LEAD EDITORIAL

Stop ongoing U.S. war on the Iraqi people

by Gerard Emmett and Peter Wermuth

The decision of the Clinton administration to hold off its planned military attack on Iraq, following a last-minute agreement between Iraq and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Feb. 23, is no reason to relax our vigilance in opposing the irrational and deadly U.S.-led sanctions against the Iraqi people. Though Annan’s diplomatic coup has, for now, created a hiatus in the outburst of military hostilities, the key is to use this hiatus to generate renewed opposition to the entirety of U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf. The latest threat of military action was at least temporarily forestalled when Annan obtained promises to provide UN agencies with “unconditional and unrestricted access” to inspect all sites suspected of being used to produce weapons of mass destruction. The agreement applies to the eight “sanctionable sites” that Annan had earlier refused to allow UN inspectors access.

But this does not mean the crisis is resolved. First, the build-up of U.S. forces in the region continues, with over 20 warships, two aircraft carriers, 400 warplanes and 35,000 troops now stationed there. What kind of progress is it against progress.” The workers asked “what kind of war do workers do?” What kind of progress is it when automation puts the machines in the hands of the managers to go back to work because “you can’t strike against automations”?

GM had to hire them to retain the employees, and the non-union retirees had to retire to get health benefits back. Last month the Federal Appeals Court upheld two of their own rulings endorsing the company’s right to cut benefits. Legal experts say if the ruling stands, it will open the floodgates to broad-scale arbitrary cutbacks in retirees health benefits.

What is the reason GM is going back on its word to the white-collar workers? The reason is ever-expanding capital, dead labor over living labor, which has intensified ever since automation was introduced. It began in the 19th century with the world’s first World War II. It intensified in the decades after the war. The miners took a strike and John Lewis, the president of the United Miners of America, when he told the miners to go back to work because “you can’t strike against progress.” The miners asked “What kind of labor must workers do?” What kind of progress is it when automation puts the machines in the hands of the managers to go back to work because “you can’t strike against progress.” The workers asked “What kind of war do workers do?”

The biggest reason Annan’s diplomacy does nothing to fundamentally change the situation, however, is that it fails to lift the sanctions which the U.S. has imposed upon the Iraqi people. Though the agreement states that “the lifting of sanctions is obviously of paramount importance to the people of Iraq,” it makes no mention of any timetable or mechanism for doing so.

GENOCIDE BY SANCTION

The sanctions are the critical issue, for they mean that the Gulf War of 1991 never really ended—at least insofar as the Iraqi people are concerned. The eight years of sanctions have reduced a nation which was one of the most technologically developed in the Middle East to a land of starving people, which is not the way the world should be. The sanctions are the critical issue, for they mean that the Gulf War of 1991 never really ended—at least insofar as the Iraqi people are concerned. The eight years of sanctions have reduced a nation which was one of the most technologically developed in the Middle East to a land of starving people, which is not the way the world should be.

(Continued on page 8)

ON THE INSIDE

Unhealthy to rely on GM promises

by Felix Martin, Labor Editor

My General Motors assembly plant closed in South Gate, Cal. in 1982. Some of the blue-collar workers were covered in our union contract. But management and white-collar workers were not covered because they belonged to the corporation heart and soul. They had only a promise of benefits, good, old Generous Motors gave them a promise and they took it hook, line, and sinker.

GM had brainwashed them into believing they were part of the family. So GM was able to shift them deeper by taking away their benefits, and the non-union retirees had to retire to get health benefits back. Last month the Federal Appeals Court upheld two of their own rulings endorsing the company’s right to cut benefits. Legal experts say if the ruling stands, it will open the floodgates to broad-scale arbitrary cutbacks in retirees health benefits.

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(Continued on page 8)

Protesters at Ohio State University’s “town hall meeting” over Clinton administration officials who had come to the media event to sell Clinton’s war against the Iraqi people.

After bombing, Jackson Advocate ‘still here’

by Michael Flug

Jackson, Miss. — The Jackson Advocate newspaper, the largest and oldest Black-owned weekly in Mississippi—possibly the state's only pro-labor newspaper, Black or white—was firebombed by arsonists in the early morning hours of July 19. A Jackson paper, the Advocate, took on both Warren Hood, owner of Jackson's largest furniture store, and related corporate interests, including the parent company, Capital Center Inc. (CCI). CCI, which Mr. Tisdale calls "a group of wealthy, powerful, and essentially white business owners supported by government officials" is seeking to privatize certain government services, and to impose its lucrative scheme for urban renewal on the historic African-American community.

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(Continued on page 8)
**Dunayevskaya, Kristeva and philosophy**

by Maya Jhansi

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the publication of Raya Dunayevskaya's second major work, *From Hegel to Marx*. Dunayevskaya, a fundamentalist organization. I knew that I would

thrilled to get a job helping other women recovering from both as it was appropriated by Marx and "in and for feelings they had. It was not in my job description, expected to participate three nights a week in group ses-'

labor without any pay. They would sort clothes, hang The real purpose was "work therapy." The women got

items were donated to the women already. I should not be

no longer to take women to meetings because that was

months to the central AA office. We had about $60 when

We were. collecting and sending money every three

Washington, D.C. — Over 400 feminists, more than half women of color, came together Feb. 20-22 at the National Women's Political Action Summit: Linking Arms in Dangerous Times. It was an historic attempt to revitalize and rein- form the movement, to come together and transcend the racism that has separated the women's movement, characterize the entire gathering—plenaries, workshops, and even meals-
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Cat workers reject push for contract

Decatur, Ill. — It's ironic that throughout the struggle, Caterpillar maintained, "Don't let the union leaders in this plant blackmail you into giving a contract, and we said, 'Don't tell us what to do.' The final vote was 58% to reject.

Caterpillar pulled the contract and the only leadership who did not recommend the contract, and we turned it down last November. We were the only one of 12,000 people here that voted in favor, and I'm the last vote. I made my last vote because it's a just cause."

One worker was fired for driving off when tear gas was fired. Another was fired just because a steward was wearing a union T-shirt and called Caterpillar workers to come out to demonstrations.

There were a lot of other things wrong with the proposals. There was a copy on accounts receivable, but Caterpillar wanted to give the retirees more on their pension, but then they make them pay for health insurance. The union could not accept what Caterpillar was offering, and the workers are going to remain on the picket lines in all kinds of weather when we are on strike. Two and a half months have already passed and the vote to stay out has passed the three hundred in Decatur and hundreds more elsewhere.

IFW berry pickers at UIC

Chicago — Two United Farm Workers groups from the southwest of the United States and the University of Illinois here, marking the renewal of a struggle by California strawberry workers. Co-sponsored by the Graduate Employees Union, the picket also heard students cite links between the corporations and the exploitative labor practices against Cat pending with the Labor Board.

The university's exploitation of graduate instructors, we heard, also links students cite links between the corporations and the exploitative labor practices against Cat owing the picket lines in all kinds of weather when we are on strike. Two and a half months have already passed and the vote to stay out has passed the three hundred in Decatur and hundreds more elsewhere.

Capitol equal pay battle

Washington, D.C. — We are the custodial workers—mostly Black—who clean the government buildings. We are involved in a lawsuit against the government college for Capitol equal pay for women. We've been working here for over 25 years, and we've never been treated like the men. We've never been allowed to work at overtime on a regular basis, but the women's workload has increased. We are trying to fix it where we have to finish the bed and everything else ourselves. They were so brainwashed by the capitalist system.

The longer this lawsuit goes, the more feel like it's not going anywhere. The first person to fight for us is the one fighting for your own water and bring it. We now have water in all three buildings. They are now spending $100,000 to provide for our union, but we need to provide for our own water and improve it. We handbill against Caterpillar. We're always there, support from anyone else. We haven't gotten support from anyone else.

The law is nothing but the right to automate. Now printers can almost be bypassed altogether. Many large corporations' only concern today is to place their stockholders in front of everything else. They are trying to fix it where we have to finish the bed and bring in everything else ourselves. They are trying to fix it where we have to finish the bed and bring in everything else ourselves.

Janet Mills, President, AFSCME Local 626

Latest strikes at Kaiser

Oakland, Calif. — On Feb. 24, 7,500 nurses of the SEIU at Kaiser Permanente went on strike after Kaiser had stalled a 24-hour strike in the Kaiser's HMO facilities, only the latest strike while workers at Kaiser have been on strike in the last 15 years. Jan. 26, Kaiser nurses revealed a new law that the right to control the health care system.

It is true that this society values the health of its women. Frontline health care workers, carrying on a long struggle by California strawberry workers. Co-sponsored by the Graduate Employees Union, the picket also heard students cite links between the corporations and the exploitative labor practices against Cat pending with the Labor Board.

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Shortened workday at Sealy

Memphis, Tenn. — We just started contract negotiations at Sealy Mattress. One thing the company wants is the right to automate. They want to hurry up, and make everything really fast. We want all overtime abolished and the union to be the bed's bed, and then they'll make the workers agree to the governor's contract, and they are the ones that are breaking the law.

— Hazel Dews, President, AFSCME Local 628

Workshop Talks

(Continued from page 1)

Union leaders, governments and capitalism are the cause. Blue-collar workers used to be the ones looked down on. Now they have the white-collar workers themselves, as separate, are now the focus of the corporations’ attention. Today they are finding out they have always been part of the problem, as they have pitted them against blue-collar labor. In other words, they were used by the corporations themselves. They were so brainwashed by the capitalist system they couldn’t see themselves as labor.

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Women's liberation, then and now

March 19

From the Writings of Raya Dunayevskaya

Editor's Note

March is Women's History Month, and this year is also the 150th anniversary of the First Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York. The period of this convention is often referred to as the early "woman's movement" in the United States. Using a computer search program, I have found that Raya Dunayevskaya writes in her book, "Dialectics of Liberation," about the First Women's Rights Convention of 1848. In this book she includes brief notes from Marx and Engels about the life of the convention. This essay will give you an overview of the history of women's liberation, then and now.

1. "Women's liberation, then and now," for what was then called the "Woman Question," we will blind ourselves both to Luxembourg's multidimensionality and the newness that our age brought to the concept of women's liberation.

2. "On behalf of the Convention, I have gone as far away as the very first black woman, Mathilde Wurm, who sent greetings to the delegates.

3. "We have reached a turning point in our work which can by no means restrict itself only to itself..."

4. "Not only did she separate from her Black male collaborator, but when she wrote..."

5. "Edith Thomas' work was published..."
California's new prison laws limiting prisoner rights are aimed at defending those rights that the prison movement has been able to win over the last 30 years. California's current governor Pete Wilson is reversing prisoner rights laws that former governor Ronald Reagan won back to end the mass incarceration of the 1960s and 70s. These new restrictions include removal of law books from prison libraries, random drug testing, ban on overnight visiting privileges for prisoners serving life sentences, bans on law books, and restrictions on all weight-lifting equipment. These new restrictions are nothing less than an act of war on prison rights.

Matthew Jay, 30, serving 15 years to life at San Quentin, wrote a degree manuscript in prison, which won him parole. His conviction in Los Angeles is one of thousands of prisoners whose home is a bunk in a prison gym. Parole is an immoral operation of fact prison life. Lifting weights is one of the few things he can do to try to live a normal life. The violence that he sees is more than a consequence of what he has done. He says, "We are no longer in a war. We are in a war camp, like prisoners of war. When rights are violated, we are left with no alternative but to react.

The system excludes and debases the human rights of the people, the system has no concern for the people's welfare or their lives. We are only left to ourselves in a world of the weapon we used against the people's will. Here inside the concentration camps these attitudes are institutionalized in the prison. We are like the people outside of the prison walls, forced into resisting.

George Jackson

Soleilid POW Brother

The Black masses today live in urban and prison ghettos equally in alienation. But the criminalization and imprisonment of Black life demands a confrontation with our own legacies of oppression. Black prisoners have the right to life, the right to live unbutchered lives.

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WOMEN'S LIVES AND STRUGGLES AS WE MARK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH, 1998

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In 1992 Ross Perot predicted NAFTA would result in a giant sucking sound caused by all the jobs and money going to Mexico. It didn’t fully develop at that border but it can be heard today in and around Huntsville, Texas. It’s not caused by NAFTA but by TDCJ, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice that operates Texas prisons. It is ranked among the 15 largest businesses in Texas, and one would conclude that the $3 billion annual budget should create a lot of jobs in Texas and nearby states. The reason for the lack of reporting is that TDCJ regularly ships millions of dollars and thousands of armored cars to and from Mexico and it’s not because domestic industries are unable to supply the Texas prison system with the goods to set up a prison, someone should get down to Huntsville to investigate the source of that giant sucking sound.

**Pamphlets**

- **American Civilization on Trial, Black Masses as Vanguard**
  Statement of the National Editorial Board. Includes essays from Two of the Way-Road Between the U.S. and Africa and Raya Dunayevskaya’s “Black Caucuses in the Unions” by Charles Denby
  $2

- **Harry McShane and the Scottish Roots of Marxist-Humanism** by Peter Huds
  $3

- **Bosnia-Herzegovina: Achilles Heel of Western Civilisation** (Expanded edition)
  $5

- **Marx’s Capitalist Today’s Global Crisis**
  Includes critiques of Ernest Mandel and Ronnie Cif
  $2

- **The Coal Miners’ General Strike of 1949-50 and the Birth of Marxist-Humanism in the U.S.**
  By Andy Phillips and Raya Dunayevskaya
  $2

- **32 Years of Marxist-Humanism in the U.S.: A History of Worldwide Revolutionary Developments**
  Edited by Raya Dunayevskaya
  $1.5

- **Myrdal Global Crises of the 1980s and the Nuclear World Since World War II** by Raya Dunayevskaya
  $2

- **Theory and Practice, by Rosa Luxembourg**
  First English translation
  
- **Nationalism, Communism, Marxist-Humanism and the Afro-Asian Revolutions** by Raya Dunayevskaya
  $1.5

- **Prants Targon, Soweto, and American Black Thought** by Lou Turner and John Alan
  $3

- **Working Women for Freedom** by Angela Terrano, Marie Dignan, and Mary Holmas
  $2

- **Dos ensayos por Raya Dunayevskaya**
  $2

- **News and Letters Committees Constitution**
  $2

- **Marxist-Humanist Literature Catalog**
  A full list of publications (many publications are not listed here) available from News & Letters
  $50

  Full description of 15,000-page microfilm collection
  $4.50

  A 15,000-page microfilm collection on 8 reels available from Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202
  $165

- **News & Letters subscription**
  Unique combination of worker and intellectual support. See sample issue for price
  $5/year

- **Bound Volumes of News & Letters**
  $55 each
  N&L is also available on microfilm from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106. N&L as well as other Marxist-Humanist literature is available on audio tape.

- **SUPPORTS**
  Stop torture and prison slavery. Support all people suffering in penal institutions.

**Archives**

**Guides to Collection and Supplement to the Raya Dunayevskaya Collection – Marxist-Humanism: A Half-Century of Its World Development**

- **Muckr World Since World War II**
  $3 paperback, $10 hardcover

**Books**

- **Marxism and Freedom: From 1776 until today**
  $17.50

- **Philosophy and Revolution: from Hegel to Marx and from Mao to Mao**
  $14.95

- **Rosa Luxemburg, Women’s Liberation, and Marxism**
  $12.95

  $15

- **The Marxist-Humanist Theory of State-Capitalism: Selected Writings by Raya Dunayevskaya**
  $8.50

- **The Philosophical Moment of Marxist-Humanism: Two-Historic-Philosophical Writings by Raya Dunayevskaya**
  $3 paperback, $10 hardcover

**By Charles Denby**

- **Indisputable Heart: A Black Worker’s Journal**
  1989 edition includes Afterword by Ray Dunayevskaya
  $14.95

**By Kevin Anderson**

- **Mexican Lenin, Hegel, and Western Marxism: A Critical Study**
  First full-length treatment of Lenin’s studies of Hegel.
  $15.95

- **The Gay Struggle**
  One of the things I really appreciated at the Midwest Bilingual Gay Transgender Conference was the way the struggle for a gay identity was being waged within the context of a struggle for a whole different society. Two of the posters tell the story: "Marriage is a white cake and a white dress; it isn’t a challenge to white supremacy." The other said: "Marriage is access to your spouse’s health care plan; it isn’t universal health coverage."

- **A CAR NAMED TIMOR?**
  Guess what is the name of the latest Indonesian car coming out of the auto factory owned by the son of Suharto? With all due modesty they name it TIMOR! Who knows, he might also get a Nobel Prize for this. One does not know whether to laugh or cry, seeing what is going on all around us.

- **Correspondent**
  British Columbia

**Who supports News & Letters?**

- **New reader**
  Johannaeburg, South Africa

- **Your paper is really helping concernning the fact that workers are the potential revolutionaries in our country. I am very strong on the ABC’s of Marxism and its Achilles Heels. But you are also strong on the ABC’s of Marxism and the union labor leaders, and you don’t point out that "oppressed nations" are also class-divided. Come out swing- ing comrades! Here’s my contribution.**

- **Longtime radical Los Angeles**

- **I have just posted a question on the internet to the question: “Whatever happened to the working class?” The answer: Some of the best of them are writing for News & Letters.**

- **Dave Cyberland**

- **Although funds are very hard to come by, I would like to offer a small token of support by contributing a donor sub. Please give me a call on 201-349-2621, and in my way of saying to some sister locked down, “You are not alone.”**

- **Male prisoner Wisconsin**

- **READERS: Have you sent in your contribution to help keep N&L going and to publish a new pamphlet on what your prisoner author calls "The Grim Reality of the American Criminal (In)Justice System." Your support was never more needed!**
came to shape the political and religious thinking of African Americans, since southern Blacks had "more desolate traditions of active resistance, more far-flung communities of self-defense, more links with the larger political life of the nation." At the same time, Walker recognized that "his freedom was bound up with the slaves' freedom, and that any murder of freedom of one would necessarily prejudice the other."

Black World

(Continued from page 1)

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Black World

(Continued from page 1)
It is fantastic, for example, for the (Women's Liberation Movement) today to so soon forget that not only the liberation but the actual tactics of revolt for the activist '60s came from the Black dimension. At that time there was no discussion at the national level of the development of the Marxist movement in Europe in the 1970 period, it is a fact that both the Black dimension and the white dimension of the movement were very slow to get involved in the demonstrations of 1981.

The reason that it is important before we get to the 1981 period, it is a fact that both the Black dimension and the white dimension of the movement were very slow to get involved in the demonstrations of 1981—because, on the other hand, the majority of those killed were Communists; they were together and the police attacked more violently because it was the revolutionary features of that public and only communists remained at that spot.

There were not "white citizens." If I remember correctly, there was not a single white activist who participated in the 1981 demonstrations. It was the white dimension of 1981—because, on the other hand, the majority of those killed were Communists; they were together and the police attacked more violently because it was the revolutionary features of that public and only communists remained at that spot.

New Grundrisse edition

Otuski Shoten, a Japanese publishing company, has recently published a photographic color edition of Marx's Grundrisse. This is the first draft of what would later become Capital. The edition reproduces Marx's own manuscript exactly, though enlarged in size.

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New Kosova protests

Albanian demonstrators protest Serbian crackdown in Pristina, Kosova.

Welfare 'reform' stress and humiliation

"I laid in my prison bed I thought, 'Where is the love?'

Every year we have to go through DNA testing from prison and other court proceedings after serving over ten years in prison in Illinois for the last six years. Black prisoners were found Impaled between crimes that placed them behind bars. In some cases, the State Attorneys were hiding or not bringing any evidence that they possessed that would have cleared innocent defendants that went to prison.

Prisoners in every state have lost many humane programs. As a result, they have focused on the easiest group that politicians can get touch with—out-of-court because prisoners have no voice and do not vote. Our people are alone. We are not going to wait for the Black communities throughout the U.S. to investigate again every Black prisoner's case to see if wrongdoing is evident!

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In another first since 1991, the foreign minister of Qatar, a small emirate in the Persian Gulf, visited Baghdad in early February to negotiate a peaceful resolution. Even Saudi Arabia and Turkey, firm U.S. allies, tried to mediate a deal with Hussein for the U.S. to use their oil to launch air strikes.

What the Gulf rulers fear most from any upheaval in Iraq is the effect it would have on their own repressive regimes. The most fundamental fact of the Arab world is that it is not internally directed against the revolutionary tradition of the Middle East, which has come to life over and over, in Iraq, Iran, Lebanon and elsewhere.

Fear of new revolts explains why the Middle East regimes increasingly believe that they would like to have Hussein remain in power. As Alistair Lyon of Reuters put it, "Countries like Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain don't want any weakening of central authority in Iraq; for, as it seems, it keeps on settling its disputes with Baghdad rather than trying to foment a militant Shi'ite revolt in the south...Iran wants a stable Iraq. It is very concerned about any upheavals and will not support any Shi'ite movement, even if there is an uprising in Baghdad."

Turkey also expects to see Hussein stay in power, so as to prevent the Kurds in the north from being able to attain a truly independent nationhood. Turkey's war against the Kurds of northern Iraq has been unceasing, as seen in the Feb. 23 air attack on 7,000 Kurds trapped between the Kurdish enclave and areas controlled by the Iraqi government.

CONTRADICTIONS FROM WITHIN

The way in which the U.S. policy in the Gulf feeds on and builds up the most reactionary forces can be seen perhaps more clearly in the current situation than has been used to advantage by Israel's Benjamin Netanyhui. Even without the U.S. bombing, tremen­dous conflicts have emerged since Hussein's return, and the peace process.

The U.S.'s callous disregard for the effect of its policies on the Iraqi masses has compromised its position even with the most reactionary Arab regimes, making them more willing to stand behind Hussein. The U.S. initia­tive in the Israeli-Palestinian issue. It is clear that no pro­gress on the peace process will come from Netanyhui. He has lost the immediate con­sequences of support for Hussein in the Arab world to argue that his views, if with Arab is useless, as it auto­matically translates into policies that will lead to strengthening those who support Israel's total destruc­tion of the Kurdish movement, which began to have armed battles in mid-September.

U.S. military actions in the Gulf are paving the way for his renevel.

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Bougainville fights for independence

RFM Memphis

On Marx and Bakunin

Zines express youth culture
As the state of Israel approaches its 50th anniversary this May, the country is fretting away the Oslo accords, the finest chance it has ever had to make a durable peace with its Arab neighbors. Under those accords, the Labor Party, led by the married Yitzhak Rabin and his successor Shimon Peres, had begun to move, albeit too slowly and hesitantly, toward granting the Palestinians a state of their own on the West Bank and Gaza. He spends much of his time courting reactionary religious parties, which form an increasingly large swing vote. This is why few expect a serious renewal of the peace process even if, as many expect, the increasingly unpopular Netanyahu falls from power in the coming period.

**China workers' protests**

The ongoing Asian economic crisis has not yet struck China dramatically. However, China's rulers increasingly are confronting protests by workers left jobless as state-owned enterprises (SOEs) are drastically trimmed or shut down altogether.

In January, workers in Wuhan blocked city traffic in protest against the closure of a detergent factory and the termination of two factories. In Beijing, textile workers picketed the government offices demanding pay increases and procedures but were denied. Last December, hundreds of textile workers in Hebei protested against mandatory redundancy at a textile factory.

The unemployment rate in the older urban industrial areas of China now exceeds 20% and is growing. Two other huge protest movements are railroad and textiles, plan to lay off 1.1 and 1.2 million workers, respectively. Many worker groups have formed into an estimated 130 million unemployed rural workers.

Jobless industrial workers are being told by the Communist Party to "emulate" their rural counterparts who fled to the cities over the past two decades and were forced into the subsistence service economy as street vendors or window washers.

**German unemployed march**

The movement of the unemployed which began in Frankfurt last December has spread. On Feb. 5, a total of 40,000 demonstrators, some of them carrying crosses, marched to the gates of the country's 12.6% unemployment rate. Turnout was larger in eastern Germany, where a catastrophic 21% of the labor force is out of work.

Neo-Nazi agitation has surged once again in recent months. Fascists have attempted to create what they term "foreigner-free" and "leftist-free" zones in some urban areas. In Dresden in January, neo-Nazis marched to the gates of what is now a museum open to the public, so that all can see what happened in the "dirty war" to prevent it from happening again.

**Zimbabwe food riots**

Serious riots broke out in Zimbabwe at the end of January. One cause was undoubtedly the unemployment rate which has climbed to 45%. Also, last summer the government, the greatest loser of the food riots, lost the state of the country's 12.6% unemployment rate. Turnout was larger in eastern Germany, where a catastrophic 21% of the labor force is out of work.

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Controversy erupted and hundreds protested in January when the Peronist president of Argentina, Carlos Menem, announced plans to tear down the notorious "killing field by the military during the 1976-83 dictatorship's "dirty war" against the Left. At least 4,000 political prisoners perished inside its walls.

Menem decreed an amnesty in 1990 for military officers guilty of the kidnapping, murders and disappearances from that period. He has urged the military criminals to keep silence, and was forced in January to dismiss one of the most notorious butchers, former navy captain Alfredo Astiz, who bragged about his exploits in kidnapping and torture, and threatened the lives of international and political prisoners who fled with his victims.

As with other blanket amnesties (South Africa and South Korea, for example), the pardon of the military and political criminals does not resolve the contradictions of the situation. In Argentina, the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo and other relatives of the murdered and disappeared were the first to oppose Menem's plan, demonstrate in front of the Navy Mechanics School, and demand that it be converted into a museum open to the public, so that all can know what happened in the "dirty war" to prevent it from happening again.

Presentation on the Dialectics of Organization, Marxism-Humanism, and the...