Looking for scapegoats

by Hitu Lin

The instant mass slaughter of over 6,000 civilians at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon was nothing less than a crime against all of humanity. Rationalizations among so-called leftists to explain away the horror, such as "U.S. imperialism's chickens coming home to roost", "we were all part of the war", or that the war "try to rationalize the H-bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki," or those who try to rationalize the civil- massacres at Thanh Phong or My Lai, by saying such horrors are necessary in war.

All the rationalizations for these atrocities fly in the face of the common humanity we all share. These rationalizations are a shakeout in our thinking.

Bush's rhetoric of a "total war" to smoke out and hunt down the enemy has fanned the flames of ethnic and racial discrimination. It has also made the war's enemies out of the Islamic fundamentalists under the leadership of Osama bin Laden. They were simply intended to kill as many people as possible. Such a war could only be carried out by those with the most reactionary elements imaginable.

And yet even in the midst of this anti-humanist destruction the light of humanism did shine in the humanists of war resisters and citizens fighting from a "ground zero" in New York to help clean up rubble, save victims, and provide medical aid to the injured. Spen- taneous expressions of solidarity became commonplace— from construction workers rushing to save office workers, to Black youth helping elderly Jewish people to get out of the area. The final joint truce declaration of the Muslim and Jewish communities that the "two of a kind" terror in the aftermath of Reagan's interference and militarization, at home and abroad.

TWO OF A KIND TERROR

I am reminded of Ray Dunayevskaya's description of "two of a kind" terror in the aftermath of Afghanistan's bombing of Libya. Islamic fundamentalist terror at home against its own people (especially women) and abroad, and America's own form of fundamentalism

(Continued on page 3)

BLACK/RED

Durban racism conference

by John Alan

The United Nations World Conference Against Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intol­erances which was held in South Africa last month was an opportunity to make a worldwide statement. Indeed it accomplished putting many of the contradictions in the UN spotlight, if not in the media. How­ever, it did not resolve any of those contradictions. Indeed, it proved to be a cantankerous ideological struggle between the one million governmental organizations (NGOs), that are related to the social activities of the UN, and the capitalist powers, mainly the U.S., which in actuality controls what the UN does and refrains from doing.

This ideological struggle has not appeared often in the headlines nor has it been seriously evaluated. The primary reason for this is both in prior to the opening and through the UN's conference the most politically charged issue was the effort by several Arab states to equate Zionism with racism and call Israel's policies in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights a commonplace—from construction workers rushing to save office workers, to Black youth helping elderly Jewish people to get out of the area. The final joint truce declaration of the Muslim and Jewish communities that the "two of a kind" terror in the aftermath of Reagan's interference and militarization, at home and abroad.

The humanist dimension showed itself nationwide, as seen in the actions by the various groups in California, and particularly in Angola in Louisiana, where prisoners collected thou- sands of signatures to demand the release of the Angola 3. These humanist expressions of solidarity, however, are being buried by Bush's effort to use the attacks as an excuse to militarize America, restrict civil liberties, and embark on what U.S. rulers have long aspired to do against a possible racist backlash against the siz­

U.S. HYPOCRISIES

This negative characterization of Israel by the Arab countries was the U.S.'s reason for boycotting the con­ference and not sending Secretary of State Colin Pow­ ell to Durban. However, even without Powell in Dur­ban, the U.S. was there in the form of its delegation to the UN. From reports of American activist in the UN's NGOs, the U.S. governmental delegates 'tried to intimidate them to endorse meaningless, teethless dec­larations against racism' in general with no mention of specific countries or specific atrocities or specific poli­cies of redress and reparations.

As one African American put it: "the Arab (rulers) stole the show." By focusing the media's attention on the attacks, and not on the "real" story, the points of Black African NGOs were ignored.

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NEWS & LETTERS

Vol. 46 — No. 8

October 2001

Human Power is its own end—Marx

50c

EDITORIAL —To the barbarism of terrorism and war, we pose the new society—terrorism, Bush's retaliation show inhumanity of class society

by Peter Hudis

A two-fold disaster descended upon the world with the instant mass slaughter of over 6,000 civilians at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon was nothing less than a crime against all of humanity. Rationalizations among so-called leftists to explain away the horror, such as "U.S. imperialism's chickens coming home to roost," "we were all part of the war", or that the war "try to rationalize the H-bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki," or those who try to rationalize the civil- massacres at Thanh Phong or My Lai, by saying such horrors are necessary in war.

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(Continued on page 3)

What kind of 'anti-war movement'?

RESPONSES IN NEW YORK

New York City—Thousands of New Yorkers have risen up from their grief and fear to demand that Bush not use the attacks to distract us in our natural call for peace. As a few days after the World Trade Center massacre, people prounce to gethe coalitions initiated in parks to com­memorate the victims and condemn the calls for war and racist attacks. Soon, several teach-ins and meet­ings were being held each day.

On Sept. 21, a vigil in Union Square was followed by a march to Times Square, drawing 4,000 people, a sur­prise to everyone. The event, spearheaded by the Direct Action Network, "broke the ice," as one partici­pant said. Planned as a "moving vigil," there was no permit for the march, so it proceeded on the sidewalks on both sides of the street. The two sides sang back and forth to each other across the streets with sound.

Passers-by and people in the stores and windows of buildings indicated their support. The march was joined by people from an Islamic group, who were put in the lead. Participants said afterward that the march gave us back a sense of community and gave voice to voices to protest against war-mongering and racism against Arab-Americans, Jews, Muslims, and others. Meanwhile, the march was able to break up the march, and detained a part of it, crammed it behind barricades, for about an hour. New York City police evacuated the street and arrested New Jersey police and university security forces.

Two large coalitions have formed to carry on demon­strations, teach-ins, and organizing in communities, schools and religious organizations. Hundreds are attending each coalition meeting, ranging from leftist to pacifists to civil libertarians. The problem with the meetings is that in the rush to plan activities, there has been little discussion about what exactly we are against, and none about what we are for. The immediate demand is "Justice for the dead; peace, freedom, and end to war and terror—Fighting the war abroad and fighting the war at home."

(Continued on page 10)

MEETINGS IN MEMPHIS

Memphis, Tenn.—On Sept. 11 there was already an "Encampment" set up in the heart of Midtown in front of the Quaker meeting house, to raise awareness about the damage done by the sanctions against and bombing of Iraq. It was soon transformed into one against violence against all peoples, as well as what to do against a possible racist backlash against the siz­

Middle Eastern and East Asian population here. That evening 30 gathered on the porch, joining the Quakers in a candlelight vigil for the victims and for ending violence everywhere.

By Thursday, word was out that there would be a meeting at the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center and 40 people came together and decided to call our­selves Voices for Peace (VFP). Our first action was at the Cooper/Young street festival. Several youth passed out white ribbons on a card reading: "Wearing this ribbon shows that you are a voice for peace. Explain that there are alternatives to war and violence, no support for war; preserve civil liberties; and for global justice. Some people at each coalition's meet­ings blame the U.S. for the attacks even without con­demning them, and discussion of terrorism itself has been nil. Much more discussion and get out is needed.

—NY N&LC Local member

(Continued on page 10)
Feminism and anti-globalization

by Maya Jhansi

While the anti-globalization movement that has been picking at the heels of the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank has made its presence known in the U.S. in September 2001, women have been fighting global capitalism for decades. As for example, organizing workers in the marginalized poor communities, fighting structural adjustment programs and multinational corporations to fund women’s centers and food cooperatives. By doing so, women successfully resist and disrupt the totality of economic power. Women are known to have taken part in this movement ever since the president of Christian Action Coalition (WAC) to meet, and called Sobczyk’s case an “act of violence.” The struggle here continues. We should keep fighting against this ever since the president of Christian Action Coalition (WAC) to meet, and called Sobczyk’s case an “act of violence.” The struggle here continues. We should keep fighting against

Two of the essays are particularly interesting. “Politics and Power,” for example, by trying to get more social services, policies, and struggling to protect the environment. Nevertheless, it has not been conspicuously absent in the theories about globalization. This is one of the points of departure for the latest issue of this journal, which is devoted to the issue of gender and globalization. Two of the essays are particularly interesting. “Politics and Power,” for example, by trying to get more social services, policies, and struggling to protect the environment. Nevertheless, it has not been conspicuously absent in the theories about globalization. This is one of the points of departure for the latest issue of this journal, which is devoted to the issue of gender and globalization.

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Women worldwide

by Mary Jo Grey

On Sept. 13, Lashkar-e-Jabbar, a right-wing fundamentalist group in Kashmir, threatened to shoot Muslim women and girls who were undressed, saying that they were shamefully defiling the black head-to-toe burkha. They demanded that heads of colleges and schools enforce this rigid dress code. In Kashmir, mass protests and demonstrations against acid attacks on two teachers and a student who were not wearing the veil.

—Information from The Chronicle of Higher Education

Women with rights groups asking “what took so long?” said a feminist. “For the last 26 years of debate, delays and political maneuvering in August to approve a legal code to make women equal to men in this aspect of the law. The law will be in effect until 2003.

Charisse Shumate

Oakland, Calif.—In the California prison system, a battered woman imprisoned for defending herself reached out and touched many lives.

That woman was Charisse “Happy” Shumate, who died in prison on Nov. 4, 2001. While in the hospital, she helped in the organizing that the primarily HIV+ women waged against the AIDS hysteria and for access to information and care. Although she was not HIV+, she accepted the burden of being a lead plaintiff in a class-action lawsuit against the California Department of Corrections for their medical abuse and neglect of women prisoners. She knew that it was important to wake up the people. While in prison, she also served as a social worker, helping inmates to get out of the system. She also served as a counselor for other women prisoners. She was a unique organization of prisoners and women on the outside.

She was also a columnist for The Fire Inside and her column always spoke for and to many women inside and out. Herigits were echoed in her words and in the words of others.

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A new era strike for jobs and safety

Chicago—Prior to 1997, New Era Cap Company had wanted to expand its facility in Derby, N.Y. When we told them that we were not going to be displaced, they opened a plant in Alabama, a right-to-work state—it’s a non-union shop—and proceeded to harass the union, low-balling wages. It went to arbitration and the labor board recognized it. Management told the members, “If you don’t get rid of the union you’re all going to lose your jobs.” Then they told the first mechanic that they were going to move that machine down to Alabama. This is the first machine in a series of 22 operations. If they remove that, nothing else can happen. They wanted us to think we were doing what was best for the company, especially after just being told to get rid of the union.

THREATS TO SHUT DOWN

The supervisor got a worker to start a petition in February of 1997. A lot of members signed it, enough that the labor board recognized it. In October, in the middle of negotiations, the Labor Board held a vote and we won against them. We always invited union members to sit in on negotiations with the company, to see how the deal was going on. That’s how we won our people. We said listen to the company yourself—how they say we’re lazy and productive, we have the scars to do. In the bargaining session the company said that one of the companies they do business with filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and no one was going to work. New Era was going to lay off 125 workers. They offered us what amounts to a 70% loss in pay for some. They gave us a little bit of money for medical and said all the future increases in medical costs would be absorbed by the company. We took four unpaid sick days before, but now they took those away, even though 50% of the people still don’t use them.

The refusal to give us a petition. People voted down the contract 228 to 10 in April. The contract would have meant a 1.5% increase for workers. We’ve always been piece work. To make as much money as before you’d have to do more work. The repetitive motion injuries in Pierson’s arm are always going to be there. We have not been paid for gloves or even the same amount. They were told that if they signed, some of their friends would be fired. In June the company said we know your people don’t want to work here so we’ll offer you a severance package. We said no. They just wanted to get rid of the people.

JULY 16 WALKOUT

The company said that on July 1 they would implement the contract we voted down. On May 2 we voted down, 221 to 69. We had been told by the interna­tional that the company would shut the doors if we went out on strike. But we said we’re probably going to close it anyway and cut wages before they do. Everyone was strongest for the picket line.

We went out on July 16. Over 200 people came out to strike the first day at 5:30 a.m. They stand in pouring rain, sweltering heat. We have 47 people out on comp time after having survived Detroit. During the time of the strike they came out on our picket lines with banners on. Those with back problems came to the back, and those who don’t have to work in dangerous conditions when he was working. The union had originally demanded a 30% increase in wages. In the past, the workers at VW Puebla have wrung out significant concessions in pay and working conditions because the plant was crucial to VW’s five-year plan for its Mexican operations. We always invited union members to sit in on negotiations with the company, to see how the deal was going on. That’s how we won our people. We said listen to the company yourself—how they say we’re lazy and productive, we have the scars to do. In the bargaining session the company said that one of the companies they do business with filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and no one was going against the company, low-balling wages. It went to arbitration and the labor board recognized it. Management told the members, “If you don’t get rid of the union you’re all going to lose your jobs.” Then they told the first mechanic that they were going to move that machine down to Alabama. This is the first machine in a series of 22 operations. If they remove that, nothing else can happen. They wanted us to think we were doing what was best for the company, especially after just being told to get rid of the union.

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Puebla VW strike

In Mexico, 12,500 Volkswagen workers at the Puebla plant went on strike for nearly three weeks in August and September for wage settlement of 10.2%, with another 4.5% for food and school supplies vouchers. VW is also supposed to make up half the pay workers lost during the strike. The union had originally demanded a 30% increase in wages. In the past, the workers at VW Puebla have wrung out significant concessions in pay and working conditions because the plant was crucial to VW’s expansion in the U.S. Every major company has used the low wages paid to Mexican workers.

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What is philosophy? What is revolution? What is anti-imperialism?

EDITOR’S NOTE

THE TERRORIST attacks last month, resulting in the deaths of nearly 2,000 people in Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania precipitated a crisis in global politics. According to a recent poll, 94% of Americans believe that the terrorist attacks will result in a substantial change of government. In light of this, we reprint excerpts from ‘A Political-Philosophical Letter’ by Raya Dunayevskaya, written at the time of the 1968 riots in Paris, in which the student revolutionaries had occupied the U.S. embassy and held demonstrations in support of their cause. The letter is a clarification of the historical goals of revolution, as included in full. Notes are the editor’s. The original can be found in The Raya Dunayevskaya Collection, 2004-12.

Not so Random Thoughts on: What is philosophy? What is revolution? 1789-1979; 1848-1850; 1914-1919; 1979

December 17, 1979

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It sounds so abstract, so easy to say, with Hegel, that philosophy is the “thinking study of things” that reason is the ability to set the groundwork for the achievement of the former. It is, at one and the same time, that “Nature has given everyone a fate, and everyone’s fate is the thought of all that philosophy claims as the form proper to their process.” (6)

When you realize that this is the Introduction to Encyclopaedia, what you are saying is that, when you grasp the meaning of Hegel’s expression, “second negation,” you can begin, just begin, to grasp an actual “permanent revolution” – no revolution is written after the French Revolution which made popular facility of thought. But thought is all that philosophy is when Hegel is speaking of philosophy, it is not an activity.” Furthermore, Hegel had not found articulation in issuing the new banner of philosophy, it is not an abstraction, that even though it limits it to thought and not activity, he can conclude in that same Introduction.

This divorce between idea and reality is a favorite device of the analytic understanding in particular. Yet strangely in contrast with this separation of the two, Hegel’s own dreams, whether they are, appear to the understanding something else: a “true new human being,” something that the imperative ‘ought’, which it takes special pleasure in prescribing on the field of politics. As if the way to it is to learn how it ought to be, and was not (6)

And that same paragraph further stresses that “the Idea is not so fearful to have a right or an obligation to exist without actually existing.”

When a new objective stage arises in 1844-48 which was not included in the historical analysis of the engravings of the French Revolution, the young, new, revolutionary bourgeoisie finally understood Hegel’s idea of freedom by realizing it in an out right revolution. He had told his young Hegelian friends that the new revolutionary element became a new humanist by turning your back on Hegel because he was both bourgeoisie and idealist and because whether you achieve revolution is a revolution in thought. The truth is that Hegel’s dialectic was not just an abstract disputation, it must first be realized in an actual material way. We must be specific and shout out loud who the forces of revolution are. What is the reason of revolution is. And how we can achieve freedom. I, Marx, say, is the proletariat. It is the direct expression of all where all things are created. I say that in issuing the challenge that will cause the whole capitalist world to tremble, we need to unfurl a totally new banner of philosophy, what came out of the revolution itself... What was the very opposite of an heirloom. Instead, the new continent of the concrete and with ever-greater forces must be prepared for revolution. But preparing for revolution, Lenin, spent 1905 and 1906 in the study of Hegel’s Science of Logic, and his evenings preparing the concrete, the new and revolutionary, Lenin, spent his evenings preparing for revolution, without that rudder of philosophy, what came out of the revolution itself...

The truth is that the theoretical difference reappears in a most horrible form exactly when the next new, objective situation arises.

THEORETICAL DIFFERENCES ARE NOT “LIQUIDATABLE” JUST BECAUSE, IN FACT, YOU ARE A NEW BOURGEOISIE. Since the beginning of the battle, the deviations from Marxism first come from your own officers. Finally, in very nearly the last work of Marx—the 1861 Preface to the Russian edition of the Communist Manifesto—that permanent revolution gets spelled out on a still higher level—that is, international as well as nationally. It is there that it is concretized as the relationship between technological-
As Iranian Marxist Humanists, we oppose the inhuman war on terrorism of the United States and its allies, against workers, women, minorities, immigrants, and international tourists on Sept. 11. Even though no group had coded the events as workers, women, minorities, immigrants, and international tourists on Sept. 11, all the evidence points to terrorist cells trained by the Wahabli religion of the U.S. government, those who organizes terrorist networks. Iranian women who have suffered a great deal under an Islamic fundamentalist regime for the past 25 years have a long history of opposition to those attacks. Over those attacks, 18,000 people in Tehran came out for a candlelight vigil and chanted "America, America, our condolences" have felt tremendous grief over these attacks. On Sept. 18, 4,000 people in Tehran came out for a candlelight vigil and chanted "America, America, our condolences" have felt tremendous grief over these attacks.

In 1979, when Khomeini used the taking of American hostages at the U.S. embassy in Tehran to declare himself an anti-imperialist par excellence, some on the left charged the embassy takeover. When Raya Dunayevskaya revealed her arguments in her 1976 philosophical letter "What is Philosophy? What is Revolution?" she called Khomeini a "viciously revolutionary anti-imperialist" which diverts revolutionaries from working out a philosophical ground for creating a new humanist society. (New page 4.)

Now the facts of history reveal how damaging the hostage crisis was. The Iranian masses were saddled with a distorted representation of Khomeini as a religious leader. What followed was a full-blown counter-revolution (1979-1980) which executed tens of thousands of secular and religious oppositionists. We need to face up to the philosophic vacuum that has allowed the capitalist, racist, and imperialist, "great and moral" forces of anti-social fundamentalism to gain support. Facing up to this reality demands laboring at a vision of total human liberation.

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ON THE BARBARISM OF TERRORISM AND OF WAR

arguments, such as "we had this com­ ing," surely cannot be referring to the American people— who, as the radicals who make such arguments had always been the first to point out, do not have a government that represents their true interests. These arguments do not deflect, entice between the people in power and those who are against the true struggles around the world that deserve our support and that recognize the "true" in a political sense but also the true society that exists. We all need to organize a response to events of Sept. 11 and the racist reaction that are in the process of coming to pass. We cannot say that the anti-global exploitation movement and the struggles for new immigrant democracy will be derailed because of the shift in the political atmosphere in the past few days. The Sept. 25 amnesty rally in Washington, D.C., was cancelled. The forces of global capitalism will not back down because of this tragedy. If anything, their hand has strengthened. Austerity measures and war now need to be supported by new human society in which barbarism and killing thousands of innocent people. People who unconditionally support the war now need to be supported by the anti-global exploitation movement and the struggles for new immigrant democracy.

If the attack of Sept. 11 was not a viable protest against the atrocities the U.S. perpetrates around the world, what, in your view, are viable protests and responses to the U.S. and its atrocities? B.S. Internet

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If the attack of Sept. 11 was not a viable protest against the atrocities the U.S. perpetrates around the world, what, in your view, are viable protests and responses to the U.S. and its atrocities? B.S. Internet

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We were given a chilling warning of what is in store for all of us when Bush, not only created a new cabinet office, called "Homeland Security" (which sounds to me like what they might have called it in Nazi Germany or apartheid South Africa) but put in charge the very man who holds Mumia Abu-Jamal's life in his hands, Pennsylvania Governor Ridge. A shudder went through me when I heard Bush announce his name.

Mumia supporter Chicago

**CONTINUING THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM**

In the Action Alert issued by NOW, announcing that the Women's Equality Summit scheduled for Sept. 24-25 in Washington, D.C. had to be postponed until Spring, they stressed that NOW is especially concerned about the increasing vicious attacks on women's rights advocates. I'm appalled 100% when they say, "We are determined to defend and promote the rights, health and safety of women from around the world. It is not possible to see how the threat comes from the brutal and repressive policies of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban or from repressive policies here at home that undermine the rights girls and women.

They were also right when they pointed out on their website that when the Armed Forces said that in this time of need gay and lesbian citizens wishing to join the armed forces would be welcomed, it was only for the war effort. Afterwards their civil rights will once again be denied.

We are told that the world changed on Sept.-11 but not about some of the things they are calling 'Women's liberation.

Illinois

The murder of Matthew Shepard four years ago woke up many Americans to the reality of anti-gay, biaexual and transgendered violence and hate. Over the past year the Chicago Anti-Flashing Network has made many Chicagoans aware of police violence against the LGBT community. Amnesty International invited an unprecedented three reports this year documenting gay-bashing by Chicago police. We also need to recognize that the war is that against the rights like the Boy Scouts, Salvation Army and other programs that promote anti-gay discrimination. We need as big a turnout as possible for the Oct. 31 March Against Anti-Gay Hate.

Human rights supporter Chicago

As the authorities move to gut civil liberties and human rights documents justifying racist profiling, the Oct. 22nd Coalition feels it is more important than ever that people from different races and backgrounds take to the streets in cities across the U.S. to commemorate the sixth annual National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation of Activist Detroit

It's ironic that even as Americans are working longer and harder than they ever have in recent history, so that CEOs and stock owners can sit back and watch their fortunes grow, it's "the well-fed state" and "lazy freedom-loving" that are depicted as the drain on the country's resources and productivity. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Some might still think that the U.S. is a country of corporate labor camps, well on its way to becoming another banana republic, for those who are lucky enough to still be employed.

Greg Loper California

I've been in prison since November 2000. I have an addiction to news, especially different women issues. I am so into reading newspapers and sharing various articles with others that I volunteered to pick up the yard trash on weekends just so I can take back the newspapers. That's how I found your January issue of 2001 and I wanted you to know I was able to use a lot of the information, especially on the abuse and exploitation of women, which we used in our Domestic Violence class. You also printed information on what happened in prisons with the lack of health care and women dying because of it. But, unlike other papers, you were straight to the point and didn't sugar-coat anything or make excuses for the staff. We all appreciated that! I am writing because I wasn't able to find another issue, but I am indignant and can't subscribe. Could you send me one or two issues from time to time until I take another year?

Woman prisoner California

TO ALL OUR READERS:

INVEST! CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE THE COST OF A SUB TO OUR SPECIAL DONOR'S FUND TO HELP US CONTINUE OUR PRACTICE OF SENDING NAILS TO THOSE WHO CANNOT SUBSCRIBE ON THEIR OWN?

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Environmental justice delegation of solidarity to Vieques

Memphis, Tenn. — In August I was part of a delegation organized by the Fellowship of Reconciliation that included students, workers, women, and others, traveling from California, Texas, Georgia, and Memphis, Tenn. Many were environmental justice activists. The goal was to support the U.S. Department of Justice and military cleanups going on in the U.S. They wanted to know why the government was not building fair treatment into the legal system in Vieques after the U.S. bombing. Their sampling of vegetation had found heavy metals and other chemicals.

The most beautiful thing to me about Vieques is that everyone is involved—all the way up to the governor—in asking not to stop the bombing. It is still going on, and they have destroyed two-thirds of one of the most beautiful islands I’ve ever seen. Hooked into the valley where the bombing takes place and the lagoons were brown. Everything else was a piercing blue except where they were doing the bombing.

When people got tired of the Navy bombing, Roberto Rubin of Vieques purchased a lot across the street from the Navy. They set up a peace and justice camp so they could still do their rallies and civil disobedience and not be in the Navy’s sight lines. The most wonderful thing was that if they had a court hearing before the judge in the gate and wouldn’t let any of the Navy in the gate. The Navy tried to make another entrance and 2,000 people showed up and blocked it. The activists held a vigil every night at the federal penitentiary where the soldiers are in jail.

The Puerto Rican activists got the idea of civil disobedience from the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. and were taught to keep going in the face of the government. The government keeps giving them more time to serve. I feel that the U.S. is not hearing anyone of color regardless of where they are. The worst thing is that they have killed leaders there.

Wilkerson, is arriving in Chicago for ten days on Oct. 19. He will have a number of speaking engagements and all are welcome to help with his Chicago tour. He will be in the Illinois Student Network, Oct. 22 (the National Day of Protest Against Police Brutality) at 6:30 p.m.; 36 W. Washab, Room 1440, in the Chicago Loop.

A PANTHER’S CREED

Woodfox and Hooks released a statement for the upcoming Black Panther Party reunion. It reads in part:

Time has changed our bodies but not our resolve; our parents and grandparents are dead, but each grain is buried with wisdom born of life’s experiences. Our souls are battered and bruised but we remain defiant...We, like all the others, have been through some times in our lives a made a conscious decision to help those who are suffering. We believe in the power of solidarity. Our humanity would not be respected if we allowed our eyes to be closed to the horrors waged against the poor, the hunger we have seen the workers and artists of this country in the name of the profit, the State to pay our respects.

You possess the shovel, the dirt and the Power to eventually bury the capitalist mode of production. Realize that no matter how long it has been or how much time has changed you, you are still Black Panther...In closing, we ask that you hear the words of our ancestors and leaders—Chuck and Wilkerson, who freed this year by the support of the people along with his own fighting spirit. It is this kind of spirit that will help us overcome the years of darkness and despair. Power to the People.

Robert King Wilkerson leaves Louisiana State Prison.

Angola 3 carry on Black Panther struggle

Oakland, Cal. — In early August the national top African American activists, two Black Panthers and two women, war-on-drugs prisoners, whom Clinton pardoned during his last few days in office, reached the San Quentin prison.

Speaking to an overflow audience of about 200 mostly Black Oakland residents crowded into a church basement, Dorsey Nunn introduced the speakers by reminding us that 2.8 million African Americans are under some form of supervision of the justice system. There are 20 states whose total population does not reach 2.8 million. Dorsey Nunn wanted this meeting to start a long and needed conversation about national justice system. He said they are not building the prison-industrial complex for a few brothers in baggy pants; it is capitalism itself at war.

Kemba Smith was convicted on the basis of her brother’s convictions and was caught with drugs. She knew nothing thus she could not snitch on anybody and got an out—she could not snitch on anybody and got an out—she could have been sent to her because her own pardon was the result of her cooperation. Snitching on her son. She spent eight-and-a-half years in prison. She is a few years ahead of those two.

The other member of the Angola 3, Robert King

Says the state’s so-called eye-witness, Heneck BROWN, a four time court-ordered drug rapist on Death Row, who claimed to have seen him commit murder prison guard Brett Miller. For whom the state had evidence this had been destroyed or lost, but when Albert Woodfox existed to want to, and noted that Choma has already referred to the freedom movement in Tibet as terror—

THE LEGAL FRONT

The only evidence against Woodfox and Her-

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THE LEGAL FRONT

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Acehnese denounce terror at home and abroad

The Acehnese community deeply condemns the terrorist attack in New York City, as well as the United States capital, Washington. "We send our condolences and our sympathy to our brothers and sisters in New York," said H.N. Mansyur, chairman of the Aceh Emergency Committee.

Since the 1970s one of the major focuses of the United States government in Colombia has been the illicit drug business and its consequent booming economy. In 2000, the administration of Plan Colombia and its $4.7 billion from the international community to fight the "drug-traffick" in the "former Colombian democracy," would magnify that force and allow for the pursuit of other discrete international interests.

The late President Bill Clinton proposed $1.3 billion in military aid to the United States to fight the drug cartels. Intended to push into Amazon regions of high conflict, where coca is abundant and where annual fighting has often killed scores of people, is governed by the insurgents, the U.S. government stated that the money would go to "those who want to put down drug traffickers and the insurgent." With a population of approximately 22,000, the insurgent movement was not a huge target for the military and consequently combining the economic war against drugs with the political counter-insurgency was unnecessary.

It would not be shocking if the focus of Colombia is shifted again by the tragic events of Sept. 11, combining the war on terrorism with the counter-insurgency war, as the U.S. government is certain not to discriminate between who is the insurgent and who is the terrorist.

Thus far, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN) have rejected the U.S. request to put off all cases and some judges are evicting landlord-tenant court. Some landlord lawyers refuse to lend access to the courts.

All the courts in lower Manhattan reopened a week after the attacks. The stench is a constant reminder of the terrorist attacks.

Some of us are also trying to come to terms with why there are people out there who would do such a terrible act. The simple explanation that some people have been turned into monsters by religion or political ideology just do not explain it. There is some reason for them, but I can't help but wonder what is the motive behind the attacks.

Some people say that it is because of the United States, not because of the Colombian military, the insurgents, or the U.S. government. It is not because of the U.S., but because of the Colombian military, the insurgents, and the U.S. government.

Now you know what a police state looks like.

New Yorker
by the Taliban had sent a million refugees fleeing to Pakistan. The threat of U.S. military intervention has forced many of these million refugees who are now on route to Pakistan which has closed its borders with Afghanistan. What we said after Clinton attacked Sudan and Afghanistan’s Bagram airfield, the publicises—like the bombing of the U.S. embassy in East Africa—that the rulers are seeking to impose is a form of permanent war—has now come to pass. We are being thrust into a new, voracious, and deadly militarism.

THE WAR AT HOME

The rights of this is our rights and liberties at home. For the first time a cabinet-level “Office of Homeland Security” has been created, headed by Tom Ridge. This is a form of internal colonialism with an executive dectation for Mumas Abu-Jamal. Ridge is being given broad powers to impose a form of permanent war on all kinds. An array of restrictions on civil liberties and political rights are being formulated, with little public debate.

The Justice Department has announced new regulations allowing it to detain immigrants indefinitely, without habeas corpus. In New York City, there was a 24-hour deadline to release detainees or charge them with a crime. This is not a new form of permanent war. It is so broad that they may even enable the government to detain an entire ethnic group if it so chooses. What Ridge calls “clearly terrorism” is given wide powers to allow the government to engage in a form of permanent war.

Racial profiling is being openly promoted after coming under scrutiny for criticism from minority communities for its use of stop and search powers. And there are new restrictions on civil liberties. Rights that Americans have fought for over decades and generations are coming under direct attack.

THE Alleged terror attacks of the World Trade Center and a section of the Pentagon handed Bush the greatest gift he could have asked for. It has given him a free hand to rewrite the laws and programs, and bury the memory of his stolen election. On the one hand, he has been shifting the ideological ground and handed the far right one of its greatest victories.

On the other hand, he is exploring counter-sweat-revolutionary forces which threaten to push this entire country back even further.

Inaction CONTRADICTIONS

This does not mean Bush has all the cards in his hands. Forces have been unleashed by the events of Sept. 11.

First, the impact of the attacks will almost surely send the U.S. into a recession. Over 100,000 workers have already been laid off, and it is estimated that up to 500,000 workers will lose their jobs over the next six months. Combined with the cost of rebuilding lower Manhattan—the $20 billion allocated so far is just the beginning of the fall-off of consumer spending and investment resulting from this crisis. The Sept. 11 attacks will usher the U.S. into a full recession.

In the 1990s U.S. economic growth accounted for 40% of the overall growth in the world economy. An economic downturn in the U.S. is sure to have a global impact. The U.S. is a major source of world credit, and the major source of purchasing power. The first world is in for a tough time, especially since the major economic theory are either in a recession or about to enter one.

The U.S. “won” the Gulf War of 1991 by getting Japan, West Europe, and the China to pick up the tune of $100 billion. Where is that kind of money for permanent war coming from today?

Second, world polity—especially Middle Eastern politics—is far too volatile for the U.S. to simply ride roughshod over the governments of the world. Afghanistan was suffering from a deep social crisis even before Sept. 11. Famine, poverty, and repression lead to the growth of fundamentalist parties opposed to the Taliban who control a small Muslim province of Xinjiang.

It is therefore all the more disturbing that some on the Left have only mildly condemned the Sept. 11 attacks. Many on the Left argue that the real culprit is U.S. imperialism, and that an effective opposition to this new militarism will not emerge unless we project a total view rooted not just in what happened on Sept. 11 but over the entire history of U.S. intervention.

This amounts to a bizarre spectacle. While the perpetrators of the Sept. 11 attacks, no matter what their motives, “leftist” commentators from Alexander Cockburn to Naomi Klein are trying to provide the rationale for them. All we need to know, presumably, is that if you are a racist, anti-Semitic, genocidal murderer you are the crimes of U.S. imperialism, and then the reasons for the Sept. 11 attack will become “understandable.” All too many leftists seem to view their role as being conceptual ambassadors for the perpetrators of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Such explanations misconstrue the nature of the forces at work. To say that Islamic fundamentalism is not simply driven by hatred of U.S. imperialism acts against Iraq, Palestine, or against the U.S. But it is as much driven by hatred of feminism, homosexuality, cross-dressing, rock music, and much for the so-called Islamic countries of the world. Nor are these forces simply driven by bin Laden’s presence.

Even more ominously, if Pakistan becomes destabilized because of U.S.-funded camps for the U.S. government, then the Taliban is sure to step in and take power in Pakistan. This is the ground which gives rise both to new Islamic fundamentalism and to new forms of reaction.

The root of the inhumanity unleashed on Sept. 11 is class society and the barbarism intrinsic to it. The imperialist character of the U.S. state and its domination and reaction, forces such as domestic imperialism.

Bin Laden fights the U.S. not from a position of strength but from the weakness of U.S. imperialism. And as long as the U.S. is so dependent on Islamic fundamentalism to prop up its global empire, it will continue to support governments which do its bidding and strike back at the U.S. when it no longer serves its global interests. But as the Taliban and al-Qaida have shown, the U.S. can never be satisfied.

The Taliban and al-Qaida have shown that the U.S. can never be satisfied.

(Continued from page 1)
What kind of 'anti-war movement'?—participant reports

(Continued from page 1)

cy... It had 10 co-sponsors, including the Black, Jew­
ish, Arab, and Christian Student Associations.

The meeting, held in Dr. Bayly's local mosque; Calvin Allen, the Associate Director of the In­
terfaith Program at Memphis, Erubaham, President of the International Student Organiza­
tion, and the head of the Indian Student Association; and myself for New York City Com­mittees.

On Sept 21 VFP met again and broke down into seven working committees, including ones on the efforts of the U.S. military. In this place for discussion, even though it is clear there are many aspirations of the masses of human beings for genuine

However, at the end of the meeting—after half had already left—a member of the International Socialists Organized Group presented it as an "anti-war coalition" and meet the next Sep­tember 19 to make plans for a "peace in the Gulf." The meeting the next Sat­urday was attended by members of the Socialists United, Left to the left, of the group, and dominated by members of the group for the "no war" coalition, and the group of the International Student Organiza­tion, and the event itself.

Before the meeting finally got around to discussing "principles of unity," it set­tled three questions: Bush's drive to war; oppose Bush's drive to war attacks on civil liberties. A member of the New York City Socialists for Justice, at the meeting, stated there that the body must include or else whatever we do will come to naught: namely we have to "unequivocally condemn the Sept. 11 attacks." This was voted down—on the grounds that such a state­ment would "dilute" the group's anti-imperialist mes­sage.

Even more incredibly, another motion saying "we welcome Bush's campaign of Sept. 11" was also voted down, though at least a third of the International Student Organiza­tion, and the majority of the youth, inde­pendent women, students, had and people of color voted for both motions.

Many of those younger anti­globalization activists did not take the floor, even though they were among those taking on their efforts right before Bush. This new "anti-war" coalition was cre­ated that couldn't even bring itself to use the words "terrorism" or extend sympathy to the dead.

The demonstration held the next Monday, Sept. 24, at Union Square. There were 250 there, and virtually no passers-by joined the demonstration.

The limitations of this coalition are obvious! A response to Bush's drive to war to a handful of slogans against U.S. imperialism was not lost on the Tribchen or the New York Times. They were trying to ridicule the demonstration for not mention­ing why Bush and bin Laden must be solidarized with the victims of the Sept. 11 disaster.

Despite this unfortunate turn of events, many among the Chicano, Latino, Anti-Imperialists were discussing taking actions to ensure that opposition to Bush and bin Laden will not be separated from a move­ment for human dignity.

—Terry Moon

CHICAGO CONTRADICTIONS

Chicago. The effort to oppose Bush's drive to war immediately went off a good start in Chicago when 400 attended a meeting at the University of Illi­nois. The paper, the Daily Trojan, wrote: "The school can't be accused of doing nothing to take us backward on racism, sexism, and civil rights.

The inhumanity of class society

(Continued from page 10)

The following night the Show Park rally organizers called for city-wide action.

"War is Not the Answer" and "War = Terrorism x 100." By Monday afternoon people were curious and many more people acknowledged that there was little movement to observe in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. Organizers, mostly Black, Asian and Latino youth, emphasized that it was important that people not respond to the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon with new attacks on innocent others.

A woman from the Arab-American Anti-Discrimina­tion Committee read a statement expressing shock and solidar­ity with Arab-Americans and Muslims following the attacks, as well as the broader crisis of the anti-globalization movement. The vanguardists will be able to win out, how­ever, so long as the movement keeps its distance from ideas that try to project a positive vision of total human liberation. We live at a moment when political opposition must have a total view in order to be effective. We must take a firm stand against all forms of injustice, war and racism. The new wave of U.S. imperialism is being spearheaded by the die-hard racists. We are curious and many more people acknowledged that there was little movement to observe in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. Organizers, mostly Black, Asian and Latino youth, emphasized that it was important that people not respond to the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon with new attacks on innocent others.

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Palestinian-Israeli conflict after Sept. 11

by Kevin A. Barry and Mary Holmes

Immediately following the horrific terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, the reactionary Israeli government of Ariel Sharon took advantage of the situation to escalate its attacks on the Palestinian people. As documented in this report—published on Sept. 14 in The New York Times, a newspaper that is hardly a strong critic of Israel: “A total of 13 Palestinian civilians have been wounded in fighting in Jenin and neighboring villages this week, in what witnesses said was a renewed attack, since the start of the Palestinian uprising nearly a year ago.”

Given the Middle Eastern connection to the attacks:

Ghana's genocide

It is seven years since the Rwandan genocide. When 850,000 people in this small African country, mainly from the Tutsi minority, were slaughtered by the interahamwe—a government militia based among the country’s Hutu majority, in the worst massacre of the century, in what witnesses said was a renewed attack, since the start of the Rwandan uprising nearly a year ago.

One that took an American lawyer with liberal or left credentials would find other things to do than represent a man like Ntakirutama—defending the notorious rape cases, still remain at large nearly six months after the new Serbian government arrested Slobodan Miscevic.

The reasons behind this reveal the limited character of the changes in Serbia in the year since the overthrow of Milosevic. As late as this summer, the two remained extremely popular. It is said that, unlike Milosevic, these men did not murder Serbs, ignoring of course those Serbs who threw in their lot with multi-ethnic Bosnia. In addition, most Serbs continue to deny that their forces perpetrated genocide in Bosnia. An aide to current Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic stated that many go to the government, or does it simply not care about Africa?

Egyptian gays jailed

A 15-year-old Egyptian youth was sentenced on Sept. 19 to three years in prison for “homosexuality” and sentenced to two years to come with an arrest of 52 men last May in a police raid at a Cairo restaurant, a popular gay gathering place.

There is a talk on homophobia in Egypt, and all the men except two were charged with homosexuality offenses, they were nonetheless brought before the Emergency State Security Court usually reserved for those who have offended “national security.”

The media has whipped up homophobia together with angry political articles calling gays to “Zionistism,” and headlines blasting “Become a pervert to please Uncle Sam.” Extremist religious communities have killed a man of education and destruction of gays. Unfortunately, mainstream Egyptian human rights organizations have denied support to the men on trial.

Protests against the trials were held on Aug. 15 in Nagada and Cairo; a small but significant. International support has been organized by Al-Fatia and other gay and lesbian organizations. For more information, contact the Internet’s gay magazine, and Amnesty International, www.amnesty.org.

Serb war criminals

Indicted war criminals Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, directly responsible for the 1995 Srebrenica massacre of 7,000 Bosnian Muslims, are now on trial, as are a man with the notorious rape cases, still remain at large nearly six months after the new Serbian government arrested Slobodan Milosevic.

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What is the Left’s vision of freedom that really narrow, or does it simply not care about Africa?

VW anti-worker pact

In Germany, the powerful autoworkers’ union, IGMetall, agreed in August to the “5,000x5,000” formula proposed by Volkswagen. It passed only with permission of the German Communist, CDU leader Schroeder. Under this plan, VW agreed to create 5,000 new jobs, primarily tied to a new mini-van project, to be paid at the prevailing wages of 5,000 dm (8,250).

In exchange, VW is allowed to extract seven more worker breaks that would otherwise be paid breaks. Pay becomes mandatory. VW will be able to compile union books on how the workers will be paid for, any new work week now in place for these VW workers, and for the next work week, workers now will no longer get paid breaks.

This anti-worker agreement breaks the pattern of international unionism. Why are workers allowed to conduct the operation without them, but because they fear reprisals and attacks. Last week in Berlin and Zagreb, 10,000,000 of NATZ workers and Belgrade, protected by their status as heroes of ‘Greater Serbia’,

Presentation on the Dialectics of Organization and Politics in The Philosophy of History (1843-1857), Marx's Humanism internationally, as in Russia and China. We stand for the same solidarity with the people of the so-called "minorities", what Marx first called a new Humanism. Let's be clear: a new Humanism.

NEWS AND LETTERS COMMITTEES

Who We Are And What We Stand For

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