Migrant Unity a Nightmare for Amerikans

GREATEST U.S. MAY DAY EVER

International Workers Day 2006 was the greatest May Day in U.S. history. Over a million skipped work and millions demonstrated across the country—including in many places not known for any political or social activism.

“Police estimated 400,000 people marched through Chicago’s business district and tens of thousands more rallied in New York and Los Angeles, where police stopped giving estimates at 60,000 as the crowd kept growing.

“An estimated 75,000 rallied in Denver, more than 15,000 in Houston and 30,000 more across Florida. Smaller rallies in cities from Pennsylvania and Connecticut to Arizona and South Dakota attracted hundreds not thousands.” (1)

The negative lesson of the day was that the Euro-Amerikan so-called workers were less than 5% of the participants if New York City is any indication. MIM gave out 1,900 copies of MIM Notes to demonstrators in Union and Foley squares in Manhattan.

One comrade in MIM circles put it this way: “It was hurtful really. If you were a white liberal, what would you say? What would be your excuse?”

New York City was the unavoidable proof of white non-participation. Just two days before, thousands of flyers went out to a mostly white demonstration in New York City to oppose the Iraq war. Every single group calling itself socialist or communist was there April 29th talking to a mostly white demonstration in New York City to oppose the Iraq war. Every day for the past several months, the demonstrations grew.

The favorite chants of the day were “si se puede!” and “un pueblo unido jamás sera vencido!” (“Yes we can” and “the people united will never be defeated.”)

No to imperialism

No to so-called comprehensive immigration reform and dividing the proletariat using U.S. borders

April 22, 2006

MIM and its circles have been among the few groups anywhere to have spoken of an “anti-migrant movement,” “anti-migrant repression,” “anti-migrant vigilantes,” and so on. The key word is “migrant.”

Looking back at statements MIM has made over the past several months, it seems that perhaps the point has not been driven home hard enough. Yes, MIM has been critical of white nationalists who have tried to distance themselves from the Minutemen as way of putting forward their own reactionary proposals. The idea of the Minutemen, one of the ugliest expressions of the anti-migrant movement, having mainstream support took people by surprise. It’s been several months since then and the massive popularity of the anti-migrant movement among the U.S. population, and the dominant Euro-Amerikan nation in particular, still draws little comment. What we’re hearing today, with regard to migrants’ rights demonstrations, is just “where are the whites.” But that’s another story.

MIM has come down hard on white nationalism and its various manifestations in the struggle against anti-migrant repression. But there is a reactionary trend within white nationalism that deserves further attention. Certain elements are calling for “full legalization for all immigrants” as if that were a maximum demand, some kind of radical proposal. A variation on the slogan is “full citizenship for all.” This is unrealistic belief in this country. One read “This is a democracy” and another, “This is a free country.” Other signs demanded the Amerikan government respect people’s human rights. While it’s good to remind people of what Amerika claims to uphold and demand it live up to principles like the international declaration of human rights, we should also see the Amerikan government for what it is: a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.

On the web: www.etext.org/Politics/MIM

Thousands of people rallied in San Francisco’s Dolores Park and marched through the streets to the Federal Building today to protest anti-immigration actions by the Amerikan government. This rally was the continuation of weeks of actions uniting migrant communities of all nationalities across the united Snakes.

Among the speakers, a womyn from the Chinese Progressive Association called out U.S. imperialism for forcing people to come to Amerika by its economic policies enforced on Third World countries. This message was repeated by other speakers including a womyn from the San Francisco Day Labor Program: “We are forced by the U.S. imperialist system to less byy countries to come here [to find work].”

A representative of the Service Workers’ Union spoke about the need for migrant labor in this sector: “without immigrant workers they would collapse.” It is true that the less desirable jobs in Amerika are taken up by migrants from Third World countries. This speaker expressed the sentiment of many of these workers: “we deserve the right to be part of the American dream.” This is the same sentiment that leads to many people at these rallies waving Amerikan flags. But the Amerikans, they will join the ranks of exploiters, living off the misery of the majority of the world’s people.

Signs at the rally also reflected an unrealistic belief in this country. One read “This is a democracy” and another, “This is a free country.” Other signs demanded the Amerikan government respect people’s human rights. While it’s good to remind people of what Amerika claims to uphold and demand it live up to principles like the international declaration of human rights, we should also see the Amerikan government for what it is: a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.
Letters to MIM

Migrant rallies demonstrate correctness of MIM line on labor aristocracy

Dear MIM,

After seeing the massive turn out of the May 1st immigrant march/boycott I want to highlight a few things that were not mentioned in the mass media. For social progressives there are some aspects of and about the marches/boycott that need to be advanced. But for now we need only focus on what turned out to be mass participation, the largest social demonstration of our generation, and from a relatively silent element of society.

First, after such a showing I think it pretty much cleared up who are proletariat in the U.S. MIM has the correct line on this, unlike pseudo-socialist who believe the white working class are proletariat or have revolutionary potential. Not only are immigrants oppressed and exploited, if backwards ass congress has their way, these oppressed and exploited people will be killed off.

People who have to migrate to this country usually do so because of a dominant geo-economic system that subverts and subjugates their prospective national economies. This fact was practically absent in both English and Spanish media. One interviewee started to go into how Mexico’s unemployment rate has actually risen since the enactment of NAFTA, and was cut off by a meaningless reactionary question by the interviewer. As progressives well know, in-depth analysis is practically nonexistent in the media.

However, what I was surprised to see is the Spanish media, owned by U.S. conglomerates like Disney, Viacom, etc, was able to advocate for a mass/march/boycott for over a month. This shows that there is a little space to organize through the “mass media.” Progressives should take notice of this.

Now what I wasn’t surprised to see was all the coconut mother fuckers they paraded on TV to oppose the marchers and their aims. This was equivalent to the “million man march,” at that time you saw all these Uncle Toms complaining about the march organizers. Now, just as then coconuts (Uncle Toms) are unable to see in a class divided society, unity is imperative. There is a distinction between not supporting something and actively opposing it.

Let’s go into class division a little. We know that capitalism divides people by classes and is inherently cut throat. dog eat dog, and individualistic (and I say individualistic with disgust!). In capitalism there has always existed an under class. In fact, capitalism could not exist without an under class whose existence is dependent on exploiting and oppressing the under class through finance capital. The oppression that’s being proposed by backwards ass congress (bill HR4437) is not new, it’s just a contemporary reflection of what is essentially capitalism.

At the same time we can acknowledge that before there was capitalism there was a comprador class, a small segment of every ethnicity who willingly sells out their people for material gains. But this should not shake our resolve. We only need to point these people out and avoid them (for now).

Notes: Despierta America, Ch Univision, 9am, May 1, 2006.
- a prisoner in California, May 2006

Oppressed sisters, don’t join the military!

Dear MIM,

With the war in Iraq and in other Third World countries raging, more and more of our poor and oppressed brothers and sisters are being falsely lured into joining the military. The group that seems to be the most vulnerable, at least from my standpoint, is women. Which of course bothers me greatly. Especially given this country’s military past regarding women.

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

The paper is free to all prisoners, as long as they write to us every 90 days to confirm their subscriptions. There are no individual subscriptions for people outside prison. People who want to print and/or distribute MIM Notes should contact mim3@mim.org.

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MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement

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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 Aztlán, 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 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.”

Migrant Laborers Progressive, Amerikkans Not

San Francisco
May 1

In what appeared to be the biggest political rally in the city since the renewal of bombing of Iraq in March 2003, tens of thousands of oppressed nation people took to the streets to demand legalization for migrant workers. Comrades distributed hundreds of MIM Notes and fliers demanding the abolition of all illegitimate borders, particularly the one separating the United States from Mexico.

There were many differences between May Day 2006 and March 30, 2003 in San Francisco. Though the masses of May Day demonstrators clogging the streets blocked all traffic for hours, there was no concerted effort to shut down the financial district as happened in 2003. 2003 had greater stress on “direct action.” While the response to the bombing of Iraq was probably 90 to 90 percent white, May Day was closer to 90 to 95% oppressed nationals. By our count, there were 30,000.

The latter difference being the more decisive, we at MIM place more hopes in progressive change in the recent rise of resistance from the oppressed nations. While there were more strong anti-imperialist sentiments being expressed at the Iraq rallies, they were accompanied with blatant american chauvinism. The main organizers of the direct actions to shut down the financial district in 2003 issued a statement for the one year anniversary actions in May Day 2006 saying Bechtel of “transferring wealth from the majority of the people in the US and public services to big corporations and the wealthy.” (1) The message was clear, less stolen wealth for Bechtel CEOs, more for the rest of amerikikkans. Those people who chained themselves outside of Bechtel that day generally acknowledged that they had the privilege to risk arrest and felt that was their way to express resistance. The migrants that risk arrest, deportation and loss of livelihood for merely marching and demanding basic humynght rights clearly took direct action themselves.

The most advanced of the Iraq War demonstrators want to believe that only finance capital owes reparations, and mostly to white people inside America. This offers crumbs to the migrant workers. In contrast, the May Day rally targeted white nation consciousness generally— Lou Dobbs, the Minutemen and the ordinary San Francisco pedestrian and driver — and held a more realistic view of the economic roots of problems, with trillions each year stemming from bloated white so-called worker parasitism.

Here’s where the scientific aspect of MIM’s analysis comes in. The petty bourgeois which led the anti-Iraq war actions was merely fighting in its own self-interest, as the oppressed nationals on May Day 2006 were. The different outcomes stem from the very different class interests of the two groups.

While much of the leadership calling themselves anarchist, socialist, communist or even green expressed excitement in response to the current pro-migrant movement, these ideas often based on empty identity politics. Their ideas of race and their integrationist goals prevent them from reaching the correct conclusions about how humanity can progress to a peaceful, equitable society. Instead they end up tailing the masses, being forced to take up the correct internationalist slogans after the re-formist and religious leaders in the oppressed nations had been chanting them for months.

One man at today’s rally held a sign that listed various products and where they came from such as “Coffee from Colombia” and “Cars from Japan” and then asked why not workers from Mexico. Twenty years ago amerikkans almost forced trade barriers against Japanese cars, but the international bourgeoisie struck a preferable deal to them where Japan voluntarily controlled its exports. (2) If the current pro-migrant movement ever ended with the demand for free movement of goods and labor across borders, then it would be more progressive than oppressor nation protectionism and anti-globalization movements.

MIM doesn’t hate amerikkans the Go to 5...

Migrant Unity a Nightmare for Amerikans

From 1...

Amerikkkans free country?

Many of the dozens of flags being carried by protestors were American stars and stripes, the rest were from Central and South American countries. There were also two dance troupes that performed music and dances from Mexico and Korea, dressed in traditional clothing. This is one signal that many of the dozens of flags being carried by protestors were American stars and stripes, the rest were from Mexico and Korea, dressed in traditional clothing. This is one signal that

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about May 1st and the controversy over immigration and migration. We can say the grassroots did the politically correct thing in linking to the migrant movement, but the grassroots of the anti-war movement were not buying.

On April 29th, MIM spoke with one white who turned out to be typical. “Is there one [a demonstration]?” MIM told the person that there were going to be demonstrations everywhere, even in New Hampshire. It’s important to understand—the Euro-Americans did know. CNN and Netscape even announced the demonstrations in advance—a rarity. We found the flyers all over the place in New York City, but two days later, there was little overlap in the demonstrations; even though, the two demonstrations covered the exact same streets.

Across the United States we would not expect Blacks to be more than 15% among undocumented workers in under 40 age group and more in the over 40 crowd. In New York City, Blacks also did not show up, and that is a failure because Blacks are 25% of New York.

It appears that Asian ethnicities pulled their weight this May 1st thanks to the support of the Latino proletariat. 18% of Koreans inside U.S. borders are undocumented workers such as textile workers, restaurant workers and karate instructors. In total, the U.S. Government estimates that Asian ethnicities comprise 13% of undocumented workers inside U.S. borders as of 2005, despite being only 3.6% of the population total.(2)

(2) The Korean bourgeoisie located in the textile centers of places like Los Angeles also hire Latino proletarians: “The Korean Apparel Manufacturers Association in Los Angeles sent a memo to its 1,000 members urging them to allow workers to take a Monday off.”(2) This is another example where actual employers are less reactionary than the Euro-American labor aristocracy exploiters when it comes to borders. In New York City, there ended up being one Asian “human chain” at lunch time to complement several Latino ones celebrating the undocumented workers.

At first glance, it appeared Blacks were 5% and whites another 5% tops at the general rally in New York City. When MIM investigated more deeply, even this turned out to be an overestimate. The published MIM Notes did peg workers as the whitest most typical suburbanite to take MIM Notes turned out to be from Latin America. One Black participant wore a Black Panther button, no surprise to MIM Notes readers, but a Black pair that took MIM Notes also wore a Latin American uniform. Too many people from the left-wing of the parasitic movements do not know about Latin America’s multiracial character or race in general in the world outside U.S. borders.

So going by purely visual appearance of this rally would have been a mistake. It’s another moment for an analysis of race as primary. Going by race alone would have resulted in an overestimation of Euro-American participation in the rally. This May 1st rally was Latino to the core and that covers white, mostly brown, red and black-skinned peoples—including mixtures that would be tough to tell apart from yellow.

The best speaker we heard was a student who used the U.S. flag as a scarf. He chanted a list of countries followed by the word “power.” He included Boricuan power and got down to “Argentinian power!” There were hot sales of flags from all Latin American countries plus sales of the U.S. flag.

After speaking agitationly, the student speaker gained great applause from his listeners, at a strategic pause, when he said, “Yes, I’m a Mexican and yes, I have tables on the white liberals, by mirroring them in a pro-Mexico way and his joke also poked fun at the typical white liberal way of individualizing politics as if having a friend could justify oppressive politics.

Another speaker in the same circle simply told her listeners ‘never to be afraid’ and ‘God loves you.’ She repeatedly reassured her listeners and told them “to never give up.” The Catholic Church has to be involved, because its newest and most devoted members are potentially from Latin America.

There were several different circles and speakers. The one with the loudest speaker featured some confused activists denouncing temporary worker programs in a way to echo the Minutemen and Lou Dobbs. These supposed radicals will not achieve even as vague an effect as the Minutemen, by aligning with the right-wing of white nationalism, they may accomplish a “reform” to close the border to temporary workers. There is no “reform” at the moment that can bring just wages to the world, so the activists should just drop their focus on this one question and stick with revolutionary slogans.

Incorrect focus on the temporary worker programs is an example of how ultra-leftism works hand-in-hand with Euro-American chauvinism. Let these groups that want a “multi-racial” approach to a supposedly “multi-racial working class” stick to their demands for open borders and offer of citizenship to all who want it. They should not echo the Minutemen; even though, in truth they both represent the same privileged exploiter labor aristocracy class.

When asked, the super-exploited of the Latino community do not need to be cajoled into striking. They set the state about not having heard about the migrant demonstrations. If we do not understand that those anti-war demonstrators in New York City April 29th were petty-bourgeoisie, we might mistake what they told us as some kind of proletarian truth.

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New York Times drives wedge between Blacks and migrants

The second leading story on the imperialist New York Times webpage as of May 3rd at 11:00 pm is proof of the success of the migrant movement. “Growing Unease for Some Blacks on Immigration” treats real issues and has real facts, but suddenly we see the New York Times give it such a priority on its web page. All oppressed nations should be suspicious.

A number of talking heads on radio and some other pundits reached the New York Times have stirred up Blacks against migrants. The line goes that Blacks lend their dues through hundreds of years of slavery and waited in line. The same is true by the way of some Mexican-Americans who feel that their hassle with the INS through legal procedures make them superior human-beings to others who did not make it. To encourage the imbeciles intentionally assigned to the INS to restrict Mexicans to a trickle across the border. Instead of thinking the whole difficulty at the INS is intentional and divides people internationally, the new Latino exploiters think they have some new virtue for getting through the crap-shoot of citizenship. They want to lord it over the people they came from.

The orees and coconuts blame the migrants for how Euro-Americans divide people. The Euro-Americans did not have to follow any INS procedures when they stole the land from the First Nations. They did not lobby any indigenous government State Department to get let in. Those are the people in-charge of the government now, but the orees and coconuts focus on how hard their struggles were to get a piece of imperialist pie instead of thinking that this is their chance to bring down white nationalist domination.

There is a large sector of the Black people that is labor aristocracy, people becoming oppressor-like in their economic outlook. We saw this with Proposition 187 in California when Blacks sided with whites against Spanish-speakers. We are seeing it again now.

MIM actually agrees with the complainers that the current movement is not really a “civil rights movement.” It is a movement for national liberation mixed in with some other movements, because it is often the case that it is difficult to have more than two sides in a conflict. Democrats looking to future Latino exploiter employers, employers wanting more workers around, neo-Trotskysts looking to echo the Democrats on “Black-Brown unity” and reconquistas are allied together against white nationalists, fascists and their lackeys. The New York Times is for an expanded Democratic Party vote, but it puts a brake on the process because it fears revolution. So the New York Times prioritization of their news report is a profound compliment to the revolutionary proletariat.

The Latino labor bureaucrats are siding with the Black labor aristocracy, by saying the current movement is a civil rights movement, because both groups are pursuing the “American Dream.” MIM cannot deny that there is a powerful impetus to the movement coming from the dream of exploiting the rest of the world. Jesse Jackson agrees with these Latino labor bureaucrats on a joint labor aristocracy integration project for u.s. empire. The international proletariat is on the same side as Jesse Jackson and the Latino labor bureaucrats right now for different reasons than they put forward. Jesse Jackson is taking the “politically correct” position of perfuming u.s. imperialism with internal civil rights, but he does not carry his own people on this issue to the extent that he carries them to the Democratic Party. According to the New York Times, the Pew Hispanic Center conducted a poll that showed nearly double opposition among Blacks compared with whites on the belief that migrants cost them or someone they know jobs.


W.E.B. DuBois, a founder of the N.A.A.C.P., and other prominent black leaders worried that immigrants would displace blacks in the workplace. Ronald Walters, director of the African-American Leadership Institute at the University of Maryland, said blacks cheered when the government restricted Asian immigration to the United States after World War I.

In World War I, Du Bois was for proving Black loyalty to America and integrating into the melting pot that way.

Rejected with his people by Euro-Americans anyway, he then spent decades decrying and floating on Black nationalism. When DuBois died, he had taken up Mao’s internationalism. For that reason, his birthday became a national holiday in China under Mao.

Academic misleader Ronald Walters pointed to high urban unemployment of Blacks but he did not prove that the way capitalism works, the economy works better or hires more Blacks without migrants. Having the capitalist economy collapse generally is not going to help unemployed Blacks, so even on a reformist basis, Walters’ argument is pretty dubious. Overall, Walters is falling victim to neo-colonialism—divide-and-conquer.

May Day demonstrations were great, but the New York Times gave us a reminder that even on this most successful proletarian road regarding the future of u.s. imperialism, there are many challenges ahead. Note: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/04/us/04immmg.html

Migrant Laborers
Progressive, Amerikkkans Not

From...

the civil rights movement which was about individual rights within the exploiter commodity.

In response to all this, jack-ass imperialist Senator Lamar Alexander wants to make the U.S. national anthem to be English-only by law.(4)

Pro-Confederacy activist and Senator Trent Lott also said the demonstrations were an opportunity for by striking them. He encouraged people not to go to work or children not to go to school is counterproductive,' Lott said on CNN’s ‘Late Edition’ program. ‘In response to all this, jack-ass imperialist Senator Lamar Alexander


The united $tates and Kkkanada are the only countries that don’t recognize May 1st as International Workers’ Day according to the IWW, despite its origins with the 8 hour work day movement in the united States. The fact that it took Mexicans, Salvadoreans, Koreans, Chinese, Filipinos and many other new arrivals to the united States to return this piece of proletarian culture to this country should tell people something. The course of history will only continue to shame those white nationalists who put their hopes for progress in amerikkkans.

Notes:
(1) http://www.etsyext.org/Politics/MIM/ sfbay/march04.html

http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/05/01/dobbs/migrantprotests/index.html

migrant laborers:...
No to comprehensive immigration reform and dividing the proletariat using U.S. borders

through it reflects a mistaken view of what is fundamentally driving this debate. Although reactionaries have jumped on these slogans as usual, it is really important to understand that a slogan like “full citizenship rights for all immigrants,” or worse, “full citizenship rights for all immigrant workers” but not other migrants, is highly problematic. Such slogans are troubling when there are no simultaneous calls for open borders.

The first thing to notice is that not all migrants want to stay in the United States. Even among oppressed-nation migrants who become permanent residents or citizens, a significant number want to return home eventually. Making citizenship available to undocumented migrants in and of itself is a winnable and desirable reform under the present social and political system. However, such a reform must not be an excuse to perpetuate the repression of other migrants or abandoning migrants who don’t want to become citizens. Many of those calling for legalization also support increasing border repression.

Underlying some calls for legalization is an ugly chauvinism, concealed behind friendly language but nonetheless present. One statement of a certain coalition group, proclaiming leadership of some deportees, reads: “The schemes being debated in Congress only aim to either criminalize the undocumented and by extension all immigrants, or to provide an extremely limited possibility for undocumented workers to be able to live, work and remain in the country they have adopted as their own.”

Implicit in this statement is the idea that migrants leave their families and communities and come to the United States because they love America, not because they are negotiating their situation under the imperialist economy and system.

People in love with imperialism are going to pounce on MIM for pointing this out and acknowledging the grain of truth in what reactionaries are saying about not all migrants wanting to assimilate into American society completely. But it must be said: Some of those who want to prove the worth and loyalty of migrants to the oppressor nation, but a communist party must take a scientific approach.

MIM’s criticism on this point simply surrender the struggle that needs to happen with the Euro-American nation to organize and represent the interests of oppressed nations. There is nothing wrong with a people wanting to live apart from the Euro-American nation. An oppressed nation does not have to be measured against Euro-American standards—or more likely, Euro-American double standards given what it says on the Statue of Liberty. The desire to have separate national identities from the Euro-American nation while living on the territory stolen from Mexico and First Nations is in fact correct. It is our critics speaking as the voice of super-profits and integrated global pillage. People waving the Mexican flag should go on waving the Mexican flag and bring out the contradiction between the oppressor nation and the oppressed. So-called leftists are the verbal shoehorn taking advantage of repression and super-profits to force oppressed nations to fit into the imperial schema. The white Liberals should offer to let migrants fit in their Liberal world, but we communists should also fight for national self-determination.

Hegel’s ideal world, “full citizenship rights” would mean getting rid of the repression and exclusion that creates different classes of citizens, second-class citizens, third-class, etc. But within the logic of the moment, it just means offering naturalization to undocumented migrants, not only a subgroup of them at that.

Many of those calling only for legalization for workers are simultaneously opposing every temporary-worker proposal as a new bracero program. This is a dangerous combination that threatens to exclude migrants who don’t want to become permanent residents. Open borders would be better than border repression subject to the whim of the imperialists and the labor aristocracy, but that is not on the table in the legislative debate. Thus, “citizenship rights for immigrants” subtly colludes with attempts to further imperialist and second-class citizenship rights for undocumented migrants in the United States at the expense of shutting out other Third World workers.

No “legalization-only” bill has been put forth. Any proposed legalization provision comes packaged with more anti-migrant repression. Still, we can imagine such a thing standing next to enforcement-only bills in the minds of those calling for unconditional legalization for undocumented migrants. Superficially, legalizationistance legislation sounds better than enforcement-only legislation, but both mean getting rid of the repression that ultimately accepts the legitimacy of imperialist borders and of anti-migrant repression.

The anti-migrant movement does not target just migrants and their communities in the United States. The anti-migrant movement is hostile to the self-determination of oppressed nations outside the United States, too. The anti-migrant movement is hostile to the self-determination of oppressed nations inside and outside the United States, not just opposed to their inclusion in American society and their civil and political rights under the imperialist state. Self-determination is needed, not just imperialist citizenship rights with a promise of legal, parasitic U.S. wages, unavailable to the majority of the world’s workers.

As a name for demonstrations in response to the anti-migrant movement, “civil rights movement” is therefore somewhat misplaced despite its relevance to migrants and their families in the United States. “Anti-imperialist movement” wouldn’t be an accurate description either — the demonstrations are not that developed yet — but the demonstrations are in response to a wave of attacks against proletarian workers and oppressed nationalities, not just those already in the United States.

Those who insist (against all evidence) about what is actually on the table in the legislative debate) that full, immediate legalization is possible within the coming months, but stop short of opposing U.S. borders, are pursuing a path that will create more division among the oppressed along the lines of imperialist borders. Why support unconditional legalization, but not open borders? This is unacceptable and represents a bourgeois viewpoint. It is also confluent with the demands of legal U.S. workers who mistakenly believe that the exploitation of Third World workers drives down U.S. wages when in fact such exploitation increases them. These legal U.S. workers are fundamentally driven by a white hysteria and reject every temporary-worker program, sometimes in lockstep with those denouncing anything that looks like an amnesty.

If one were to take away the temporary-worker provisions of the Hegel-Martinez Substitute (limited as they are), what would be left is a bill that offers naturalization to only those undocumented migrants who are willing to continue working in the United States for another six years. In other words, undocumented migrants who don’t want to stay that long will continue to be repressed.

And those migrants who want to apply for legalization must have been employed for at least three years before April 2006, bringing the total to nine years. This excludes a huge number of undocumented migrants.

This is the legislation that the American Immigration Lawyers Association has called “comprehensive,” a “missed opportunity for America to begin to fix its broken immigration system,” a “bipartisan bill that showed much promise,” a “workable compromise.” AILA has been called “progressive” by some, but it is just another player in the so-called immigration reform debate, actually a strategic planning discussion for how to increase the repression of migrants in an effective way.

To suggest that the Hegel-Martinez Substitute, minus its temporary-worker provisions, is a solution to the “broken immigration system” is well-intentioned, but naive and negligent, at best, and a deliberate attempt to force migrants into assimilating, and shutting out and repressing many other migrants, at worst.

Among other things, the Hegel-Martinez amendment, like Arlen Specter and the Senate Judiciary Committee’s bill, would create a high-tech virtual fence along U.S. borders and help local law enforcement agencies turn over undocumented migrants to the federal government.

Bush’s “guest worker” proposal comes packaged with more anti-migrant repression. Bush’s anti-migrant critics, who feel he is being too soft on migrants, are so reactionary that some of his proposals may seem tolerable in comparison. But this whole “immigration reform debate” is reactionary.

Rather than try to turn migrant rights demonstrations into something fit for a naturalization drive or voter-registration drive, people must go on the offensive and oppose the racism, white supremacy and nationalism, and settler mentality, underlying this anti-migrant movement. Repressive policies, such as more border fencing near urban areas, that would only lead to more deaths must also be opposed.

The immigration system isn’t broken — that is just a white-nationalist framing of this issue. The problem that needs fixing is the imperialist system and its repressive apparatuses. Ultimately, nothing short of revolution and open borders will solve this problem.
Demonstrators in L.A. and San Diego support migrants’ rights and oppose anti-migrant movement

May 1, 2006

On International Workers’ Day today, hardly any Euro-Americans showed up at two events in Los Angeles and San Diego respectively — nothing new here. At the same time, demonstrators were more likely to identify as, or with, migrants and/or Latino or Third World nationalities, than as “workers” or even any kind of political progressive. [In New York City, placards and discussion had more focus on workers.]

This was not surprising for San Diego and Los Angeles. Globally, First World imperialist countries are bourgeois, while Third World nations are exploited, and the world proletariat is concentrated there. This is how class structure manifests itself in the world. Wherever there were flags of Third World countries in demonstrations today, one should think that the proletariat was marching.

Workers simultaneously demonstrated in Mexico in solidarity with migrants inside u.s. borders. Countries all over the world had demonstrations including 1.5 million in Russia. This May Day, people inside u.s. borders are twice as many as Russians, so it is possible we had three million u.s. demonstrators and an equal May Day for once! On the other hand, if we excluded all the Euro-American petty-bourgeoisie in the United States and all the Moscow and Leningrad petty-bourgeoisie in Russia, just this once, the exploited inside u.s. borders proportionately-speaking had a greater proportion of migrants.

Demonstrations in the United States that look “nationalist” can also have a proletarian aspect. Third World neo-colonies and colonies have been proletarianized, and furthermore, the proletariat has an interest in supporting Third World nationalism against imperialism.

There were multiple events in both Los Angeles and San Diego today, even multiple marches that happened concurrently in downtown Los Angeles. One early march in Los Angeles started around 11 AM and went from Olympic & Broadway to City Hall. Especially interesting were several signs, held by Latinos, opposing the Iraq War. One sign read: “No Iraqi ever called me a weback.” Another read: “Alto la guerra en Irak.” Text on a shirt read: “Iraq is our 51st state.” Also, there was a sign criticizing military recruitment of undocumented migrants as hypocritical. The largely petty-bourgeoisie antiracist movement was absent today, but demonstrators in Los Angeles spoke against the war against Iraq. Some Euro-Americans were undoubtedly too busy busy being worried about gas prices to come to any May 1 event.

One of the most common printed signs at the Los Angeles march read: “Hoy marchamos. Mañana votamos” (“Today we march. Tomorrow we vote”) — potentially a risky strategy that could unite more Euro-Americans at the voting booth against migrants, but the slogan partly reflected the willingness of Latino citizens to resist attacks on their communities. Another professionally printed sign read: “Amnistia general.”

Legislators almost universally oppose amnesty proposals that would allow undocumented migrants to get permanent legal status if they want to, without restriction. Some so-called comprehensive immigration reform proposals offer only a difficult “earned” so-called path to citizenship for a subgroup of undocumented migrant workers. So, it was disconcerting to see few demonstrators focusing on temporary migrants except to denounce so-called guest-worker programs. There were more love-Amerika types than open supporters of temporary migrant workers’ rights.

The United States is not about to offer instant citizenship to anyone who crosses the border. So, to call for amnesty, but oppose temporary-worker programs without opposing immigration restrictions, sets up temporary migrant workers and migrants in general for continued repression. In other words, denouncing temporary-worker programs just to call for amnesty is not necessarily progressive. Some of those who are calling for “general amnesty” openly qualify their definition of amnesty, saying it should be granted only to migrants who have been in the United States for longer than a certain minimum length of time and meet other requirements. Even if unconditional amnesty were proposed, amnesty-versus-guest-worker still reflects a legalistic outlook that fundamentally accepts closed borders and anti-migrant repression. The so-called immigration reform debate doesn’t represent a reformist movement against anti-migrant repression. Calling for amnesty without opposing repression is a capitulation to reactionaries.

Demonstrators singled out HR 4437 more often than any other piece of legislation. HR 4437 still serves as a rallying point for many demonstrators, but Congress has moved on to other legislation, more crafty, but still repressive. Some recent proposed “compromise” legislation would criminalize undocumented migrant workers as misdemeanor offenders, rather than felons, which would actually make it easier to deport undocumented migrants for certain reasons.

Archbishop Mahony had opposed people’s boycotting work and school, but this writer saw a Catholic priest at the voting booth against migrants, but the slogan partly reflected the willingness of Latino citizens to resist attacks on their communities. Another professionally printed sign read: “Amnistia general.”

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In Los Angeles, stores along Broadway were closed. Many shops on Olvera Street were also closed.

CNN suggested that demonstrators in the United States were just calling for amnesty. Actually, many demonstrators in Los Angeles were more general, some calling for “justice” and others opposing “all attacks against immigrants.” The mainstream media is thus trying misrepresent demonstrators’ demands, as if demonstrators were making an unreasonable demand on legislators.

“Amnesty” is a legalistic term. Unconditional amnesty is extremely unlikely to be the outcome of the current legislative debate in Congress. For the media to suggest that demonstrations were just about amnesty, rather than opposing the anti-migrant movement, is inaccurate as well as an attempt to frame discussions in a way that is favorable to reactionaries.

On the flip side, some media outlets have suggested that demonstrators were just opposing the criminalization of undocumented migrants as felons, which paves the way for criminalizing them as misdemeanor offenders instead. This is what the Hagel-Martinez substitute amendment would do, in addition to helping local law enforcement agencies turn undocumented migrants over for deportation. This is outrageous. The oppressed don’t want people to oppose HR 4437 just to support something like the Hagel-Martinez Substitute.

Some bourgeois tendencies were evident at the Los Angeles event. One reason why Mexican flags, especially at an International Workers’ Day event with so little Euro-American participation, should be seen as proletarian is that they stood in contrast to the many American flags that were there, too. Proletarian temporary migrants were probably more likely to hold non-American flags. Sometimes, the American flags were in competition with Mexican flags, for example, where there was no attempt by individuals walking together to wave both American and Mexican flags. Some of the American flag-waving was just a futile attempt to pander to critics in the white media, but there were many who just wanted migrants to have equal rights and
Boston demonstration supports Boycott Gringo Day

Boston, May 1

Over 2,000 people gathered on Boston Common this afternoon in support of the U.S.-wide migrant boycott. As in other cities, the crowd here was majority non-white. Many high-school and college students were present. The speakers from the podium expressed a range of ideas, some of which MIM agrees with, some of which MIM strongly disagrees with, and others that MIM finds amusingly quaint.

MIM had the most agreement with a young speaker who emphasized the U.S. role in creating the “push” behind migration to the United States and other First World countries. People come to the United States for work because of the high unemployment and very low, exploitative wages in their home countries. The United States is often directly responsible for these conditions. American companies profit from low wages in Third World countries and the United States backs the repressive governments that smash labor unions to keep those wages low. (1) Chronic unemployment is a by-product of the capitalist organization of production for profit—exacerbated by the fact that much of the U.S. industry that the Third World is geared for export to the First. It’s not that there isn’t plenty of work to be done in the Third World—there are roads to build, foods to grow, medicines to produce for local use. It’s that little of this is profitable.

Another speaker led the crowd in the chant, “Immigration built this nation.” This chant is similar to the slogan “Peace is patriotic,” which we don’t like either. Both seek to build unity between proletarian forces (those against the war or those in support of migrants from oppressed nations) and non-proletarian forces (the majority of the U.S. population). American companies are not the only ones who profit from low wages in the Third World. The transfer of value from the Third to the First World is geared to the workers who are the beneficiary of the U.S. minimum wage or above is receiving some of the superprofits from the exploitation of Third World labor. Rather than encourage recent migrants to integrate into U.S. society like other groups who now think they pulled themselves out of the working class—as if the theft of a continent from the First Nations, slavery, and imperialism had nothing to do with it—we want migrants to identify with the oppressed in their home countries. They should not see a $10 an hour wage as their god-given right, or something they could achieve in their own country if they just adopted American economic principles. Rather, they should contrast that $10 with the $0.50-$1.00 per hour many Third World workers receive, and recognize that the $10 wage for Americans is only possible because most of the rest of the world is exploited.

Finally, one speaker unintentionally got MIM to laugh when he suggested in all seriousness that to increase the

**Demonstrations in L.A. and San Diego**

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...equal privileges with Americans. Due to attempts by the Euro-American nation to deny Latinos cultural and educational self-determination, many Latinos and other oppressed nationalities see themselves as part of the mythical “multiracial” American nation.

One unusual flag in Los Angeles was the Soviet flag, with the hammer, sickle, and star. Another was a large Israeli flag flown high. This writer overheard someone say “the struggle against anti-Semitism.” The flags and the Semitic remark about it. For demonstrators, wanting to defend migrants and their communities from repression, to align themselves with fascists is confused and wrong. Anti-Semitism is evil and must be struggled against wherever it rears its head. Anti-Semitism dangerously distorts the struggle against imperialism and encourages alliances with U.S. imperialism. At the same time, supporters of migrants must recognize that, even though there are thousands of Israeli migrants in the United States, the flag of Israel represents a settler imperialist state that represes migrants who are in their own land. Israel claims Jewish heritage just to legitimize itself. There are other symbols of Jewish people than the Israeli flag. Many Jews have taken part in and organized migrant rights demonstrations in the United States without pointless defending Israeli imperialism.

In the morning, Geraldo Rivera showed up briefly and then left on a motorcycle. Some demonstrators gave him hugs, but one Salvadoran woman wanted him to go away. This was really interesting because Rivera didn’t seem to be there in connection with Fox News, and he has been critical of obnoxious anti-migrant advocate Lou Dobbs. This writer can understand why many would like Rivera. Unlike most Americans, Rivera, also known as a former lawyer for the Young Lords, at least has a track record of denouncing the Minutemen and Lou Dobbs; although, some critics of the Minutemen and Lou Dobbs still support repressive border and migration policies. Rivera in a post on his blog today opposed the nationalism of Mexicans and even added his voice to those who are hysterically denouncing a Spanish-language version of Americans’ imperialist national anthem (http://www.geraldo.com/index.php/mediaview/79_Chain_Reaction.html).

Based on counts in the mainstream media, the number of demonstrators on the streets of downtown Los Angeles was various marches, etc., appeared to be lower than during the record-setting March 25 demonstration. Not everyone being able to miss work is certainly one factor, but the white media in the days leading up to May 1 gave the impression of massive numbers of anti-vilolent which possibly discouraged many from attending. Were it not for the systematic and widespread effort to discourage boycotting, the turnout probably would have exceeded the March 25 one. Tonight, a local TV station in San Diego, suggesting that demonstrators were drunk, paid a disproportionate amount of attention to alleged violence at a demonstration in San Diego County.

It’s hard to draw a comparison between evening and midday demonstrations based on just two small events, but there were some differences between a San Diego event and the early Los Angeles march and rally. An evening march in San Diego turned out to be more powerful in some ways. In Balboa Park in the evening, near 6th & Laurel, there was a rally with the chant, “Immigration built this nation.” This is a sign similar to the slogan “Peace is patriotic,” which we don’t like either. Both seek to build unity between proletarian forces (those against the war or those in support of migrants from oppressed nations) and non-proletarian forces (the majority of the U.S. population). American companies are not the only ones who profit from low wages in the Third World. The transfer of value from the Third to the First World is geared to the workers who are the beneficiary of the U.S. minimum wage or above is receiving some of the superprofits from the exploitation of Third World labor. Rather than encourage recent migrants to integrate into U.S. society like other groups who now think they pulled themselves out of the working class—as if the theft of a continent from the First Nations, slavery, and imperialism had nothing to do with it—we want migrants to identify with the oppressed in their home countries. They should not see a $10 an hour wage as their god-given right, or something they could achieve in their own country if they just adopted American economic principles. Rather, they should contrast that $10 with the $0.50-$1.00 per hour many Third World workers receive, and recognize that the $10 wage for Americans is only possible because most of the rest of the world is exploited.

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U.S. Catholic church attempts balancing act, opposes May 1 boycott

By a comrade, April 17, 2006

At the recent country-wide demonstrations in defense of migrants’ rights, there have been more banners with images of Our Lady of Guadalupe than white workers proclaiming support for their media-mentored sister sister. And although, for a variety of reasons, the organizers, official leadership, and even the most visible signs, slogans and flags, don’t necessarily define the class and national nature of these demonstrations, Catholics and Catholic clergy have played a significant role in mobilizing people for these demonstrations. This requires an explanation. One could chalk it up to the Catholic Church’s dominance in Latino and indigenous communities, and historical or other demographic factors, but the Catholic Church’s current teachings on migration may also be at play.

On paper, there doesn’t appear to be too much difference between American labor bureaucracies and the U.S. Roman Catholic bureaucracy over migrants. Both support “comprehensive immigration reform” and “securing the border.” Like CNN’s anti-migrant pundit Lou Dobbs, who wants to seal the border, both claim to support “humane” immigration reform. Consequently, both take part in the discourse created by the anti-migrant movement. In and within this “immigration reform debate,” actually a planning play.

One area of disagreement between the dominant labor unions and the Catholic hierarchy has been immigration and border legislation containing temporary-worker provisions. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has openly endorsed the so-called Kennedy-McCain bill, which would increase border repression while creating a temporary-worker program and an arduous so-called path to citizenship requiring fine payments and knowledge of English. Some major American labor unions have supported the same bill and similar legislation, such as Arlen Specter’s Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006. Most of these labor unions, though, have been highly critical of such legislation and would rather see a bill passed that would intensify anti-migrant repression without there being any temporary-worker program. They oppose temporary-worker programs, but do not support increasing the legal immigration level to compensate for more border repression.

Despite paying lip service to the legalization of undocumented migrants or calling for legalization for tactical reasons (MIM has concluded workers’ perceived impact on U.S. citizens’ living standards, the labor unions want to further restrict the overall immigration level. This points to a further difference between the labor bureaucracies and the Catholic bureaucracy. Catholic News Service is a division of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The news service is used by Catholic news media in the United States. CNS recently published an article criticizing the concept of illegal immigration. (1) CNS, based on information from Doris Meissner of the Migration Policy Institute, suggested that talk of Americans’ ancestors being legal migrants is misleading because, in fact, hardly anyone was turned back in the late-19th and early-20th centuries except for Chinese migrants and other groups. The CNS article points out that the United States is far less welcoming to migrants than it used to be, and that so-called “illegal immigration” is a function of restrictions on legal migration. This resonates with something MIM has said repeatedly about the aim of the anti-migrant movement.

The numbers reported in the CNS article point to an additional fact. The current level of approved and undocumented, relative to the size of the U.S. population, is actually lower than it has been at points in the past. This is a well-known fact among demographers and is something that MIM, libertarians, and others, have pointed out for different reasons. The Catholic Church’s seeming implicit support for increasing the immigration level puts it at odds with most labor unions.

MIM Notes has said that there is some basis for unity between proletarian internationalists and open-borders of our borders, however, should include the protection of the basic human rights and dignity of the migrant and not place lives at risk.” (2)

In a March 1, 2006, letter published in the Washington Times, USCCB Executive Director Migration & Refugee Policy is typical: “Does the Catholic Church believe in ‘open borders?’ No, Church teaching supports the right of the sovereign nation to control its borders. This is necessary to ensure the common good. Enforcement of our borders, however, should include the protection of the basic human rights and dignity of the migrant and not place lives at risk.”

In a March 1, 2006, letter published in the Washington Times, USCCB Executive Director Migration & Refugee Policy is typically: “The bishops do not advocate ‘open borders,’ but rather acknowledge the responsibility of nations to control their borders.” At their Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope campaign Web site, the USCCB denounced the accusation that it supports open borders as “an attempt to discredit the Church’s voice.” (3) The Church buys into the idea of “open borders” being a swear word. It has acquiesced to ultra-reactionaries such as National Review. Playing the diplomacy game, the Church (San Bernardo Bishop Gerald Barnes) has also said that the authors of HR 4437 are well-intentioned and worthy of “great respect.”

Globally and domestically, the Catholic Church is itself a reactionary organization that seriously impedes the political development of the oppressed while regularly rubberstamping — and facilitating — imperialist policies, economic, social and military. Communists’ differences with the Church’s imperialist leadership are deep and irreconcilable. Yet, it must be pointed out what a sad state the “labor movement” of the bourgeoisified, parasitic Euro-American working class is in if it doesn’t have a more progressive line on migration than this throwback to feudalism, the Catholic Church.

Individually, some pastors in the United States have supported open borders. On the other hand, the USCCB and several dioceses, including the Archdioceses of Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles and New York, have published their own statements specifically calling for comprehensive immigration reform and improved border security. Catholic Church leaders imagine that the effectiveness of border repression measures can be increased while simultaneously enhancing dignity for migrants. Supporting repressive proposals that could be used to further restrict migration is an extremely dangerous gamble for the Euro-American oppressor nation desires to stop the movement of migrants. In its argument to relax immigration restrictions, however, one can identify some relatively agreeable ideas in the Catholic Church’s recent teachings on migration compared with the labor aristocracy’s thinly concealed white hysteria.

Read the rest of this story: http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/gatekeeper/
Medical care denied
Right now I’m not in General Population, I’m doing an indeterminate SHU since 1995. Recently I went through what is called “inactive/active” status and, as expected, I was denied [release from the SHU]. I was diagnosed in 1973 as having severe depression. Since I’ve been here at Tehachapi I’ve filed an Amerikkkans with Disability Act form requesting to be transferred to a medical facility, like Vacaville since we were released days later and experienced staff. Again, as expected, I was denied. I’ve raised the issue that I’m in a cell by myself and surrounded by sharp objects and their outlook and attitude is “welcome to the bowels of the beast.” I take my medical daily, as so long as I keep my condition in check then all’s tolerable. It’ll never bee “all good” under these circumstances as it stands now.
- a California prisoner, April 2006

Stuck in reception, no education
I am currently housed in North Kern State prison and have been for four months and 2 weeks. The yard I am on is a reception yard. I am only supposed to be in reception for 60 to 90 days and then transferred to another prison where I could have a program to better myself while in prison. We’ve been here for 4 months and 2 weeks I still can’t go anywhere. We have no access to a phone to talk to loved ones, and I haven’t seen the library clerk but once in the time I’ve been here. The system has cut the means of education, using the excuse that it is a reception yard. I still haven’t found an honest answer if we can have books sent in or not. Most days we run 23 hours in the cell, 1 hour out. Twice a week we are allowed a yard yard for 1.5 to 2 hours. Wednesday is 24 hour lock down except 15 minutes for breakfast and 15 minutes for dinner. North Kern State prisons medical situation is horrible. It takes between two and three weeks to be seen if that happens at all.
- a California prisoner, April 2006

Sickened by slave camps
I’ve existed for the past 14 years in the modern day capitalistic slave camps. It sickens me how I have watched the revolutionary spirit and fire that once raged through reading, dialog and consciousness. No longer should we depend on crime, why is there such a need for prisons and have been for 4 months and 2 weeks. The yard I am on is a reception yard. I am only supposed to be in reception for 60 to 90 days and then transferred to another prison where I could have a program to better myself while in prison. We’ve been here for 4 months and 2 weeks I still can’t go anywhere. We have no access to a phone to talk to loved ones, and I haven’t seen the library clerk but once in the time I’ve been here. The system has cut the means of education, using the excuse that it is a reception yard. I still haven’t found an honest answer if we can have books sent in or not. Most days we run 23 hours in the cell, 1 hour out. Twice a week we are allowed a yard yard for 1.5 to 2 hours. Wednesday is 24 hour lock down except 15 minutes for breakfast and 15 minutes for dinner. North Kern State prisons medical situation is horrible. It takes between two and three weeks to be seen if that happens at all.
- a California prisoner, April 2006

News from Prisons & Prisoners

Under Lock & Key

Racism in death penalty and sentencing symptom of capitalism

There were studies recently published that dealt with racism and minorities in the United States criminal justice system. The first study which was first published in the San Clara Law Review mainly focused on our brothers and sisters on death row. It gave us a first ever detailed accounting of how racism plays a significant role on who gets the death penalty here in the state of California. The study focused on 263 California death sentences in the 1990s (there were 302 death sentences issued during that time). The study illuminated 39 cases where a person was sentenced to death for multiple murders that took the lives of victims from different races or ethnic groups. Of the 263 sentences, 142 sided down to killing whites; 44 were rendered for murdering Blacks; 52 for Latinos; and 25 for other races. During that time period there were 8,136 whites killed; 9,338 Blacks; 14,089 Latinos, and 2,037 victims of other races.

The second study focused on “sentencing” and how we as minorities receive longer and harsher sentences opposed to whites who enter the criminal justice system. The study went on to speak about the juvenile justice system as well. And the numbers were extremely disparaging for us. The number of teens incarcerated was overwhelming. However, what was the most alarming thing was the number of teens who were given life terms.

As we can see, racism does in fact play a major role in the criminal justice system here in this country. However, we as a whole cannot continue to just solely focus on racism as being the sole purpose of our oppressive conditions. Racism is but a symptom of a much more deadly disease, a disease that has many different symptoms such as militarism, prostitution, slavery, colonialism, drug addiction, and racism, to name but a few. Many of us have unfortunately been under the misconception that we could deal with racism and other such issues in an individual and separate basis. However, as we can clearly see, this approach is completely and utterly useless, not to mention detrimental to our revolutionary spirit and fire that once raged through reading, dial and experience. The public should be aware that the crime-think newspeak apparatus is constructed to relay misinformation. To keep the public in fear just as the war of terror is to rally support for the continued occupation of Iraq. The mechanisms of press, media, cinema, aid the government agenda for whatever plans they unroll. In a society that claims to have a war on crime, why is there such a need for...
deceptions of murder, violence, robbery, rape, etc., in cinema, TV and press. What is the effect of long term desensitization to violence? What about buying into the dehumanizing stereotypes that are daily projected on us; are they not also participating in the exploitation of the populace. Did not Hitler utilize similar methods to annihilate millions?

As knoctramp kements continue to saturate the landscapes of the United States, corporations go outside the u.s. to get cheap labor. The clearest signs of declining are seen in what corporations are doing. The comfort that capitalism, imperialism and colonialism has brought America and its citizens over the last century has rocked many to sleep but what's coming is sure to make all face the reality that freedom, democracy, and liberty are all paper freedoms.

Politicians without wealth and influence are nothing more than mere puppets being controlled by lobbyists who have contacts with corporations. Those politicians on the hill are crooks stealing all they can get their hands on. Monopoly capital can get whatever it wants by having a financial war chest. If only the masses could see that there is a significant degree of manipulation going on in misinforming them as to the future of this country. What's being set up is a twenty first century holocaust. With every approaching day we are coming closer to martial law state wide: the suspension of the constitution and a totalitarian rule. Currently America is $7 trillion dollars in debt. There is an economic collapse coming and mass genocide if not outright invasion is surely to follow. No doubt this is a powerful country but many nations seek the destruction of this philosophy of vampirish capitalist, imperialist greed where the privileged class hordes all the wealth and denies the right to life of the lower classes of people.

For all americans ventures of modern colonialism what has it reaped? Resentment, hatred, and thoughts of revenge are directed to the centuries of lies America has told. And yet we are supposed to be the country who's 'freedom' is based on the enlightenment. I am a prisoner of the state and am housed in the Security Housing Unit (SHU) at Pelican Bay State Prison (PBSP) in Crescent City, California. That means that while Reagan was talking about a Soviet "evil empire" he was the head of a state that imprisoned more people per capita. If these facts give you pause then you are not, never (tense) sure to what extent America's government has been involved in war crimes and other atrocities.

Criminal neglect of prisoner health

Dear complaint unit,

I am a prisoner of the state and am housed in the Security Housing Unit (SHU) at Pelican Bay State Prison (PBSP) in Crescent City, California. If these facts give you pause then you are confirming that which this letter hopes to convey. That is, our health care providers do not identify prisoners as patients. Even though I can provide documentation of a specific complaint, involving specific medical providers, I'd rather, at this time, attempt to bring to light the mindset as mentioned above. This fixed way of thinking (read: us vs. them) I believe leads to misconduct in negligence here, by licensed health care providers. And even though a federal district judge, in Plata v. Schwarzenegger (#011351) is in the process of appointing an expert to take over the prisons "horrifying" medical system, I believe nothing will change unless the mindset is addressed. If not, the "extreme indifference" unearthed in Plata will continue. The attached regulations are from the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 15. These examples of regulations are enlightening, and sadly so, insofar as being written, as the others, in the negative (no, not, never) tense. I believe the negativity sets the stage and mind of providers, for "indifference to the point of callousness," as revealed in Plata.

Granted, prisoners and prison invoke little sympathy, from the public at large. And, unfortunately, this is so even when it is widely known the prominence class and race plays in the system. Nevertheless, to the best of my knowledge this sentence excludes medical care and no prison sentence includes medical care that only harms and never heals.

Furthermore, health, as you are more aware of, involves both body and mind. However, the rigors of SHU and its unnatural environment, especially long term use, are not factored into our health care.

Example, our diet. We are on something called "a heartsmart diet." Which leaves us, me at least, hungry and not very smart. When this and noticeable weight loss is brought to the attention of our health care providers, the first thing said is "that's because you exercise too much."

Luckily, pun intended, I suffer from neuropathy (nerve damage) in both legs. So excessive exercise can easily be ruled out in my case. However, I'm not everyone. And suppose someone does exercise a lot. Exercise is a part of one's health, especially in the way of dealing with the SHU.

So again, this is another example of the negative tense. Instead of encouraging exercise or discussing an appropriate regimen, we are told no, not, never. Moreover, in a nutshell, it's believed our diet is being used as behavior control, designed to leave us weak and not very smart. Passivity, in a word. A medical issue becoming one of corrections. Turning health care providers to jailers, who mete out justice (read: punishment).

Believe it or not, I could easily continue, but I just hope I've made some sense of a very senseless situation. And as mentioned, I could provide documentation regarding my belief, of a specific case of negligence or write more on the overall picture.

I close with a final fact and thought: "At midyear 2003 the nation's prisons and jails incarcerated 8,078,570 persons" ... and in "California" [at midyear 2003] its prisons and jails population stood at 163,361." And those that undervalue others will oppress them.

-A California prisoner

My Patience Strength
by a NY Prisoner

Who’s thoughts are these that... Cloud my mind and give me thoughts of Su-I-cide
These chains that bind
no one can see- I only know I must break free!!

Mistake me not!
For one that’s tamed
A captive-yes! But not a slave!!
My Patience Strength
Not known to yield
I’ve suffered many wrongs & ills!

Disenherited
My Shield like that Dark Knight Sustains me in my endless fight.
Not all can know the pain I feel for;
These chains that bind
not all can feel!

This cycle- full of Misery-Pain Conflict thoughts Drive me Insane!!

To live, to die or just exist.
To right past wrongs or be a misfit to
Live a lie or suffer wrongs a negro or one Warrior Born

Hao! Inolunda
A man indeed
These chains that bind on one can see.

E-c-h-o-s
from the distant past
with links like steel
from the very first to the very last!

My people
are a nation strong!
who’ve suffered may ills & wrongs!
What was done to them is still

Su-I-cide
and give me thoughts of who’s thoughts are these that...
by a NY Prisoner

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(1) That means that while Reagan was talking about a Soviet “evil empire” he was the head of a state that imprisoned more people per capita. In supposedly “hard-line” Bulgaria of the Soviet bloc of the 1980s, the imprisonment rate was less than half that of the United States.(2,3)

To find a comparison with U.S. imprisonment of Black people, there is no statistic in any country that compares including apartheid South Africa of the era before Mandela was president. The last situation remotely comparable to the situation today was under Stalin during war time. The majority of prisoners are non-violent offenders(4) and the U.S. Government now holds about a half million more prisoners than China, even though China is four times our population(5).


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 and music program. We need help from lawyers, paralegals and jailhouse lawyers to fight this censorship.

Books for Prisoners: This program focuses on political education of prisoners. Send donations of books and money for our Books for Prisoners Program.

End the Three Strikes laws: This campaign is actively fighting the repressive California laws, but similar laws exist in other states. Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Send 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 prisons or cells in prisons that lock prisoners up in solitary or small group confinement for 22 or more hours a day. They have no congregate dining, exercise or other services, and virtually no programs for prisoners. Prisoners are placed in control units for extended periods of time. These units cause both mental and physical problems for prisoners.

Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Get your organization to sign the statement demanding control units be shut down. Send us information about where there are control units in your state. Include the names of the prisons as well as the number of control unit beds/cells in each prison if that is known. Send us anti-control unit artwork.

MIM’s Re-Lease on Life Program: This program provides support for our comrades who have been recently released from the prison system, to help them meet their basic needs and also continue with their revolutionary organizing on the outside. We need funds, housing, and job resources. We also need prisoner’s input on the following survey questions:

1. What are the biggest challenges you face being released from prison?
2. How can these problems be addressed?
3. What are the important elements of a successful release program?
El gobierno estadounidense espía, tortura y mata: nada nuevo en la Guerra contra el Terror

5 de febrero de 2006

En los Últimos meses el público estadounidense ha sabido que el Presidente Bush ordenó a la Agencia de Seguridad Nacional (NSA por sus siglas en inglés) intervenir en llamadas telefónicas sin autorización, práctica ilegal según muchos críticos. En teoría, la Ley de Vigilancia e Inteligencia Interior (FISA por sus siglas en inglés) prohíbe al gobierno dichas intervenciones sin permiso de un tribunal especial: la Corte de Vigilancia e Inteligencia Interior. Mientras es ciertamente útil precisar que el Presidente de los EStados Unidos violó sus propias leyes, incluso la intervención legal de llamadas en el país es un problema para el MIM. El requisito para conseguir el permiso de una corte especial para la intervención es que el gobierno realice el gobierno estadounidense, no debería proporcionar a la gente ningún confort de la Constitución.

Los Estados Unidos tiene un largo historio de espionaje a la gente que se opone al gobierno — violando sus propias leyes de forma descarada en el proceso de manera sistemática e ilegal. Mientras más se esforzaran para implementar el gobierno estadounidense, no debería proporcionar a la gente ningún confort de la Constitución. Los Estados Unidos tiene un largo historio de espionaje a la gente que se opone al gobierno — violando sus propias leyes de forma descarada en el proceso de manera sistemática e ilegal. Mientras más se esforzaran para implementar el gobierno estadounidense, no debería proporcionar a la gente ningún confort de la Constitución.

La Liga Anti-Imperialista Revolucionaria (RAIL por sus siglas en Inglés) brevemente y de manera acertada explicó ésta historia en su declaración sobre la Guerra contra el Terror: “La Guerra Frija trae un enemigo real — el movimiento comunista internacional, que no puede ser ganada, pero que proveerá una justificación constante para la vigilancia y el encarcelamiento, y el militarismo agresivo. La respuesta a esa "nueva" guerra no es atacar sólo a BuSh ni sólo a los Republicanos durante el proceso, dando legitimidad a los esfuerzos imperialistas para elegir a una personalidad más popular. Algunos Republicanos sienten que BuSh supone una amenaza a las prerrogativas del Congreso como un ámbito independiente del gobierno, y se están distanciando actualmente de él cuando sólo tienen desacuerdos menores. Están trabajando para hacer más seguro que cualquier reducción en el poder de BuSh deje al sistema imperialista intacto y más estable. En Estados Unidos, la respuesta a las cambiantes excusas de países para atacar a las naciones del Tercer mundo es exponer la opresión y represión que se produce bajo el imperialismo, y trabajar para poner fin a este sistema depredador y vicioso en el que grupos de personas se beneficien de la dominación, opresión y explotación de otros. Es también necesario exigir que la mayoría de estadounidenses típicos se sumen a la Constitución que afirman apoyar, y dejen de ser indiferentes cuando la Constitución se apasa a aplicar a grupos o ideas impopulares. No se puede hacer nada para acabar con las intervenciones ilegales de la NSA sin la intervención de la mayoría de estadounidenses, la resistencia, y hay mucha más gente en el mundo dominada por el imperialismo que beneficiada por él — a pesar de que la mayoría de estadounidenses, en particular la nación euro-estadounidense, se beneficia del imperialismo económico y políticamente. De esta manera, los EStados Unidos han elaborado una guerra que no puede ser ganada, pero que proveerá una justificación constante para la vigilancia y el encarcelamiento, y el militarismo agresivo. La respuesta a esa "nueva" guerra no es atacar sólo a BuSh ni sólo a los Republicanos durante el proceso, dando legitimidad a los esfuerzos imperialistas para elegir a una personalidad más popular. Algunos Republicanos sienten que BuSh supone una amenaza a las prerrogativas del Congreso como un ámbito independiente del gobierno, y se están distanciando actualmente de él cuando sólo tienen desacuerdos menores. Están trabajando para hacer más seguro que cualquier reducción en el poder de BuSh deje al sistema imperialista intacto y más estable. En Estados Unidos, la respuesta a las cambiantes excusas de países para atacar a las naciones del Tercer mundo es exponer la opresión y represión que se produce bajo el imperialismo, y trabajar para poner fin a este sistema depredador y vicioso en el que grupos de personas se beneficien de la dominación, opresión y explotación de otros. Es también necesario exigir que la mayoría de estadounidenses típicos se sumen a la Constitución que afirman apoyar, y dejen de ser indiferentes cuando la Constitución se apasa a aplicar a grupos o ideas impopulares. No se puede hacer nada para acabar con las intervenciones ilegales de la NSA sin la intervención de la mayoría de estadounidenses, la resistencia, y hay mucha más gente en el mundo dominada por el imperialismo que beneficiada por él — a pesar de que