christian fundamentalists to stir up support for



fascist repression against Third World people, including migrant proletarians. "Islamicfascism" has no economic content. Coupled with the myth of democratic Amerika, as in Bu\$h's speech, it is a way to stir up jingoist

sentiment against Third World people. One can only hope that Bu\$h indirectly reminded some Americans of the communist alternative to imperialism and fundamentalism.

Notes

1. "Remarks by President Bush on the War on Terror (1/4)," 6 October 2005, <http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=54660>

"Remarks by President Bush on the War on Terror (2/4)," 6 October 2005, <http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=54661>

"Remarks by President Bush on the War on Terror (3/4)," 6 October 2005, <http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=54662>

"Remarks by President Bush on the War on Terror (4/4)," 6 October 2005, <http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=54663>

2. "Osama Bin Laden and the Concept of 'Theocratic Fascism'," <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/cong/fascismcong2004.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.

# Why we oppose Columbus Day

By the Central Committee of It's Right To Rebel Forums, October 11, 2005

From mimnotes.info

The settler and imperialist history of Christopher Columbus taught to Amerikans, and perpetuated by them, is a lie. Some emphasize his supposed heroic vision. Others claim that Columbus inaugurated an era of civilization in the Americas. But Columbus was a religious fanatic, adventurer-profitier who enslaved and waged genocide against the peoples of the Caribbean. All revolutionary and decent people should stand against the celebration and glorification of Columbus and the system of horrors that he represents today and support oppressed-nation peoples' resistance to imperialism. Columbus Day fittingly symbolizes Amerikkka — we do not oppose Columbus Day just to fix up the myth of Amerika's democratic tradition — but the continued existence of this holiday after a hundred years of official recognition by U.S. States is an affront to the majority of the world's people.

Columbus' voyage to America was driven by a desire to enrich himself, the empire, and increase converts to Christianity. When Columbus presented the idea of finding a westward passage to India to the Queen of Spain, one of his selling points was that the gold acquired from the new trade route could be used to fund a war by Christianity against Muslims.

The first people Columbus came into

contact with were the Tainos. The Tainos' population ranged anywhere between 100,000 to 400,000. Columbus' contemporaries criticized him for roasting Tainos on stakes, chopping off heads and hands, and mass rape. The imperialists would later celebrate their conquest with statues to Columbus towering above submissive and defeated indigenous wimmin. Columbus and his successors committed massacres against, worked to death and exposed the Tainos to lethal diseases. By 1507 the Tainos numbers had shrunk to 60,000, and by 1531 the number was down to 600. Today, there are very few traces of the Tainos at all.(1) Even Europeans criticized the harshness of Columbus' rule. Bartolomé de las Casas wrote in his 1542 book, *The Devastation of the Indies*, that Spaniards

“laid bets as to who, with one stroke of the sword, could split a man in two or could cut off his head or spill out his entrails with a single stroke of the pike. They took infants from their mothers' breasts, snatching them by the legs and pitching them headfirst against the crags or snatched them by the arms and threw them into the rivers, roaring with laughter and saying as the babies fell into the water, ‘Boil there, you offspring of the devil!’ Other infants they put to the sword along with their mothers and anyone else who happened to be nearby. They made some low wide gallows on which the hanged victim's feet almost touched the ground, stringing up their victims in lots of thirteen, in memory of Our Redeemer and His

twelve Apostles, then set burning wood at their feet and thus burned them alive. To others they attached straw or wrapped their whole bodies in straw and set them afire.”(2)

Columbus' arrival signaled the beginnings of the systematic genocide and oppression on an unprecedented scale. Columbus' arrival was followed by European settler invasions of the Americas. The Americas were not empty when Columbus arrived. In 1492, more than five hundred First Nations existed in the land now occupied by the united States alone.(3) “Widely dispersed over the great land mass of the Americas, [First Nations people] numbered approximately 75 million people by the time Columbus came, perhaps 25 million in North America.”(4) The Aztec capital Tenochtitlán was as large or larger than most European cities. By the end of the European conquest, First Nation populations would be reduced by upwards of 90%, or more often, totally exterminated. Yet, Columbus Day has historically been a rallying point for Amerikan workers of different immigrant backgrounds, mainly European, to celebrate their good fortune in being able to share the wealth of the united States and Amerikan “liberty,” all of which was supposedly built from scratch by their hard work. Not only was role of the enslavement of indigenous people in building the settler economies denied, Blacks and other African-descended people were excluded from Columbus

Day celebrations and events. “Theoretically open to all American citizens, the [1893 World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago] was practically a totally white creation that the black American was not allowed to help build nor permitted any share of success” even though slavery had officially been ended a quarter century before.(5)

Not only does Columbus represent genocide of an unprecedented scale, Columbus represents the spread of a brutal slave system that would eventually spread over three continents: North America, South America, and Africa. European nations and their settler states of colonists grew rich off of the rape, plunder and elimination of First Nations and African civilizations. Bound up with this brutality was the institution and spread of European white supremacy — whose legacy is still very much with us today. The ideology of white supremacy would justify the continued genocide, enslavement, and imperial plunder and violence that Amerika and Europe continue to inflict on the majority of humynity to this day. From Compton to Basara to Manila to Lima, the bloody hand of imperialism wipes out humyn life on unimaginable scales.

When Columbus invaded the Americas, Europe was moving from feudalism to capitalism. Not far behind Columbus, an increasingly parasitic and decadent system of capitalism would come to the Americas. Capitalism, with its emphasis

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## *Toledo residents resist nazis, police*

*From p. 1...*

for the equality of all people. Ostensibly available to all Amerikans, “freedom of speech” can be used to prevent Black people from exercising self-determination in their own communities.

Mainstream media has attacked the counter-protest for having heavy participation from “gangs,” who are blamed for inciting more violence, mostly against property. Failing to put gangs and crime in their social and historical context, the white-supremacist mainstream media has given credence to the National Socialist Movement's claims about Black criminals and gangs in Toledo attacking whites. MIM applauds the participation of all groups of people in protests against fascist organizations. Such protests are inherently political. For some to characterize oppressed-nation people's opposing fascist activism in their communities as hooliganism shows a misunderstanding of the very real threat of fascist repression that extremely reactionary imperialists and their labor-aristocracy allies pose to oppressed-nation people inside and outside the united States. The National Socialist Movement and

similar groups are just the most brazen fascists hostile to oppressed-nation people, non-European migrants, Jews, and gays and lesbians; they are the tip of the iceberg of Amerikan fascism, which is often disguised as Liberalism using Amerika-first rhetoric (rather than openly white supremacist rhetoric) and has already taken hold in Third World countries dominated by U.S. imperialism. The media has generally characterized the gang members who participated in the anti-nazi counter-protest as opportunistic looters and vandals, but by Mayor Jack Ford's own admission (Ford tried to discourage the counter-protest), at least some of the gang members demanded to know why the city was protecting the nazis.

What the imperialists call “gangs” are groups of people who come together often for self-defense. Some of these groups take up activities that harm the people in their own communities, including drug selling and violence. But these activities were actively promoted by the U.S. government, for example by bringing

crack cocaine into inner-city Los Angeles in the 1980s as well as by distributing guns.(3) No doubt many gangs need to turn their attention to serving the people — some have done exactly that — but they face great resistance when they do so from the government, which fears such politicization and organizing. The government and the ruling class would rather see gang members dead than becoming consciously political and effectively helping their communities resist imperialist domination and occupation by the pigs. The truce between the Bloods and Crips in Los Angeles in 1992 terrified the government for various reasons, and groups like the Latin Kings, taking up revolutionary politics, have faced mass imprisonment and constant police harassment.

The issue of police occupation, noted by Mansour Bey Bey, is also crucial to understanding the protest in Toledo. Even after the nazi group dispersed, protesters expressed outrage at the police who remained in their community and refused to allow the counter-protesters to march

or have access to the park where the nazi demonstration took place. Many of the Black people living in LaGrange knew that the white-controlled police force was there to protect the fascists, not the people. As an occupying force in the internal semi-colonies of the United States, police are feared and fought against.

Notes

1. <http://cbusimc.org/>

2. “Over 100 Arrested in Toledo, Ohio After Neo-Nazi March Prompts Counter-Protest & Riot,” 18 October 2005, <http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=05/10/18/1356218>

3. See Gary Webb's book *Dark Alliance* (Seven Stories Press), among other sources.

4. John Seewer, “Mayor Blames Gangs for Anti-Nazi violence,” 15 October 2005, <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=1218249>

5. “Emergency declared after anti-Nazi riots in US,” 16 October 2005, [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-10/16/content\\_485312.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-10/16/content_485312.htm)

## 'Serenity' features revolutionary plot with hope for the future of humanity

October 15, 2005  
From *mimnotes.info*

**Serenity**  
Written and directed by Joss Whedon  
Universal Pictures  
PG-13 / UK:15  
2005

[Spoiler warning]

"Serenity" offers viewers a revolutionary plot with hope for the future of humanity. This science fiction movie is set in the future, when humans have expanded beyond earth into the universe. The Universal Alliance, created by "civilized" people who rule over many worlds, complete with a large military force, try to enforce their will on other worlds where humans resist the Alliance.

The insidious nature of imperialist propaganda is revealed early in the film as one main character is shown as a child in school learning about the "outer worlds" that are not a part of the Alliance. The teacher asks the class why the outer worlds would resist "civilization." While other kids give answers about the savage nature of those people (answers no doubt lifted from today's American classrooms about Third World peoples), the character River says that the Alliance is meddling where they have no business and should be stopped. This mis-education starts from an early age, teaching kids to accept imperialism. And when they do not, they are often labeled as crazy, a fate not tremendously different from that faced by River.

A small crew of mercenaries who originally fought in a war against the Alliance are brought back into politics when they shelter River and her brother from the Alliance. The movie shows the crew awakening to the political reality of the situation and the importance that they take up the struggle against the Alliance for the good of humanity. And as they do so, we see the ruthless violence of the

Alliance (a.k.a. imperialists) murdering everyone this small group of resisters ever had contact with in an attempt to flush them out.

The powerful role of the media is shown both as a way the Alliance finds River, and as a tool for the resisters to fight the Alliance. The resisters see the need to expose Alliance atrocities (experimenting with drugs on outer world humans which resulted in deaths of millions and grotesque mutilation of others) to all of humanity. Their goal is to take control of the media to do this as an attack against the powerful Alliance.

The movie demonstrates the potential power of a small vanguard, and the importance of controlling the media. But it leaves out the key role that class plays in imperialism. The outer worlds are being "meddled" with, but we never see them being exploited. In fact it appears that all people are living un-exploited and it is just the power-hungry Alliance that is trying to "civilize" all worlds. While the analogy works to a point, this is lacking some crucial facts about imperialism, facts that dictate who will rise up against it and who will ally with it.

MIM would presume that those people living within the Alliance would likely benefit from the exploitation of the outer worlds and as a result, have a material interest in maintaining the Alliance. No doubt the exposure of Alliance atrocities would shift many people into the camp of the resistance. But material interest is a powerful thing, as we see with American citizens who continue to support imperialist wars in large numbers. Perhaps Whedon recognized this weakness and concluded the movie with the information that the Alliance was weakened but still intact to give viewers a realistic picture that it would not be the release of information about Alliance atrocities alone that would bring down the power.



## Why we oppose Columbus Day

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on profit above all else, would have terrible effects on not just the peoples, but the environment of the Americas. The epoch of capitalism with its adaptation of scientific efficiency to the pursuit of profit has led to unprecedented extinctions of animal and plant species. While the European oppressor nations grow fat, the oppressed-nation peoples are forced to starve, live in toxic environments, and suffer super-exploitative, truly sub-living wages.

Columbus represents what we oppose. We oppose all oppression and exploitation. We oppose white supremacy. We oppose imperialism. We oppose patriarchy. We oppose this un-sustainable system which puts profits ahead of people. As communists, we fight to end the power of people over people, groups over groups.

--Central Committee of It's Right To

### Rebel Forums

[irtr.org](http://irtr.org)  
[irtr@irtr.org](mailto:irtr@irtr.org)

Notes

1. "Pre-Columbian Hispaniola - Arawak/Taino Indians," <http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/43a/100.html>
2. <http://www.uctp.org/Devastation.html>
3. J. Sakai, *Settlers: The Mythology of the White Proletariat* (Morningstar Press: Chicago, 1989), 53.
4. Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States: 1492-Present*, revised and updated edition (New York: HarperPerennial, 1995), 18.
5. Bushman, Claudia L., *America Discovers Columbus: How An Italian Explorer Became An American Hero* (Hanover and London: University Press of New England, 1992), 186.

## What is your revolutionary memory?

14 years ago, MIM wrote about the approaching war in Iraq:

"MIM wants the USA to lose this war, knowing that means the deaths of thousands of innocent people on both sides. This position is only justifiable if it is backed up by the commitment to fight imperialism to the bloody end ourselves, and to take full advantage of this defeat of U.S. imperialism to advance the cause of the international proletariat. Only in this way will the deaths of U.S. and Iraqi soldiers not have been in vain."

The MIM Notes archive on Iraq has more than 50 full-text articles about the US war against Iraq, from 1990 to 2000. Our current Iraq page has more than 50 more, covering current news, relevant history political theory, and organizing material.

Develop your revolutionary memory, and sharpen your tools for the next step forward.

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/>





# Boricuan Jihadists Drop Anti-Imperialist Album

## Mujahideen Team Clash of Civilizations Remarkable Current, 2005

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

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

One thing M-team is clear on is that they are down to fight for freedom and self-determination, "revolution hasta mi muerte." They seem to be challenging others to join in their militancy in the high-energy "Dead Have Risen" by sampling Malcolm: "you haven't got a revolution that doesn't involve bloodshed... and you're afraid to bleed." Constantly welcoming martyrdom, M-team takes a militant stance against "Kuffars", which they define as, "any person, being or system that attempt to cover the Light and Mercy of the all encompassing Divine Reality... Those who wish to subject humanity to the tyranny of their greed and thirst for worldly power... Those who wish to frustrate the unfolding of a global

unity that binds together all humans under the banner of peace through submission to the Creator of all things." Clearly, imperialism falls into this category, but M-team is never so clear, often leaving the identity of the enemy muddled in religious terminology. Lyrics like, "today is the day of retribution/ today is the day of jihad/ today is the day of martyrdom or victory," put martyrdom and militancy above the needs of the people. We don't need revolutionary martyrs or sacrificial lambs: we need revolutionaries who can put in the hard day to day work for the long haul.

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

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

Currently, the principal contradiction that we face in trying to move towards a better world is that between imperialism and the oppressed. In that respect we can ally with anti-imperialist forces that hold religious beliefs, even if those beliefs serve to prop up other power structures such as the patriarchy. We can ally against imperialism, while struggling over gender. And when dealing with the masses, religion only becomes an issue when it is negatively affecting a group of people. Therefore, we can ally with M-team now against imperialism, but must struggle against their paternalistic views of gender in hopes of resolving that issue through comradely struggle. If it is not resolved,

at some point the question will become antagonistic, and no religious ideas that support hierarchy between groups of people will be tolerated by the people.



## No to Eastern spirituality too

by mim3@mim.org  
and a MIM website reader

Our obituary of the pope reminded many Westerners of the reasons that they prefer Eastern spirituality, those ideas derived from Hindu religion including Buddhism. The cause of the popularity of Western Buddhism and Eastern mysticism is the desire to escape material conditions in the West. In the East, the masses are trying to escape Hindu, Buddhist and similar ideas. The people of the West are correct to reject Christianity and the people of the East are right to reject their religions too.

This is nowhere more evident than in Nepal where a god-king rules the people with absolute authority in a minority of the country where communists are not in control. He has imprisoned all stripes of people politically speaking, shut down the press and even briefly turned off the telephone service for the country a few days to demonstrate control. Not surprisingly, the vast majority of people oppose his rule backed by only a die-hard minority.

Likewise, in India, a leading non-communist agitator for the rights of the bottom classes is recommending that the people we in the West refer to as "untouchables" (Dalits) and other lower caste people in the West take up Western religion: "The only people to spare some thought to the Indian Apartheid are the Christians," says the Dalit organizer.

According to this one non-communist, the ordinary Dalit "wants self-respect which is denied under Hinduism. They will get it the moment they get out of Hinduism and convert to other religions." Some people are not too slow to pick up on a potential opening for Christianity in India. There is a website called

"dalitchristians.com."

260 million people in the caste system are culturally too low to be in the presence of the highest caste. At birth Dalits have their entire career chosen for them—something the Dalai Lama knows something about too.

Those fascinated with Eastern spirituality in the West should check the situation in South Asia and what the people on the bottom endure because of what the Western petty-bourgeoisie calls spirituality. In no place on this earth is there a people able to live in peace free from u.s. imperialism and the ravages of other capitalists.

Humyn harmony and peace is a physical state of being that we should seek to attain. The factors blocking harmony and peace are all material as well: call it an admission that the problem is secular, a problem of secular life that has to be resolved with reference to secular life. Religions only add an extra layer of division and complication to an already difficult job to do in the secular world.

Instead of seeking religions from other places to avoid our own material conditions, we should confront our conditions and use our brains to work for physical harmony and peace and not settle for internal tranquility and conformity. Religion and spirituality are immoral distractions from peace and harmony.

Note:

<http://www.dalitvoice.org/book.htm>



## California prisoners on hunger strike to protest lockdown

There are some prisoners in my building at Salinas Valley State Prison that have decided to go on a hunger strike (myself included). We have been on lockdown for frivolous reasons for most of the year. Starting in July we were placed on lockdown for an assault on staff that happen on a different yard. We were taken off lockdown for two days without any incident and then we were placed on lockdown again for nebulous rumors.

The prisoners in my building decided our only option was to go on a hunger strike. Our grievance system does not work. This is our only way we can give voice to our complaints besides engaging in futile behavior that would create more problems than it would solve. Therefore, we are staging this hunger strike in hopes that we can draw attention to conditions here at Salinas Valley State Prison.

Some of the conditions we are protesting are: constant lockdowns where we are confined to our cells except for showers (one shower every third day); unnecessary restrictions have been placed on purchasing and receiving necessary cosmetic items (this includes soap, deodorant, shampoo, hair products, etc.); most of us prisoners have not been allowed to purchase items out of the prison store for months.

— a California prisoner  
October 5, 2005

**MIM adds:** Register your protest with the prison over these conditions and support the hunger strikers. Send protest letters to Warden Mike Evans, 31625 Highway 101, Soledad, CA 93960 and send copies of your letters to MIM.

## AZ employee union solicits prisoners for Katrina contributions

The really big story here in ADC prisons is Hurricane Katrina. Through one of its auxiliaries, the State Employees Charitable Campaign (SECC), [I believe] the state employees' union is attempting to co-opt inmate donations to the Hurricane relief effort. Inmates own personal TVs and/or radios, so if they are truly wanting to give they are in no way being constrained due to lack of reliable sources of information as to where, when and how they can contribute.

If inmates find it necessary to contribute to the SECC cause, it will likely never be discovered outside the prisons that Arizona state prisoners identified with suffering humanity and made any contribution, large or small, to the relief of their fellow man. The Arizona State Employees Organization/Union has stood in the vanguard for policies that insure we inmates are guaranteed separate treatment from state employees with unequal pay, benefits, etc.

— an Arizona prisoner  
20 September, 2005

# Under Lock & Key

## News from Prisons & Prisoners

### STG labeling, nickel & diming in Colorado

The injustice system makes it difficult to organize here. I am at a level four facility where any group of more than two people is subject to threats and harassment. The only exceptions being those with a religious agenda. This has by no means quelled my interest in MIM, nor stopped me from introducing others (one at a time) to MIM's program and platform.

I've used Hurricane Katrina as an example of how the U.S. makes the oppressed suffer while the Amerikan imperialist forces are scattered around the globe imposing their capitalist agenda on other nations. Meanwhile, they are unable and/or unwilling to aid the drowning poor of this country.

While in my current position, I regret that I am unable to make a monetary contribution to MIM. Pay in the Colorado DOC is \$0.62 a day, and a five-day week is a rarity. 20% of our pay is deducted for a variety of questionable bureaucratic causes. Any dental or medical needs are at the cost of \$5.00 per visit. And of course we are required to purchase all of our basic hygiene needs, toilet paper being the only exception.

— a Colorado prisoner  
30 September, 2005

### Katrina saps LA prisoner resources

Right now I'm trying to reach out to the Brothers housed at Camp J as well as those who were shipped here from Orleans Parish when the flood waters began to rise. A lot of these Brothers haven't heard anything about their loved ones, some of whom were living in those areas that are now 10 and 15 feet under water. It's very depressing for most of these men but we've been trying to remain prayerful through the whole ordeal. Security came around seven times and allowed everyone to use an institution phone for three minutes to make contact with their families. That was considerate and a waste of time all in one, due largely to the fact that the phones aren't working in most of those flooded areas.

Those who have family members out of town are writing and contacting them for information on their loved ones. Some aren't afforded that opportunity because they may be on phone restriction, cell confinement, or simply financially unable. I'm doing my best with the limited resources I get from my family, but the needs are far greater than my funds can afford. These inmates are in need of soap, deodorant, toothpaste, writing material and stamps.

— an Angola, LA prisoner  
15 September, 2005

### Racist Minos

By slowpoke  
August 2005, Corcoran SHU

So much time wasted behind these prison walls  
Where a comrade only has his word and his balls  
A product of imperialism yes that's what we are  
The revolutionaries, gangsters and ghetto movie stars  
Enslaved to the system by being incarcerated  
Living life without a future but never penetrated  
Society has chose to pay for these prisons  
With hopes of reform for republican visions  
Not knowing that rehabilitation is really just a myth  
The ones who never come back are less than a fifth  
Stuck in these ad-segs and locked away in SHUs  
Where the racist minds flourish and there's continual abuse  
Hog tied to a toilet for almost three days  
Is what the C/Os do to us saying "crime doesn't pay"  
Beaten with their billy clubs and sometimes getting shot  
Fed experimental drugs so now we can talk  
Withholding our mail should be a federal crime  
It's another form of torture affecting our mind  
Some walk around like zombies because they've been forgotten  
Others will be de-sensitized until their bodies rotten  
Bottom line and on my mind is really I'm a slave  
Will I catch a beating if I'm trying to just be brave  
If I ask for what I got coming will I be ignored  
Or will they crack these cell doors and our fighting be scored  
Time will only tell within this concrete block  
Until then our only hope is that the torture will stop!

## Revolutionary will outlasts censorship in Missouri

The prison administration had stopped allowing me to receive your MIM publication for falsified "security" reasons. They even confiscated the literature I did have and immediately destroyed it. As a result, I had no way of contacting you, until now that is. I know that the censorship of knowledge and wisdom is futile, for the pigs can't censor a born souljah's mind and will-power. I will forever stand with you in the war against the imperialists and oppressors. I am forever indebted to the struggle. I would rather see a grave than be a slave.

In spirit, struggle & revolution,  
— a Missouri prisoner  
25 September, 2005

### 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.

## Punitive lockdown in Utah

I really do appreciate your concerns since they do relate with mine on a daily basis. Myself and about 20 others suffer from mental abuse and discrimination by staff every day. They treat us worse than violent offenders and sex offenders because we don't want to be a part of the program they call HOPE, a residential intensive drug treatment program. I'm in prison for "failure to respond to a police officer's demand to stop" and I wasn't even on drugs when I committed my crime. They single us out and if we don't fit in with their scheme of things they lock us down. I'm locked down right now with no privileges and my out of cell time is three hours/week. I've never even had a write-up and I'm not a management problem now and never have been.

— a Utah prisoner  
12 September, 2005

## High Desert sets up whites to attack Blacks

Just came across your newspaper, and I saw it to be very informing and enlightening, carrying our voices to a level of outcry from society to the injustice that is taking place behind these prison walls in the U.S. There needs to be more focus on the injustice, murders, and corruption that's taking place at the hands of those who hold us captive. A perfect example is my present conditions and situation here at High Desert State Prison!

In April 2004, I arrived here from [another] prison on a conspiracy to assault staff—a charge that hung over the heads of twenty or so brothers, by which they immediately sent many of us to this new ASU unit they're now building statewide to basically try to break your spirits and flip you on each other.

We were subjected to this condition from January 2003 to April 2004. During this whole time, as a form of retaliation for the correctional officer who was assaulted, they continued to re-issue us our CDC 115s to keep us in this new ASU dungeon, finding many of us guilty and shooting us to various prisons around the state! Accusing me of being a leader, they sent me to one of the furthest prisons in the state, where a family member would have to rent a jet or helicopter to get here!

Upon arriving here at High Desert State

Prison, blacks and whites have been on lockdown status since June of 2003. That being the case, in June of this year it will be two years during which blacks and whites have been slammed! and for myself, a year and a few days. But what's confusing and baffling about this whole situation is that since my arrival at this prison, there hasn't been any conflict between any brothers or white cats, to warrant the continued foot on our necks.

In addition, we're being denied any yard time and are stuck in these cells 23 hours a days, outside of showers, medical, and the law library. We're even deprived of being able to go to the canteen to keep our hygiene up. So brothers like myself, who had cosmetics but ran out, behind sharing with other brothers, are now just hoping someone steps in who's willing to start a lawsuit, because this whole set-up is crazy. I myself and many more brothers who weren't here or involved in the riot shouldn't have to be subjected to this cruel and unusual punishment!

Now they've implemented a program to start opening up the program. There's four buildings on this C7 facility (5, 6, 7, and 8), and each building holds a thousand or so inmates. Out of all four buildings, there's only 25 white inmates on this whole yard. So when any white inmate arrives at this prison he immediately is placed into the program, but the black inmates are not. Many C/Os are pissed off behind us being on lockdown this long, and some love it in fear that blacks want to harm them, because blacks feel they were set up by staff when the whites attacked the blacks with weapons—which you can't argue, when a white kid comes up to a yard correctional staff and hands him a weapon and states, "The whites are going to attack the blacks right now!" When this was done, there was no attempt to lay the yard down, and the blacks were attacked! Thus, now the whole facility is on lockdown behind supposed kites to harm staff. I pray that you're able to print this injustice that's taking place in this prison and many more statewide.

— A California prisoner  
April 2005

## Individual hunger strike to fight illegal transfers in California

As a political prisoner of the CA oppression system of incarceration, I have once again fallen victim to the turnkey manipulation. In an effort not to subjugate myself to the normalcy of incarceration, I have begun a food strike since 8/30/05 (15 days now) opposing state meals. Further, I have self-imposed a correlative program strike (yard, library, etc.) Inspirational was the 12/91 MIM Indiana hunger strike article I received on 9/13/05. The capitalist jackboots have implemented new policy wherein some of California's lowest security level prisoners (i.e. Level I) are housed on the Correctional Training Facility . Soledad, North Facility Level III yard. Human chattel for money?

The restructuring of the California oppression system, via Senate Bill 737, has not changed the status quo. The quagmire of the shell-game complacency has evolved into 'we can do what we want, when we want and how we want' conspiracy of CA law enforcement.

My protest isn't much, as I am opposing the fact that I have been illegally transferred without the process afforded under dictate. It's amazing how "peace officers" turn a blind eye to their own malfeasance. In February 2005, they were warned about the "code of silence" by their head dictators. Further, state law mandates adherence to regulations.

Getting the kaptors to obey is like trying to feed a mosquito with a two-by-four. Fortunately, the bug-zapper of logic and fastidiousness may shock them into compliance.

—A comrade in Soledad,  
September 2005

## The Great Deception

Don't be deceived by what's taking place with the actions of our Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for his words are words of deception. For example, his last minute change of mind on prop 66. Explaining his actions on the basis of him not fully understanding prop 66 when it is his job to know these proposals. Millions of dollars were donated and lost due to this proposal not being explained right . was that intentionally done?

Today's main concern is this deficit.

Go to p. 12...

## 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.

# Under Lock & Key

## News from Prisons & Prisoners

From p. 11...

One of the ways Mr. Schwarzenegger is correcting this deficit is by cutting public funds, programs, etc. To the contrary, he's allowing another prison (Delano II) to open for which more staff is hired by the state to run. Even more police are being hired. Our money is being spent in areas of control and the cuts are to reduce the people's strength.

Those who pass laws aren't trying to prevent crimes. Crime and law control the direction of the society. Look at the tougher sentence laws (3 strikes). It was devised long before the Pauly Klaas case. You can see the reflection of this plan by the construction of new prisons since the mid-1980s (18 new prisons). All of these prisons aren't California State Prisons. Some are privately owned, which is a clear sign of an investment to house what will become the effect of the 3 strikes law. When enough prisons were built to sustain the increase of prisoners caused by this new law, 1994, the Pauly Klaas incident happened to be the perfect excuse to enforce this law (3 strikes).

California Department of Corrections is a major key to the objective of this order. When jobs are hard to find, bills need to be paid, a person becomes prone to commit crimes to survive and prison is the means to control rebellious individuals (criminals), and still have them contribute to the "state." CDC has a prisoner work force which is manufacturing products at a lower cost than a Third World country. Not only the state and country are benefiting from this new slave class, but also corporations like Visa who are obtaining contracts from smaller businesses to manufacture their products in a privately owned prison which is owned by them, Visa. More prisons mean more prisoners, more contracts, and more staff bring more money to the prison guards union (CCOPA). More money for CCOPA political clout by endorsing election campaigns. Everybody benefited and now the 3 strikes law makes sense.

It doesn't stop at the courts. Those prisoners who are kept in lockup (SHU ADX, Supermax) are subjected to psychological ill treatments (please refer to Madrid v. Gomez case for greater detail). Those psychological practices are to make those classified prisoners become anti-social, unable to survive and adapt in the society as a result eventually coming back to prison.

The new Delano II prison consists of 13 yards. Each yard approximately hold a thousand inmates, California Department of Corrections is not that over crowded. To fill those bed spaces a lot of parolees will be violated and the courts are going to be convicting a lot of people to prison instead of giving them

alternative programs or probation.

- a California prisoner, March 2005

Inhumanity at High Desert State Prison

I would like to inform you of all the inhumanity and indecency that we're being forced to endure while incarcerated at High Desert State Prison. After recently arriving at this institution (July 2005), the duration has truly been the worst experience I've ever been forced to endure within the whole five years of my incarceration.

It's not even tangible the ramifications we're forced to suffer when speaking out. Our personal effects and property are searched, letters, envelopes, active seriously important inmates appeals via other prisons, all thrown away! Our rations have been extremely affected to the point there's a dramatic decline in ones weight. Within the short period between my arrival and September 2005 I've lost 10-16 pounds.

Medical complaints of severe back and neck pain caused by this institution's failure to supply adequate essentials, such as a pillow or issue a soft blanket chrono to subside such neck pain, have to this day gone unanswered. Other medical complaints of serious unrelenting stomach cramps, lack of energy, dizziness, extreme loss of weight, and a strong feeling of deteriorating health caused by fierce and unyielding hunger and starvation, remain to go unanswered even though placed in early September.

We're fully aware of our rights, and exert much effort in pursuing so-called justice through the administrative established right to appeal which includes that no reprisal shall be taken against an inmate or parolee for filing appeals. What I've failed to realize, is that the appeals establishment is the same crooked and corrupt administration that we're appealing in the first place and the appeal coordinators are paid in each institution's defense. It's absurd to think one will receive a fair neutral assessment humbling himself in a darkened hour to one who is no doubt paid to defend the system.

Though there is a limit to the appeals filed by an inmate, the same personnel that complaint after complaint is being filed against, is collecting our mail at the days end. If it's not ripped up right in your face, after patiently awaiting a response for three weeks and then having to inquire as to its whereabouts to the appeals coordinator, we learn it has mysteriously disappeared, never reaching its destination. Meanwhile your appeal time has run out and now you may no longer pursue the issue.

When politely asking for additional toiletries, we are told, in a very adversarial

and indecent tone, "no you ain't getting shit but one role issued once a week" and to use your f-ing t-shirt, and laughed at.

We're currently detained in administrative segregation unit (ASU) on the basis of a bogus "pending IGI investigation" which seems to be fairly typical as a punishment for those who've chosen to walk away, disassociating

themselves completely of any known (as CDC calls them) disruptive group. We're defiled, dignity stripped, repeatedly disrespected, mistreated, verbally abused, and deliberately degraded. In addition, we're threatened by correctional captains of "great bodily harm" if one does not debrief on things he honestly has no idea about or answers to.

- A California prisoner, September 2005

