There is no immigration ‘crisis’

Oppose white nationalism now

March 26, 2006

The mainstream media and even some outlets claiming to be independent have portrayed the immigration reform debate and legislative wrangling as a struggle between two supposed diametric opposites: amnesty advocates, on the one hand, and those who want to deport undocumented migrants and support new immigration restrictions. There are “tough” or “draconian,” and “reasonable,” “sensible” or “comprehensive,” immigration reform proposals. Mimnotes.info has been saying almost for a year now that this is a myth. The extremely limited amnesty provisions and so-called circulation migration incentives in some proposed legislation are mainly a way to make further immigration restrictions, more border fences, more surveillance and monitoring, additional Border Patrol agents, etc., more palatable. Liberals agree with conservatives that the immigration system is “broken” because of so-called “illegal immigration.” But there has always been undocumented migration. The perception of brokenness, and the whole immigration reform debate, stem from an anti-immigrant movement that arises in a certain historical context, one where Euro-Americans perceive migrants to be economic, cultural and political threat; reactionary Euro-American nationalists are unsatisfied with their initial living standards during globalization; and the Euro-American so-called working and middle classes treat xenophobia, and also wars of plunder, as a solution to their economic problems, real and imaginary. Some say the immigration system is broken because second-class citizenship for undocumented migrant workers adversely affects their conditions. This is absolutely true, but to say the immigration system is broken as a way to get a foot in the door and have a dialogue with reactionaries is a dead end. There is no real basis for debate between supporters of migrant workers’ rights, and those who say migrants are terrorists who should be rounded up at demonstrations because they have brown and yellow skin. The immigration system isn’t broken. It is part and parcel of the imperialist repression machine that represses migrants in order to reinforce their economic exploitation and national oppression, whether inside or outside the United States without authorization into a criminal and potentially an “aggravated felon,” criminalize anyone who assists undocumented migrants, and build a high-tech, reinforced barrier all along the southern border.

H.R. 4437 contains provisions that would make admission to the United States, and naturalization, more difficult, and deportations easier to carry out. For example, someone who is apprehended for drunk driving and whom the officer has “reasonable ground to believe” is an “alien” (documented or undocumented) could be detained right away if found to be undocumented, and deported. H.R. 4437 would work retroactively. An offense not considered an aggravated felony, for immigration purposes, before H.R. 4437 could get someone deported or denied admission even if they were convicted for the offense years ago. The Senate may not pass H.R. 4437 in its current form, but it could incorporate some of its elements in other legislation.

When antiwar protesters marched in Los Angeles last September, some explained the low turnout of 10-20 thousand people by saying Los Angeles wasn’t an activist town, didn’t have a big activist scene, etc. The half-million-plus protesters in Los Angeles today show that the fault is squarely on the antiwar movement’s leaders and also genuine progressives who haven’t stepped up to take leadership. Numbers aren’t decisive, and some of the messages at today’s march and rally were problematic, but the potential strength of Latino nations was clearly expressed today.

Spanish-language radio and television media did much of the promotion for the protest. The protest was coordinated with the mainstream media did much of the promotion for the protest. The protest was coordinated with...
Supreme Court puts military recruiting first, before First Amendment

March 10, 2006

Liberty is not an inalienable right, according to the U.S. Supreme Court. Colleges can sell their First Amendment freedom of association in exchange for student loans from the federal government. On March 6, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled by a unanimous 8-0 vote that colleges and universities can be punished by the government through withholding funding, including funding in the form of student loans, for refusing military recruiters.(1)

Some private universities correctly banned military recruiters for banning gays — the discriminatory policy of the U.S. military. MIM does not want gay people, females, or anyone else, to join the military, but we approve of the former ban on military recruiting enacted on some college campuses.

Colleges argued that discrimination should be illegal, but they also argued that, as private “individuals” in corporate-speak, they can associate with whomever they choose. The freedom of association is supposedly part of the highest law of the land, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Yet, the Supreme Court let a podunk Congressional funding bill knock down the freedom of association.

Increasingly, even the richest private universities are extensions of the government, with secret military intelligence operations masquerading as academic work, and missile research supplanting things like solar power research. The ever-diminished independence of the academic world likely generates sterile bourgeois minds, and this may explain why university-educated Supreme Court justices allow schools their rights in exchange for student loans.

The next innovation will no doubt be a tax refund check in which the check endorser surrenders the entire Bill of Rights. So much for the famed U.S. rhetoric from the “Declaration of Independence” about “unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

On the other hand, now that the Supreme Court has ruled that universities are an extension of the government, perhaps taxpayers will be able to show up on campus without being arrested. On second thought, perish the thought of consistency. Imperialism does whatever it wants. To hell with principle.

In the capitalist system, the proletariat fights for freedom and the independence of universities. What we have now is the worst of both worlds — systematic profit-seeking motivations for evil, combined with a lack of freedom to criticize them. MIM is working for a long-term solution to eliminate the causes of evil humyn behavior so that political speech will be necessary to root out scandal etc. but in the meantime, the bourgeoisie attacks us for favoring dictatorship and “totalitarianism,” while it does not adhere to its own principles.

Notes:

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What Is 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.

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MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement

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MIM Notes is 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. MIM comrades, members of the Party. The Revolutionary Imperialism League (RIL) is an anti-imperialist mass organization led by MIM (RCs are RAIL Comrades). MIM’s ten-point program is available to anyone who sends 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.

Most back issues of MIM Notes are available free on our web site. The web site contains thousands of documents, with ordering information for many more.

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What Is MIM?

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) is the collection of existing or emerging Maoist internationalist parties in the English-speaking imperialist countries and their English-speaking internal semi-colonies, as well as the existing or emerging Maoist Internationalist parties in Belgium, France and Quebec and the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist Internationalist parties of Aztlan, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.S. Empire. MIM Notes is the newspaper of MIM. Notas Rojas is the Spanish-speaking parties or emerging parties of MIM.

MIM upholds the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and is an international 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 farthest advance of communism in human history. (3) As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM has reiterated through materialist analysis, imperialism extracts super-profits from the Third World and in part uses this wealth to buy off whole populations of oppressor nation so-called workers. These so-called workers bought off by imperialism form a new petty-bourgeoisie called the labor aristocracy. These classes are not the principal vehicles to advance Maoism within those countries because their standards of living depend on imperialism. At this time, imperialist super-profits create this situation in the Canada, Quebec, the United States, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Israel, Sweden and Denmark.

MIM accepts people as members who agree on these basic principles and accept democratic centralism, the system of majority rule, on other questions of party line.

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

MIM fined $3,000 for political posters in San Fran

March 13, 2006

MIM was recently sent citations from the city of San Francisco amounting to more than $3,000 in fines, with 23 individual citations for $150 each. These citations were sent on forms that contained no explanation beyond a street address and the notation “Prohibited acts” with a violation code of PWC184.57b.

Because of an e-mail we received from someone with the city, we know that these fines are for posters that advertised a conference held in October. This city employee wrote that she was contacting us “regarding some illegal sign posting that happened along the Mission corridor for a show you had at Cell Space on Oct 8, 2005 regarding Unlock The Box.” The Unlock The Box conference was sponsored by the United Front to Abolish Security Housing Units. (1) MIM was sent these citations (five months after the conference) despite the complete lack of evidence that we put up those posters.

Targeting MIM without evidence:

The citations were originally sent to the location where the conference was held, Cell Space. The Cell Space staff provided the city with a copy of the contract to rent the space as proof that they should not be fined. Because MIM reserved the room at Cell Space, the city then moved on to sending the citations to MIM. Cell Space regularly hosts public events and shows, and advertising posters are frequently seen on city poles. One Cell Space employee said they had never seen so many citations issued for posters advertising an event, and suggested that this was deliberate targeting of the political message in the poster.

Clearly, the posters in question (which MIM has yet to see evidence of) did not list MIM as contact information since the city went to Cell Space first with the citations. The City is supported by more than 9 organizations, and endorsed by 13 more groups. In addition, many individuals volunteered their help to organize the conference. There is no way to know who put up these posters in question. Therefore, we can say for certain that there is no legitimate way to hold MIM responsible for the fines, which are completely illegitimate in the first place for a government claiming to uphold free speech. Surely the act of reserving a room for an event does not implicate an organization in the publicity for that event, especially not when the event is clearly organized by so many groups and individuals.

The specific section of the Public Works code relevant to identification of people posting illegal signs reads: “[SEC. 184.65. IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR POSTING OF SIGNS. In any civil action seeking recovery of a civil penalty and/or costs of removal of a Sign for violation of any of the provisions of this Article proof that the Sign posted contains the name of or in any other manner identifies a Person shall give rise to a rebuttable presumption that the Person caused such signs to be posted or to remain posted. (Added by Ord. 116-99, File No. 982076, App. 5/14/99)”(2)

The citations issued to MIM are for posters that do not identify MIM in any way, and so even within the city’s rules, we should not be held accountable for the posters. But this section is insidious because it opens up the possibility that organizations are suddenly held responsible for the illegal posting of anyone who picks up a poster for their event and puts it up on a pole, believing they are helping out with publicity. This also allows agents of the state to undermine an organization by putting up posters illegallly, “helping” with event publicity, to implicate that organization.

The citations allow for an appeal by requesting a hearing. But this means MIM would have to send a representative to this hearing, possibly allowing the city to pin the fines on an individual for whom they could then cause further financial and legal hardship. MIM appealed the citations with a letter explaining that there is no legitimate way to link MIM to the posters in question.

The violation on the citation reads: “Except as expressly provided in this Article, no Person, except a duly authorized public officer or employee, or a contractor with the City, the State of California, or the United States Government acting to promote the purposes of that contract, shall erect, construct or maintain, paste, print, paint, nail, tack or otherwise fasten or affix any Sign, or cause or suffer the same to be done, on any Lamp Post, Utility Pole, traffic control sign or signal, curbstone, bench, hydrant, wall, span wire, sidewalk, bridge, tree, fence, building or structure owned or controlled by the City.”

The San Francisco Public Works Code governing the posting of signs opens with the following: “The City has a compelling need to prohibit the posting of Signs on public property in order to prevent the visual pollution caused by such Signs and the resulting contributions to urban blight.” The idea that advertisements for public events contributes to "urban blight" is an idea promoted by people who believe that free speech is only needed for the wealthy. The city’s approval of giant billboards closely spaced along San Francisco’s freeways expose this hypocrisy. While those with money can buy advertisements that are deemed legal by the city, groups putting on events most needed by the public, namely political events, usually cannot afford them. These groups are forced to resort to advertising methods that are often restricted by the state. It is no surprise that the voice of the oppressed is left unheard when expression comes at such a high ticket price.

The Code goes on to offer some hope to would-be posterers: “Moreover, the content and objects of public advertising which cause damage to such property and, when Signs are placed on or near traffic or directional signs or similar objects, threatens the safety of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. However, the Board is mindful of the importance of providing a forum for communication among the public.” While Lamp Posts and Utility Poles can provide such a forum, unrestricted use of Signs would interfere with the clear view of traffic safety signs and signals by motorists and with the unobstructed use of public streets and sidewalks. A limitation on the size, duration, and placement of Signs on Lamp Posts and Utility Poles would permit the placement of numerous Signs of widely ranging sizes and shapes which protrude beyond such poles, thereby creating an aesthetically displeasing clutter of objects on and over public streets and sidewalks. In addition, unrestricted use of Lamp Posts and Utility Poles would permit the placement of such obstructed use of public streets and sidewalks.

The resulting contributions to urban blight.”

Even in residential areas there are regulations that people must follow, including that individuals doing the posting must register with the city and include their registration number on every poster if it is larger than 11 inches, and possibly must always include the date permitted. In addition, there are restrictions on putting up posters on “historic and decorative lamp posts,” which cover most of the high foot traffic corridors of the city (a seemingly redundant restriction since there are rules on commercial streets).

MIM still does not know how the posters in question specifically violated the code. They may have been on “historic lamp posts” or may have been affixed to the pole incorrectly, or may have been on a commercial street, or may have been missing a date of posting, or possibly were too large, with no registration number, or something else. Regardless of the reason, it is clear the city is pursuing MIM without any justification.

Setting up so many hurdles to legal posting of signs is something that a society does to prevent free speech for the poorest and least powerful. Rather than attacking those who put up posters for advertisement, the city should be looking at ways to increase access to free speech for people who resort to posters. There are virtually no public bulletin boards in the city of San Francisco. The city could require free publications (which take up city space with their distribution boxes on all corners) to allow free listings in their calendars for all events in the city. Profit motive is the real eyesore.

If anything, capitalism reinforces the idea that posters are an eyesore with its constant barrage of advertisements for profit. Groups that have money (those who the advertisers target) have become accustomed to this and react by putting up blunders and being turned off by such ads. MIM has seen the blinder effect in action and how it affects different groups based on their marketing potential.

But please don’t throw out the baby with the bath water. The sterilization and homogenization of american cities will not decrease the number of advertisements; it will only decrease the number of people who have access to them. Monopoly values “aesthetics” and limiting “unsightly clutter” over political debate and the struggle to end oppression and exploitation.

The Code goes on to allow posting of signs on “non-commercial streets”: “Exceptions for Non-Commercial Streets. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection (b) of this Section, a Sign may be placed or maintained upon, or attached to, any Lamp Post or Utility Pole on a Non-Commercial Street provided that the following regulations are adhered to.” This basically means it is legal to put up posters, but only in predominantly residential areas, in other words, only in areas where there is little foot traffic.
Hundreds of thousands rally for immigrant rights in L.A.

From 1...

The majority of Euro-Americans who live off the backs of harshly oppressed and repressed Third World workers. Another part of the oppressor-nation antiwar movement is just pragmatic about the long-term success of the war, casuistry, internationalist platitudes, image, various costs, etc. They may oppose some wars, but support others. It is the kind of vacillation that progressives in the United States have to work with and make use of, but because the nature of this vacillation is reactionary and based in Euro-American nationalism and white-worker chauvinism, it is hardly surprising when many in the antiwar crowd don’t show up at immigrants-rights demonstrations, even if only to recruit for their organizations and peddle their reactionary demands.

The Euro-Amerikan-dominated antiwar movement has marginalized the voices of migrants and Third World workers. Still, there were some indications of antiwar opposition in the Los Angeles H.R. 4437 protest today. Signs singled out Bush, calling him a liar. Writing on an American flag said “occupy Iraq. Protest Bush.” Other signs included a quote from George Orwell’s 1984. The U.S. government has targeted Latino youth for military recruiting.

White-unity with migrants and oppressed-nation communities appeared to be based on religion more than anything else. Euro-American Catholics stood alongside predominantly Asian and Latino protesters with signs such as “Love Thy Neighbor.” Religiously based alliances can be weak and have a limited effect in the United States. However, the character of the Euro-American participation in the H.R. 4437 protest shows that reaching out to whites on a civil rights and human rights basis is more effective than pandering to white workers, fueling their fantasies about a white revolution against the U.S. government, and talking about “working-class unity” with the reactionary, non-proletarian Euro-American working class. Protesters said H.R. 4437 was unconstitutional as well as unchristian.

Other signs at the protest read “We didn’t cross the borders, the borders crossed us” and “Unidos venceremos al racismo, imperialismo y discriminación económica.” Signs compared the anti-immigrant movement to Nazism, while other signs on the banners denounced white racism, racist politicians, and racist vigilantes. “Nuevo Holocauso. Antes Judios. Hoy Latinos. El espiritu de Hitler volvio.” Argentines said H.R. 4437 was the beginning of a dirty war in the United States against politicized immigrants and oppression of nation people. Protesters expressed internationalist solidarity with people in different countries; although, open, vocal solidarity with anti-imperialist peoples in Asian and other Third World countries was limited.

A few protesters held signs criticizing la Migra, not just vigilantes. When more police arrived, terrifying protesters who weren’t used to seeing armed police formations, some young protesters chanted “F- the police.”

Openly anti-imperialist signs and chants were rare. Many protesters for different reasons held American flags, sometimes while waving Mexican flags. This sign is contradictory that shows sentiments that offers only limited legalization while stepping up the repression of migrants. Resistance to vicious, repressive anti-immigrant proposals is progressive, and cutting down on some immigration restrictions and repression is a winnable reform even under imperialism, but the imperialist system always poses a threat to migrants. National self-determination and an end to imperialism are needed.

There is no immigration ‘crisis’

From 1...

United States. It is society that is broken, and the fix is to organize for revolution and work to end this predatory, parasitic and decadent system.

A handful of liberal and some conservative Euro-American nationalists believe open borders are a way to strengthen the United States and, as imperialist-nation nationalists, are united at some level with imperialists. However, there is no common ground between anti-imperialist open borders advocates and reactionaries calling for mass deportations and even mass apprehensions, at immigrants-rights demonstrations, of people believed to be undocumented. The immigration reform debate has no anti-imperialist pole. And bourgeois open-borders advocates in the government are too weak and ideologically bankrupt to consistently oppose repressive and restrictive proposals from within the immigration reform debate.

The so-called immigration reform debate is in response to a perceived and imagined immigration crisis and reflects the viewpoints of different reactionary groups in the Euro-American nation. Even some of those calling for some level of legalization see the legalization as a way to endour migrants already in the United States and want more border and immigration enforcement. The immigration reform debate is an oppressor-nation debate in which almost all sides are united in seeing undocumented migrants as a problem to be solved without ending closed borders and getting rid of the repression that turns people into undocumented migrants.

The immigration reform debate is white-nationalist to the core. Reactionaries say the debate is between border security advocates and open-borders advocates. In reality, the goal of the immigration reform debate is to solve the “immigration” problem and make the imperialist state’s repression machine more effective and efficient. For the debate participants, undocumented migrants are a sign of unsuccessful immigration restrictions, rather than a sign of an unjust policy of repression and socioeconomic exclusion, and an unjust system. Even many of the left-wing opponents of the patently mean-spirited H.R. 4437 see even documented migration as a problem. And nobody in the government involved in the debate is seriously proposing an overall increase in the number of immigrants, or transforming all undocumented migration into an equivalent level of documented migration. The immigration reform debate exists to step up the repression of migrants. In this sense, it is more of a movement or a campaign than a debate. Disagreements arise over the best way to reach a goal. There are some differences over how to implement immigration restrictions in an economically sound way that doesn’t disrupt the American economy, but the end result is the same: more repression.

Since the political parties closely involved in the legislative debate have constituencies, divisions also arise that are connected to not wanting to alienate voters. However, the dynamics of conflict within the immigration reform debate have led to increased acceptance of its nationalist premise, an entrenchment of the common underlying assumptions of white-nationalist ideologies, putting forth the interests of the Euro-American nation, and putting imperialist-nation groups, rather than the world’s exploited and oppressed, first. In addition, few people in the government have openly criticized white nationalism and supremacy, and there has been little effective resistance to these. Now, the Democratic and Republican parties are competing for the white vote. Euro-Americans are increasingly anxious. And they are increasingly willing to switch parties, as politicians and candidates themselves openly acknowledge. The white nation is exercising its political power as the majority, and politicians are responding to that. Concurrently, the Euro-American nation, in a divide-and-conquer strategy, is pitting oppressed nations in the United
March 18, San Francisco

Thousands of people gathered to protest the war on Iraq with a rally in the Civic Center and a march through the streets of the city. The crowd expressed a wide range of politics, including limited anti-Bush politics that verge on supporting the Democratic Party, anti-imperialism, and different internationalist tendencies proclaiming support for struggles of the Palestinian people, the Filipino people, and other national-liberation struggles around the world.

A small pro-Amerika and pro-Israel counter-protest gathered across the street representing the imperialists and proclaiming the need to plunder nations around the world to support American freedoms. If American “freedoms” require oppression of whole nations of people, mass murders, and theft of land and resources, then they aren’t real freedoms.

MIM and RAIL activists at the rally distributed MIM Notes and flyers about the city of San Francisco fining MIM for posters on city poles. We asked people to sign a petition demanding the retraction of these fines and a reversal of laws that make posting illegal in the city. The petition reads:

“The City of San Francisco fines organizations and individuals whose posters are found on poles in the city. The laws prohibiting hanging posters claim to be preventing “urban blight” but are really just preventing free speech. Those with money can buy billboards and ads in newspapers, and those without can’t even put up posters to advertise events.

The Maoist International Movement (MIM) was recently fined over $3000 for posters hung in the city that did not identify MIM in any way — MIM was sent the fines because they reserved a room for the event advertised on the fliers, an event sponsored and endorsed by more than 20 groups.

“We demand that the city of San Francisco revoke the fines sent to MIM and stop fining organizations and individuals for posters found hanging on poles in the city. San Francisco should be promoting free speech, not preventing it: the city should either make it legal to put up posters on poles, or put up bulletin boards throughout the city for legal poster hanging.”

People at the rally were very friendly to this message, complaining that San Francisco should not pretend to be a progressive city while denying its right to free speech. The police told them they could not because their sign was too big. So, they stayed and were arrested by the cops.

MIM fined $3,000 for political posters in San Fran

From 3...

capitalism functions better with a monopoly on ideas as well. Rather than supporting oppressive regulations to reduce access to advertising, we invite people to help us make poster-covered poles an asset rather than a blight. Demand more legal poster space from your local government. Then download your favorite fliers from RAIL’s flier archive online(3), or create your own, and post them to demonstrate what posters can be. It is only through such political dialogue and struggle that we can develop solutions to society’s problems.

Rather than being a public blight from Within (USW) have been deprived of medical care and food, beaten and thrown in isolation cells for the same. And this is only the kid-glove approach that the US government reserves for situations in which it has the power advantage. In the Philippines, the uS-Arroyo puppet regime is arresting and disappearing those promoting new democracy, and in the Middle East, the united States has tried to target Al-Jazeera with missiles.(4) As long as there is class struggle, free speech will be denied to those without power.

Notes:

1. www.abolishcontrolunits.org
4. MIM International Minister, “Uncle Sam as usual labelling the good guys as bad guys,” <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/countries/phil/freebeltran.html>.

Who is Phyllis Chesler? Pseudo-feminism leads to war

Wham, the George W. Bush/Condoleeza Rice/Phyllis Chesler/David Horowitz/RCP=USA alliance attacking Iran on International Wimmin’s Day March 8 hit a large part of the U.S. public as if a blow from behind. Others took the blow as if asleep. There are many aspects of the attack that seem new to the public but which have brewed for years and even decades.

Since when did George W. Bush start making International Wimmin’s Day statements, an American very well might wander. It’s not exactly a Hallmark greeting card day in the united States. What next, May 1st parades in Washington, DC? A review before the Washington monument? Since when do feminists have conversations like this on International Wimmin’s Day like Phyllis Chesler did?

Lopez: Is it shocking to you that “feminism” can’t give President Bush any credit, at least, say, for removing the Taliban from power?

Chesler: Yes. I published a letter in the New York Times congratulating him for doing so.1)

Yet, the State Department does seek to manipulate public opinion globally. The people there do know the fine details of international public opinion and it is clear that we do not tolerate those who think of everything in the Bush administration as hopelessly ignorant done. Thinking of them all as “stupid” in the Bush administration sets us up for an attack from behind.

The media may not emphasize International Wimmin’s Day much, but the State Department knows how to play the game. The trouble is that most of us in the anti-war movement and even in supposed Marxism-Leninism-Maoism are lagging. The truth is that Bush’s International Wimmin’s Day can get him traction for war both in the united States and in places as far away as India. What we saw on International Wimmin’s Day was a dry run, an establishment of the beacon to which the imperialists will now try to summon people globally. In the beacon stages of this struggle, intellectuals play the leading role, so the heavy guns at “National Review” came out for the attack, Chesler for tenured professors in Wimmin’s Studies and RCP=USA for the vanguard of the labor aristocracy. They united on outing conditions for wimmin in Iran and not calling for war at this moment, just building the climate for war.

To understand Bush’s move, we should look at the social forces behind it. Symbolizing the gender aristocracy for war is Phyllis Chesler. Her new ally is the labor aristocracy for war, the supposed “Revolutionary Communist Party” (RCP=USA).

Phyllis Chesler’s first claim to fame is the book Women and Madness. MIM has previously promoted and defended this book, especially in connection to understanding why our prison work is mostly with men. MIM will have to think twice from now on about recommending books that do not show readers how to compare across countries.

Today Chesler is among the legions of wimmin with graduate degrees we have to wonder about from time to time when we see a lack of revolutionary feminism. At 65, Chesler now claims pioneer status. This article could be titled “the revenge of June Cleaver,” because that TV show was real-life when Chesler was a young woman. Now from her assorted racist and national chauvinist militarist rantings, we can see that there was always the danger that White Studies-educated people like Chesler would never get beyond refining their nationalism. The academics who do work on U.S.-only topics have to be especially suspect: do they have any capability of looking for causation and effect in a cross-cultural context? Do they go abroad like Chesler and so many other Euro-Americans and say “This bad, bring Marines!”

After Women and Madness, Phyllis Chesler built her feminist credentials. NOW lists her as a veritable part of herstory itself.

For more than a decade MIM has written about pseudo-feminism. The example of the credentialized Chesler makes it crystal-clear that everything MIM said is in fact present in pseudo-feminism. Feminism is subject to hijacking just like Marxism.

With the publication of her book The Death of Feminism, we learn that Phyllis Chesler was always an American nationalist(2) and Zionist, just as MIM has charged pseudo-feminism all along.

It was not that Phyllis Cleaver suddenly went on Bush’s payroll and endorsed him for president in 2004. Just because she started writing for David Horowitz’s magazine FrontPage in recent years does not mean she did not hold the same basic opinions all along. The problem is that no one, not in all the various conferences, academic discussions or political debates—no one succeeded in exposing her views for what they really are and thus preventing others from the same fate. Those that issued criticism of Chesler did so and then retreated into the shadows. What is necessary is systematic and condensed ideological preparation for pseudo-feminism’s attack.

In 1980, June Chesler told an Iranian that she would not go to Iran on a speaking tour. Of course she is working with Daniel Pipes, who she says “is brilliantly and aggressively documenting jahadic activities.”7 Lately, Chesler writes over and over again that “A strong resistance to the totalitarian Islamists will prove essential in the war of civilizations that is upon us.”8)

For crying out loud, the last page of Chesler’s book is openly about how to improve Western intelligence agencies! Down with the pseudo-feminists! Shame on anyone who stands with the fake “Marxist-Leninist-Maoist” RCP=USA! No real Marxist-Leninist-Maoists are in bed with Phyllis Chesler!

Notes:
1. http://www.phyllis-chesler.com/articles/witness.htm. Chesler’s letter, on 16 Nov. 2001, said in part: “Most feminist leaders have been uneasy if not disapproving of America’s invasion of Afghanistan. They cannot bring themselves to congratulate President Bush and the American military on their swift and decisive actions against the Taliban. Let me do so.”
Opening borders a prerequisite for real feminism

Sex slavery depends on closed borders

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-producers but on the side of the proletariat 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 chance of world war means an 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.
Red Wedge boycotts election in Belarus

Our comrades in the Red Wedge of Belarus have issued an update on their web page. On March 20th, Belarus held elections and President Lukashenko claimed his third term. The West tried to stir up another “Orange Revolution,” but appears to have failed. Some Western news agencies admitted that President Lukashenko was polling 60% before the election, despite being most reviled by the United States and the European Union.

The comrades of the Red Wedge have reported their opposition to both Lukashenko and his electoral opponents such as Milinkevich and Kozulina. In general, Red Wedge condemned electoral politics as a trap in Belarus. Red Wedge correctly predicted weeks in advance that the opposition politicians would not win.

According to Red Wedge, the nationalists of Belarus do have majority support including the 45% of the hired population that is proletariat: 55% of the hired people are in the unproductive sector.

The majority of people in Belarus are not employees. 12.1% of the population that are not employees are pensioners.

Another substantial political grouping is the trade union seeking Westernization. The Liberalists count among the average bourgeoisie according to Red Wedge. There is also a 1 or 2% of the population in the state apparatus as bourgeoisie. Then there are the nationalist-liberals and pseudo-leftists, mostly anarchists, but these are marginal organizations.

The Red Wedge comrades take the Russian Maoist Party’s program as their basis. The Red Wedge comrades conclude their article for the red banner with the phrase, “may Stalin and Mao look upon us.” Apparently, Red Wedge regards Stalin and Mao positively but sees them as practitioners of Marxism-Leninism. Thus there remains some struggle on that point.

We can say that Red Wedge explains the origins of the bourgeoisie in the Soviet party, so there is no disagreement there.

MIM will add only the following commentaries such as some more from our comrades in Belarus. To our knowledge, the Belarus case is one of a very interesting formation of gender aristocracy. In the United States it is nearly impossible to picture any but a migrant as joining the gender aristocracy without being petty-bourgeoisie first. In Belarus, class and gender separate a little more. Lukashenko offered models inside Belarus a classic gender aristocracy deal. He told them they would not be allowed to work outside Belarus as “models,” which given their economic status would only mean prostitution in other countries. So Lukashenko does not let women out of Belarus, but he also closed off advertising to foreign models. So now models sing his praises, saying they are well-paid and well-regarded within Belarus—big fish in small ponds.

Strictly-speaking, we should imagine that the patriarchy could see its interests differently in Belarus. The typical male chauvinist pig should have no problem in seeing as many different models as possible, including imports. However, what Lukashenko does is offer the gender aristocracy a deal without threatening the patriarchy. In fact, the gender aristocracy appears to have supported Lukashenko in the election.

It would be a mistake to say that what Lukashenko does is for the benefit of wimmin, because wimmin are an international group and Lukashenko closed the borders to most wimmin. The wimmin outside Belarus who would have been featured in advertising in Belarus lost out. So neither the male chauvinist pigs seeking access to all models and nor wimmin exactly gained from the move to close the borders of Belarus. We’d say it was an in-between solution, the attempt to form a gender aristocracy.

The other point that Belarus reinforces is something we stressed in being able to recognize the position of American female as man on the social scale. Namely, most countries are not comfortable letting their wimmin out into the world, served naked or semi-naked on a platter. Belarus cracked down on letting models out of the country, and we can see the reasoning. Although all people have problems and fears in travelling to other countries, American females have fewer than Belarusian females. We suspect that if Bush closed the borders to American models trying to leave the country, there’d be a major commotion just over that.

Milosevic dies under Western prison health care

March 15, 2006

A prisoner complains to prison authorities that he is not well. The prisoner says that medical authorities are not tending to him correctly. No one listens. The prisoner dies. That was the basic chain of events for ex-President of Yugoslavia Slobodan Milosevic, who kept prison authorities holding him incommunicado. He was killed in an international court referred to as the Hague tribunal. MIM has seen it too often in U.S. prisons, but we would not have expected the same thing to happen in the prisons for famous alleged war criminals.(1)

Prison authorities holding Milosevic knew that he was dying. The New York Times has seen the notes that Milosevic wrote as he was dying over a period of days. Milosevic contacted Russia in writing.

The Dutch autopsy admitted that Milosevic died of poisoning. The Russians asked for another autopsy to back up the three professionals who already concluded on a role for poisoning.

Because Milosevic committed Russia, prison authorities now expect us to believe a James Bond-style story where Milosevic poisoned himself despite his documented complaints. That is not acceptable. When a prisoner dies in a prison’s custody, the prison has to accept blame.

The Hague tribunal has made itself a form of torture.(2) For the story on Milosevic’s life, we refer our reader to the Partija Rada and the people of ex-Yugoslavia themselves. All MIM can say is that for people have yet to find the path to ending intra-proletarian conflict. Some would say that, as the closest-to-dominant ethnic group, the Serbians are to blame. On the other hand, we cannot discount the role of U.S. imperialism in stirring up ethnic strife as we see in Iraq again today.

The verdict of the international justice court. This is another reason we believe that the Bush administration was probably not unhappy to see Milosevic poisoned and the Hague tribunal’s legitimacy thereby decreased. The United States itself has been fighting diplomatically and successfully to exclude U.S. troops from the Hague tribunal’s jurisdiction.(3) Hence, the crimes at Abu Ghraib are not subject to war-criminal prosecution, but people like Milosevic somehow are.

It will be possible to have international justice until we are done with the self-interest of capitalists to stir up bloody national conflicts for weapons-sales profits, control of resources, or just to weaken the international proletariat through divide-and-conquer. The failure of the Hague tribunal even to finish the trial and keep Milosevic alive is just one further proof that imperialism prevents international justice.

Notes
1. On the other hand, there has been an academic study on how even upper-middle class subjects will replicate the same patterns found in ordinary prisons — when those upper-middle class subjects are both prisoners and prison guards. See, for example: http://www.prisonexp.org/.

MIM tends to believe that might be true in any class society — that it manages to imprint everyone with the same basic sickness.


National oppression alive and well in Amerika

March 20, 2006

National oppression arises when one nation has power over another nation. One form this takes is systematically depriving the oppressed nation of opportunities that are available to the dominant nation. Under imperialism, national oppression is obvious when looking at the way imperialist countries treat their neo-colonies. For instance, Amerika enjoys significant military and economic benefits from its relationship with countries in Latin America, but the people in those countries live under militaristic regimes with few economic opportunities, with most people facing poverty and disease. Within U.S. borders, national oppression is also a reality for the Black, Indigenous and Latino nations. Although North Americans in general are privileged compared with the rest of the world’s people, these groups within the United States do not enjoy the same economic and educational opportunities that are available to the dominant Euro-American nation.

Citing several new books and studies about the plight of Black men in Amerika, the New York Times recently summarized some key research findings that demonstrate that national oppression is alive and well in the United States, and that conditions for the Black nation have worsened in recent years.

No jobs for Black men

“The share of young black men without jobs has climbed relentlessly, with only a slight pause during the economic peak of the late 1990’s. In 2000, 65 percent of black male high school dropouts in their 20’s were jobless — that is, unable to find work, not seeking it or incarcerated. By 2004, the share had grown to 72 percent, compared with 34 percent of white and 19 percent of Hispanic dropouts. Even when high school graduates were included, half of black men in their 20’s were jobless in 2004, up from 46 percent in 2000.

Economists are at the core of the quality of life for any people. In this case, the economic situation for Blacks is worsening. Many apologists for the labor aristocracy, defending imperialist privilege, like to combine statistics about the economic conditions for Blacks and whites to make it look as if everyone in America is doing worse. The reality is that conditions have stayed the same or got better for whites, while they have got worse for Blacks.

MIM pointed out in January 2000: “If there is any group in the U.S. (besides Black men) that is being cruelly exploited (immigrants) that is taking it on the chin in the last 20 years, it is Black men. All of the top-five occupation groups for young Black men have had falling earnings in the last 20 years, with the most common occupations having the largest losses. In 1978, the top two occupation groups for young Black men were high-skilled blue-collar jobs such as machine operators, inspectors, precision production, and the like. In 1998 the biggest category is the low-level blue-collar jobs paying $12,351 per year. While white men in the professions have had a 15.2% increase in earnings, and white winnins professionals have had their earnings go up 24%, Black men in these occupations have just treaded water. With or without college degrees, young Black men are earning about 7% less than they were in 1978. Underlying all this — and absent from this government data on the ‘labor force’ — is the prison boom, which is the cite of exploitation of labor on a large scale, especially for Black and Latino men. The real average earnings of Black men are lower than those reported here because of prisons.”

Prisons instead of education for young black men

“Incarceration rates climbed in the 1990’s and reached historic highs in the past few years. In 1995, 16 percent of black men in their 20’s who did not attend college were in jail or prison; by 2004, 21 percent were incarcerated. By their mid-30’s, 6 in 10 black men who had dropped out of school had spent time in prison.”

MIM has been talking about the rising incarceration rate for years. Locking up Black men is effectively removing more economic opportunities from Black families. At the same time, the length of prison sentences is increasing, taking away lives from Black men who have done nothing more than petty drug or property crimes.

“In the inner cities, more than half of all black men do not finish high school. By 2004, 50 percent of black men in their 20’s who lacked a college education were in prison, while 22 percent of white men who dropped out of high school, were as well. These are more than double the rates for white and Hispanic men.”

Among black dropouts in their late 20’s, more are in prison on a given day — 34 percent — than are working — 30 percent — according to an analysis of 2000 census data. Dropout rates for Hispanic youths are as bad or worse but are not associated with nearly as much unemployment or crime, the data show.

There is a direct relationship between education and economic success under capitalism. Black men are concentrated in inner-city areas where schools lack basic necessities and offer inadequate educational opportunities. This lack of education is also perpetuated by poverty: in families with relatively little money, there is pressure on youth to get a job, or take care of siblings, or attend to other responsibilities that take away from schooling. Black youth can look around and see their chances of success are slim, making them less motivated to even try to finish high school.

Gender oppression connected to national oppression

The New York Times article speculated about the reasons for what they found. Although they missed the underlying cause — imperialism — the article offers an interesting theory about the effects of child support on Black men: “The second special factor [resulting in less Black employment] is related to an otherwise successful policy: the stricter enforcement of child support. Improved collection of child support payments from deadbeats has been a pillar of welfare overhaul. But the system can leave young men feeling overwhelmed with debt and deter them from seeking legal work, since a large share of any earnings could be seized.”

“About half of all black men in their late 20’s and early 30’s who did not go to college are noncustodial fathers.”

This is a case of intersection between national and gender oppression where gender oppression indirectly affects Black men. In general, the movement for child support is progressive because historically Black men have not enjoyed paternal rights. Black women, or ‘wimmin’, stayed at home with the children, leaving ‘wimmin with children and without resources in the case of divorce. But these child support laws were written with the typical white American family in mind, where the husband has a solid job and can afford to support his family. By maintaining a comfortable American ‘parasitic’ standard of living, but has left that family (presumably for something more fun). In light of the statistics on Black male unemployment, enforcing child support leads to destitution, and can actually be a discouragement for low-income men to even get a job. This means both the wimmin and men suffer.

Black nation: history of oppression continues

The story in these latest statistics repeats a long history of oppression of the Black nation. Many in Amerika try to pass off national oppression as simply the result of ‘race’. Black men and women have faced not only the inferiority of a race and power relations connected to that, but also the racialitarian ideologies of national oppression. There is more to the problems confronting the Black nation than racism. American imperialism has systematically oppressed Blacks, from the days of slavery up to today. The form of oppression has changed: today, Black people enjoy the same rights as whites on paper, but this paper equality has not turned into reality. And not only do Blacks have fewer imperialist-country privileges, this exclusion is connected to a lack of political, cultural, social and economic self-determination for the Black nation, preventing it from having an existence independent of imperialism. Only through national-liberation struggles can imperialism be brought to an end.

Notes


2. “The changing economy and class structure: No sign that the white working class is hurting as labor aristocracy claims,” MIM Notes 201, 1 Jan 2000, http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/.

Fog of war surrounding Nepal gets denser

Reports from Nepal indicate that the monarchy may be finished off in April following the Maoist victory in this spring’s elections showing in his own fake elections excluding the top parties of Nepal. U.S. Ambassador Moriarty is on the scene expressing the usual U.S. fear of communists, including an organization that made the U.S. terrorist list. Someone tells Mr. Moriarty that communism has been popular in Nepal a long time with majority support. Nepal ain’t Alabama. MIM gives it to people straight. We are wildly unpopular here in the United States, but the majority of people of Nepal have shown year after year that they would throw the King’s road with their votes. While Democracy demands that we respect that desire. The more Moriarty opens his mouth, the more MIM is going to expose what he is saying. He is calling “terrorist” the Maoists who have the support of the majority of people in Nepal. Even George W. Bush has given that level of support when fighting England.

We find it interesting that Ambassador Moriarty’s words do not appear on “Voice of America’s” website. Apparently the meaty statement that we are supposed to read by Donald Camp is available on the U.S. Embassy’s website. Reports that rumors are flying in all directions involving all possible political actors in Nepal. One rumor holds that the king himself encouraged the Maoist activity to restrain the power of the Congress Party in politics. Another rumor within a rumor says that Maoists encouraged the king to seize power in the first place. Now the fighting is over who really wants to take down the king and how to handle the damn Yankees.

There is a rumor that India has dropped its formula whereby it supports having a king in Nepal. If true, it would tend to make Nepal only a jump ahead sineque a jump ahead sineque a jump ahead sine qua non.

Some of the same dirty hands associated with the collapse of the Maoist struggle in Peru are also evident in Nepal. When the RCP=USA finished with its wrecking role in Peru, it ran off to South Korea. What does it mean to run off to help Bush’s campaign against Iran? We’ve seen it all before that where the RCP=USA goes, Trotskyism and peace accords follow.

Go to 12...
Standing up brings retaliation in Oregon

Unfortunately, with this letter comes torment and serious hostile repression which started on the 26th [Jan 2006]. In the morning I was escorted by 8 correctional officers and STG captains. I was escorted out of IMU and then DOUBLE belly-chained around my waist with 4 handcuffs (I immediately verbally resisted, the handcuffs and double belly chains are unheard of!!) I was shackled in to the IMU wall, then double shackled from one ankle to the other (as tight as they could get them). I was then paraded through the general population area of the prison.

I was then thrown into a chain link cage and a video camera was rolled in front of the cage, along with a TV on wheels. Shortly thereafter I was told to state my name. I could see the judge on the screen and I’m assuming he saw me because he commented on my facial tattoos. When given the opportunity to speak, I said, “As you view me from within this chain link fenced cage and see me dressed in these prison garbs, I’m certain it’s possible to see all these shackles and chains?" He kinda leaned forward in his chair and said yes. I told him this is the world right now. As I stand before you in chains, so do all my oppressed peoples that you and your corrupt system is destroying. He was hot. His face got all read and he said, “This hearing is dismissible.”

A copy was mailed to Chief Deputy Warden McDonald, Capt Gower and Lt. Chapman as a format of protection to validate my claims of those present at the time of the aforementioned incidents.

On December 16, 2005, I was summoned to the office in housing unit B-2 for a mock disciplinary hearing on the report written by Sgt. Amero. Upon entry in the office I handed Lt. Rath a copy of a list of witnesses to testify on my behalf, but instead of looking at it he balled it up and threw it on the floor, saying that he wished it was the old days when it was easier to kill a prisoner and get away with it. After repeatedly protesting against his presence he said that he forfeited the hearing due to filing a lawsuit against his friend Counselor C. Beckman. He further stated that he was the only wise ass in the institution as he falsely charged me with threatening him and Sgt. Amero. Since my left arm was in a sling and my right arm under a cast, Sgt. Amero waited until I was free to escort me for across the yard for placement in the program office cage in route to

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

MIM seeks to build public opinion against America’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.
administrative segregation.

While in the rotunds of B-2 housing unit waiting to exit, both Lt. Roth and Sgt Amero started planning their story of how they were going to frame me on charges of threats. In response, I told them that I would intern the Director of Corrections of their misconduct.

In response Lt. Roth pushed me hard into the walls, telling me to watch my New York ass, as Sgt. Ameuo stood on top of my let foot, which was inflicted with goot from being on a hunger strike. When the outer door to the rotunda opened they escorted me half way across the yard to be relieved by Officer Houglend and Officer Alexander. I was handcuffed behind my back in a blizzard of freezing rain and snow, wearing only underwear and sneakers.

The aforementioned harassments, torture, threats and assaults are a constant nightmare of organized abuse. This is with the consent of the Director of Corrections, Inspector General, Attorney General, Lassen County District Attorney and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

My appeal is for general support to expose genocidal conditions here at High Desert State Prison, which is surrounded by silence on many levels of abuse that is commonly known as underreporting.

-A California prisoner, January 2006

Fighting double ceiling at Pelican Bay

Since 2002 I’ve refused to be double celled (housed with a cell partner). When I arrived at Pelican Bay I told prison officials at classification committee that I would not double cell. This was May 2005. The maximum security prison in California allows prisoners who refuse to double cell to be housed in a more restrictive unit such as ad-seg or SHU.

On December 17, 2005, Lt. J. Cummings and Sgt. Patton placed me in ad/seg for going on a hunger strike while claiming general administrative segregation.

In response Lt. Roth pushed me hard into the walls, telling me to watch my New York ass, as Sgt. Ameuo stood on top of my let foot, which was inflicted with goot from being on a hunger strike. When the outer door to the rotunda opened they escorted me half way across the yard to be relieved by Officer Houglend and Officer Alexander. I was handcuffed behind my back in a blizzard of freezing rain and snow, wearing only underwear and sneakers.

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-A California prisoner, January 2006

Facts on U$ 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.

That means that any 2005-2006 “evil empire” book would be based on 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.

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 and the U.S. Government now holds about a half million more prisoners than China, even though China is five times our population.

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

Notes:
2. Ibid, 1992 report
4. Figure of 51.2 percent for state prisoners there for non-violent offenses. Abstract of the United States 1993, p. 211.

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 program, which benefits the prison officials (the oppressors).

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 us 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 prisoners 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 activities, 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?
Young spoken word artist in New York attacked for telling the truth about white nationalism

March 16, 2006

A popular young spoken word artist from Mount Vernon, New York, recently read a poem at a Black History Month event in a Westchester town. Contention over the poem has drawn the attention of politicians, leaders, and the media. About two weeks ago, the young artist told middle and high school students that while nationalism put the Black people in bondage, and exploited, repressed, indoctrinated and misled them. She also said white nationalism stole Black land, denied Black people their own history, and brought alcohol to Black communities. “Nothing has changed take a look at our streets.” Overall, the poem was a good, progressive criticism of white nationalism and correctly pointed to Euro-American nationalism as the main reactionary tendency confronting the Black nation.

Just for that, Autumn Ashante was “tx’d” and blackballed from schools, though students even in some rare U.S. public schools learn about Malcolm X, Huey Newton, and Assata Shakur, though, and hundreds of parents by phone, apparently because Ashante led the Black Child’s Pledge. The teacher who invited Ashante to perform.(1) The school district superintendent later said that particular poem was just inappropriate and shouldn’t have been read. In any case, school officials sent a recorded apology to hundreds of parents by phone, apparently because Ashante led the Black Child’s Pledge. The teacher who invited Ashante conceded that the poem “might have been a little too aggressive for what the middle-school kids are ready to handle.”(1) Students even in some rare U.S. public schools learn about Malcolm X, Huey Newton, and Assata Shakur, though, and middle school students are regularly subject to aggressive reactionary propaganda in the mainstream media.

In a frenzy, reactionaries on the Internet accused Ashante of being racist, hateful, brainwashed and even unoriginal, asserting without evidence that someone else had written the poem. Among critics, ad hominem attacks were more common than rational discussion of Ashante’s ideas. There is nothing racist in Ashante’s poem. There isn’t even a criticism of whiteness, just white nationalism. Also, Ashante singled out only a handful of Euro-Americans as oppressors and exploiters.

Some of Ashante’s disingenuous detractors have suggested that just because there is racial integration in the school district, there is no need to criticize white nationalism. Reactionary writer, blogger and white St. Louis’ Talk Radical man Michelle Malkin called Ashante “the natural offspring of militant multiculturalism and government-sanctioned identity politics.” The warmonger who has defended racial profiling made sure to point out that Ashante was fluent in Swahili and Arabic. On the other hand, in early February, Ashante asked oppressed-nation students to recite the Black Child’s Pledge, popularized by the Black Panthers, for unity and against violence among oppressed people. Ashante’s detractors have totally taken this out of context, accusing the seven-year-old poet of unnecessarily segregating older Black and white youth while on some kind of power trip. Actually, Ashante asked different people of color to stand, according to the New York Post.(2) Reportedly, fights had recently taken place at the high school, making the Pledge particularly appropriate.

White supremacist America believes Black youth are incapable of speaking intelligently, and unable to grasp radical political ideas. The Euro-American nation also prevents effective youth leaders from teaching and counseling each other about intra-oppressed violence on their own terms. Euro-American adults have a monopoly on so-called freedom speech, especially in schools, but even that is not enough for them. They try to intimidate youth who speak the truth, resist indoctrination, and dare to use whatever few platforms they’re given to serve the oppressed.

The Euro-American nation is built on slavery, exploitation, the theft and expropriation of land, and the oppression of First Nations peoples, by an imperialist system. Latin Americans, and many other oppressed nationalities. The oppression is ongoing. The imperialist-patriarchal system and state want to silence youth who rightfully speak out against oppression, but this decadent system won’t last forever. It has sent a new gag order and dismisses radical youth, but their words and actions stand on their own.

Notes:

Fog of war surrounding Nepal gets denser

From 9...

There’s a particular style behind the infiltration.

Now there is even a rumor that the leadership of the Maoist party and two leaders expelled recently both support the electoral road to power at the cost of disarming their own people. It’s important to understand that even if that is not true, the enemy is going to say it is true to create an aura of inevitability.

It appears possible that at least portions of the Indian bourgeoisie believe it is impossible to bet on a losing horse, the king. Hence there may be no alternative to infiltrating and “mainstreaming” the Maoists. TIMI speculates the U.S. imperialists may be thinking the same thing though they cannot admit it publicly, because of U.S. public opinion on communism.

The rulers feel like a bad deja vu, but there are positive signs of struggle coming from Nepal. In fact, the fog is a profound compliment to the people of Nepal, that all these swirling rumors are necessary as a last ditch effort to save a shaky regime.

The question will be if the communists and masses trying to go down the road of Mao can get through the fog and obtain what they want. MIM itself is walking through fog on this question. We must not let all the rumors and Great Power tricks break our will.

In the united States, MIM comrades work at arm’s length with the public and each other. That is partly on account of the fog thrown up by the enemy—all the tricks and double-games. Through it all, we have to keep working for revolution. Some day revolutionaries just like the Maoists and border will demand an open and accountable structure, just as revolutionary government will be in Nepal, maybe soon.

The United States claims it wants to separate the seven exploiter parties from all this. But with the Maoist People’s War. For this reason we may soon see the seven exploiter parties betray their agreement with the People’s War and try to strike a new deal with the king. The question will be if the masses will put up with that, especially given the exploiter parties’ own previous words opposing autonomy.

“Terrorism” and “communism” are the buzzwords for U.S. public opinion. This much is sure, but beyond that we cannot be sure of the strategic goals of U.S. imperialism inside Nepal. Strictly from gauging U.S. public opinion and the benefits of keeping that stoked up for war and anti-terrorism so-called security, U.S. rulers may be willing to keep Nepal in civil war indefinitely. The U.S. rulers feel compelled to oppose so-called communist terror, then they find themselves without a democratic figleaf to use. The same problem exists with Hamas in Palestine, another organization labeled “terrorist.” Perhaps the united States is still backing the king, because it would not be able to stand another Hamas-style defense. On the other hand, U.S. imperialists would also infiltrate communism in Nepal to “set an example” for China. The New York Times has reported extensively on Israeli aid to Hamas in the past. Hence, we do not believe the people of Nepal should ever think that by disposing of the king, they risk the wrath of U.S. imperialism. That risk is ongoing. U.S. imperialism goes ahead with infiltration schemes regardless of the political situation. That does not mean Nepal cannot end its civil war by getting rid of the monarchy and getting on the socialist road.

U.S. power is distorting Nepal’s politics in all directions. Rumors arise about everybody in all directions, because secret agendas become more secret because of U.S. power. We rather agree with one idea in Nepal that through it all the people of Nepal must study politics and ideology independently. If all the Great Power maneuvering in Nepal results in an increased study of politics by the exploited, a bad thing can become a good thing. If the People’s War continues, and the people hold on to their weapons and maintain their own security, there is every reason to hope for a positive outcome of Nepal’s revolution.

Note: http://nepal.usembassy.gov/sp_03-16-2006.html