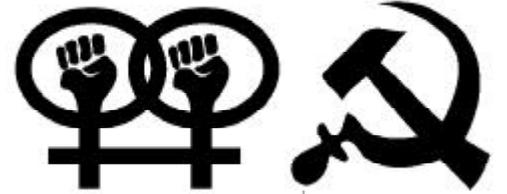


MIM Notes



January 2005, N° 329

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

TOOKIE, ANOTHER CASUALTY OF WAR

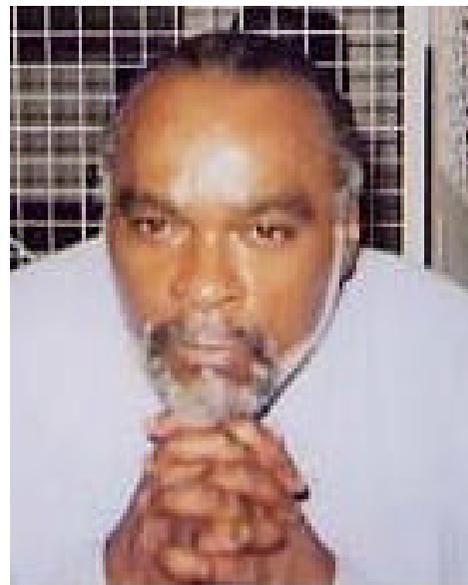
By HC93
From mimnotes.info
December 14, 2005

At 12:35 AM on December 13th, 2005, the State of California executed Stanley Tookie Williams.(1) This is one more death in the Amerikan government's ongoing war against oppressed nations. The dominant Euro-Amerikan oppressor nation, which through the mainstream media busied itself trying to shape public opinion to support an execution, also killed Tookie.

All justice-loving people were outraged by this state-sanctioned murder. Even much of liberal Amerika, which supports executions for other oppressed-nation people, was upset by the State's actions, as it proved once again that it didn't even have the pretense of rehabilitation. (This is despite the recent name-change to the so-called California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.) There is no good reason to kill an individual who has completely reformed. But of course, if the aim was to reform people, the oppressors wouldn't lock people away in the violent distorted societies, which they have created in U.S. prisons, to begin with.

An imperialist country with internal semi-colonies, the United Snakes is unlike socialist countries that ended the oppression of national minorities. In a socialist society, however, Tookie would have been released after being encouraged to do the kinds of things he ended up doing in his final years. But since Tookie lived in a capitalist society, he was executed and murdered. As Tookie himself stressed in his interviews, he had redeemed himself. He became a positive force in the lives of many youth through his books and writing. It seems fair to

Freedom of the press is a joke *United Snakes wanted to bomb critics in the media*



Schwarzenegger, Tookie.

*All justice-loving people
were outraged by this
state-sanctioned murder.*

say that his good outweighed his harm in the end. Tookie himself took responsibility for his role in forming the Crips, apologizing to youth from South Central, Los Angeles, to Azania. But we cannot let the responsibility fall on Tookie and his childhood comrades alone.

The Crips developed within a certain social and historical context. Tookie took part in leading the formation of the Crips after living his life in a certain context, just like the conditions of his life later led him to repent and take on a new purpose in life. The unscientific idea that bad people are just bad cannot explain why Tookie engaged in anti-people activities as a youth, but then turned around to be a positive member of the community later on. In upholding this mantra avoiding

scientific explanation, the state ultimately decided that Tookie was just faking his redemption. This was a ridiculous lie.

Only a scientific understanding of society can explain how Tookie could have had the history that he did. The context for this history is the system of imperialism that is responsible for the formation of organizations like the Crips. Tookie was just one individual. If not him, then another would have taken his place. But it was him, and he did what he did given the situation he was handed. We can't say what Tookie's personal motivations were for starting the Crips, but we know that the formation of lumpen organizations among the oppressed nations is a phenomenon that has historically taken place as a means of self-defense against oppressive conditions, and this was true in the early 1970s in Los Angeles after the repression of Black political movements. And we can say, with a fair amount of certainty, that Tookie did not form the CRIPS to make drugs and violence a daily part of the lives of oppressed-nation youth. The U.S. government on the other hand did just that and consciously so. The U.S. government brought crack into Black and other oppressed-nation neighborhoods with that

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From mimnotes.info
December 1, 2005

President George Bu\$h planned to bomb and destroy the offices of Aljazeera, according to recent reports published in the British press. This November, a memo marked top-secret was leaked to the British media.(1) This is just the latest news regarding past wrongdoings in the imperialist war against the media in the Middle East. Protests against Bu\$h were held in Qatar in response to the allegations of the United States plotting to ruthlessly repress media outlets in the Third World. Aljazeera is said to be considering and exploring legal options against the administration.

The leaked memo details an alleged conversation between Amerikan President Bu\$h and British Prime Minister Tony Blair on April 16, 2004, in Washington, D.C. In the conversation, they discussed launching a military attack on the Aljazeera satellite news channel's headquarters in Doha, Qatar. Qatar, however, is an ally of both the United States and Britain, and it is reported that Blair was worried such an attack would lead to revenge attacks.(1) At least, the attack on Aljazeera in Qatar would have probably led to dozens of deaths of those employed by the news agency in its offices in Qatar's capital city, Doha.

A source told the Daily Mirror that Bu\$h "made clear he wanted to bomb Aljazeera in Qatar and elsewhere. Blair replied that would cause a big problem.. There's no doubt what Bush wanted to do — and no doubt Blair didn't want him to do it."(1)

The Bu\$h government's reaction has varied from dismissing it as a joke or nonsense to calling such allegations "outlandish."(1)(2) Blair also denied that the allegations were true, saying he had no knowledge of any proposed Amerikan action.(2) But yet, charges have now been placed against two men who are alleged to have leaked the document to the media. Civil servant David Keogh and Leo O'Connor have now received charges related to the disclosing of official information.(2)

This recent news, if true, reflects the lengths that the imperialists will go and have gone to silence their critics. If the United States is willing to bomb the offices of a media outlet; it is willing to do take measure to repress critics in the Third World that are not so drastic as bombing.

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“Seize the Time” radio program launched

The Seize the Time Radio Collective recently launched “Seize the Time,” a new, full-length revolutionary news, commentary and music program. The Seize the Time Radio Collective is a Maoist audio collective. The introduction at the beginning of the program states: “Inspired by the Maoist Internationalist Movement, Seize the Time supports the struggle against imperialism, against patriarchy, and against all oppression. We fight for communism, for the revolutionary transformation of society to end all oppression, of nations by nations, groups by groups, and people by people.” News stories and commentaries are mostly drawn from mimnotes.info.

So far there are two “broadcast” episodes of “Seize the Time,” distributed through the Internet in a format that can be downloaded and played at any time. The Seize the Time Radio Collective is interested in getting feedback to improve future programs, from technical advice to suggestions for music. Comments and criticisms may be e-mailed to seizethetime@mimnotes.info.

The Seize the Time Radio Collective hopes to improve various aspects of the program and is aware of problems, related to noise and audibility, in some places. The Radio Collective plans to produce a regular, biweekly/semimonthly program of standard length, either 30 or 60 minutes. The program will be distributed through

different mediums and in various formats.

For information and links to download the programs, go to www.mimnotes.info.

If you are interested in volunteering to help produce or distribute “Seize the Time,” please contact seizethetime@mimnotes.info.



Production by MC12

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 Mimnotes.info?

<http://mimnotes.info>

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

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



We must strive to unlock the minds of the people by revealing the truth.



<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/rail/impkills.html>

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.

Technology uses youths' high-frequency hearing sensitivity to control their movement

From mimnotes.info
December 5, 2005

Several days ago, the New York Times reported on the testing of a new device that uses sound to control the movement and presence of youth in public. The device is described as emitting an extremely irritating, pulsating noise that few people older than 30 are able to detect, but most people younger than 20 are able to hear. The New York Times reported that “[t]he sound is designed to so irritate young people that after several minutes, they cannot stand it and go away.”(1) The device, mockingly called a teenager repellent by some, was recently installed and tested at a convenience store in South Wales. Television stations have broadcast video of perturbed youths clapping their hands over their ears.

It is not clear to this writer whether the device, called “The Mosquito” and invented in the United Kingdom, is even legal; the use of the device would probably be considered a humyn rights violation under international law if openly directed at wimmin for example. Indeed, something that the mainstream media has not addressed is that females on average experience high-frequency hearing loss at a slower rate than males. This raises the possibility of de facto discrimination against wimmin through the use of The Mosquito. However, the testing of this device is significant because it clearly shows how biological differences can be taken advantage of in order to reinforce social distinctions and power relations based on age. This is true even if youth oppression, like the oppression of wimmin, doesn't have a natural origin. Biology is not the main underlying factor in distinctions between adults and youth in society, but the groups that benefit from the oppression of wimmin and youth still figure out ways to use biology to reinforce the patriarchy.

Beside exploiting biological differences, the “Mosquito” device is also unique in how transparently it is being promoted as a way to exclude entire groups of people from certain places, people who are already marginalized. The device goes beyond signs against loitering, for instance, which are supposedly aimed at

everyone. The Mosquito isn't just an anti-loitering device or an anti-theft device; it is an anti-youth device. Not all thieves and loiterers are youths, yet here is a technology aimed exclusively at youth. And those lending support to the use of this technology do not address the social causes of the crime the technology is supposed to prevent, instead targeting the youth themselves.

While the media, as it does with many things, has portrayed The Mosquito in a sensational way — perhaps as a way of lauding its effectiveness — the use of technology to control the movement and presence of young people in different places is certainly nothing new. One kind of high-tech technology that has been used experimentally to control the location of student youth, and is still being developed, is radio frequency identification, or RFID. RFID, which is also used for animal identification, can use radio signals to alert a computer system when the wearer of an RFID tag enters or leaves a certain area, such as a school campus. Electronic technology, making use of the Global Positioning System constellation of satellites, is also available and openly marketed as a way to control youth. That includes both young children and teenagers. This GPS-enabled technology is increasing in popularity and is being introduced in countries such as Brazil.

Technology impacts youths' mobility in other ways. These are not always so direct. Some youths' relative lack of access to transportation translates into other kinds of restrictions on their movement. They are pressurized into certain patterns of movement and are forced to depend on older people for transportation.

And of course, youths have long faced legal restrictions on their movement, such as curfews and so-called anti-gang and anti-loitering laws, as well as threats of violence or arrest for being in public spaces or stores. Technology and the legal system, and lack of access to technology, are used to control youth, keep them out of some places, and pressurize them into other places — where they are abused, exploited or

forced to receive education that is against their interests as members of various marginalized and oppressed groups.

All of these ways of controlling youths' movement work in different ways and are also given legitimacy in different ways, such as the treatment of youth as the chattel property of adults. The same technology that is used for pets is sometimes used to control youth. Radio frequency identification is one example. The Mosquito is no exception; it is eerily reminiscent of sonic animal repellents that are used to keep cats and dogs off couches and things like that.

The direct effect that The Mosquito could have on youth is clear. But the regulation of youth, as an oppressed group, can have far-reaching consequences that are not so obvious. Ironically, while some technology, such as GPS tracking bracelets and cell phones, are ostensibly for the protection of youth, the exclusion of youth from places outside of the home and school may exacerbate their exposure to violence in the home. It also contributes to a culture where youth are demonized, ostracized and disempowered.

Technology like The Mosquito is just one manifestation of the system under which youth are oppressed and which ultimately can only be ended through a revolutionary transformation of society. Adults, particularly males, dominate public space and have a monopoly over technology and other resources. The powerful social groups that oppress youth won't give up their positions and privileges voluntarily. Change is possible, however. The revolutionary movement of the world's exploited and oppressed aims to end all forms of oppression, and that includes the oppression of youth as a group.

Not content with existing restrictions on the movement of youth, the mainstream media is diverting attention from the political ramifications of the “Mosquito” technology. The media is representing the technology merely as a way to prevent loitering and shoplifting by teenagers, but younger youth and some people in their 20s are also able to hear the irritating noise. This writer believes that The Mosquito could be used in conjunction with technology such as RFID to resolve the problem associated with some adults' being able to hear the noise produced by The Mosquito. The Mosquito could be automatically activated only when youth wearing radio frequency identification tags are nearby. It is not difficult to imagine that business owners would be interested in using such a system to discourage panhandling or so-called loitering.

ABC News correspondents joked about the technology on television Friday, one of them, Bill Weir, saying: “It's The Mosquito. We've been having fun with this. Because we all know that the scourge of humanity right now, loitering teenagers.”(2) Nick Partridge of ITV



Wales News made an interesting comment that is relevant to youth oppression: “if all this seems anti-young people, it could be turned around.” But it is doubtful that adults would give up such powerful means to exclude youth from the streets and other supposedly public places.

Technology such as The Mosquito also has potential applications in the Third World, where it may do even more damage by serving to repress protesters who are youths by shutting them out from certain streets, buildings, or areas. The mainstream media pretends to be awestruck by The Mosquito's effects and dazzled by the technology. However, the focus on the mechanics of the technology serves to distract from the political consequences of the technology for subjugated youth.

Technology, based on sound, is already used to repress people. BBC News in early November reported on the use of so-called sonic weapons at sea and near coasts. The U.S. military uses sonic weapons to maintain control over ports in southern Iraq. BBC News reported: “US troops have also used the [long-range acoustic device] in action in the Iraqi cities of Falluja and Baghdad, and it was deployed for crowd control in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.”(3) Others, such as NPR, have reported on plans by Amerikan police departments to use so-called long-range acoustic devices to “control crowds and stop troublemakers without endangering the innocent people.”(4) The devices are meant as a replacement for rubber bullets and tear gas. Similar sonic technology has been used in other places for repression. Several months ago, a device called “The Scream” was used by the Israeli army to forcefully disperse protesters. The Mosquito may not be as damaging — the sonic weapons used by the Amerikan military and cruise ships, and the Israeli military, can damage hearing — but The Mosquito opens up the possibility of sonic repressive devices aimed specifically at youth.

Rather than using technology to improve the conditions of the world's people, it should be no surprise that the oppressors are using technology against

Go to 5...



United Snakes wanted to bomb critics in the media

Aljazeera is a long-time critic of U.S. policy in the Arab world. Aljazeera was critical of the wars against Afghanistan and Iraq. Aljazeera was one of the most vocal in getting out stories of U.S. atrocities in Iraq, such as the use of chemical weapons against civilians in Falluja.(3) In the past, Aljazeera has been accused by Amerikan generals of broadcasting anti-United States propaganda. For example, General Kimmert had demanded the removal of Aljazeera from Falluja in Iraq. The alleged conversation between Bu\$h and Blair happened at a time when British officials were said to have been appalled by U.S. actions in Falluja to repress national liberation fighters and the people supporting them.(4)

What makes imperialists' denials of the memo hard to believe is that Aljazeera along with other journalists have been targeted in the past. In 2001, for instance, there was an attack by the United Snakes on Aljazeera's offices in Kabul, Afghanistan. Again, this time in November of 2002, Aljazeera's offices in Kabul were destroyed by a U.S. missile. In just one day, April 8, 2003, Amerikan forces killed three journalists in separate incidents. Taras Protsyuk, working for Reuters, died when a U.S. tank fired on the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad. Jose Couso, of Spain's Telecinco television, was also killed at the hotel. And Tariq Ayoub, an Aljazeera correspondent, was killed by a U.S. air strike against the Aljazeera office in Baghdad. Although the United States claimed the deaths were

an accident, critics claim that the attacks were a message aimed at silencing journalists. Rashid Hamid Wali, of Aljazeera, was possibly killed by the United States while filming a gun battle in May 2004. Many other journalists have been killed under similar circumstances, such as one Palestinian, Mazin Dana, working for Reuters, who was filming outside of Abu Ghraib prison. Also, at least two from al-Arabiya television, Ali Abdul Aziz and Ali al-Khatib, were shot dead by the imperialists in 2004.(5)(6) This list is far from exhaustive of all the journalists whom the imperialists have killed and gotten away with killing.

In addition to silencing their critics, the imperialists are paying Iraq newspapers to run favorable stories written by U.S. information officers. Stories are placed in Iraq papers with the assistance of defense contractors. These stories praise the United States and denounce those who resist the occupation. These stories are very common. They have titles such as "Iraqis Insist on Living Despite Terrorism."(8)

This is just more of the same, just in a different place and targeting different people. The Bu\$h administration has been criticized for paying for favorable op-ed pieces about its policies in the United States. This is just an extension of the same trend represented by Fox News' embedded journalists. The media always serves the imperialist system.

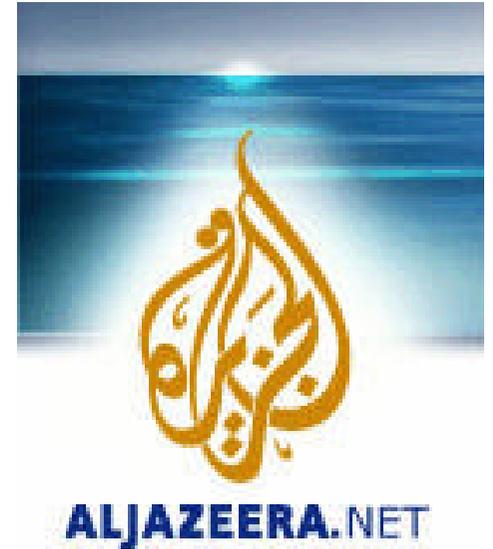
Imperialists murdering their critics in the media is also nothing new. There is a long

history of the United States murdering journalists across the Third World. These latest events show the bloody truth about imperialism — this war is about power and imperialist profit. The imperialists have no real concern about the liberal-democratic freedoms they claim to uphold. Nor do they have any interest in free speech in Iraq nor anywhere else. In reality, the imperialists allow freedom of the press only so long as the press doesn't step too far out of line and threaten the position of the ruling class.

The claims by the imperialists that they want a free society in Iraq is a total lie. Imperialists have no concern for Iraqis nor any oppressed peoples. Imperialists use rhetoric about humyn rights and freedom to justify their wars of aggression. In reality, imperialists themselves do the most to suppress freedom; they are the greatest violators of humyn rights. Those resisting imperialism deserve our support. Those journalists who risk their lives for truth deserve our support — whether it is Mumia Abu Jamal who sits on death row for daring to speak the truth about U.S. violence against the Black Nation, or those who in effect risk their lives to bring us the truth about U.S. imperialist crimes in Iraq.

Notes:

1. "Memo: Bush wanted Aljazeera bombed," Aljazeera.Net, 22 November 2005.
2. "Pair charged in UK bomb memo leak," Aljazeera.Net, 29 November 2005.



3. Maoist, "Chemical Weapons Used by Amerikkkan Military against Iraq," mimnotes.info, 9 November 2005.

4. Richard Norton-Taylor, "Al-Jazeera demands answers after claim that Bush wanted to bomb headquarters," The Guardian, 26 November 2005.

5. "Journalists killed in Iraq: Profile," Aljazeera.Net, 21 March 2004.

6. "Aljazeera crew member killed in Iraq," Aljazeera.Net, 22 May 2004.

7. Richard Norton-Taylor, "Al-Jazeera demands answers after claim that Bush wanted to bomb headquarters," The Guardian, 26 November 2005.

8. Mark Mazzetti and Borzou Daragahi, "U.S. paying Iraqi press to run favorable stories," 30 November 2005, <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/3ca72216-6179-11da-8470-0000779e2340.html>

TOOKIE, ANOTHER CASUALTY OF WAR

From 1...

(covertly) expressed purpose. But the U.S. government has yet to be put to trial for that. When it is, the sentence brokered by the people will surely be death.

Tookie just happened to be born into one of those neighborhoods in which the U.S. government was encouraging the illicit drug trade, with all the violence that comes with it, as a means of social control following the turbulent era of Black national liberation struggle. Ultimately, the system is guilty for all that violence regardless of the many individuals who carried it out. And as long as people deny that, we will continue to see more and more violence, and more and more oppressed-nation youth following in Tookie's footprints: the very thing Tookie spent his final years trying to prevent.

The good news is that there are also thousands of Tookies who have already reached the stage of redemption. And Tookie was not the first either, the most obvious example being brother Malcolm X. Many of these thousands, currently rotting away in AmeriKKKa's prison hellholes, are also blaming the system. Many take responsibility for what they did (if they did anything), but they see the

source of the problem in the system. And these comrades aren't going to get the support of the white liberals because they aren't writing children's books, but they're organizing for self-determination. And the last thing Amerika wants to see is the self-determination of oppressed nations. That makes it ever more vital that we stand behind these comrades, and do so with the correct analysis of why they are where they are.

It's hard to say where Tookie really stood. Would you believe anything someone said while they've got a gun to their head? Because the state had a gun to Tookie's head while he repented and took full responsibility for his legacy as a Crips co-founder. But one might question his pacifism or his attitude toward the role of the state after reading his dedication to "Nelson Mandela, Angela Davis, Malcolm X, Assata Shakur, Geronimo Ji Jaga Pratt, Ramona Africa, John Africa, Leonard Peltier, Dhoruba Al-Mujahid, George Jackson, Mumia Abu-Jamal, and the countless other men, women, and youths who have to endure the hellish oppression of living behind

bars," in his book *Life in Prison*. In fact, that's exactly what California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger did.

One of the main reasons Schwarzenegger gave for refusing clemency for Tookie was that very dedication. He said, "The mix of individuals on this list is curious. Most have violent pasts and some have been convicted of committing heinous murders, including the killing of law enforcement. But the inclusion of George Jackson on this list defies reason and is a significant indicator that Williams is not reformed and that he still sees violence and lawlessness as a legitimate means to address societal problems."(3) Yet, the U.S. government will claim that they don't murder people because of their beliefs. Another one of the comrades whom Tookie listed, Mumia Abu-Jamal, is on death row himself after a bullshit trial where his quoting of Mao as a young Black Panther was used against him, to imply that he was dangerous on the street. Hell yeah he was dangerous! Not to the people, but to the oppressors.

The "war on drugs," the "war on gangs,"

and the "war on terrorism" are all part of the same war against oppressed nations. And the imperialists can never win this war, because their very system produces the things they claim to be against, including resistance. Oppressed people fighting imperialism can put an end to drugs, violence and other social ills by overthrowing imperialism and in the process building a society that provides for the needs of all people.

Notes:

1. For more on Tookie's case, see: "Protesters demand clemency for Stanley Tookie Williams," 21 November 2005, <http://www.mimnotes.info/news/20051121protestersdemand/>

2. For a first-hand account of socialist prisons in China see: Allyn Rickett and Adele Rickett, *Prisoners of Liberation* (Garden City, NY: Anchor Press, 1973).

3. Arnold Schwarzenegger, "Statement Of Decision From Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger On Request For Clemency By Stanley Williams," 12 December 2005, <http://www.indybay.org/news/2005/12/1789704.php>

Air marshals kill Latin American U.S. citizen in Miami under questionable circumstances

From mimnotes.info
December 7, 2005

UPDATE (8 December 2005): TIME.com is reporting that an eyewitness on Flight 924 said he never heard Rigoberto Alpizar say he had a bomb (Siobhan Morrissey, "Eyewitness: 'I Never Heard the Word 'Bomb''," 8 December 2005, <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1138965,00.html>). It would appear that Alpizar's reaching for what others have described as a bag could have been an attempt to remove one of his bags to comply with the air marshals' instructions to lie down. "McAlhany [a witness] described Alpizar as carrying a big backpack and wearing a fanny pack in front. He says it would have been impossible for Alpizar to lie flat on the floor of the plane, as marshals ordered him to do, with the fanny pack on."

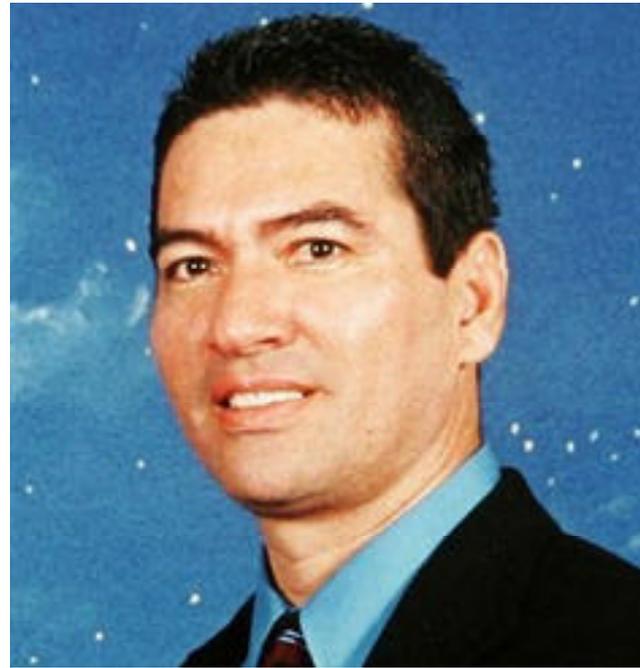
On December 7th, a Costa Rican man, believed to be mentally ill, was shot and killed by federal air marshals in Miami. By most accounts, the individual, identified as Rigoberto Alpizar and a U.S. citizen, was hurriedly leaving the airplane at Miami International Airport after he had got on it. The plane had arrived from Colombia and was leaving for Orlando. According to Reuters, federal and Miami

officials have contradicted each other, the federal officials saying he was shot while on a jetway, which is the corridor between an airport terminal and an airplane. Miami officials said he was shot on the airplane itself. Alpizar was reportedly running and told to stop. When he didn't stop, he was gunned down. His wife was running after him and trying to let others know that he was mentally ill. The man supposedly said he had a bomb at one point. It turned out he didn't.

Reuters cites so-called experts, some not even in Miami, who say that the air marshals acted exactly as they were trained to do, and that the man's actions were an attempted "suicide by cop." Mimnotes.info does not claim to have anything other than second-hand information, but it is worth pointing out that air marshals are not on all flights. CNN has admitted as much. Thus, it is unclear how Rigoberto Alpizar could have known for sure he was going to be killed.

We also cannot be sure that this shooting would have happened in a society where mental health problems are less stigmatized. The mainstream media is asking "what if" questions. What if there was a bomb? But in places where there is less stigma toward mental health problems, there is less reason not to let others know about such problems and prevent misinterpretations of erratic, but not necessarily dangerous, behavior. Also, mental illness stigma prevents people from learning about what mental illness symptoms are supposed to look like so they don't confuse unusual behavior with dangerous behavior. Even then, panic attacks that harm other people don't need to be responded to with shooting. Just considering things from this point of view, it may be that Alpizar did not need to die. Also, because of the stigma of mental illness, mentally ill people are considered more prone to committing crimes. This is actually a myth. Indeed, people classified as mentally ill are much more likely to be victims of violent crime than perpetrators. Thus, for Alpizar's wife, Anne Buechner, to shout to others that he was mentally ill may not have slowed down trigger-happy air marshals. It might have actually contributed to the air marshals' viewing his behavior as dangerous. One eyewitness who was a passenger even said Alpizar was "running like a crazy man." (2) It is disturbing that symptoms of mental illness may have been treated as signs of criminal intent.

Advocates of psychiatry claim to oppose mental illness stigma, but distract from the role of society in causing mental health problems and influencing the outcomes of mental health treatments. Mental illness, like other forms of illness, is seen as an individual's problem, which in some ways actually reinforces mental illness stigma. Illness in general, not just mental illness, is stigmatized in a society



Rigoberto Alpizar.

where people obsess with their strengths and weaknesses as individuals.

Psychiatrists generally do not see changing the oppressive status quo or the power of groups over groups as part of any treatment. This restricts what people with mental health difficulties can do to help themselves and others at the same time. While recognizing that mental illness stigma might have been at play in today's incident and opposing this stigma, we should not uncritically take for granted what the ruling class and other groups in power mean when they talk about mental illness and whether Alpizar should have been shot or not. Perversely, some commentators in the media have used Alpizar's reported mental illness as an opportunity to call for more intense scrutiny of people's behavior, which might lead to more killings of innocent people. Acknowledging that Alpizar had a mental health difficulty should not lead to applying the mental illness classification to more people, especially if that means more people being perceived as dangerous and needing to be controlled.

Although the details on what actually happened today are still very unclear, one cannot help wondering about the possible role of race or nationality in the decision to shoot. This would not be the first time air marshals have harassed oppressed-nation people. And contrasting with the recent reactionary hysteria concerning undocumented migrants as terrorists, the oppressors show their willingness to murder innocent documented oppressed-nation immigrants as well. Even if none of the air marshals involved in the incident were using racial profiling, assumptions about which countries are associated with terrorism may underlie decisions to put air marshals on some flights but not others. The focus on airline passengers as potential terrorists is lopsided anyway. The imperialist United States is the biggest terrorist on the planet, carrying out assassinations, supporting death

squads, destroying whole communities, and annihilating whole cities.

Notes:

1. Jim Loney, "Passenger killed by air marshals," 8 December 2005, http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2005-12-08T000033Z_01_SPI770762_RTRUKOC_0_UK-SECURITY-PLANE.xml
2. John Pain, "Air Marshal Kills Passenger, Citing Threat," 7 December 2005, <http://www.petoskeynews.com/articles/2005/12/07/ap/headlines/d8ebpr300.txt>
3. Abby Goodnough and Matthew L. Wald, "Air Marshals Shoot and Kill Man After Bomb Threat," 8 December 2005, <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/08/national/08plane.html>

Youth noise

From 3...

the oppressed, including youth. It uses technology against the oppressed in a variety of different ways, from reinforcing social distinctions in public places that are based on age, to ruthlessly repressing youth and other people in the Third World. The oppressors will use everything at their disposal to hold onto power. They expand the frontiers of knowledge, only to come up with new ways to keep their patriarchal imperialist system afloat.

Notes:

1. Sarah Lyall, "A Mosquito that scatters swarms of unruly teens," 29 November 2005, <http://www.iht.com/articles/2005/11/29/business/journal.php>
2. "Around the watercooler; teenager repellent," "Good Morning America 7:49 AM EST ABC," 2 December 2005.
3. Adam Blenford, "Cruise lines turn to sonic weapon," 8 November 2005, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4418748.stm>
4. Xeni Jardin, "Focused Sound 'Laser' for Crowd Control," 21 September 2005, <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4857417>
5. "Medics condemn Gaza sonic booms," 3 November 2005, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4402326.stm

Did you know? There are more than 200 back issues of MIM Notes available on the MIM website? Not only can you browse more than 15 years of the newspaper, you can also keep up with the very latest on MIM agitation campaigns, prisoner news, all the latest on the U\$ war, and much more. MIM's website is an indispensable tool for the revolutionary

What's New @ MIM's Homepage

Imperialist lackeys in Iraq torture and kill

From mimnotes.info
November 22, 2005

The imperialist lackeys in Iraq are taking their cues from their American masters. State-sponsored torture and assassinations are rampant in Iraq. Recently, 173 prisoners were found in a clandestine underground bunker-prison run by the Iraqi Interior Ministry. The starving 173 prisoners had also been tortured. Although initial reports put the number of prisoners found at 173, some later revised the figure to 161 prisoners.(1)(2)

Hussein Kamal, a deputy interior minister, stated, "I've never seen such a situation like this during the past two years in Baghdad. This is the worst." He added, "I saw signs of physical abuse by brutal beating, one or two detainees were paralyzed and some had their skin peeled off."(2)

The Guardian received reports from sources in Baghdad alleging "rumors that mutilated corpses and torture instruments had also been found at the underground bunker, including bodies with electric drill holes in their heads."(2) It was known that violent abuses were being committed in the Interior Ministry from the moment of the handover of sovereignty.(3)

This kind of thing is not entirely unexpected. There have long been reports of torture and assassinations by the Iraq lackey government. Death squads known to carry out assassinations and torture have been integrated into the Special Police Commandos under the command of the Interior Ministry. The "disappearances" in Iraq are reminiscent of the murders by CIA-backed death squads in Latin America in the 1980s. In January of this year, the Pentagon had considered implementing what it brazenly called "the Salvador Option." As its name suggests, this plan explicitly called for the use of death squads and assassinations. The plan also has its roots in Operation Phoenix, where thousands of Vietnamese people, suspected of resisting the imperialists, were killed.(4)(5) This only goes to show that the human rights situation in Iraq is not something that is merely a result of a general breakdown of law and order or just sectarian violence as the imperialist apologists might claim. Rather, it is most likely the result of a conscious plan by the imperialists to suppress dissent.

According to a human rights worker in Baghdad, quoted by the Observer, "[w]hat has been happening since August is that when people are being picked up it is by people out of uniform, but who may turn up in Ministry of the Interior vehicles or show MoI [Ministry of Interior] ID cards. Many of those people are turning up with a bullet in the head."(3) These killings have recently become more frequent.(3) A recent United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq report spoke of civilians subjected to "targeted assassinations and extra-judicial

execution-style killings." The report was concerned with abuses, mass arrests, and the human costs of continued military operations in northern Iraq.(6)

These reports of torture and killings come at a time when Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other American officials are being sued in Federal Court. Sherzad Khalid and Thahe Sabbar are suing U.S. government officials, claiming that they had been detained and abused in 2003 by American forces. Khalid claimed that he had been locked in a cage and threatened with mock execution. Khalid, quoted by the Washington Post, said, "I was wondering if it could be real that the American army would act this way."(2)

These reports verify long-standing accusations against the imperialist puppet state in Iraq. It should come as no surprise that the imperialist lackeys would be engaging in this kind of brutality. After all, they are just following in the footsteps of their imperialist masters. We hope that these recent reports will weaken the resolve of the imperialists. Although support for the war as it is currently being carried out is weakening, a recent poll by the Pew Research Center shows that nearly half of Americans are okay with the use of torture against suspected terrorists.(7)

The imperialists justified their war of aggression by saying that Saddam Hussein was violating human rights. They filled the airwaves with stories of Saddam Hussein's atrocities — atrocities that they themselves are implicated in supporting since they aided the Iraq government during the Iran-Iraq War in several different ways. The United States even defended the Iraq government's use of chemical weapons against Kurdish people in Iraq after it happened. Now, the imperialists and their new lackeys are committing similar atrocities. These vicious acts of repression show that the imperialist reactionaries will do whatever it takes to win and more, to secure their power over oppressed people and pave the way for economic exploitation. Imperialists' concern for human rights is a lie. It is simply a means of justifying reactionary wars while defaming liberation movements. All people, everywhere, opposed to oppression should oppose the crimes committed by the imperialists and their lackeys.

Notes:

1. Bassem Mroue (Associated Press Writer), "173 detainees show signs of torture," 16 November 2005, http://www.helenair.com/articles/2005/11/16/national_top/a02111605_01.txt

2. Jamie Wilson, "173 prisoners found beaten and starved in Iraq government bunker," Guardian, 16 November 2005, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,2763,1643563,00.html>

3. Peter Beaumont, "Frontline police of new Iraq are waging secret war of vengeance," The Observer, 20 November



A sterile depiction of "water boarding," an interrogation technique reportedly used by American agents with "terrorism" suspects. Despite inducing a terrorizing sensation of drowning, it leaves no physical trace. (Illustration from Slate.com).

2005, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/Observer/international/story/0,6903,1646743,00.html>

4. Scott Ritter, "Salvador Option," Aljazeera.Net English, 25 January 2005.

5. Michael Hirsh and John Barry, "The Salvador Option," Newsweek, 14 January 2005.

6. Agence France Presse, "UN Warns

of Human Rights Violations in Iraq," 14 November 2005, <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines05/1114-03.htm>

7. "US: Nearly 50% OK with torture," News24.com, 17 November 2005, http://www.news24.com/News24/World/News/0,,2-10-1462_1836289,00.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.

Zion documentary misplaces anti-Semitism

Protocols of Zion
Directed by Marc Levin

HBO Films and ThinkFilm Inc., 2005

“Protocols of Zion” is a documentary film that examines anti-Semitism since the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. At times, it is also a semi-biographical film that focuses on the director and narrator, Marc Levin, and his father, Al Levin. The centrality of Marc Levin’s perspective in the film, as a First World individual crusading against anti-Semitism, shapes its content. For those who don’t know anything about the profound and devastating confusion that anti-Semitism causes among oppressed people, inside and outside the United States, about who their real enemy is, “Protocols of Zion” raises thought-provoking questions. Ultimately, however, “Protocols of Zion” undercuts the struggle against anti-Semitism by perpetuating stereotypes about non-whites as anti-Semites, and oppressor-nation whites as leaders of the struggle against anti-Semitism.

“Protocols of Zion” is ostensibly about the myth that the attack on the World Trade Center was part of a so-called Jewish conspiracy taking its cues from The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion. The Protocols is a forgery that was distributed by feudal reactionaries in Russia to whip up reactionary hysteria against Jews and discredit reformers and revolutionaries who wanted to end the autocratic rule of the Tsar. The Protocols in imperialist countries today is used to make Jews a scapegoat in order to save imperialism, and in the U.S. context this means defending the imperialist privilege of the majority of Euro-Americans. The Protocols is also a way for misguided oppressed-nation people within the United States to pander to the mistaken belief that oppressed-people within the United States and the majority of Euro-Americans have a common enemy. Among internal semi-colony people in the United States, reactionary anti-Semitic unity is often a cheap substitute for anti-imperialist unity.

Marc Levin’s “Protocols of Zion” touches on different manifestations of anti-Semitism, not just anti-Semitic 9/11 conspiracy theories, and places them in the context of excerpts from The Protocols. Levin looks at anti-Semitism among different nationalities in the United States, specifically Blacks, Palestinians, and Euro-Americans. Levin does this more to show the extent of anti-Semitism in the United States than to draw out differences between oppressed-nation and oppressor-nation anti-Semites.

At first glance, one might think that a film about the anti-Semitic myths surrounding 9/11 is irrelevant, or perhaps a distraction from the imperialist wars that

are being fought in the name of the 9/11 victims. Indeed, “Protocols of Zion” itself leaves the impression that those who believe in these anti-Semitic myths are a fringe group. In the film, the conspiracy theorists are shown as crackpots on the street, being shouted down by others. Marc Levin’s investigation of anti-Semitic 9/11 conspiracy theories, which turns into a more general exploration of anti-Semitism in various forms, takes him from the social and geographic fringes of New York City all the way to Hillsboro, West Virginia, where the neo-Nazi National Alliance’s headquarters are located. The question arises why make the film in the first place if the topic is fringe. The film itself seems to have acquired only a marginal status.

In the almost two months since its October limited release in the United States in select cities, such as Los Angeles and New York, “Protocols of Zion” has sold less than \$150,000 in theater tickets, which is very little even in comparison with some other independent films. The specific reasons for the film’s lack of popularity at the box office are unclear, but Americans are generally more interested in watching movies glorifying decadence and escapism than overtly political movies, with the exception of those that flatter their pretensions. There may be other reasons for the documentary film’s relative unpopularity. “Paradise Now” (Warner Independent, 2005), a drama about two Palestinian suicide bombers, was released a week after “Protocols of Zion” in the United States, but has sold several times as many tickets. “Paradise Now” does not focus on anti-Semitism, but “Protocols of Zion” probably hits too close to home for American moviegoers in its focus on American anti-Semitism.

“Protocols of Zion” may raise uncomfortable questions for Americans about the prevalence of anti-Semitism in the United States. A telephone survey released this year by the Anti-Defamation League and conducted by the Marttila Communications Group shows that 15% of American adults — that is, tens of millions — believe that Jews have “too much power” in the United States. This writer has no reason to question the survey design of this particular question in this one ADL survey.

There are more people with clearly anti-Semitic views in the United States alone than there are Palestinians in the entire world, anti-Semitic or not. This should be a clue to those who in one way or another act as if anti-Semitism were a problem among Middle Eastern peoples, but not in North America or Europe. This is where the biggest problems with “Protocols of Zion” come in. The film draws attention to the confusing, distorting and pernicious influence of anti-Semitism in the thinking of a significant number of oppressed-nation people in the world and in the United States, but does so in a way



that plays into the idea that people in decadent imperialist nations are leading the struggle against anti-Semitism.

“Protocols of Zion” pays as much attention to Blacks, Palestinians and Arabs in Amerika being anti-Semitic as it does to the fascist, white-nationalist National Alliance and the operator of the virulently anti-Semitic Jew Watch Web site. Not only does the film seem to equate anti-Semitic Euro-Americans and anti-Semitic oppressed-nation people in terms of the power they have to put their reactionary and wrongheaded ideas into practice, “Protocols of Zion” portrays anti-Semitism as something foreign to Amerika or a thing of the past, which is the case with the film’s treatment of Henry Ford’s anti-Semitism. “Protocols of Zion” is about anti-Semitism in Amerika — Levin does not go to any Middle Eastern country to interview people — but it repeatedly shows footage from the same Middle Eastern television program dramatizing the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. The effect is to say: this is what is influencing anti-Semitic Arabs in the United States. “Protocols of Zion” simplistically draws a line between the anti-Semitic Egyptian miniseries (“Horseman without a Horse”) and anti-Semitism in the United States. Levin’s investigation of anti-Semitism in the United States leads him to Egypt, but only by the thinnest of evidence.

In addition to exaggerating the connection between the miniseries and anti-Semitism in the United States, narrator Marc Levin argues with Blacks and Palestinians about Jewish people. The film should have spent more time

showing oppressed-nation people criticizing other oppressed-nation people’s anti-Semitism. Instead, what we see is Levin getting into confrontations with oppressed-nation people. Levin’s attempt to make this film a documentary about his individual struggle against anti-Semitism has the consequence of making it seem as if oppressed-nation radicals are unable to eradicate anti-Semitism without intervention by oppressor-nation people.

At one point, the film shows Levin debating Blacks behind prison walls. Anti-Semitism has a pernicious effect on the political organizing of oppressed people, even behind prison walls where anti-Semitism presumably can’t do as much damage, but Levin’s confrontations do not take place in the context of trying to organize people politically. Euro-American Jews are able to work with oppressed-nation people to eliminate anti-Semitism, but Levin doesn’t draw from any unique experience or knowledge when arguing with Blacks and Palestinians on the street, let alone for the purpose of trying to organize them politically to end the system that oppresses them. He doesn’t talk about the damage that anti-Semitism has done to progressive and revolutionary movements or his experiences of anti-Semitism getting in the way of political unity against oppression.

Levin is briefly shown encouraging Palestinians in New York to focus on the powerful white people who are

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Shopgirl hides power relations, upholds love myth

Reviewed by a correspondent
From mimnotes.info

Shopgirl
Directed by Anand Tucker
Buena Vista Pictures, 2005

Some have been comparing “Shopgirl” to “Lost in Translation” (Focus Features, 2003) in its pace and for its supposed “honesty” and refusal to romanticize or sensationalize. Nobody is portrayed as really bad in this movie. They are, in a way, portrayed as living their lives as ordinary, flawed people, mostly moving through a world not in their control — this point is even made by the narrator. Passivity is implied in this kind of *que sera sera* outlook. This is obviously counter to the Maoist view that says we need to intervene actively and collectively in the world to solve our problems — that we should remake the world for the better.

The plot of “Shopgirl” follows Mirabelle (Claire Danes); she is in her 20s, a naive and lonely newcomer to Los Angeles fresh from Vermont. She spends her days as a sales person at Sax Fifth Avenue, and her nights listening to romance advice on radio talk shows. She eventually meets Jeremy (Jason Schwartzman), an awkward spastic slacker who wears his heart on his sleeve. After hearing a radio talk show that may have implied that women need sex and to be held in order to be healthy, she ends up deciding to go on a date with Jeremy. After sex, Jeremy begins speaking about problems at work. Mirabelle makes an offhand remark that he should do something about it. Jeremy gets a promotion and is allowed to travel with bands as a roadie and sell audio equipment. By the end of the movie,

Jeremy has transformed from a dirty spaz who uses zip-lock baggies for condoms into a successful, hip young businessman. After meeting Jeremy, Mirabelle meets another man, Roy Porter (Steve Martin).

Roy is a stark contrast to Jeremy. Roy is older, in his 50s. He is successful, cultured, and refined. Roy keeps Mirabelle on the side. He believes he has told her up front that their relationship can never lead to anything serious. However, Mirabelle reads the situation differently. Roy buys her gifts. He shows her off as a trophy girlfriend. Mirabelle is introduced to the world of the bourgeois chic. Roy takes her to art galleries and introduces her to wine and Armani. Both Jeremy and Roy are portrayed as decent, yet flawed.

The movie strongly embraces the myth of love. Mirabelle finds love with Jeremy, eventually, despite the fact he has done nothing to, especially deserve it except clean up and read some books on relationships. Although, it should be pointed out that the whole idea of being deserving of love or earning love is bourgeois in itself. Under the system of patriarchy that oppresses women and youth, all relationships tend toward prostitution, and all sex under patriarchy is rape or based on the rape culture no matter what the character or income of the people involved. But even by certain bourgeois romantic standards, Jeremy is nothing special. Mirabelle seems to just settle for whoever happens to be in front of her — by the end of the movie, it is Jeremy. The only thing Jeremy does that is noteworthy is that, after reading a book with some stoner musicians, Jeremy calls Mirabelle up and out of the blue to

apologize for “sexually objectifying [her].” Although this incident is played as a joke in the movie, it seems incidental to their getting back together. There is little real growth in Jeremy’s character at all except by the end he is cleaned up and has a better car. When she first meet Jeremy, she asks if he is the kind of person who seems odd at first but turns out to be fabulous later once you get to know him. He replies that he is that kind of person; however, one would not know it from watching this movie.

In addition to the myth of love with Jeremy, we also learn via the narrator (Roy, Steve Martin) that Mirabelle and Roy were also in love. Although, Roy could not admit it while they were together. We learn this at the end of the movie after Mirabelle has left Roy and is with Jeremy. Roy and Mirabelle meet at an art opening after they have been broken up for a time. We learn that Roy really did love her all along, or so he says. But, now they agree they will move on — no hard feelings. Neither Mirabelle nor Roy have any ill will about the whole affair. The affair between Mirabelle and Roy could be seen as basically prostitution, even though Mirabelle is too indoctrinated to see it that way. Because the movie does not portray anyone as really bad, most will not draw the conclusion that the distinction between girlfriend and prostitute is as illusory as the distinction between wife and prostitute — as Friedrich Engels once commented on.

The movie deflects this conclusion also by contrasting Mirabelle’s innocence with a overt gold-digging co-worker who is

more obviously like a prostitute and whom the audience is made to dislike. The co-worker advises naive Mirabelle to give Roy fellatio and then cut him off once he is addicted. At one point, Roy cheats with another woman, who asks Roy if he wants to lay back and pretend he is in Thailand. Rather than drawing the obvious conclusion that, like many gender oppressors, Roy relates to women as prostitutes and fantasizes about having sex with the least powerful woman, the movie instead steers back to portraying Roy as basically good yet merely flawed. Yet, the movie also steers away from the other side of the equation, that women, too, under patriarchy often relate as prostitutes to men, whether for survival reasons in the Third World and other oppressed nations, or to enjoy a better First World lifestyle. Again, Mirabelle’s innocence obscures this. After laying back like “in Thailand,” Roy writes Mirabelle explaining how he wants to be honest with her; so, he informs her of the encounter — which he claims isn’t cheating since they were not serious in that way. After a few days of giving Jeremy the cold shoulder, she accepts his apology eventually — although it wasn’t much of an apology. So, they get back together, and the gifts continue. At some point, Roy pays off her \$50,000 student loan to get in good with her.

The movie does draw out, in a distorted way, how unequal power relations affect how partners see their relationship. Roy thinks he is an honest guy and believes he has told Mirabelle that she is just a

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Zion

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oppressing them and disregard whether they are Jews or not. This is the correct approach to take, but elsewhere Levin says it is just a handful of corporate elites who control the world. But there is nothing radical about this essentially reform-minded idea, and in fact the tendency to single out just a handful of members of the ruling and oppressor classes can serve to reinforce anti-Semitism. Those who say only an oligarchy controls the world, and deny the class-based nature of power under capitalism, contribute to making anti-Semitism more ideologically possible than it would otherwise be.

One of the best things about “Protocols of Zion” is that it exposes the role of Americans, namely Ford Motor Company founder Henry Ford, in anti-Semitism in the United States, and we are able to see how American Nazism is alive and well in the form of the shockingly successful National Alliance. “Protocols of Zion” also shows a proselytizing Christian threatening Levin, a secular Jew, with hellfire if he doesn’t convert. Another positive aspect of the film is that Marc

Levin is careful to distinguish between anti-Semitism and criticism of the imperialist state Israel, even though he tends to portray Palestinian Americans as being monolithically anti-Semitic.

Henry Ford’s relationship with Hitler will come as news to some American moviegoers. However, the movie does not go far enough in showing the role of Euro-American workers in fascism and anti-Semitism. Relatedly, “Protocols of Zion” does little to explain why anti-Semitism exists in the first place, among imperialist-nation people or oppressor-nation people. Anti-Semitism at the beginning of the film is briefly connected to economic downturns. Like anti-immigrant reaction, anti-Semitism is associated with perceived changes in economic conditions. This is something the film could have expanded on.

Marc Levin seems to be unwilling to put anti-Semitism in any historical context other than a timeless one about the resilience of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and anti-Semitism generally. Levin argues that 9/11 unleashed a wave of anti-Semitism, but where the pent-up anti-Semitism came from in the first place is not dealt with in the film. The movie’s avoidance of historical and social explanation, and its obsession with the

present, undercut the struggle against anti-Semitism by obscuring its causes. It also serves to portray Arabs as inherently anti-Semitic since Arabs who oppose anti-Semitism don’t feature prominently in the film. “Protocols of Zion” calls attention to a problem, but other than showing Levin criticizing anti-Semitic Arabs, Blacks and neo-Nazis one by one, it doesn’t present any solution to the problem it addresses.

By failing to address the causes of anti-Semitism and taking the point of view of the Euro-American crusader against anti-Semitism, “Protocols of Zion” has the potential to stir up chauvinism against Arabs and Black people. Euro-Americans do not need to see a film to learn that anti-Semitic Arab and Black people exist; yet, here is a film that portrays anti-Semitic Arabs and Blacks without putting this anti-Semitism in the context of how it displaces the struggle against Euro-American imperialist domination. Even in its focus on white people in the boonies in West Virginia, the film lets the majority of Euro-Americans off the hook for racism; Euro-Americans can use this film to distance themselves from openly anti-Semitic rednecks and make themselves feel better without doing anything to oppose anti-Semitism. But while the Euro-

American nation is not on the verge of repressing anti-Semitic rednecks, it does support the militarist repression of Third World people in the name of fighting anti-Semitism. In its attempt to combine a criticism of First World anti-Semites with a criticism of Third World anti-Semites in front of a First World audience, “Protocols of Zion” may inadvertently stir up jingoism against Third World countries. If Levin, a long-time director and producer, is truly serious about ending anti-Semitism among oppressed people, he should use his skills and resources to work with oppressed-nation filmmakers and make a documentary that is really addressed to oppressed-nation people and leaves no ambiguity as to its purpose.

Notes:

1. “Protocols of Zion (2005),” <http://www.boxofficemojo.com/movies/?id=protocolsofzion.htm>
2. “Paradise Now (2005),” <http://www.boxofficemojo.com/movies/?id=paradisenow.htm>
3. “ADL Survey: Anti-Semitism Declines Slightly in America; 14 Percent of Americans Hold ‘Strong’ Anti-Semitic Beliefs,” 4 April 2005, http://www.adl.org/PresRele/ASUS_12/4680_12.htm

“Judge Judy” illustrates need to transform the parasitic economy

By mim3@mim.org
November 22, 2005

A television favorite of Americans is Judge Judy, a fake judge who holds a pretend court for the entertainment of the public. We do not know if it was a re-run, but today a Black woman went to court to demand \$600.

Our readers may simplify our line and say that MIM always sides with the oppressed-nationality person. Actually, this “Judge Judy” episode brings other questions to the fore of greater importance than the nationality and gender of the plaintiff in court.

The plaintiff was in court for two “dings” on her car that came from a shopping cart in a parking lot. She wanted \$600 to repair two dents smaller than a dime and about as deep as a dime. She won \$300 and entertained the public.

The “trial” brought amazing facts to bear on whether anyone actually saw the shopping cart in contact with the person who allegedly attacked the car. For MIM, we see something entirely different. The preoccupation with the condition of a car’s cosmetic appearance is bourgeois, an indulgence of the globally privileged.

One reason that the middle-class runs into itself in the parking lot is a lack of public transport. The auto companies have succeeded in brainwashing the public in tying up self-esteem with the condition of one’s car instead of one’s subway. The dents a person receives on one’s car are the price one pays for individualist transportation.

Then there is the whole question of the

kind of work “ding doctors” do to pull out dents in cars. On the surface, it would seem that having such mechanics available is a sign of advancement in the economy. Yet, from MIM’s perspective, it’s a sign that people cannot find better things to do because of the direction at the top of society from the imperialists.

Cars are a particular waste and stand at the root of much middle-class support for Middle East war and torture. So to hell with people who derive their pride from their cars. Perhaps at one point it was a worthy accomplishment to manufacture and own cars. Today, “getting a job” means pulling dents out of cars, repainting cars, putting cosmetic bumpers on cars, making fuzzy dice and the like to hang from car rearview mirrors, and standing in toll booths collecting tolls for a transportation system that should be funded without engaging people in meaningless work. That these are not all seen as appalling wastes of time and of people’s whole lives shows how little imperialism as a system has to offer.

Often times the public confuses us communists with profligate Republicans, Democrats or social-democrats who take a capitalist system and seek to bankrupt the budget with generosity to the rich and/or poor. This involves a misunderstanding of Marxism, which is much more radical than anything in U.S. politics. Scientific socialist leaders guarantee jobs for all, but we followers of Marx are for cutting large sectors of waste in the economy — whether or not those sectors appear “profitable” under capitalism.

How often we hear that solar energy works, but it’s too expensive to produce compared with oil. People say this over and over again despite the wars over oil and the obvious fact that oil is a much more limited resource. MIM has a different approach: solar energy is only too “expensive” because the supply of labor for it is too limited in the current capitalist scheme. Abolish ding doctors, toll collectors and vanity license plate manufacturing and put all those people into working on constructing and installing solar energy devices and public transport.

After such basic problems are out of the way globally, people can go back to working on pulling out car dings and the like.

Sometimes it’s difficult to admit that one has a meaningless job and there is the temptation to shoot the messenger — us at MIM. As a political representative of the international proletariat, MIM hopes the American middle classes can see beyond their petty frustrations. We hope to work with anyone who can see there is a shameful lack of meaningful work in the capitalist economy, profitable or not.

Door ding! Watcha gonna do?



Shopgirl

From previous page...

fling, bought for in full. Mirabelle doesn’t get the message even though the signs are all around her. The closest she comes to realizing this prior to their breakup is when she stops taking anti-depressants. Not for the first time, Mirabelle is portrayed as childlike, curled up on the bed and sick. Roy’s sexual interest is bound up with her also being girlish, powerless and weak, which also reflects the oppression of youth under patriarchy. Although, within the sick romance culture of American patriarchy, most audience members won’t see anything lurid about Roy leering at her girlishness. On the contrary, many Americans will find the whole situation romantic. When Mirabelle is depressed from a lack of pills, one wonders if she is sensing herself as a prostitute. However, rather than drawing this point out and allowing her character to grow, the movie has Roy coming to the rescue; he even drives her to the doctor to get more pills. Roy is seen as caring in this scene by both Mirabelle and the audience.

Like the Maoist Internationalist Movement has said, psychology deserves

its long-standing reputation as a tool of the oppressors against the oppressed.(1) Even real mental health difficulties, which can be caused by someone’s experiences in society, are treated in a way that has more to do with reproducing social relations based on inequality than helping people. MIM has also said that the “truth may hurt and be depressing. It does not mean we can afford to do without the truth of oppression and exploitation. We have always said that if people do not find the current reality depressing and hurtful, then there is something wrong with them.”(2) However, the audience — as decadent as they are — will not see real the power dynamic going on here with the drugs. In this scene, capitalism, rape and psychiatry, as forms of control, meet. However, the movie obscures all of this and portrays Roy as a nice, caring guy. It’s okay to buy sex as long as your cultured; it’s okay for men to control women with psychoactive pills as long as they are nice, successful and cultured guys. Also, this movie, rather than advising the action to solve problems, mystifies human relationships and the problems surrounding them. At one point the narrator waxes romantic about how we are all connected in an endless universe. There is an apathetic tone running throughout the movie. Maoists say that

people should be upset when there is oppression in the world and rather than solving problems only psychologically or otherwise individually, they should solve their problems, and others’, through social revolution.

What is so disappointing about “Shopgirl” is that it raises so many issues, yet does so in a way that obscures them. Roy is rich guy who likes young girls and is willing to pay. But most moviegoers won’t put even this together. They’ll think Roy is a good catch. Nor will the audience judge Mirabelle negatively as they judge her gold digging co-worker, although both take part in unequal relationships in part for money. Thus, “Shopgirl” reinforces the notion the prostitution exists only when it takes obvious forms. While the bourgeoisie morally condemns the street walker or obvious so-called gold digger as morally reprehensible, they don’t judge wives and girlfriends who sell themselves less overtly and less consciously. This is because sex in the lives of the protagonists and in the lives of the audience is thoroughly based on inequality taking the form of rape or prostitution. Prostitution and rape are so ever-present in this society that people don’t even notice it — even when it projected in front of them onto a movie screen in an obvious

way.

In a patriarchal society that oppresses women and youth, romance is about twisted relationships and unequal power relations. All of this is obscured because Mirabelle depicted as innocent of her status as a prostitute and passive, and Roy is portrayed as basically a good guy. Most in the audience will even consider Roy “a catch.” Whatever doubt the audience may have had about Roy is gone by the end of the movie. Roy reveals that he really did love her all along; hence, he is shown as vulnerable and redeemed. But love is a myth that obscures power relations. First World women getting more privilege for themselves won’t change this situation, let alone men trying to come up with new ways to “get the girl” or “keep the girl.” Only revolution can change this situation where all sex under patriarchy is based on unequal power relations.

Notes:

1. MC17, “Mental ‘Health’ for a Profit,” MIM Theory, no. 9 (1995): 29.

2. “Combating subjectivism in all arenas, from cigarettes & drugs to sectarianism and white chauvinism,” <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/subjectivism1.html>

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

Missouri prisoners denied basic necessities

I am writing to shed some light as to what's been taking place within these walls of Missouri's DOC. I have been in Ad Seg for 12 months, and during that time canteen price has gone up. State tip is \$7.50 for those without a GED and \$8.50 for those with a GED. We feel that if the canteen increased then the state tip should increase also, because it is hard to purchase most needed hygiene items along with other needed items such as paper, stamps and pens. Those who are in ad-seg have to purchase ad-seg pens for the price of 27 cents which are supposed to be handed out when asked for. The same with the toothpaste, we are charged for something that is supposed to be free: they put a 28 cent price tag each for a 6 oz tube of toothpaste which doesn't even last for a month.

- a Missouri prisoner, October 2005

Hypocritical Tobacco Rule in Washington

Six months or so ago, Washington State Prisons went "Tobacco Free." This included smoking and smokeless products. This rule is not just for us convicts, staff is also not supposed to smoke on prison grounds.

So how's it going you wonder? Us convicts are not smoking of course, but the officers here at Washington State Penitentiary, Walla Walla, are puffing away at will and using smokeless tobacco.

They smoke and dip right in front of us and when we complain about it they tell us, "Hold your breath if you don't like it."

- a Washington Prisoner, August 2005

Censorship protest helps prisoner get censored mail

I'm writing to you regarding the response from the officials here about the censorship they've been doing lately. A while back, maybe a week after I wrote to you and put in the 602, I was called to the program office and a CO gave me the copy of the letter and flyer you sent me. A few days ago I got your letter (copy) to the warden, your letter to me (copy), and the response from the associate Warden, apparently he was the one who gave me the copy a while back. Anyway, the response letter states that I was "understanding and appreciative of the explanation and glad to receive the letter." I don't know if my lack of interest to hear their excuses about this "mistake" or my refusal to argue the incident gave that impression, but I was not understanding nor appreciative. I knew the 602 was already in and the paper work will take its course so I really didn't

have anything to say to any CO about it. I was gonna go about it by their standards. And for the record, I've yet to get a response.

- California prisoner at Pelican Bay, November 2005

Kern Valley prison demonstrates failure of capitalism

In June of 2005, California began opening the 5000 man Kern Valley State Prison in Delano, the 33rd prison in the state's prison expansion boom. In January of 2006, when the prison is expected to be fully operating, prison officials boast that it will be the first maximum security level IV in California with a variety of academic and vocational education programs. These academic and vocational programs, prison officials' claim, are meant to "increase an offender's chance of re-entering society successfully."

Academic and vocational programs are progressive and should be welcomed by all prisoners (so long as they're not being used to reward those in protective custody or producing goods and services for profit), but what is not progressive is the expansion of more prisons, and the expansion of more prisons should not be over-shadowed with some academic and vocational programs. The claims and supposed good intentions of prison officials are hollow and misleading. The fact of the matter is, no amount of academic and vocational programs is going to significantly reduce the prison population. This is a textbook example of trying to treat a symptom instead of treating the disease.

According to the Secretary of the youth and adult correctional agency (YACA), Roderick Q. Hickman: ".prisons are designed to serve the public safety by keeping inmates in custody and preparing them for their eventual release." Hickman's statement has far deeper implications than what appears on first glance, and quite probably deeper than he himself understands or would be willing to face.

In capitalist society production is based on profit, instead of correctly basing it on the needs of all of society's members as a socialist economy dictates. A society whose production is based on profits inevitably results in, and perpetuates, social inequalities where a prison system becomes necessary to protect the wealth and privileges of the bourgeoisie and its privileged labor aristocrats.

Despite various degrees of fluctuation in the prison population, no amount of reforms, academic, or vocational

programs is going to adequately resolve the existence of a prison system. Only through an ongoing transformation of society's economic base, from capitalism onto a socialist course, can the first steps of abolishing all social inequalities and a true continuous reduction of the prison system begin.

As the laws governing objective reality dictates, all quantitative increases or decreases at some point leap to a change in quality and this is no less true of the increase of California's over-populated prisons.

In the 1970s California Governor Jerry Brown, in an attempt to deal with the symptoms of a class divided society, signed legislation requiring judges to impose mandatory, and longer, prison sentences for a wide variety of capitalist created "crimes," thus igniting the process of California's prison boom. In 1978 California prisons held fewer than 21,000 prisoners. By 1984 this number had more than doubled to 43,328. And now at the end of 2005 the prison population has more than tripled at 163,717 and continues to rise.

The pressure of this increase in the number of new prisons and their populations has led to a qualitative deterioration of all aspects within the prison system itself.

Within seven years, the annual budget for California's medical care has doubled over one billion dollars and is rapidly increasing. And yet this increase in medical spending hasn't been able to keep pace with the medical needs of a growing prison population. In fact, as many prisoners are far too aware, despite this increase in medical spending, prison health care remains inadequate and results in medical neglect and numerous preventable deaths every year throughout California.

As for drug and other so-called rehabilitative programs (programs designed to treat symptoms while avoiding their causes), they have for the most part been dismantled. And in direct contradiction to the CDC official's claim of trying to increase an offender's chance of "reentering society successfully," in reality the truth is quite the opposite. The everyday life of the prisoners has deteriorated dramatically. Most of the productive aspects of prison life that were originally gained through prisoner's struggles and designed to promote personal and social development (as far as social development is possible within the limits of a class divided society), such as family visits, educational programs for all, recreational programs, etc., have for the most part been eliminated while isolation units along with the CDC's

excuses for permanently isolating prisoners has expanded in an inverse ratio.

And although Roderick Q. Hickman is a reactionary proponent of the existing status-quo, he is correct for having acknowledged in the San Francisco Chronicle that the 5000 man Kern Valley could not possibly be the last prison because the system holds twice the number of inmates it was designed for and is still adding more.

As a result of receiving some of the super-profits extracted from Third World exploitation, U.S. workers as a class are paid above the value of their labor-power, which enables them to live a privileged material lifestyle. Over the years this has influenced the conscious development of U.S. workers who have not only grown extremely accustomed to their privileges and gadgets, but who are also growing

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.

increasingly frustrated at having a portion of their stolen pie diverted in the form of taxes to pay for the expansion of more prisons.

Does this mean an overturn of 3 strikes and other similar laws? Doubtful. Is this an indication of a future transformation from state to private prisons throughout California? It's worth considering.

But what is evident, not only are the objective conditions within California's prisons ripe to struggle for improvement, but more importantly, through a united struggle within the prison population can further raise their political consciousness and continue the struggle with MIM to end imperialism and all of its inherent contradictions, including the prison system as we know it today.

Notes: San Francisco Chronicle, Sunday July 3, 2005, Hard Time: CA's prisons in crisis.

- A California prison, November 2005

Phony charges against prisoners in California

I have been transferred to the new prison in Delano. It's a cold set up here. I've barely been here a month and have been in the hole the whole time on some trumped up charges about refusing a cellie. They said I threatened bodily injury to a non-existing cellmate. At the time I was in the cell by myself on August 21, 2005 and a big fat CO came trying to intimidate me and kept asking am I gonna take a cell mate? I said no calmly and without anything further to say but 10 minutes later they came back, like 5 or 7 COs cuffed me up and took me to the program office.

They put me in a cage and kept asking me am I gonna take a cellie, I said no. This lieutenant D. Stebbins kept asking me why I wouldn't take a cellie, so I finally briefly explained to him that the last cellie I had got caught with some weed on his person going to the yard at the last prison I was at, which was Corcoran, and then the COs searched the cell and found in his personal property 2 small joints which he told them was his. However they put me in a cage there too and charged me along with my cellie with possession of a controlled substance. And they referred the case to the DA for prosecution so now I'm facing 3 strike law. I don't smoke weed or have any other bad habits at all, period. But they

gave me a urine test as well.

My point is I told the Lieutenant if I have to be responsible for another man's program and my own then I don't want no cellie because that ain't right. But he said if something is found in the cell then it is mutual area and we both get charged with it. So I said I don't want no cellie and then they want you to sign a paper saying you agree to live with someone, no I don't sign papers like that. Anyway I'm in the hole and waiting for my final copy on my 115. I got found guilty of a lesser charge, they found me guilty of obstructing justice in the way of a peace officer. I should not have been found guilty of nothing because they lied on me and now they get away with finding me guilty on a charge that don't make no sense.

This prison here is a real piece of work, they don't have nothing set up here and then they brought a bunch of programmers from CSP Corcoran 270 yard and put us all on a 180 yard that isn't meant for SHU kick outs and mess ups. They lied to us at Corcoran and told us that it would be the same type of program as a 270 yard and everything would run smoothly. The law library here is a big fat joke. They only had a copying machine and 2 books last I checked. And to top it all off they are putting people in the hole for a bunch of dumb stuff that don't make no sense at all.

For instance, on August 9, 2005 an alarm went off on B yard and they had 58 prisoners who refused to lay on the hot scorching ground prone position but they did sit flat on they butts with they hands on their knees. Well the COs and the sergeants didn't like that so they came to the yard like 50 or more COs deep with pepper spray and other gadgets they use when they are trying to force some rules that don't make sense. Anyways they pepper sprayed 2 brothers for no reason and end up taking 12 prisoners to the hole saying they was inciting which was not true they just didn't want to lay prone position on that hot ground and I don't blame them. Out of the 12 prisoners they brought to the hole they let 4 go the next day but 8 are still back here facing bogus charges on inciting. Of course all of their reports got trumped up and they was lied on.

- a California prisoner, October 2005

Oregon Pig's say "truth is what ever we say it is"

I must apologize for taking so long to write and provide you with further information about Oregon's "prison for profit" scheme and Ballot Measure 11 sentencing. I was placed in DSU [isolation] for 120 days for Extortion I, Disrespect I and False Information to an Employee I.

A certain person (inmate) here was trying to gain favor with the guards (ie. rat), and to do so he implicated several people in a false extortion scam; I was one of them. I was questioned by a Lt. Foote, who right away told me "you're lying, I don't believe you." Well, needless to say, when I told Lt. Foote I was doing no such thing, I got Disrespect I for telling Lt. Foote this was not true and he was incorrect. And then because I explained I know no such thing and am doing no such thing, I got False Information to an Employee.

While in DSU, Officer B. Holt told me that "It doesn't matter what the truth is, it's what the officer perceives it to be." So they (the officers) can make up what they want for their truth and as inmates, we have no recourse. Furthermore, I was found guilty at my hearing, sanctioned to 120 days in DSU and a \$100 fine. An excellent money making scam by the state and Snake River Correctional Institution.

- an Oregon Prisoner, August 2005

COs cover windows to hide abuse of prisoners

Right now I am in the hole here at the infamous High Desert State Prison because a sergeant and Correctional Officer tried to set me up to get jumped by another prisoner. They have a practice of covering all the doors and windows whenever they are cell extracting inmates so the rest of the population can't see and be a witness to whatever they do. I believe they should not be able to cover our windows and doors just for the purpose of keeping us from seeing what they are doing. No other prison I have been to does that. The only reasonable explanation for them doing that is to keep us from witnessing what tactics they use

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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

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against prisoners such as excess force. This practice really needs to be investigated and put an end to.

- a California prisoner, October 2005

Arizona control units - Link between prison oppression and imperialism

SMU-II is a hi-tech modern day dungeon, designed to house the most violent inmates, and also Arizona death row inmates are kept here. We are afforded showers and recreation three times per week, and with the exception of visits we are locked down 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is a skylight, however, it is too obscure to see through. Hence, I have not seen the sky, unobstructed, for years now. Likewise, I cannot see the sun, the moon or the brilliant stars at night. The sensory-deprivation is acute, yet, I keep myself grounded with regular exercise, studying and meditation. By nature, I'm a revolutionary and have always labored to enlighten the minds of my fellow convicts. But there is much that I wish to share with my comrades.

We are not permitted any pens in VCU, thus, I must utilize a three-inch pencil stub to write to you. However, I view such international obstacles as "elements of motivation."

During my perusal of MIM Notes, especially the Under Lock and Key sections, I've noticed a uniform condition/circumstance within US prisons across the country. Statistics evince that more money is being spent on prisons than on other crucial social and economic needs; furthermore, the disproportionate numbers of Black and Latino persons incarcerated versus Euro-Americans reveals blatant racism on the part of the US injustice system.

However, there exists a direct link to the high incarceration rate of Blacks and Latinos, and the US exploitation and destabilization of Third World nations. In reality, there are two forms of US operations: micro-imperialism and macro-imperialism. Though by definition, imperialism is the policy and practice of controlling other nations; the united snakes executes a micro- and macro-imperialist policy.

The miseducation of the masses is the key to US capitalist success. Therefore, we must not only search for the truth but accept it and act upon it. US history, in brief, is the story of "white undesirables from Europe" who ventured to the New World (the Americas) with one purpose: Anglo-Saxon greed!

These white so-called settlers never viewed the indigenous natives, nor the African slaves as humans equal to themselves. There are some of the facts:

Christopher Columbus was a brutal murderer, George Washington was a white supremacist, and Abe Lincoln did not believe the Black man to be equal to the white man.

After the so-called Civil War, all the laws of the land: the constitution, voting, etc, were made by and for the white man. So we must understand that early America was racist and imperialist. Neither the freed Blacks nor the indigenous people were afforded access to any power or control of the united snakes. Many falsely believe that certain early Americans truly gave a damn about the colored folks that were murdered, raped, lynched and intentionally oppressed.

True, there were certain individuals that were the exception e.g. John Brown. However, even the so-called abolitionists, most notably the Quakers, though they were anti-slavery, they did not believe in integration nor that Blacks should be buried within the same cemetery. These whites were separationists and did nothing to alleviate the inhuman conditions of Blacks and indigenous natives. Instead, the wealth from slavery added to southern white prosperity, and the US government tolerated the continuous abuse of Blacks and Indians.

Eventually, as US interventionism and imperialism became policy, white America (micro-imperialism) continued to oppress its Black, Brown and Red undesirables.

So, as macro-imperialism took definitive shape in countries such as Cuba, the Philippines, and South America, micro-imperialism raised its ugly head within the country, waging an unrelenting war against Blacks and all other people of color.

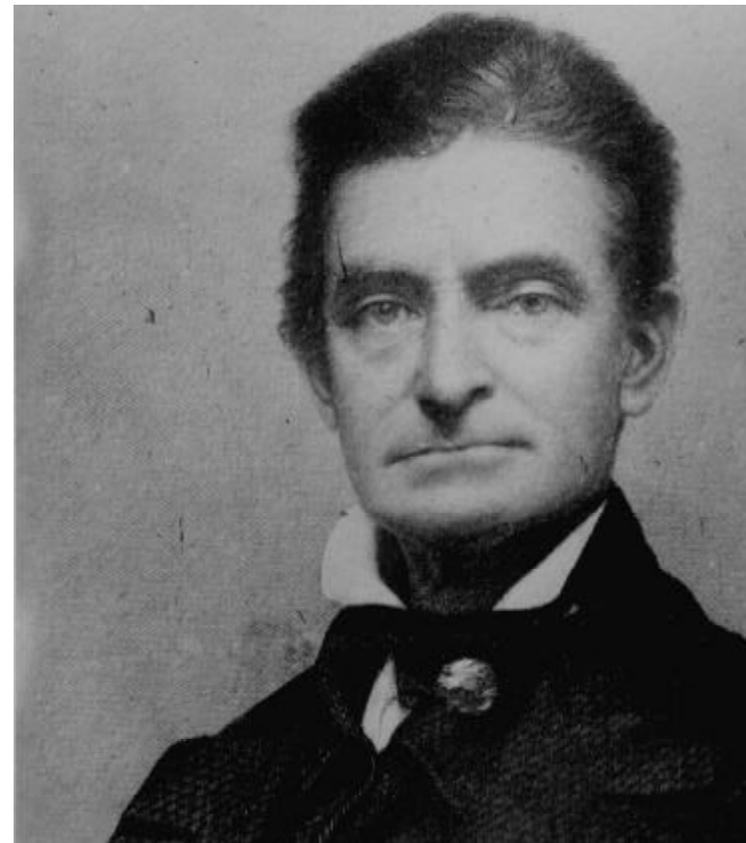
The early white Amerikkans ensured that they outnumbered all non-whites (in fact, immigrant quotas were set so that only large numbers of Anglo-Saxons - Germans, English, etc. - were permitted to enter the country, in contrast to the strict law on numbers of Blacks, etc who could enter the US.)

Thus, the micro-imperialism has the dynamic of ensuring white (racial) supremacy within the united snakes. Hence, the high incarceration rate of non-whites, the police brutality of non-whites, and the continued injustice.

Likewise, we see the US occupation of Iraq, and the exploitation of Third World nations by the united snakes and its imperialist allies! There is no such thing as coincidence!

Capitalism is the economic branch of imperialism, which is enslaving the world in discontent. Capitalism directly contributes to the starvation within Third World nations, and its poverty. If money is the root of all evil, then capitalism is the matrix!

- a prisoner in Arizona, October 2005



Micro- and macro-imperialism.

John Brown (above), not John Brown: Columbus (left), Washington.

What is internationalism?

From the MIM "Frequently Asked Questions" page, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq>.

Internationalism is the ethical belief or scientific approach in which peoples of different nations are held to be or assumed to be equal. Internationalism is opposed to racism and national chauvinism.

We Maoists believe the nationalism of nations experiencing oppression of imperialism is "applied internationalism." We oppose nationalism of oppressed nations directed at other oppressed nations, because the economic content of such nationalism is intra-proletarian conflict. We seek a united front of oppressed nations led by the

international proletariat against imperialism.

"I must argue, not from the point of view of 'my' country (for that is the argument of a wretched, stupid, petty-bourgeois nationalist who does not realize that he is only a plaything in the hands of the imperialist bourgeoisie), but from the point of view of my share in the preparation, in the propaganda, and in the acceleration of the world proletarian revolution. That is what internationalism means, and that is the duty of the internationalist, of the revolutionary worker, of the genuine Socialist."

V. I. Lenin, "What Is Internationalism?" *The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky* (Peking: Foreign Language Press, 1965), p. 80.