The new freedom movement in Iran

by John Alan

Specter of Tilden-Hayes

Editor's note: Gholamreza Mohajerinejad is a leader of the July 1999 student protests in Iran. He was arrested after the protests, and later released. His arrest and release have been interpreted as a reflection of the government's increasing repression of protesters. The following is a translation of a talk by Mohajerinejad to the Chicago local of the USW and Letters Committees on Oct. 22.

In July of 1999 Iranian students rose up for the first time since the university purges began in 1981-83. This was a most remarkable achievement given the long years of war and violence that have constituted the present regime. The US embassy hostage taking in 1979 destroyed international sympathy for the regime of Khomeini and projected a violent image of us. The war with Iraq allowed two dictators to send hundreds of thousands to their deaths and provided a pretext for sending opposition members into prisons or death camps. During the 1980s students and faculty whose only crime was thinking differently and demanding freedom were purged. Only those with Islamic tendencies backed by the regime were allowed open activities on the university campuses.

This was similar to what happened under totalitarian Communist regimes. In Iran, instead of the official state ideology of "dialectical materialism" theological studies and Islamic education were taught at the universities. University admittance was often biased on rigid selection standards where Islam was the cover over human creativity.

DEEP DIVISIONS

Having lived under conditions of war and murder for over 15 years, we decided to move in a non-violent and lawful direction. Although a generation of guerrillas, the 1979 generation of freedom fighters did not agree with this approach, we considered it to be the best way to achieve our goal. Because we live in an information age, we chose to let the battle of ideas and confrontation of rational thoughts be the way of reaching success. Besides, faced with a regime that was armed to the teeth, we had no choice. Armed struggle was tried for many years, and it had only proven to give more time and power to the regime.

It was during this time that Khatami was elected as president. Our student organization voted for him, but we made clear that we didn't consider him our savior. We continued to organize, but we decided even then that those who participated in elections did it say "no" to the Islamic regime.

The struggle took a serious turn when even many of those in the regime began rebelling our slogans. But I believe just as the sun must eventually break through the clouds, so too their true colors must also begin to show themselves.

Mohammadi and I were invited to speak outside the country two years ago. Because we promoted non-violent methods, many considered us to be opportunists. I was sad to see such factionalism. When Mohammadi and I were invited to speak outside the country two years ago. Because we promoted non-violent methods, many considered us to be opportunists. I was sad to see such factionalism. When Mohammadi and I were invited to speak outside the country two years ago. Because we promoted non-violent methods, many considered us to be opportunists. I was sad to see such factionalism. When Mohammadi and I were invited to speak outside the country two years ago. Because we promoted non-violent methods, many considered us to be opportunists. I was sad to see such factionalism. When Mohammadi and I were invited to speak outside the country two years ago. Because we promoted non-violent methods, many considered us to be opportunists. I was sad to see such factionalism. When Mohammadi and I were invited to speak outside the country two years ago. Because we promoted non-violent methods, many considered us to be opportunists. I was sad to see such factionalism. When Mohammadi and I were invited to speak outside the country two years ago. Because we promoted non-violent methods, many considered us to be opportunists. I was sad to see such factionalism.

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New highpoint in women's movement?

by Anne Jaclard

The Oct. 17 World March of Women (WMW), which I wrote about in the November issue of NEWS & LETTERS, was a highpoint in condemning the world capitalist system as the antithesis of women's desires. At a moment when women's movements are experiencing a triumphant, the thousands of women's organizations and labor unions represented in this publication and throughout the world, have joined within the burgeoning anti-global capitalist movement.

As WMW brought front and center some of the challenges of today's Women's Liberation Movement. Free of the Left's knee-jerk anti-U.S. imperialism that prevents it from criticizing horrible governments, Kurdish Ah Sharrif, an Iraqi woman living in NY, marched in protest against the U.S.'s devastating economic sanctions against Iraq, but she also made the blank statement that there is no way to end them and women must go on living, even if it means not being able to do anything but live, within the global capitalism and imperialism. This shows women to be clearer thinkers than much of the anti-globalization movement, which tends to blame "greedy rich people" and the U.S. government for all the crimes of the capitalist system.

Another highpoint of the demonstration was its lack of illusions that U.S.-style "democracy" brings freedom, or even good jobs. Jacqueline Ki-Zerbo of Burkina Faso said, "The U.N. thinks that when you have an election, you have democracy. This is not true. They should support people's and grass roots groups that work within communities. How true this sounds for the U.S. today, as we see people protesting electrical rate increases, or exposed as frauds.

If any movement is to go forward and not stop at what it is against, it needs to articulate what it is for. I love the statement by the Tunisian Women's Organization: The demand is an end to global imperialism, the U.S. war on Iraq, peace, against hunger, and for equality with men, on a fly-by-wire ride in a free world. There were thousands of the International women's movement: 'Given the human dimension of this march and its noble meanings, we affirm women's creativity indivisible and part and parcel of men's dignity.'

Fighting toxic racism

Editors note: The City of Chicago has offered MRC/Primus Plastics factory 11 acres of public land for 50 years free of rent if the company would agree to build a Mexican-American community in the U.S. The land is available to any American Indian or Hispanic community. Little Village ranks third worst in the Chicago metropolitan area in air pollution and toxic loads. Bilding the factory would put 1000 families of the community to work, and mean the beginning of the women's liberation movement: 'Given the human dimension of this march and its noble meanings, we affirm women's creativity indivisible and part and parcel of men's dignity.'

We don't even have books in our own language, or any way to discuss both theory and practice. This is a problem common to most radical movements today—they see activism as the solution, as if we could transform society by showing up at protests or making speeches. And yet, we must be uprooted if we already know what we need to do, and that is just to inspire more women to join in, then we only need to energize each other, and we don't need serious discussions of theory and practice. Some call this attitude disdain for theory, but more correctly, it is the unexamined adoption of one theory—that change is possible. We must reject this and see activism as the solution. If we only see activism as the solution, as if we could transform society by showing up at protests or making speeches. And yet, we must be uprooted if we already know what we need to do, and that is just to inspire more women to join in, then we only need to energize each other, and we don't need serious discussions of theory and practice. Some call this attitude disdain for theory, but more correctly, it is the unexamined adoption of one theory—that change is possible. We must reject this and see activism as the solution.

Querky Notes

by Suzanne Rose

Aaron McKinney, the man convicted of killing gay couple Matthew Shepard in Wyoming last fall, has won a new trial. At his request, the judge in Sheridan, Wyoming, vacated one word of critique about the movement's failure to condemn women's concerns.

A historic decision in Hawaii gives two lesbian couples the right to marry. In the 1960s, the first wave of the Women's Liberation Movement galvanized the fight for legislation through speak-outs at which women charged that welfare and marriage laws described the horrors of their clandestine experiences. The Women's Liberation Movement fought for abortion "on demand," a concept that has all but disappeared with the advent of legal abortion clinics. Writer Pat Mckinney, who wrote about the movement's failure to condemn women's concerns.

Memphis, Tenn. — The Overnite strike has been going on for a little bit more than a year, since Oct. 31, 1999. It's been rough on a lot of people and a lot of the guys have gone back in even though they had gotten fired. This is the second time they're making at Overnite. We knew we were taking on a giant, we knew it would be a hard fight when we came out. This strike has really given you a chance to get to know your co-workers. It's been tough but we've held out really strongly, and others were not as strong as you thought.

All that is still going. They closed the gates on Brooks Road to cut down the visibility of the strike. They do this at night by putting a fence up on the street, so the strike is not as visible and people say: "We thought the strike was over. We didn't see anybody." The picket line (the only time he came) to tell the workers not to go back, it was a very cold night. As you thought.

The thugs that run Gannett and Knight-Ridder, publishers of the two Detroit papers, told the unions to follow him. We just decided that the strike was not over anymore. We bought American Freight, that means they will handle all the packages, and we've been trying to cut a lot of that Viking business themselves and cut a lot of the convention business. We've gotten the picket line down to about eight people. Overnite workers got all that money to buy her medicine for 14 months. When the thug who runs Gannett and Knight-Ridder, publishers of the two Detroit papers, told the unions to follow him. We just decided that the strike was not over anymore. We bought American Freight, that means they will handle all the packages, and we've been trying to cut a lot of that Viking business themselves and cut a lot of the convention business.

Boycott fails strikers

Boycott fails strikers

Detriot—It looks like the bitter five-and-a-half-year-old Detroit newspaper strike is coming to an end. The publishers with circulation figures that are 35-40% lower and have been struggling to survive for years. When the three judge circuit court panel of conservative judges appointed by Reagan overturned the referendum conducted by the IRLB, the publishers are committed to a long series of tactics that caused the strike. It opened the door for the company to take away the picket line and force the unions to accept terrible agreements that would have been unthinkable several years ago. But we got the picket line down to about eight people. Overnite workers got all that money to buy her medicine for 14 months. We've had to cut a lot of the convention business. We've gotten the picket line down to about eight people. Overnite workers got all that money to buy her medicine for 14 months. When the thug who runs Gannett and Knight-Ridder, publishers of the two Detroit papers, told the unions to follow him. We just decided that the strike was not over anymore. We bought American Freight, that means they will handle all the packages, and we've been trying to cut a lot of that Viking business themselves and cut a lot of the convention business.

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It's surprising the strike has gone on for so long because you thought it was going to be a short strike. All that is still going. They closed the gates on Brooks Road to cut down the visibility of the strike. They do this at night by putting a fence up on the street, so the strike is not as visible and people say: "We thought the strike was over. We didn't see anybody."

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Editor's note
Israel's brutal attack against "the second Palestine intifada," which started after Ariel Sharon made his provocative trip to Hara'in-al-Sharif (two monasteries in Jerusalem associated with the Islamic tradition) over Arab East Jerusalem "in perpetuity," makes this an impotent moment to revisit the historic roots of this conflict. We here reproduce two writings by Raya Dunayevskaya from the 1980s which speak to this. The first is excerpt of Part 3 of the Perspectives Thesis delivered to the 1980 convention of News and Letters Committees, entitled "Today and Tomorrow." The second is excerpts from the Introduction and Part I of the Perspectives Thesis delivered to the 1980 convention of News and Letters Committees, entitled "What to Do Facing the Depth of Reccession and the Mythic Global Political Vortex." The latter was written after Sharon engineered Israel's invasion of Lebanon. The Royal Dunayevskaya Collection, 6245 and 7515.

Religion in general and Jerusalem in particular in this state-capitalist age

(September 1980)
ESSAY

Marx's Critique of the Gothap Program, 125 years later

by Mitch Weerth

Karl Marx penned his Critique of the Gotha Program 125 years ago. This article is not the main reason to study this document. Rather, the need to seriously grapple with the nature of this document is prompted by our desire to work out an alternative to capitalism.

In previous issues of News & Letters we have shown how this document speaks directly to this in three principal ways: 1) In its historical context it reveals the kinds of difficulties Marx's contemporaries had in thinking through the problems of self-expansion of the value-form.

2) The work proceeds directly to this in a profound critique of "socialist ideas that are not even skin-deep," in other words, that which is excluded from the system.

3) It clearly states that the meaning of this sim­ple fact seems to have been lost on Marxists for gener­ations. For while history has shown that any organi­zational document as well as the program in permanence.

The "victory" he refers to is the fact that the new party that emerged from the unity, the German Social Democratic Workers Party (SDAP, known as the "Eisenachers"). This party, with a little over 9,000 members in 1875, was the first political party in the city of Eisenach. Its program declared itself to be a branch of Marx's International Workingman's Association (IWA), adhering to its aspi­ration of error of those in this commodity, but to the new group of globalizers who believe in humanity's ability to control capital (see especially "Can Capital be Con­trolled?" April 2000 V&L). The question to be posed here is: how can we be convinced, and in turn convince others, that this new nock is a corrective one, that the need for a counter-revolutionary effort to revitalize and sustain human needs can prevail over the current cramping of humanity and the environment? The meaning of this document is revealed.

The recipients of what Marx called his "critical mar­ginal notes" on the Gotha Program were the leaders of the Social Democratic Workers Party (SDAP, known as the "Eisenachers"). This party, with a little over 9,000 members in 1875, was the first political party in the city of Eisenach. Its program declared itself to be a branch of Marx's International Workingman's Association (IWA), adhering to its aspira­tion of error of those in this commodity, but to the new group of globalizers who believe in humanity's ability to control capital (see especially "Can Capital be Con­trolled?" April 2000 V&L). The question to be posed here is: how can we be convinced, and in turn convince others, that this new nock is a corrective one, that the need for a counter-revolutionary effort to revitalize and sustain human needs can prevail over the current cramping of humanity and the environment? The meaning of this document is revealed.

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The state of Israel is based on violence and war. It originated in a bloody war and grew geographically and militarily. Women for a Just Peace in Nazareth on Nov. 29, 2000:

1. An end to the occupation. 2. Establishment of the state of Palestine side by side with the state of Israel based on the 1967 borders. 3. Recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of both states. 4. Israel must recognize its responsibilities for the crimes of the 1948 war, and find a just solution to the refugee question. 5. End of the occupation and the illegitimacy of settlements and for the recognition of the Palestinian state. 6. Equal rights for women and for all the Arab citizens of Israel. 7. Equal rights for women and for all the Arab citizens of Israel. 8. An end to ethnic cleansing, apartheid, political imprisonment and torture. 9. Social and economic justice for the Israelis, and the Palestinians. 10. An end to all discrimination.

We call upon all women who affirm these principles—Jews, Palestinians, and Israelis—living in and beyond Israel/Palestine, to take a public stance for peace in our own places. We call upon all women who affirm these principles—Jews, Palestinians, and Israelis—living in and beyond Israel/Palestine, to take a public stance for peace in our own places. We call upon all women who affirm these principles—Jews, Palestinians, and Israelis—living in and beyond Israel/Palestine, to take a public stance for peace in our own places.
POST-MILOSEVIC SERBIA

A speaking tour for the Serbian trade unionist, Dragomir Olijie, is underway and we will be distributing a flyer with the NLR's November lead on the conflict that ousted Milosevic, at the public meeting in London. The lead was the best piece I have read. I especially liked the final section on the two souls of Serbia. I must confess I was disheartened Milosevic didn't get what Ceausescu did. Hopefully, his day will come nevertheless.

British Marxist-Humanist London

Peter Hudis' article on how the workers took action in the aftermath of Serbia's military defeat, and the question of "which Kolubara will define the new Serbia?"—nationalist mythology or workers' revolts—both underlie NLR's political analysis of events in Serbia and Croatia have been right on the mark over the past eight years. What is striking is the way a category was drawn out of these struggles to pinpoint a new kind of national liberation movement as what is "new" and make that a test of world politics.

Computer analyst Tennessee

NLR's November lead has scooped every other publication and mine takeovers in Serbia.

Paul Behle Rhode Island

The lead on Serbia showed how a principled position helps you no matter what the new development is; I only wish, however, that we had kept the comparison between this new and the fall of other East Europe regimes in 1989 in a bit different frame. I think what was critical in East Europe in 1989 was not so much that the world was in retrogression as that the transition was engineered by intellectuals in a way to keep the workpeople, following the historic "self-limiting revolution," that was thoroughly discredited in practice. The big mistake was in 1989.

The same happened in South Africa where the ANC engineered a transition that clung to capitalism. The lesson is to learn that we see workers going beyond the theories in their practice, but when their practice is not with a new articulation of the freedom, the old gets re-created in a new form.

Urszula Wislanka California

The November editorial on Bush, Gore and abortion was right on when it said that we have to look to our own self-activity and reason to really make Milestones available to all women who want it. Since it became legal we have already found many doctors fear to use it. New technology can't solve our need for full autonomy and freedom so long as it can be neglected by a fanatical right wing.

Women's Liberation Committee Chicago

I think our movement is in real trouble because I see an unholy alliance forming, consciously or not, between feminism and "left politics." I see the femenization of the Global Women's March as good but limited to economic planning, the marketplace, redistributing wealth, and how much this or that country should pay in taxes. What was good about the march was that it showed women are fighting for a total answer. That's what's involved in the fight against both violence against women and the ways capitalism is hurting us. I think we have to project a real alternative to capitalism. That's why I felt the News and Letters Committee on self-Markin and Marxism really spoke to the needs of our movement right now.

Women's Liberation Committee Chicago

THE SCENE IN ECUADOR

In Ecuador things are as bad as ever. Even though the president insists that "demonization" is working and claims that inflation has been checked, prices continue to rise. Perhaps President Naranjo has discovered a miraculous new economic device that allows prices to rise while keeping inflation down! Of course, the price of oil is $14 a barrel for the moment are on Peru and Colombia. Today it was reported that a Colombian military helicopter violated Ecuadorian air space. With the help of the U.S.-based "Plan Colombia," it appears more and more certain that the Colombian civil war will spill over onto its neighbors, just as the Vietnam conflict eventually spread to Cambodia and Laos. Ecuador

BUY NOTHING DAY IN JAPAN

On the day after the U.S. Thanksgiving Day, various cities across Japan celebrated Buy Nothing Day. In Kofu two wacky gaijin (foreigners) dressed in shopping bags passed out vouchers exclaiming, "You are looking at more than what you buy." In Osaka, 30 people dressed in Santa Claus costumes practiced "santa claus method" to stop the flow of the shopping beast. In Humamatsu, eight people—Japanese, Indian, and American—painted a floor mural at a busy train station. While Buy Nothing Day has been traditionally celebrated on the busiest shopping day of the year, every day seems the busiest in Japan. Environmental and human rights activists petitioned the government to give the earth a little rest. While this alone would never be enough to save the earth, it did make consumers stop and think about what and why they are buying. For more information email www.adbusters.org.

Kind Lady Japan

Don't forget to put News & Letters on your gift list.
Behind Prison Walls

by Robert Taliaferro

Though the issue of prisoners voting has been discussed for some time, local and especially national elections, definitions need to revisit disenfranchisement policies for prisoners. In the last two elections, in some cases, felonies.

In the 1980s young men and women rode through the South to register Black citizens for the vote. In a little reported event, the NAACP sponsored a similar event inside prison facilities. It registered over 15,000 people—those awaiting trial—as voters for the Black/Red View

(Continued from page 1)

This historic counter-revolution against African-American rights was the past. The memory of the Civil War is buried away in a textbook. African-Americans are still fighting against the results of the so-called "comprehensive victory" of 1876. It created the legal basis for ongoing segregation and open racism. It abandoned the spirit of the promise of 1876. It is the country at state and national levels. In fact, Flori­da—with 647,100 disenfranchised people (31.2% of them Black)—would have been decided in 1998, since over 450,000 of those disenfranchised were Black.

The U.S. is the only country which disenfranchises people for life. In fact, in countries such as Japan, France, Israel (to name a few) prisoners do not lose those fundamental rights even when still confined, even though they call into question this concept of such an unequalized stand.

In the 1980s the state of Oregon in a County Clerk who stated that, because prisoners in a small town could make up over half of that town's population, they could not hold a fair election. There has been a very small number of school board elections.

Thus, new policies are needed to address this problem. If that new law would not be funded as a result because of the "lack of voter participation," then perhaps the sheriff who does not dis­agree with his decision to disenfranchising Black citizens, would find himself out of a job; the judge who sentences Black prisoners to harsher sentences than he does white defendants (for the same crimes), would be replaced on the bench. It is a fact that is based on a voting bloc which is not easily foiled by the rhetoric of the traditional body politic.

In the 1980s, the right to vote was to empower. Any thoughts opposed to that concept, recognized, state-defined racism. Continued disenfranchise­ment of ex-felons, is legislation which has changed little since the Civil War.

Ivy Coast crisis

by Ba Karang

The October elections in the Ivory Coast spelled out a crucial moment of the end of the Cold War. The Democratic Party of Ivory Coast (PDCI), which ruled the country for decades under the authoritarian leadership of Felix Houphouet-Boigny's one-party dictatorship, faced a democratic move­ment for change. The defeat of General Guei by radical leader Laurent Gbagbo became as a surprise to many and to the political and social fabric of the country.

marginalization of his people and the continent in gen­eral. All of our efforts have been spit upon because of the racist inhuman capitalism.

Detroit police abuse

Detroit—Charges of police brutality and wide­spread corruption in the city of Detroit and the state department and mayor's office have reached an explo­sive mixture following recent hearings and escalating demonstrations protesting a rash of killings by police officers.

Outrage over the police killing of a dead Black man escalated into a full scale riot in Detroit black neighborhoods—and especially around police headquarters downtown.

Both Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer and Police Chief Kevin E. Liles, acknowledged in statements recently that investigations into the killings. A particular focus of the investigation was police officer Eugene Brown who was charged with second degree murder for killing three of them. The first internal police investigation into Brown's conduct, finally, the report was just released. However, this was never made public since it was an "internal affair," and no one was sent to the Detroit Attorney's office for further action.

At a November Police Commissioner's meeting, officers in the city expressed concern that the mayor's office's "insufficient evidence" to charge Brown with any crime. MPD did this in order to protect the soon-to-be-served chief's image.

To try and stop the riot, the police shot at people, and the mayor's office only responded by locking down police headquarters downtown.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) came to town in 1993 with maps suggesting that this site was exclusive to the Black neighborhood and pockets in the land with high levels of dioxin contamination. It just shut down. We didn't know about the extent of the con­tamination until 1993. There's a high rate of kidney diseases, cancer, and some immune system defi­ciencies—just about everything that's identified in the toxics profiles of these chemicals exist here. The EPA found high levels of contamination in the groundwater and in the air, which has changed the life of everyone in the area.

We filed a lawsuit. A local dermatologist was recruit­ed to do skin examinations for arsenic exposure, and 40% of people tested positive. We have the information that we have generated.

We formed the Woolfolk Citizens Response Group to test the ditch at our request, they found high levels of chemicals had been released in our neighborhood in the past. We thought it was natural to see different colors of water. We thought it was natural to see different colors of water. We thought it was natural to see different colors of water. We thought it was natural to see different colors of water. We thought it was.
The world has looked on with horror as Israel has killed over 250 people since September in its attempt to quell Palestinian and Arab uprisings. In the West Bank and Gaza and the evacuation of the Jewish settlements that honeycomb those territories, plus a com­pensation package for those forced to leave, the Israelis were to recognize the legitimacy of the state of Israel within its 1967 borders.

Barak sabotaged the Palestinians during his first year in power, concentrating instead on futile negoti­ations with Syria and Iran. In the North, there was a general pullout from South Lebanon. Finally, under Clinton's prodding, he turned to serious negotiations with Arafat at Camp David last July. Barak seems to be in principle willing to turn over most of the West Bank and Gaza and, more surprisingly, broke with both Sharon and Arafat to seek a peace agreement; over Jerusalem to offer at least some limited Palestin­ian control over parts of East Jerusalem. Arafat found that proposal insufficient and, especially on Jerusalem, rejected it and the negotiations collapsed.

Two months later, during the war criminal Ariel Sharon, the butcher of Lebanon during the 1982 war, made an armed visit to the most important Muslim Arab city in Israel, Haifa. Palestinian youths began to throw rocks, the army opened fire, and the conflict has not abated since.

ISRAELI TONE-DEAFNESS
At one level, the spark was religious, but at a deeper level, the conflict has run over seven years. The mis­understanding and rejection of the people of Israel as refugees, Palestinians have concluded that the United States is not intended for, is often lethal, and is prohibited by international law. Yedioth Ahronoth wrote:

'Even the smallest withdrawal being allowed. And it is not only the Palestinians who feel that the firing of rubber-coated bullets at close range, something they were suppos­edly not intended for, is often lethal, and is prohibited by international law. Yedioth Ahronoth wrote:

The use of helicopter missiles as a tool of assassina­tion is a step toward the 'legalization' of the terri­tory.'

CONTRADICTIONS SINCE OSLO
Since coming to power last year, the Labor-led govern­ment of Ehud Barak has zigzagged between accom­modation and intransigence toward the Palestinians. This reflects real contradictions inside the Israeli rul­ing class as well as the masses. Israelis have failed to come to grips with the reality of what the 1993 Oslo Accords have done, not that the core of the conflict is the Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories.

Acehnese risk death to demand independence
Hundreds of thousands of people in Aceh, a province in northwest Indonesia, staged a mass protest for self-determination in the capital city, Banda Aceh, Nov. 10-14, following the anniversary of the government of Indonesia awarding Aceh the charter of autonomy. A rally of 300 took place in Jakarta. Meanwhile, weary of the government ignoring their calls for a referendum, on Nov. 3-11 student groups played at an August rally against Indonesian Indepen­

dence so that the people of Aceh can achieve indepen­dence and the creation of a new, peaceful Aceh," said the Central Coordinator of Polling Radhi Darmansyah. Since civil society erupted in Aceh two years ago, these groups have been gathering and schedules those for independence and respect the will of the people. Thousands of have been killed the last few years. If you come here in a year's time, all of the human rights lead­ers sitting around this table will have disappeared," said Surjani of the women's orga­nization. As in Acehnese, there is a cultural heritage of peaceful demonstration, GAM (Aceh/Sumatran National Liberation Front) called off scheduled talks with the government on Nov. 11, after the government ("Humanitarian Pause") that has supposedly been in effect since June 2. The government has failed to recognize the right of indigenous people to self-determination and respect the will of the people. Thousands of Acehnese have been killed in the past few years.

No nation can itself be free if it oppresses another nor can a people that is oppressed achieve freedom in a way exist as a nation. That is why we continue to support a two-state solution as an immediate goal, with Israel withdrawing completely from the West Bank and Gaza as well as East Jerusalem, and with some type of shared control of the Jerusalem religious sites. As a result, the decision to recognize Israel as representing a free, voluntary association and merging as distinct from the Palestinian people;

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The Latino vote was similarly critical for Gore in New Pennsylvania when the tide turned as returns poured vote as well as a large number of union voters, who had of the white vote. Bush's supreme confidence that he where Gore won 93% of the Black vote and Bush 57% in from urban centers like Chicago and Philadelphia. thousands who protested the way he put into effect an forum on Gov Jeb Bush's euphemistically dubbed "One Page 10 Black female law students teamed up with white ties and women. The Republicans, who thought rights protest ever held in Florida. out were taken home by Republican workers and "fixed At stations where the majority spoke only Creole, and vice versa. "LEGALIZED' DISENFRANCHISEMENT What was new in this election was not just the old-fashioned disenfranchisement, but a wave of new of disenfranchisement which Gore refused to attack. Because he supports it, Gore could say not a word about it, as long as it was called "voter fraud." Black college students turned up at the University in seat except Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire. A different kind of "disenfranchisement" also cost Gore thousands of votes, far more than the amount needed to win. But this was nothing new. The rule is, if you are elderly, many Jewish, citizens giving at least 3,000 votes, in 1990. According to Buchanan, the anguish was compounded because Buchanan is known by them as an arch anti-Semitic. Far from being an invention, disenfranchisement has a long history stretching more than 30 years ago, to even so imminent a danger as the techno-bubble has already burst, to the crucial irresponsibility of the army-supported paramilitary, as that resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians. The third and final panel, "Views from the War Zone: The Implementation of Plan Colombia," was by the U.S. Congress seems to be indifferent towards it. They say that we support the guer- The "war on drugs" will unfold in a much com-nehmer Plan Colombia will resonate in the minds of the "war on drugs" will unfold in a much com-
New student movement in Iran

(continued from page 1)

returned to Iran, we continued our pursuits with very few resources.

In the month before the student actions, events occurred in the uni-
versity. Student protests in July 1999 were preceded by demonstrations
in May and June after a number of government-sponsored assassina-
tions of opposition writers. One major clash with the police, which
occurred near Tehran when many of us began to speak out.

During this period of attacks we received no support from
university administrators. Both the right wing and Khatami supporters
attacked us.

In July 1999, the public student gatherings in support of
freedom of the press, our dormitories were
attacked and several people were killed. During the
first night of attacks, we saw students being thrown out of windows.
We saw bodies smashed on the ground, students shot from a few feet away, and heads split open.
Countless others were viciously beaten.

There was no way to be silent now. It was at
this point that our slogan became "The
life of the student is the life of
the supreme leader, Khamenei himself. At
first we called on him as supreme commander to
assess that the gathering
of 6,000 outside Fort Benning's prop-
erty line would be of
public interest.

To my surprise, the
public interest coverage
of this article amounted to three
Associated Press
releases. Could it be that
the thousands of American
students demonstrating
the infamous "School of
Assassins," be shut down are, as
post commander Maj.
John LeMoyne
said, buying into "propaganda" based on "emotion and foolishness."

Could it be that the lie of silence blanketed this case?
The U.S. Army not proud of its elite school's
alumni's accomplishments, like the 1980 assassination
of Archishop Oscar Romero, the El Mozote Massacre
of six Dejust priests, their housekeeper and her daughter in El Salvador in
1989?

I was surprised that the dozen or so military police
officers talked with had never heard of the
SOA until the job of process-
protesting officers fell in their
laps. I told them it is
ever too late to
to change careers, and that
there are better
to serve your
their community.

If the more interesting dialogues
was "Castro send help!" and "Re-vote or Revol-
ice.
Unfortunately, very few people in the crowd
students successfully kept most radical sentiments from being expressed.
For a fraction of the crowd to chant "Jim Crow's gotta go!" in protest of the
systematic disenfranchisement of Blacks throughout
500 civilians, or the murder of six Jesuit priests,
the more interesting dialogues on signs were "Castro
1980 assassination
in Florida, or the murder of six Jesuit priests,

Activists brave rain during mass civil disobedience at the School of the Americas.

The School of the Americas is scheduled to close Dec. 15 and be
replaced by the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

This was a major event. It helped to break the taboo
of questioning a supreme religious leader in Iran.

Two days later Mohammadi and I were arrested after being pursued by a large police force in house
to house searches of neighborhoods. We were accused of
bringing the supreme leader to tears. TV and TV were
viciously tortured and battered as an act of revenge.

130 days we were in Evin Prison.

I was forbidden to talk on my first day of impris-
ment. If this were the 1980s I would have been exe-
cuted immediately. It is not that the regime is any dif-
terent today, its that pressure internationally and from
former supporters has weakened it.

That a majority of Iranians do not
in a religious regime has become very clear.

They are demanding a
inflation and state. This is a crucial
moment. If these demands are not supported, the
people will take to the streets in a volcanic eruption. This
will engulf the entire region.

We look forward to the creation of a
democracy. At this moment in Iran the foundation
for a new society is taking shape. We won't allow rights to be
taken away again. It will happen one way or the other.

—Kevin Michaels

Election protest

Chicago—On Saturday, Nov. 11, I joined a group
of protesters at the corner of Washington and Clark
to protest the disenfranchisement of untold numbers of votes. I came with a
group of eight other students from Northern Illinois
University in DeKalb. The crowd was a diverse
gather
ning the Left. Gore supporters, Greens, Trotskyists, Stalinists, anar-
chists and several members of News and
will not be Al Gore, but the millions who would suffer
so greatly from a Bush presidency.
The audience responded to the talks by the two
activists with an enthusiasm that points to a new level
of commitment to the battle for Mumia's

—Marxist-leninist student

Iraq sanctions kill

Memphis, Tenn.—On the Sunday after Thank-
giving, holiday shoppers at Oak Court Mall were
joined by over a dozen activists. The "Memphi-
ian Action Coalition wearing matching T-shirts explain-
ing our opposition to the sanctions against Iraq.
"Geno-
claws.
I didn't attend this rally as a Gore supporter.
It was a chance to raise some awareness of the
case of imprisoned Black journalist and revolutionary
Mumia Abu-Jamal. I received a high-energy speech at
Columbia College's Hokin Gallery on Nov. 17. Africa
was a challenge to me. I had read an article about the
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Laszlo Tokes

151 West 21st Street, 4th Floor
New York, New York 10011

Dear Ms. Tokes,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you concerning the current situation in Kosovo, which has been worsening significantly. As you know, the situation in Kosovo is a result of the historical injustices and conflicts that have plagued the region for decades.

The recent developments in Kosovo have led to a series of events that have caused widespread concern and distress. The United Nations and the European Union have been working tirelessly to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict. However, the lack of progress in resolving the issue has led to increased tensions and violence in the region.

I am reaching out to you because I believe that our organizations can work together to address this crisis. The National Committee on Human Rights in Kosovo has been at the forefront of advocating for the protection of human rights in Kosovo. Their work has been instrumental in bringing international attention to the situation.

I am especially concerned about the plight of the Kosovar Albanian community, who have been subjected to discrimination and violence. The International Court of Justice has ruled that Kosovo is an internationally recognized state, and the international community has a responsibility to protect its citizens.

I would like to discuss ways in which our organizations can collaborate to address this issue. I believe that through our joint efforts, we can make a difference and bring about a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]