Criticism of ports deal shows a fascist side

ALITO SWORN IN AS JUSTICE

Euro-American nation’s legal system continues to be a tool of national oppression

March 7, 2006

Former federal appeals court judge Samuel Alito was sworn in as a Supreme Court justice on January 31. Among other things, Alito is known for his ambiguous views on enforcing the “one man, one vote” principle in relation to what are called reapportionment and redistricting. The concept of “one man, one vote” has been important in situations where minority voters have been marginalized by giving other groups different kinds of advantages in government representation. Although MIM does not support voting in the multi-party imperialist political system in the United States, it is hypocritical and backward for the bourgeoisie and its allies to claim that being able to vote for a party of choice is superior to the dictatorship of the proletariat, but squelch minority voters repeatedly. The United States pretends to support multi-party democracy, but in reality it subverts multiparty democracy in the United States, and in other capitalist countries, in various ways and even when all the parties are subservient to imperialism.

Struggles over reapportionment and redistricting that involve oppressed people are ongoing. Undocumented migrants (as well as most prisoners with felony victions, and even released ex-felons in some States) are unable to vote despite living and working in the United States. However, politicians from Ohio want to amend the “one man, one vote” principle in relation to what are called reapportionment and redistricting.

Bu$h hypocrisy in South Asia

Support People’s War! Oppose militarism!

By HC93, March 2, 2006

Hundreds of thousands of people filled the streets across India starting last week, when President George Bush visited India, to send a message to Bush that mass murderers are not welcome as guests of the Indian people. (1) According to the reactionary New York Times, which portrayed the Indian masses as supporters of “the current global terrorist networks,” protesters burned an American flag and spoke of Bu$h as an enemy of the Indian people. All of this is happening in a country that had the highest percentage of people with a positive view of the united States in a poll last year, one of only a few countries, among the countries covered by the poll, that had a majority favorable view of the united States. (2)

The people of India are right. The united States government is the number-one killer in the world today. Yet, in talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Bu$h had the nerve to state: “On Nepal we agreed that the Maoists should abandon violence and that the king should reach out to the political parties to restore democratic institutions.” (3) The u.S. invasion of Iraq has killed almost as many people in one month in Baghdad as have been important in situations where minority voters have been marginalized by giving other groups different kinds of advantages in government representation. Although MIM does not support voting in the multi-party imperialist political system in the United States, it is hypocritical and backward for the bourgeoisie and its allies to claim that being able to vote for a party of choice is superior to the dictatorship of the proletariat, but squelch minority voters repeatedly. The United States pretends to support multi-party democracy, but in reality it subverts multiparty democracy in the United States, and in other capitalist countries, in various ways and even when all the parties are subservient to imperialism.

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From 1...

died in 10 years of People’s War in Nepal.(4) That’s not to let the imperialists off the hook for Nepal, where the violence is a direct result of their support for a reactionary feudal government. National Security Adviser Steve Hadley stated that Bush and Prime Minister Singh agreed to support the feudal god-king of Nepal against the Maoist People’s War, while adding that they encourage god-king Gyanendra to “reach out and include the political opposition.”(5)

In Afghanistan on Wednesday, March 1, Bush’s mere presence put the lives of Afghans in Kabul at risk. Streets outside the Kabul Palace were closed. Helicopters circled overhead. One helicopter carried seven White House reporters fired machine guns at an unknown target, according to mainstream media.(6) Indian rulers organized similar measures to protect Bush in India, where over 5,000 security personnel were employed.

In deals with Prime Minister Singh, Bu$h is threatening to break u.s. and international law by offering nuclear technology to India. Since India has not renounced nuclear weapons, or joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, such an offer is illegal. India tested nuclear weapons as recently as 1998. Meanwhile, the united States, with its partner in imperialism, Great Britain, is currently updating its own nuclear arsenal and conducted a nuclear weapons test in Nevada on Tuesday, February 28.(7) This is another violation of international non-proliferation law, and the development of these weapons increases the threat of nuclear disaster for the world’s people.

The center of nuclear weapon tests in India comes with the string attached that India vote to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council for treaty violations, which could lead to sanctions. Despite threats from the United States and others for enriching uranium, Iran is allowed to continue under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is the united States that is breaking the treaty in its development of next-generation nuclear weapons. In more utter hypocrisy, the imperialists cozy up with the Indian government, a proliferator of nuclear weapons, while attacking Iran, whom even the imperialists believe does not have nuclear weapons capabilities.

Many Indians oppose the united States’ manipulation of India’s foreign policy to make it serve u.s. imperialist interests. Even the editor of a mainstream Indian newspaper, quoted by The Economist, put it this way: “The Indian street has been nourished by the view that America is a democracy at home and a dictatorship abroad.”(8) This is right on. While the Euro-American oppressor nation gets to vote, organize and fight for its interests with their government’s support, the control face brutal dictatorship. The united States has exported fascism to many Third World countries, such as the Philippines, where martial law was put into effect last week, and where conditions are returning to those of the brutal u.s.-Marcos regime of the 1970s.

As with militarism in general, it is u.s. corporations, and the First World people engineering and manufacturing the weapons, that stand to make billions of dollars off of the new generation of nuclear weapons being planned.(7) This is why MIM opposes militarism and not violence. The relatively tiny amount of violence being dealt out by comrades in Nepal is striking a huge blow against a system that is killing millions of people a year, and threatens to destroy the whole planet, by putting profits first. Just assuming a mere 1% chance that militarism will lead to nuclear war, our chances of survival over 100 years are only 36.6%.(9) People calling themselves humanitarians should support all struggles that will help put an end to militarism.

Notes:

Production by MC12

MIM Notes
The Official Newsletter of The Maoist International Movement
ISSN 1540-8817
MIM Notes is the bi-weekly newsletter of the Maoist International 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 subscriptions and critiques from anyone. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions unless permission is specifically requested 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. M.C.s, MIM’s comrades, are members of the Party. The Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (R.A.L.) is an anti-imperialist mass organization led by MIM (R.C.s are R.A.I. 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.

People who want to print and/or distribute MIM Notes should contact mim3@mim.org.

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What is MIM?
The Maoist International 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 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 possible 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 fairest advance of communism in human history. (3) As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM has reiterated through materialist analysis, imperialism extracts super-profits from the Third World and in part uses this wealth to buy off whole populations of oppressor nation semi-colonized 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.”

Hand of Daniel Pipes in the Mideast conflagation

March 4, 2006

The uproar regarding cartoons depicting Islam’s prophet has raised the specter of a turban with a bomb in it is tied to a U.S. government official, Daniel Pipes. Now the same Daniel Pipes is going public saying that a civil war in Iraq would be a good thing for U.S. interests even if a bad thing from a humanitarian point of view. Another thing, he pointed out that while Iraqis are not there yet, they are too busy to attack U.S. troops.(1)

It turns out the Danish paper that first printed the cartoons did not carry out an innocent error of amateurs. The release had calculated politics behind it. MIM has checked on the facts in the following statement, all of which are true:

The editor of Jyllands Posten who ordered the publication of the cartoons is Flemming Rose, who has extensive connections to Daniel Pipes, another neocon fascist madman who runs Campus Watch, a neo-McCarthyite witch-hunting organization which vilifies American professors who criticize Israel or show sympathy for the Palestinians. President Bush wanted to name Daniel Pipes to the board of the US Institute of Peace, a government-funded arm of the State Department which organizes conferences and publishes books. When the raving extremist Pipes turned out to be too widely discredited to obtain Senate confirmation for this post, Bush forced his nomination through with a summer 2003 recess appointment to a temporary term at USIP without Senate approval. Daniel Pipes is the nepotist son of Richard Pipes, a Sovietologist who was a leading figure in George H.W. Bush’s 1976 Team B, the incubator of today’s neocon clique.

Pipes has held offices in the State Department and Pentagon. The position of the U.S. Government officially is that Al-Qaeda is to blame for the bombing of the mosque in Samarra known as the “Golden Mosque.”(3) This bombing has now triggered intra-Iraqi fighting.

The appearance of Pipes at this time in the media suggests U.S. involvement in the bombing. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran has suggested that Al-Qaeda would receive clearance to bomb the mosque from the CIA, as both seek a civil war in Iraq.

One thing for sure—Sunni and Shia peoples lived in tension but relative peace prior to the bombing and prior to the U.S. invasion. The tensions were there but the bombing of the Golden Mosque did not happen till Uncle Sam’s arrival. Although some point to George W. Bush as a moron, he knew from his father and his father’s advisors that civil war was a likely result of taking Saddam Hussein from power.

Aside from the suspect U.S. interests in stoking up a civil war, there is also the influence of oil speculators. Chaos inside oil-supplier Iraq and tension with oil-supplier Iran contributes to an increase in the price of oil on the market, and that benefits anyone who happens to hold oil, including U.S. oil producers. This may be the reason that Iran and the United States ratchet up the tension over nuclear weapons that Iran is supposedly heading toward building. Oddly enough, some oil speculators with long positions will favor Iran, Uncle Sam and Al Qaeda simultaneously. Each has reason to think that an increase in oil prices would be good: 1) Iran has oil; 2) the people running the U.S. government are people who own oil; 3) the Al Qaeda may believe an increase in oil prices benefits the power of Islamic countries and threatens the economy of the West. One might think that Japan and the European Union would oppose such oil speculating, because they have not much oil of their own, but it depends on how much their capitalist class is involved with speculating itself.

We overheard one speculator on U.S. radio say he knows nothing of politics, but he believes either Israel or the United States will bomb Iran soon. The interests of multi-millionaire speculators can easily point toward war with Iran, Nigeria and other oil-supplying countries that just so happen to have Islamic religions. It’s just another reason that peace is impossible with capitalism. There is enough tension in the world without wondering what part comes from oil speculators.

MIM says to the people of Iraq not to be taken in by the United States. Kurd, Sunni and Shia people are really exploiting each other for much. The real winner of conflicts over material resources is the United States.

We have read the reports of Sunni and Shia people carrying out ethnic cleansing of neighborhoods. We have seen it all before in U.S.-instigated devastation of oppressed peoples. The people of Iraq should unite to throw out their Yankee occupiers and restore people to their own poor neighborhoods in peace.

What is Mimnotes.info?

http://mimnotes.info

Mimnotes.info publishes news articles and culture (media, music, movie, 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, women, 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.

German social-dems, Greens assisted Iraq war

March 5, 2006

German intelligence was on hand to assist the U.S. invasion of Iraq that ousted Saddam Hussein, according to the New York Times. Classified U.S. information shows that Germany, led by social-democrat Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, passed information to the United States on how Saddam Hussein was planning defense of Baghdad.(1)

The Guardian reports: “Two German spies passed intelligence on Iraq to US before Baghdad gained access a month before the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 to a sketch, covered in clear plastic, showing the proposed defensive lines for Baghdad, and that a German intelligence officer based in Qatar handed it to US intelligence.”(1)

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The Foreign Minister of Germany at the time was Joschka Fischer, a Green Party leader. MIM is of the opinion that the involvement of Schroeder makes it likely that Putin was also involved. Schroeder serves on Putin’s board directing Russian fossil fuel company, Gazprom.(2)

Schroeder ran an election campaign in 2002 and won originally based on the premise that Germany should not aid U.S. war efforts.(3) Prior to his campaigning on that question, his party was losing to another party that is now in power in Germany. Schroeder’s governing coalition back in 2002 included the Greens, which took a posture against the Iraq War.

Now the Germans are going through a process of self-discovery, with the Greens calling for a probe of themselves.

In the world of private property, diplomacy is secret just as many business secrets are proprietary information. The information that candidates give their electorates is phony, and there is an incentive for that information to be phony under capitalism.

Anti-militarist people in imperialist countries, the people who do not want war to be a real and ongoing way of life, should side with the real anti-militarists in the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM). The Greens and social-democrats are faking their interest in peace.

Notes:
1. http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2006/s1587236.htm

The U.S. official admitted there was no evidence for fingering Al Qaeda.
Criticisms of ports deal shows a fascist side

From...
Ports controversy shows threat of fascist nationalism not isolated to Republican Party

February 25, 2006

Democratic and Republican Congress members and other politicians have been criticizing President Bush since mid-February for a planned United Arab Emirates government takeover of P&O, a United Kingdom company with many U.S. operations at several key U.S. ports. The takeover was approved by an interagency governmental panel called the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States (CFIUS), which is headed by the Treasury Secretary and accountable to Bush. CFIUS member agencies include the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Justice, and State, and the National Security Council. The management contracts at the East Coast ports are part of a larger deal that also affects many non-U.S. ports. P&O is one of the largest container port operators in the world.

BuSh has defended the CFIUS’ approval of the Dubai Ports World/P&O deal. Democrat opposition to BuSh on this issue is just one more illustration of the fascist tendencies of the liberal segment of the United States political establishment.

Like conservatives, most of the white nation liberals advocate for the interests of one subgroup of the white nation or the other, not the world’s oppressed, and are united in their support for the white nation’s self-interests and its position of political and economic dominance. The broad left-wing of the white nationalists, from “Fahrenheit 9/11” (2004) director Michael Moore to news outlets such as CNN, have acted as mouthpieces for those who focus on proximate causes and believe for various reasons that which is happening “now” is worse than what has happened in the past. The United Arab Emirates, the United States, and the United Kingdom have been acting as part of a larger anti-Arab trend that is threatening the U.S. political establishment.

The United Arab Emirates is “a country with ties to the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers.”(2) Brdiss’ article mentions an FBI investigation: “[the UAE] was an important operational and financial base for the hijackers who carried out the attacks on Sept. 11,” FBI officials concluded.”(2) Elizabeth White of the Associated Press this past week raised the issue again in an article discussing the 9/11 Commission Report’s statements on the UAE.(3) A February 16 New York Times editorial offers the weak evidence: “Many of the Sept. 11 hijackers and planners traveled through that country, and its banking system was used in preparing for the attacks.”(4)

CNN’s Lou Dobbs, who wants to step up the militarization of the U.S. imperialist border and frequently portrays migrants as a terrorist threat, has been criticizing the P&O deal nightly on his show “Lou Dobbs Tonight” Dobbs has repeatedly in the past two weeks described the United Arab Emirates as a country with “ties” to the 9/11 attacks. Dobbs on February 17 even slandered the Dubai- run ports as being owned by the United Arab Emirates. Teamsters and Longshore workers managing operations at U.S. ports. Only 5 percent of containers that enter the United States through ports are actually inspected, despite repeated warnings by security experts that ports are a prime target for terrorist attacks.”(5)

Some have accused Democratic leaders of race-baiting in their attempt to posture against BuSh and Republicans. The outcry over the P&O deal does in fact have little to do with a concern over problems relating to oversight and more to do singling out Middle Eastern countries unpopular in the United States and riding on anti-Arab sentiment.” The Demokrats, however, aren’t just vying for the fascist vote; they contain fascist elements themselves. The particular way in which they have sloppily blamed together economic and national-security concerns in the Middle East is telling. That it is the representatives of militant Islamist workers and extremely reactionary imperialists.

Mainstream media outlets, both conservative and liberal, and politicians have long drawn vague connections between border security and the economy. They have done this in a way that dovetails with the demands of major U.S. labor unions, such as the AFL-CIO, which has accused BuSh of being soft on border security and supports the legalization of undocumented workers.

The Dubai ports deal controversy has given rise to a new backlash among U.S. workers to give their chauvinist attitudes toward Arab peoples an explicit economic rationalization in terms of employment and wages, not just workplace safety. Some of this rationalizing is just more hysteria. The port operations that are the subject of concern would most likely remain staffed by unionized U.S. citizen workers.

From coast to coast, the labor aristocracy has mobilized to attack the United Arab Emirates. Teamsters and AFL-CIO members in Seattle have gone to the streets to protest the Dubai ports deal. The February 25 on HuntingNews.Net writes: “Standing near the Port of Seattle’s Pier 46, protesters — most of them Teamsters and International Longshore and Warehouse Union members — questioned whether the sale to Dubai Ports World would harm the country.”(6) The director of the Joint Council of Teamsters No. 28, based in Tukwila, Washington, claimed that hazardous cargo from DP World-managed ports could pass through the Port of Seattle, although DP World would not be managing any operation at the Port of Seattle. Most longshore workers and stevedores in the United States make more than $20 an hour. Teamsters president James Hoffa has also denounced the P&O deal, talking about “President Bush’s corporate agenda gone wild” and slipping in a call for the government to allow Syrian and Iranian Security Department employees to form unions.(11) Hoffa also made a call for three U.S.-owned companies to be given a “chance” to bid on P&O’s assets in the United States even though they were not...
Ports controversy shows threat of fascist nationalism not isolated to Republican Party

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among the top bidders for the private British company.

Reactionary agitation among U.S. workers is not limited to port workers. Others, such as information technology workers, are worried about outsourcing, and some in the IT industry are contemplating an increase in IT outsourcing to Middle Eastern countries. The Computerworld magazine for managers recently drew a parallel between the P&O deal and other business deals, “The United Arab Emirates, which is currently at the center of a controversy over whether outsourcing the management of six U.S. ports to a company based in the Persian Gulf should be allowed, wants to do more than manage ports: It wants Dubai to become a major IT outsourcing destination.”(12)

All sides in the debate within the oppressor nation cite nationalist economic and political interests to bolster their position. Some realists in the government and business know that alienating the UAE, and potentially other Middle Eastern countries and investors, could have economic and political repercussions. Some have speculated that the fallout from the controversy over the ports deal could threaten the privacy of foreign investment deals generally. For the sake of struggling against fascism, people should encourage the United States to stick with its bourgeois-internationalist pretensions. The world’s oppressed do not benefit from economic cooperation between the imperialists and other capitalists, but they also have no interest in seeing Euro-American nationalism flare up and turn into more aggressive war, more repression of migrants, and more repression of oppressed-nation people in the United States. The controversy over the P&O deal involves more than just port security concerns, and intersects with militarist and anti-immigrant movements, and virulent white nationalism.

It must be admitted that the imperialists defending the P&O deal are correct in that Dubai poses no threat to the United States, which has troops in Dubai. The UAE government has materially supported the United States’ imperialist reactionary wars against Afghanistan and Iraq. And the Euro-American nation, investing in, and trading various commodities with, the United Arab Emirates, benefits from the exploitation of the mostly migrant workers in the UAE. Fascist-leading liberals pretend to fear for the United States’ national security, but this tail-wagging-the-dog view of the United States’ relationship with governments of Middle Eastern countries has no bearing on reality. Anti-Semites claimed 9/11 was an Israeli plot and that Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries and point to BuSh-administration negligence or complicity. In this vicious dynamic, what is missing is an understanding of the United States’ role as the biggest terrorist and militarist on the planet, and its domination of the world economy.

Notes:

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.
International Wimmin’s Day, Not International Warmongers’ Day! Cancel the pseudo-feminist war-mongering demonstrations against Iran!

MIM had just published its article on NOW’s (National Organization for Women) current efforts to stir up wars against Third World countries, when we learned that a supposedly Marxist group was doing the same thing this year, 2006— for International Wimmin’s Day. At a time when people around the world are talking about U.S. military threats against Iran, pseudo-feminist neo-conservatives masquerading as some kind of “Marxist” are planning a rally against Iran, not in Iran, but in New York City, Frankfurt and the like.

Here is what the press release for the rally says:

This week, starting March 4 in Frankfurt, Germany, women and men are marching through city centres and will rally at the Hague on March 8th. The call from the organizers of the European Great Walk (Campaign for the Abolition of All Misogyny, Gender-Based Legislation & Islamic Punitive Laws in Iran) starts with:

“If you are against death by stoning! If you are against forced veiling! If you are against the prosecution and imprisonment of women! If you are against lashing a woman’s body! If you are against any form of patriarchy! If you are against the medieval laws of Iran, the Republic of Iran imposing inequality on women!- Join the [European] great walk against anti-women laws in Iran’s Islamic Republic on 8 March 2006!”(1)

Those would be great slogans—in Iran. Here in the imperialist countries it is perfect timing for the CIA & Mossad preparing the basis for a war on Iran, just as BuSh ordered. The rallies read just like the orchestrations from offices of the Pentagon—and yes, there are offices dedicated to manipulating the gender question in the Third World in the Pentagon.

The leaflet is so thinly disguised as war-mongering, that there is no actual debate of whether lashing or lacing is worse than the damage delivered by the American institution called Hollywood. There is absolutely no discussion of U.S. support to regimes that engineered these conditions. Yet somehow, Americans see fit to sloganize about Iran’s particular manifestation of patriarchy in a way to rile up the oppressor nation whites.

It would be hard to imagine a more perfectly wrong rally to hold. The combination of reactionary ideas masquerading as feminism is astonishing. In the first place, the rally is not being organized in Iran. It’s being held in countries considering bombing Iran as we speak. It’s being held in countries where the oppressor nation whites have their own reasons for entering politics, their own reasons for hating Iran.

When we are in the Islamic Republic or “Wang Ming” line to act as if the world were one place with people all the same everywhere and not accounting for the national conditions in each country. These people believe it is unnecessary to investigate conditions in each country and act accordingly.

In the second place, out of all the backward conditions for wimmin in the world, the pseudo-feminists in coordination with the CIA picked exactly one country to demonstrate against at this particular time—Iran. These pseudo-feminists are being manipulated by people who consider themselves “real men.” BuSh’s appointee to the United Nations, John Bolton said, “everyone wants to go to Baghdad, but real men go to Iran.”(2) As we write this, the government is pushing Iran around in the UN in the same procedure that we saw applied to Iraq before the occupation there.

If we are very lucky, the imperialist media will ignore this crypto-Trotskyist rally in New York and similar pseudo-feminist rallies in Europe. If not, the imperialist media will adopt the slogans from the rally, and the oppressor nation people will remember the slogans as one more time the West engineered a “crisis” in Iran. There is ample precedent: just before the war on Afghanistan, the imperialist media quoted Robin Morgan on “do something” about the Taliban widely.

Some of the pseudo-feminists claim to be opposed to wars. It does not matter: the imperialist media and all the Western multicultural apologists will be repeating the demonstrations mainly. It will be the imperialists quoting them as often as they choose. The pseudo-feminists should show that much knowledge of politics and back down for that reason alone.

We are thankful that this year NOW (National Organization for Women) is spending International Wimmin’s Day in Venezuela. We hope there will be no arrogant “teaching” of Venezuela’s wimmin as if American conditions were the same as in Venezuela’s.

The years where we get a break from right-wing chauvinism on International Wimmin’s Day of course we have to get phony Marxism as a contribution to a genuine celebration of International Wimmin’s Day.

Down with white nationalist sabotage of the anti-war movement!

For peace on International Wimmin’s Day!

Notes:

Conservative press cheers: Imperialist country parasites march against Iran

Imperialist country parasites and Third World lackeys led by a pseudo-Marxist organization calling itself the “Revolutionary Communist Party-USA,” (RPeUSA) marched in favor of lynching Iran on International Wimmin’s Day, March 8 in Berkeley, California.(1) They had built their rally against the veil and stonings in Iran. Fortunately, many imperialist news services did not cover the event, but it received backing from the intellectual headquarters of reaction in the United States.

On March 8, International Wimmin’s Day, the epicenter of the imperialist campaign called the “National Review” organized by people regularly invited to the White House, serving in the White House and partying with the White House after hours chose as their contribution to International Wimmin’s Day the exact same thing as the phony communist RPeUSA, a discussion of stoning in Iran. Interviewing Phyllis Chesler, with pointed ideological goals, the National Review put out an olive branch to the RPeUSA left-wing of white nationalism which is now to unite with the rest of white nationalism against Iran:

Lopez: To what extent is there easy common ground on the Right and the Left as far as a new feminism goes?

Chesler: Perhaps such categories as “left” and “right” are no longer useful. I write about this at length in The Death of Feminism.(2)

We agree with Chesler analytically though we despise her Lynch-mob ideology, because for many years the “left” and “right” of Americika have been united in one white nationalist oppressor unit.

Ironically, the RPeUSA has called David Horowitz “fascist,” but one of his major outliers on the Internet also chimed in March 6th: “the militant Islamists and their Western multicultural apologists refuse to admit that Islam, not Israel, practices religious and gender apartheid and that Islamic practices—such as female genital mutilation, daughter- and wife-battering, honor killings, polygamy, forced arranged marriage of children, stoning, amputations and public hangings—are barbaric and evil. Such barbarism has not been caused by the West.”(3) This is the same exact publication “FrontPageMag” that redacted the movement opposing invasion in Iraq saying that MIM led it.

While we are on the topic, the RPeUSA’s friends at FrontPageMag also had this to say:

Those who defend the rapists and their culture (no matter where they are located on the spectrum of politics) have unconsciously adjusted their perceptions of how Muslim males should act.(3)

After reading that, after knowing with what power such a line is going to be distributed and after realizing what the imperialists’ strategy is, no real internationalist or real feminist can dare oppose MIM’s line “all sex is rape.”

Another fairly important press service got involved with the day via Iran. According to Alison Langley, though, we are talking about three—that’s THREE—stonings for adultery in Iran in 2005 that might have happened. (4) Even heterosexual men have killed more than three heterosexual men over adultery in the united States in the same period.

Langley openly argued that courts should be biased in favor of female defendants even where murder is involved.

The International Wimmin’s Day rally against Iran in the imperialist countries was an example of “friendly sectarianism.” This is the consequence when an organization attempts to recruit some token Third World people and Pentagon pseudo-feminists while saying to hell with the consequences for the international proletariat. The activity of the RPeUSA was coordinated in political substance and to the day with the highest reaches of imperialist power.

Notes:

The self-congratulating rally news article said this in its first paragraph:

“The occasion of March 8 International Women’s Day, a rally and March was held in Berkeley in solidarity with a 4-day march in Europe organized by the Campaign for the Abolition of All Misogyny, Gender-Based Legislation & Islamic Punitive Laws in Iran. The march for the European march begins: “If you are against death by stoning! If you are against forced veiling! If you are against the prosecution and imprisonment of women! If you are against lashing a woman’s body! If you are against any form of patriarchy! If you are against the medieval laws of Iran’s Islamic Republic of Iran imposing inequality on women!”

“Join the [European] great walk against anti-women laws in Iran’s Islamic Republic on 8 March 2006!”

International Wimmin’s Day and peace with Iran

“The changing atmosphere toward Iran in Washington’s corridors of power has affected the national mood. A Los Angeles Times poll on January 27 indicated that 57 percent of Americans back an attack on Iran if its defiance persists. A Pew Research Center poll released on February 7 showed that public concern over Iran’s nuclear program has risen dramatically in the past few months.”—Jerusalem Post

“Today, 27% of Americans cite Iran as the country that represents the greatest danger to the United States - in contrast to just 9% in October.”—Jerusalem Post, March 4, 2006, days before International Wimmin’s Day demonstrations against Iran

“Multiple pieces of independent evidence suggest that America is embarked in a premeditated path that will lead inexorably to the use of nuclear weapons. The U.S. could be very near to a nuclear future. Facing clear evidence of this peril, we cannot wait for the final proof – the smoking gun – in the form of a mushroom cloud. Whether you are liberal or conservative, antiwar or pro-war, if you believe this would be catastrophic for America, then you should be examined.”

“Many American pseudo-feminists say they are opposed to the U.S. wars, but today they demonstrated against stoning in Iran. It is the activity of NOW, Robin Morgan, Azar Nafisi and their male chauvinist allies propping up these wars. The troops themselves in Iraq have said they want to come home. The Iraqi people have spoken in polls that they want the United States out. (1) But NOW opposed the U.S. military to enter Afghanistan. This kind of thinking is an example of the low moral standards of the left-wing of white nationalistic. The left-wing of white nationalism is effective in stirring up public opinion of hatred against Iran, Afghanistan etc. It is ineffective in bringing these wars to an end.”

“Today, the United States will have to get out of Iraq and Afghanistan. There will be a date that troops leave and another date in which bases disappear and another date in which secret military operatives have to leave. Then we will know how long the war was and how many people it killed in what phases. We will be able to divide the casualties by the number of days and know how many deaths per day resulted from direct militarist action.

While it is true that Robin Morgan did not order the troops into Afghanistan, she did prolong the war. Who is to say that if it had not been for her belief in the male chauvinist Americans, the United States would not have left by now? If the only motive was to find Osama Bin Laden, perhaps after Tora Bora Americans would have realized he escaped, that he did not wait around to be captured. Our leaders could have used that as a reason to get out of Iraq and Afghanistan. Osama Bin Laden was waiting around for a shoot-out, but pseudo-feminists gave American imperialists a reason to stay in Afghanistan and “complete” some kind of mission anyway. The sense of “hot pursuit” of Bin Laden when he could be in any country by now having gone that far off, but the impressions that pseudo-feminists create are ongoing. They are responsible for a share of percentage points in public opinion and hence the war.

The number of wimmin that the United States kills in Iraq in a single year is more than what has been killed by stonings in Iran in a decade; even though Iran is more than twice the population of Iraq. Now that the U.S. military has a solid 8% portion of females in Iraq,(2) we can say that the American female kills several times more Mideast wimmin per day than killing does by Afghan. This is not counting the half million Iraqi children killed by U.S. sanctions on Iraq as admitted by Secretary of State, the female Madeleine Albright.

Hey, and MIM has a message for the pseudo-feminists out there who do not know that already—at least sometimes, get your noses out of those white nationalist porn magazines like Comopolitan; stop watching “Sex in the City” reruns and study society and politics! Your de facto leader today is Azar Nafisi, someone who went to the bathroom during political struggle. She wants the right to say that patriarchy is violent and has to be fought in a particular way, but she gives us the feeling she is listening to the Beatles sing, “you say you need a revolution” when something serious has to be examined.

According to the Feminist Daily News, stonings stopped in Iran in 2003 while some even more militarist and more chauvinist clowns demonstrating today say it is still ongoing. Does MIM know the truth about that, does the American public, does the R&P-usA? We doubt it, because especially in a war climate the truth is the second victim, after the people. People in the Middle East/West Asia need to join that into account; what can they expect us to know? How is the Pentagon manipulating public opinion and what are the oppressor nation whites predisposed to believe anyway? If Iran stops stoning and no one reports it, what is the impact of that?

For the number of stonings we are talking about, it would be child’s play for the CIA to pay some nullahs to carry them out. Recently, the Bu$h administration admitted to creating a “diplomatic” office just for Iran with hundreds of agents.(3) NOW, Azar Nafisi theoretician, is whitewashing the real power by pointing to divergent customs of patriarchy. The scale of what U.S. imperialism does has to be taken into account in a real way. For a few agents to set up a few stonings, a few lashings—it’s nothing. A few oil speculators could do it to increase Iran’s tension with the United States and send up the price of oil. Recently, a CIA agent admitted that the movie, “Syriana” rang true to him, and he was a Mideast agent,(4) so he ought to know.

The reason “Syriana,” CIA agents and imperialism are not real to pseudo-feminists is that they are actually obsessed with their gender privileges. Azar Nafisi attacked anti-imperialism admitting to breaking with the anti-imperialist movement over lifestyle questions. Once she became entitled to enjoying sexual life the way men do, she would have given up that business the reason they are selling out her sisters in Iran. She sensed that somehow anti-imperialism threatened her gender privileges that placed her in the global elite sexually. Azar Nafisi attacked anti-imperialism from the right, in defense of lifestyle. We also have those who pose ultraleft and attack anti-imperialism in the name of lifestyle. Both rightists and ultraleft purists are more concerned about their lifestyle and being allowed to live it without hypocrisy than they are about the issue of war and peace. War and peace is a group question—conducted at the national level, and also the class and gender level. Individualist approaches sanctifying lifestyles have no business calling themselves anti-militarist. Azar Nafisi, Robin Morgan, NOW and various male chauvinist pigs should live in hypocrisy: it’s a far better thing than joining the warmongering patriarchy wholesale.

Notes:
1. “Secret MoD poll: Iraqis support attacks on British troops”

Results of Poll, Taken Before Prison Break, Came to Light, Worry U.S. Officials
By Thomas E. Ricks
Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday, May 13, 2004; Page A10
2. Bloodiest day for U.S. women Marines killed in Falluja attack

3. New US focus on promoting democracy in Iran
By Guy Dinmore in Washington
Published: March 2 2006 23:51 | Last updated: March 2 2006 23:51


Troops want out: Where will the “Support Our Troops” movement go now?

March 1, 2006
A poll shows that U.S. troops want to come home from Iraq and do not support those saying it is “cut and run.” When Bu$h started the war, he compared it with the occupation of Germany and how long it went on in order to create change.(1) To this day, U.S. troops are in Germany after World War II.

MIM now quotes from a U.S. military community publication:
“About half of American troops in Iraq believe the U.S. military should leave the country within six months, and three out of four think they should pull out within a year, according to a first-of-its-kind attempt to scientifically gauge the opinion of troops in a war zone.”

The poll, released on Tuesday by national pollster John Zogby, includes face-to-face interviews of 944 randomly selected military personnel at four large U.S. bases. Among the findings:
“29 percent said U.S. troops should withdraw immediately. Another 22 percent said the U.S. should withdraw within six months, and 21 percent within a year. Just 23 percent said they believe troops should remain as long as they are needed.
“58 percent said the reasons for the U.S. mission in Iraq is clear in their minds; 42 percent said it was unclear or they were unsure.
“85 percent said they believed a main reason for invading Iraq was to retaliate for Saddam’s role in the 9/11 attacks. Thats despite the fact that there is very little concrete evidence linking Saddam

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The Philippines: Uncle Sam as usual labelling the good guys as bad guys

by International Minister

MIM has become involved exposing the political situation in the Philippines especially because the U.S. so-called War on Terror has labelled two opposition groups there as “terrorist.” One is Muslim and the other communist.

U.S. military domination of the Philippines

Both organizations labelled “terrorist” have existed for generations and existed at a time that a U.S. military base dominated Filipino politics. The politics connected to that base are still much in the air in the Philippines. Under a new agreement, U.S. troops can visit the Philippines.

On November 1, 2005

an American Marine who was out on liberty for only a few hours decided to have “consensual sex” with a young Filipina. He met only that night, in a van on other premises, the victim and her French and their Filipino driver. The victim has since accused LCpl. Daniel Smith of raping her, and is co-signers of his death on while he was at it.(1)

Because the United States has such a bloated military, this happens all around the world. The U.S. troops protect U.S. troops against prosecution, and when those treaties don’t, the troops are bound to feel politically useful.

MIM has a word of advice for Americans. Joining the military and going abroad is going to cramp your sex life. If you do manage to mix with people from other countries, even if treaty does protect you, you will end up sickie like Charles Graner in Abu Ghraib or even worse, because Graner has admitted what he has done while other higher-ranking officers have not. People everywhere are going to doubt that you could be having consensual sex with their people: there is too much power imbalance to believe it. If you stay at home, don’t join the military and don’t carry guns around, you will be better off.

The false support of democracy

Naturally, in continuing the same old policies as new, such as fighting so-called terrorism, the Bush administration says it is supporting freedom and democracy. Currently, that means the regime in power in the Philippines receives U.S. aid and Bush does not call it “terrorist,” just the regime’s opponents. Very few Bush officials have even visited Palestine is officially designated terrorist by the United States and it just won elections. President Macapagal-Arroyo is supposedly not “terrorist,” but videotape shows her fixing elections for a one million vote margin victory.(2) Not surprisingly, very few Bush officials have even visited Palestine to diversely try removing her ranging from so-called terrorist Muslims and communists to military officers sworn to protect the constitution.

The false support of freedom

In the midst of military coup attempts to remove President Macapagal-Arroyo and put in civilians, President Macapagal-Arroyo briefly imposed martial law. We are now supposedly a few days past that martial law, but she continues to defeat her opponents. MIM received the following press release on one Filipino Citizen “ka Bel” Beltran.

On February 25 at around 8:30 am, a day after President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo declared her state of “national emergency” known as Presidential Proclamation 1017, AnakPawis Party list representative Crispin “ka Bel” Beltran was arrested by the PN’s CIDG agents led by Major Rene Corpuz in his home at San Francisco, Bulacan without presenting any warrant. The Arroyo administration is press using him for inciting to sedition.

“For the last two decades, Congressman Beltran popularly known as the ‘People’s Mojina’ due to his participation in the historical struggle of the Philippine labor sector and the poor masses for the recognition of rights and welfare. Due to his dedication and determination to the worker’s cause, he was delegated as the Chairman Emeritus of the Kilusang Mayo Unyon (KMU). He is also the founding Chairperson of the International League of Peoples Struggle (ILPS).

“From 2001-2003, he was one of the three solons of the Bayan Muna Party list and from 2004 up to the present, he is the chairman of the committee on labor and urban poor concerns in the house of representatives.”

“ka Bel, 73 is never new to political persecutions as he tasted the first during the martial rule of Marcos. He was imprisoned in Camp Crame in 1982 due to trumped-up cases filed against him by the Marcos dictatorship. He suffered intolerable physical and mental torture from that imprisonment.

On the morning of March 2, Ka Bel was rushed to the emergency room of the Philippine National Police General Hospital because of a mild attack of hypertension and his blood pressure rose to 170/100. His family said that Ka Bel had attended the reading of chest pains and having a hard time in going to sleep as memoirs of his tortures 21 years ago keep on haunting him. Aside from hypertension, Ka Bel is also suffering from arthritis and diabetes.

“The Arroyo administration seems to be really extraordinary as it ensures the heightened curbing of the bed bound Ka Bel. He is clearly being treated more than a criminal.

“As the PP1017 of Arroyo was lifted on 11:00 am of March 3, there is still no order for the release of Ka Bel and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna who was also arrested on February 27 at a Philippine Airlines Ticketing office in Davao City and the four Party list representatives who recently were taken into custody at the House of Congress (Satur Ocampo and Teddy Casio of Bayan Muna, Liza Masa of Gabriela, and Rafael Mariano

Troops want out: Where will the “Support Our Troops” movement go now?

From last page...

Hussein to al-Qaida, and that several independent inquiries have found no links whatsoever between Saddam and the attacks on Sept. 11.2(2)

It is interesting to see what the pro-war chauvinist “Support Our Troops” movement is going to do. The “Support Our Troops” movement to seize Iraqi oil spread nationally and went so far as to co-opt entire monopoly-capitalist radio stations.

MIM believes that the shift in troop opinion is yet another indication that the Iraqi people are winning. The Iraqi people had to fight hard to get to this point of clarity, this moment of truth.

When “W” BuSh went to war, he also took as his chief of staff, advice and the advice of Bush Sr.’s intelligence and security people that the result of an Iraq invasion would be a civil war. Now, we see BuSh allowing a civil war to develop in Iraq. The bombing of the Shia Muslim shrine in Samarra has set off an exchange of masses inside Iraq at just the moment that the U.S. troops are just ready to go home in their own minds.

The Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan has reportedly pointed the finger at the right place for the bombing of Shia holy places — the United States: “Do you think Sunnis [a rival splinter of Islam] staged those attacks? No Sunnis can put a bomb on a tomb, this is provocation, some want to start a clash between Sunnis and Shiites in Iraq. First they incited ethnic clashes in Iraq, now it is the time of starting sect clashes.”(4)

It essentially tattles on Erdogan to the United States. He started out fighting so-called terrorism, the Bush administration states it is supporting freedom and democracy. Currently, that means the regime in power in the Philippines receives U.S. aid and Bush does not call it “terrorist,” just the regime’s opponents. Very few Bush officials have even visited Palestine which is officially designated terrorist by the United States and it just won elections. President Macapagal-Arroyo is supposedly not “terrorist,” but videotape shows her fixing elections for a one million vote margin victory.(2) Not surprisingly, very few Bush officials have even visited Palestine to diversely try removing her ranging from so-called terrorist Muslims and communists to military officers sworn to protect the constitution.

Notes:

1. See Bush mention Japan and Germany again. “The United States did not run from Japan and Germany after World War II. In another speech, he said it again, “We must fight this war until the work is done.”


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Colorado censors M17

I deeply regret that I have exhausted all avenues of recourse available to me to fight the censorship of the letter and [MIM Theory 7] you sent me. It was never been satisfactorily explained why I am not allowed this material, but I assume these government puppets censor out of ignorance. The U.S. regime would keep your political viewpoint stifled and silent to the ears of the proletariat, lest the proverbial applicant of elitist wealth be overturned by the uniformed, poor, overburdened masses. I have had the magazine sent back in hopes that someone else can benefit from it.

— A Colorado prisoner, 27 December, 2006

MIM adds: Yup, that about sums it up. MIM has the honor of the mighty censorship efforts of prison systems throughout the United States, and the censors are hard not knowing that each publication of ours they reject is a disproportionate strike against our propaganda efforts, as they are keeping our literature from the U.S. population that wants it most. It is important they also recognize the importance of allowing our materials into the prisons gives the lie to the prisons’ claim to be for “rehabilitation” or “corrections”; they’re terrified of a little political education for the prisoners. MIM will be protesting this censorship, and forwarding the Colorado prisoner some materials to help continue the struggle from the inside.

Pilloried in Missouri

They have these benches here that they use for torture. If a prisoner refuses a cellie, these imperialists hand-cuff that prisoner to a bench until he agrees to go in a cell or a cell for him is found. Prisoners have been left for hours cuffed to a bench, and during this time they are denied food and access to the toilet.

— A Missouri prisoner, 11 December, 2006

A Big Red Spot in Kansas

I apologize for my late correspondence. I was passing around the petition for names to close down control units and ran into a bit of a problem with the prisons, unfortunately, they confiscated the petition. I was to be written up for disruptive behavior and incitement to riot, but after a lengthy argument with the officials (who obviously took into consideration my past history of winning civil actions) they dropped the charges. They will take it out on me by keeping me in the SHU longer now.

I got the newsletters you sent and have distributed them throughout the cell-house after reading them myself. I have gotten positive feedback on them so far and some guys ask me for more. I am pleased to report there has been a rash of political discussions and lately their direction is satisfying to listen to. Any extra literature I am sure I can feed into the Big Red Spot forming here in KS.

— A Kansas prisoner, 27 January 2006

MIM adds: We have had those other prisoners in KS who are reading this comrade’s MIM Notes write in for their own subs, as should everyone who is getting their MIM Notes through a friend. You can give us even wider circulation this way, and it’s good insurance against transfer or otherwise losing contact with your newspapers.

Arkansas library a black hole for books

I would prefer that you all not donate books to this prison library. They do not do right by us. Our access to the library is extremely restricted. You could donate books and we would never see them. You’d do better sending them to my comrades and myself. We’ll share them and make sure they touch the right hands.

— An Arkansas prisoner, 16 January 2006

Bad library in Illinois

We have no library where you can send books here. Our prison is located in rural southern Illinois and has the flavor of the South during the ‘50s and ‘60s if you get my drift. We are locked down about 22 hours/ day, with no programs or jobs, just a lot of degradation.

I am a civil rights litigator who is often in the segregation unit or SHU and without access to the already-outdated books in the prison law library. So any help you can give me with that would be greatly appreciated.

— An Illinois prisoner, 27 December 2005

MIM responds: Our supply of legal books is so limited that we have no books on hand that will serve this comrade’s needs. We rely on donations and on the efforts of all of you: readers: you send us a law book, we’ll send it to a prisoner who can use it. Copies of the Prisoners’ Self-Help Litigation Manual are especially welcome.

Bad water at Pelican

On February 12, 2006 inmates were notified in ad-seg A-yard that inmates are to not drink any water nor be around it because it’s badly polluted with bacteria. My concerns are this, a lot of worries and questions raise now, like,how long has this water been polluted with bacteria? Should the state prison pay coverage free to test every inmate for bacteria? Should the CDC be held accountable if anyone gets sick or dies because of bacteria? Should prisons have prepared long ago to make sure all water systems had been properly filtered, tested and screened to prevent such dangers? I say yes. This is a good time for inmates to write to outside resources, attorneys, state officers and support groups as well as addressing these matters to the prison themselves. I hope when inmates and outside resources read this I hope people start acting to do something and address these dangerous concerns.

— A California prisoner, January 2006

California BMU pilot

I’m writing to let all the prisoners who still haven’t laid down know that these CIs are pulling some unneeded shit. They just came up wit this program called the BMU program: Behavior Modification Unit. It is a pilot program they put in effect for a 24 month period beginning November 21, 2005 through November 21, 2007 at which time it will lapse by operation of the law or will be promulgated through the administrative procedures act. Any prisoner who generates two serious 115s or one serious 115 and two administrative 115s within 180 days is considered a program failure, and is placed in BMU. They send all of you property home except: 1 wedding band, Soft cover religious material, Eye glasses (one), Athletic shoes (one), Table of lined paper (one), Embossed envelopes (15), Legal material, Canteen (45) bucks.

Also they got this new law about who refused to participate in racial integration will be placed in BMU and all your property sent home: photos, TV, radio, watch, chains, everything that’s not on the list. But all I can say for those who are still here, it is time to stand up for our rights because it’s only going to get worse. Right now it’s up to us to shut this punk shit down.

— A prisoner at High Desert in California, January 2006
Victory in fight against limitations on receiving books  

Prisoners at Salinas Valley State Prison won an appeal in September 2005, allowing them to receive books from any bookstore that provides mail order sales. Previously, many of the three prisoners speaking for the group. This appeal was denied at the first level but was won at the second level with the Warden’s review. The fight against this policy demonstrates the power of prisoner unity and the potential to win battles within the system. Below is a copy of the argument used in these prisoners’ appeal.

The argument is quite clear. To quote the DOM under Publications 54018, inmates may subscribe to newspapers, periodicals, books (directly from the publisher or vendor). Wardens may approve inmates receiving new and second-hand books and medical books from sources other than the publisher or vendor. Now, according to C/O Alexander who is in charge of distributing packages, special purchases, etc., we are only allowed to receive reading materials from Barnes & Noble and Borders Bookstores which are supposedly the only vendors approved by the institution. This is false! For a memo for a so called approved vendor list concerning books, newspapers and periodicals was never issued to the inmate population, even if there was, it would have been in violation of the DOM. I myself, as well as others, have received publications in packages from places besides the approved vendors, this was never an issue before. Why now? The DOM clearly states that we are allowed to receive books from any legitimate source.

Much of the population here who order books do so from small independent bookstores which tend to provide a better and wider selection of factual knowledgeable reading material at a fairer price. Many of the books peddled by the large chain bookstores who peddle mostly junk novels and books which are sold at inflated unreachable prices and which are of little or no intellectual substance. In addition, many of the smaller independent bookstores provide indigent inmates with precious free books for prisoners programs such as the Prison Literature Project as well as many others. These organizations help keep us updated on current and historical events. By refusing us access and or eliminating those invaluable institutions to us, we are not only being denied the right to further advance our education and awareness of current events, we are also being subjected to repression and censorship! This is how these actions are having an adverse effect on the prison population and will continue to do so if they are not looked into and overturned.

Desert View run by abusive staff  

I am currently a ward of the state of California and a pretrial detainee. In July, 2004 I was transferred to Desert View MCCF, a private run prison in San Bernardino County. Desert View is staffed by the Geo group, but supervised by California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation. On July 28, 2004 I was put in a prime cell by the prison staff, because when a Geo staff abruptly interrupted the services allegedly to ask about my facial hair. After presenting the Geo staff with medical documents for my facial hair the staff began threatening other participants. This incident was immediately reported to the CDC Sgt on duty. Over the next few days I was struck in the groin by the same staff and in another incident I was prevented from using the room for malicious and sadistic retaliatory reasons.

On the 5th of August 2004, I again was stopped by the same Geo staff. This time the Geo staff told me that it was against the institution policy to have a pocket size Qur’an. I immediately reported this incident to the same CDC Sgt. 45 minutes later, in front of the Islamic services the Geo staff grabbed me and cuffed me. Under it the Geo staff used a metal flashlight. This happened in view of the institution camera. However the institution claims that after six days they removed it over the view. The alleged was also the reporting staff, who did not take the names or statements of the witnesses.

I was guilty in a state disciplinary hearing, and was placed in the SHU program for 28 months. After all the witnesses paroled, or statements of the witnesses. The reporting staff, who did not take the names or statements of the witnesses.

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. 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 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?
Transamerica
Directed by Duncan Tucker, 2005
www.transamerica-movie.com

Mild spoiler warning...

“Transamerica” opened in limited release in the United States on December 23, a week after “Brokeback Mountain”’s (2005) wide release. “Transamerica” has grossed about $2.5 million domestically as of February 10, according to Box Office Mojo. Sight and Sound, in their comparison with “Brokeback”’s $66.5 million, which is not that whopping to begin with compared with more mainstream movies but indicates how marginalized “Transamerica” is, at its widest release playing at only 126 theaters.

Felicity Huffman plays Bree, a male-to-female transsexual womyn preparing to have sex reassignment surgery. It is a struggle. First, she has to deal with a psychiatrist (Danny Burstein) who acts caring and concerned, but seems reluctant to authorize her sex surgery and does so only as part of the treatment for her “gender dysphoria.” The second challenge Bree faces is caring for a son (Kevin Zegers) whom she finds out she has from an old relationship only after he is put in jail in New York for shoplifting a frog. A minor, Toby is a street hustler and addicted to heroin, and an animal-lover. The plot of the movie revolves around Bree’s avoiding telling Toby that she was ever Stanley, his father, while helping Toby establish a new life. Bree pretends to be a Christian missionary, which provides for some comic relief. Bree’s therapist and friend Margaret (Elizabeth Peña) refuses to give her the final authorization for her sex reassignment surgery until Bree deals with Toby, this “part of [her] body that cannot be disregarded.” “Transamerica” feels campy at times (due to comedic characters such as the pot-smoking “level-four-vegan” hitchhiker and Bree’s horrifically crippled but lovably funny mother), but like all movies has a political aspect to it. In “Transamerica,” some of the politics is more or less transparent.

Where the “America” part of “Transamerica” comes in is that Bree drives back to Los Angeles with Toby to save on airfare and to reunite with the couple she is stopping in Virginia, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. However, unlike “Brokeback Mountain,” “Transamerica” does not try to mold its subject matter to make it a part of Americana. (2) In New Mexico, after Toby finds out that Bree is a transsexual womyn, Bree, drawing from a sometimes overly romanticized understanding of Two-Spirit people, tells Toby and a hitchhiker (Grant Monohon): “Many societies throughout history have honored and revered transgendered people. The Zulu, the Yoruba [African indigenous peoples], the Inuit [Natives] of the Americas called us two spirit people... Then the settlers came. They tended to murder us on sight.”(1) “Transamerica” in this brief moment offers a rare, if condensed, history lesson on the role of colonialism and settlerism in transphobia, homophobia, and the political and social domination of indigenous nations in the Americas.

The relationship with Toby to various ways implies a linear history of improvements in gay rights beginning with the white man’s arrival, and an outward dispersion of progressive ideas about homosexuality from big cities to rural towns. “Transamerica” in contrast unsettles the notion that colonialism and now imperialism have been a progressive force for gay and transgender rights.

The United States’ most renowned film critic Roger Ebert flatly ridiculed the idea that Bree’s brief romantic flirtation with Navajo- and Zuni-descended Calvin (Graham Greene) was significant. Ignoring the Navajos’ and Zunis’ historical acceptance of transgender and homosexual people in certain roles, Ebert goes on to mock the idea that oppressed nations have an interest in opposing transphobia and homophobia even if it means collaborating with those they have always known it: “It is significant that Bree works in L.A. as a waitress in a Mexican-American diner; Mexicans, like Indians, apparently have a genetic tendency to open-mindedness.” (3) Liberal Ebert frames the question in terms of tolerance, sanctimonious self-determination and struggling against national oppression.

Bree lives in a Chicano neighborhood, and while they are zigzagging and making their way across the United States, Bree and Tony hitch a ride in the back of a truck and ride with Mexican laborers. At the Mexican restaurant where Bree works teach her how to speak Spanish. Roger Ebert would undoubtedly say all of this is just part of the scenery, but for some moviegoers these things may allude to an alliance between oppressed nations and transgendered people that I will get into later. This is complicated by the fact that First World wimmin are privileged compared with their Third World counterparts. Bree embodies a non-subversive feminism and never changes in this respect except to accommodate Toby in ways that I will get into later. This is complicated by the fact that First World wimmin and their allies are also associated with First World men and women in the United States have been involved in the debate on transnational identity and gender issues. First World wimmin who enjoy relationships in the rape and romance cultures tend to be gender oppressors, but they have relatively less power than the men. This relatively less powerful position is something Bree is compelled to accept as part of the package of being a transgendered womyn in a society that oppresses wimmin, and the movie doesn’t show Bree resisting this position or the larger oppression of wimmin.

Some pseudo-feminists criticize transgender people for perpetuating gender roles. This is often a lifestyle criticism and not the argument that is being made here. Non-trans wimmin and men often have stereotypically gendered behavior, but that by itself does not make them reactionary even though men in particular may be part of a reactionary social group. At no time in “Transamerica” do we see Bree articulating a defense of male supremacy or even the romance culture. She is just acting how she believes a respected womyn of her economic class is supposed to do and in this movie, it works.

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The Philippines: Uncle $am as usual labelling the good guys as bad guys

From 9...

of AnakPawis)

“The ranks of the progressive workers under the leadership of the Kilusang Mayo Uno-Cordillera condemn the dubicous act of Arroyo in her desperate attempt to cling to her lapsy reign. Without this act, the immediate release of Ka Bel and all of the progressive law makers and individuals illegally arrested under the much unjustified PP1017 of Arroyo!”

“We reaffirm the call for the ouster of the corrupt, fascist and fake president Arroyo for doing everything even to the extent of killing her own people in clinging to her power and inflicting unbearable hardships to the whole of the nation.

RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!”

NEVER AGAIN TO MARTIAL RULE!

JUSTICE FOR ALL THE VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS!

OUST GLORIA!”

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