World capitalism faces global economic slump

by Andrew Kliman

Despite the recent talk about the "end" of the recession, the U.S. economy is not an unusual "synchronized" slump—a fact that is bound to have a long-term impact on the world.

According to the most recent figures, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has fallen for three straight quarters in Japan and two straight quarters in Germany—the world's second and third largest economies. GDP is also falling in France, Italy, and Austria, and its growth is a minuscule 0.1% or less in Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. The "emerging economies" in which GDP is falling include Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Israel, and Turkey.

Official Russian government estimates indicate that its economy, either is falling or not, is not growing; it is either "synchronizing" or "de-synchronizing." The Russian economy might again be heading downward.

A case in point is a U.S. worker, Mario Echazabal, who worked at Chevron's California refinery for some 20 years as a refinery worker. He applied to Chevron for a permanent position with better pay and greater job security.

(Continued on page 3)

Israel-Palestine crisis at boiling point

Words can barely convey our outrage at the actions taken by Ariel Sharon's government against the Palestinians over the past month. In its latest massacre, Israeli soldiers killed at least 200 Palestinians and 350 Jews have died.

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Recapturing the Reasons of Women of Color
by Maya Jhannai

The weekend of March 15-16, I went to the Color of Violence conference held in Chicago, Illinois, attended by 1,400 mostly women of color from around the globe, including in the U.S., are battling fundamentalist and militarism wherever it exists—be it in reactionary state terrorism, to encourage resistance and solidarity across our cultures to create impediments to any revolutionary movements before it is too late.

As a sister of color born in change, I will discuss the important message I got out of the three-day conference. Even though I have, from the time I was very young, resisted the effects of racist, racial, I had not always been able to recognize them as so. I know that, many like myself have been purposely denied access to the vocabulary, awareness, and criti-

In 1970, the Combahee River Collective published their statement, which stated: "Black women are inherently valuable. Our liberation to the more 'important' problems of race, class and nation. Women of color in the 1970s and '80s declared: "Black women are inherently valuable. Our politics was not separate from a liberatory agenda."

Although there was little discussion about fundamentalism and militarism wherever it exists—be it in reactionary state terrorism, to encourage resistance and solidarity across our cultures to create impediments to any revolutionary movements before it is too late.

Women build movement at 'Color of Violence'

Starting on Friday, March 15, one of the largest gatherings of women of color took place at the University of California, Berkeley. I was present last year to speak at this conference. That year, I knew that many, like myself have been purposely denied access to the vocabulary, awareness, and criti-

The first time I became aware of the true nature of racism, the epiphany hit me like this, "Racism isn't about being less intelligent, less capable, or emo-

more than 150 demonstrators in New York City commemorated International Women's Day with a protest against global injustices focusing on the world's sweatshop workers—80% of whom are women. Their march wound through the East Village and SoHo, pausing for a moment of silence at the site of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist fire that killed 146 mainly immigrant women workers.

With the 1996 Welfare Reform Act up for renewal this year, welfare rights activists marched in Washington, D.C., March 5, protesting three proposals of President Clinton: 1) an increase in funding from $135 million to $135 million for abstinence-only sex education programs with no discussion of contraception; 2) financial incentives for states to force African American men into marriage, and 3) a new subminimum wage with no workers' rights as part of the workplace program.
Immokalee tour for Taco Bell boycott

Memphis, Tenn.—The Coalition of Immokalee Workers came to Memphis for the last stop on their national Taco Bell Truth Tour. Fifty workers and their supporters stepped off their buses to spread the word that working conditions under National Civil Rights Museum unfair, often inhuman treatment at all Taco Bells is against the law. After a rally we rallied again 100 for the children. Taco Bell buys tomatoes from a place that is sacred for us. Many years ago Dr. King used to get beat up for fighting for our rights. We can't just walk away. We here are the wind of liberty. We're heading home soon, but that doesn't mean you can just go back to business as workers in the field. We here are the survivors. We have to see that capital has a false face that covers up the sweat and violence in those tomatoes. The bosses sometimes throw us out of here, we're coming back again and again. That's why we're fighting for a better life. In Los Angeles the police tried to break us up and throw us out. If they throw us out of here, we're coming back again and again. Those New York City Trans the police, the New York City Transit Authority. They won't let us eat their food, so we have a right to demand we get the work and we have the right to fight. We won't let management take our rights away from us by controlling the depot chair. We won't let management take our rights away from us by controlling the election vice chair told people not to vote for us, that management was going to run for depot chair as a bus driver for 12 years and management coached him and had him reinstated. He was their candidate. This man has not taken any classes and he may not have any education. Why are you voting for him? He may not have any experience. What he needs is a practical candidate. The election vice chair told people not to vote for us, that management was going to run for depot chair as a bus driver for 12 years and management coached him and had him reinstated. He was their candidate. 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**Editor's note**

The escalating violence in the Middle East, generating headlines and arguments, is an effort to destroy any hopes for a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, makes this an important event in the movement of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The following is excerpt of Ray Dunayevsky's "A Total Uprising: Down with the Perpetrators of the PLO Terrorists and For the Palestinian Nation," October 1982 issue of News & Letters. The piece included material first delivered as part of a Per- speakers' series of meetings committed to a national convention of News and Letters Commiss- Note is by the editors.

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**Stop the slaughter of the Palestinians!**

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**WHY BEING AGAINST WHAT IS, IS INCOMPLETE WITHOUT STATING WHAT IS BEING AGAINST!**

History warns us of other periods which give us his- toric proof that mere opposition to such monstrous degradation does not lead to new societies. On the contrary. It only increases, as was the case of the nation of tyrants that type of bare opposition into one form or another of a half-way house. That is the case will be the failure of bourgeois democracy and when we look at fascism. Both brought on World War II. Such a victory over fascism only led to the rise of the so-called "statist" capitalism—Gaul as well as Stalinism. Indeed, the same is true today.

As we know from World War I, even the magnifi- cant opposition that was successful—the Russian Revolu- tion—once it didn't spread beyond Russia, was just the beginning. Even if the Labor and Social Democratic parties did come out against the imperialist war, they were not in favor of the ending of the era of imperialism. They were just the beginning.

**CONTRADICTIONS IN THE LEFT**

We cannot satisfy ourselves with detailing only what we are against. We also must state the contradictions and the issue is, therefore, whether or not we should support the Palestinians for self-deter- mination. The question of self-determination for Palestinians in the cities is one substantial reason for the totalturnout and the PLO as a bargaining agent lead us to the support of guella Cohen's extreme Right party, Tehiya. In exchange for its three votes, Tehiya was guaranteed several thousand new homes in the occupied region; seven new settlements on the West Bank; and Sharon's sponsorship of the idea of setting the West Bank on the path of Authoritarian purposes.

It was precisely for that aim of annexing the West Bank the Israeli government was taken. It is not just the PLO Begin-Sharon are out to destroy, but the very idea of Palestinian national self-determination. It is why we correctly entitled our Philo- sophic-Political Letter (August 6, 1976): "The Test Not Only of the PLO But of the Whole Left." Because the Left did not meet that challenge but fol- lowed the PLO as its leader we were defeated in our dual battle against Imperialism and Fascism. This was the outcome of the 1975-76 Civil War in the Middle East. The PLO insisted that the test must be, and we were not in favor of the ending of the era of imperialism. They were not in favor of the ending of the era of imperialism.

It is Syria the PLO had dubbed "liberators" instead of a new imperialist force. The great tragedy was that the whole Left—indigenous Lebanese under Jumblatt, Stalinists, Trotskyists—fell into the same trap that we did. We were on the side of the PLO's liberation forces in the world and at the point of production.

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**Raya Dunayevsky**

Chairwoman, National Editorial Board (1955-1987)

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Managing Editor (1955-1980)

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The non-dialectical Marxism of Hardt and Negri

by Kevin Michaels

It would be difficult to identify a recent book of radical theory that has gained as much publicity as Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri's Empire. Recently published in paperback, the book has been widely reviewed and discussed in prominent political and academic circles. The authors, both based in the United States, have written Empire in collaboration with a network of intellectuals, activists, and critics who have contributed to the development of the book's ideas.

Empire is a book that challenges traditional Marxist theory and practice. It is a book that seeks to provide a new understanding of the nature of the global economy and the role of the state in it. The authors argue that the nation-state is no longer the central political unit of the modern world, but that it is being replaced by a new form of global politics that they call "Empire." This form of politics is not characterized by the collective action of a state or a nation, but rather by the actions of individuals, corporations, and organizations that operate on a global scale.

The authors present a number of arguments in support of their views. First, they argue that the nation-state is no longer the determining force in the world economy. They point to the emergence of new forms of capital, such as transnational corporations, that operate beyond the boundaries of the nation-state. Second, they argue that the power of the state is no longer the dominant force in the world. They point to the rise of new forms of political power, such as the internet and social media, that are not subject to the control of the state.

Empire is not a book that seeks to provide a simple solution to the problems of the modern world. Rather, it is a book that seeks to provide a new way of thinking about the world. It is a book that challenges the traditional Marxist view that history is driven by the dialectic of class struggle. Instead, it is a book that seeks to provide a new understanding of the nature of the modern world, and the role of the state in it.

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The threat of nuclear annihilation is more ominous than it has ever been, with the United States and Russia being considered the two superpowers most likely to use weapons not only against President Bush's permanent war, but also against those who dare to challenge their attempts to suppress free speech and civil liberties worldwide. The most frightening terrorists in the world today are not in some foreign country but right here in the United States. The government administration in Washington, D.C. has been able to deflect the Great Depression of the 30s, World War II, the Korean War, Gulf, and Cold Wars, but I am following through today. It is very clear that Bush and his cohorts are determined to establish a new world order unlike anything attempted before. To do that they have a double offensive as we have already witnessed in the Welfare programs that are essential to their survival. I am shocked even though I am not surprised that this kind of "effective" in the sense that the Commu-
nists didn't win. But its meaning keeps changing as a world-emerging in the world and in the way we think of the problems of America and the African-American community and effectively divides a sizable population along racial lines. 

The article in the January-February issue of N&L on "Argentina's Crisis" is bad news for the leaders about where the movement is going. The vanguardist answer is always the need for a central party, independent intellectuals, because they don't have a relation to workers, talk only about the past, and look to Peron for salvation. The crisis here were the people's assemblies of diverse ideology, age, and class meet periodically at a public place like a park to discuss public matters and the papers to be put forward. Members of the assemblies, including the challeges and blame them for producing "chaos." Real democracy remains our biggest utopia.
In her lead article in the March issue, Maya Jhansi's article in the March

"An Appeal for Help from Israel"

Israel is my country but I do not recognize that apartheid is marginalized in society, the majority of whom are women and children. The availability of such information facilitates our efforts for policy change and promotes awareness issues that affect women. NEL is a welcome addition to our resource center.

Maya Jhansi

Memphis

Brown Douglas

The “Women Moving Beyond Violence” forum here was amazing in that many from different backgrounds spoke on different topics, from environmental racism to demanding assimilation to the situation of Afghan women. It showed the movement of the dialectic in women’s fight for gender equality.

A young Black woman founder of Youth Termination Pollution, said that since the “chivalry” of the South and most violent society in the world to this day, we need help desperately to bring this horror to an end.

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Zimbabwe’s dictator Mugabe plays upon western hypocrisy

by Karang

U.S. President George W. Bush, who came to power on the mandate that the U.S. had a right to define the world, is amongst the first Western leaders to condemn the recent Zimbabwean elections. The reaction to react to the situation. Within a short period it had been apparent that the political victory of the Ivorians was undemocratic. Whether Nigeria's half-hearted support for Mugabe, who has no real power to solve the poverty and political oppression, Mugabe's use of the masses' anger with the colonialists, have prevented the MDC from defending the interests of the most deprived. The immediate reaction that many Southern African leaders have taken is to pose a tangible opposition to Mugabe's ZANU party.

Black/Red View

(Continued from page 1)

And even after the U.S. State Department criticized the violent suppression of protesters and the arrest of the MDC leaders, the people of Zimbabwe still marched peacefully to demand their stolen election victory. While the West stands by and looks on. The people of Zimbabwe have been impoverished. The appetite of the corrupt bureaucracy might not survive sanctions, especially if Mugabe decides to do so, he will act with the full knowledge that his power will be undermined. The white minority support for the MDC and the involvement of past colonial masters in the elections was a heavy burden for the Western leaders. Mugabe made a calculated move by having MDC members arrested, detained, and charged on the eve of the election. The MDC has the moral right to be a beneficiary of the suffrage of the Zimbabwean people may be the reason we did not experience another Ivory Coast or Madagascar after the election results were announced.

March for land reform in South Africa

There are no doubt serious concerns. But the history has not been kind to poverty and political oppression. Mugabe's use of the masses' anger with the colonialists, have prevented the MDC from defending the interests of the most deprived. The white minority support for the MDC and the involvement of past colonial masters in the elections was a heavy burden for the Western leaders. Mugabe made a calculated move by having MDC members arrested, detained, and charged on the eve of the election. The MDC has the moral right to be a beneficiary of the suffrage of the Zimbabwean people may be the reason we did not experience another Ivory Coast or Madagascar after the election results were announced.

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**Riots in India leave hundreds dead, thousands homeless**

Fundamentalists turned parts of the western state of Gujarat in India into killing fields in the week following Feb. 27. Allegedly in retaliation for an attack on Hindu revivalsists, the riots left mostly women and children dead, mobs, spurred on by the organized Hindu Right, ransacked the homes, businesses and places of worship of Gujarat’s Muslim citizens. Over 700 were killed in some of the most brutal acts that India has seen in recent years. In the wake of this brutality, more than 35,000 have been left homeless and are now living in refugee camps in their own home state. Muslim businessmen remain shut down in several towns, and property owned by Muslims has been destroyed or damaged.

Many in India feel that the riots in Gujarat were not spontaneous mob actions, but a planned, systematic, genocidal attack. The Muslim mind was polarized in the central government, headed up by a Hindu fundamentalist party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which virtually nothing to stem the tide of violence, and remains apathetic about the inactivity of the police in the face of the violence.

Although India has seen many clashes between Hindus and Muslims, these most recent riots signal something new and ominous. It is the first time that violence has unfolded under a central government headed up by a right-wing Hindu fundamentalist party, with overt ties to militant, terrorist organizations such as the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). With this in mind, the time have India’s secular ideals been so thoroughly threatened.

Following on the heels of the Gujarat massacres, the RSS issued a statement calling for Indian Muslims to “behave” and work “to restore the respect of the nation which is nothing less than a threat. The VHP meanwhile has announced its intention to travel to 750 different cities with the names of the Hindu victims of the Godhra train massacre.

The roots of the current conflict go back to 1992, when the BJP, which is now the ruling party, in the destruction in the 16th century mosque in the city of Ayodhya. Since that incident, which led to the death of over 2,000 people, the movement to destroy the mosque has legitimized itself by winning a majority of seats in the parliament, and by forging ties with other regional parties. Some believe that the Gujarat riots were a response by the Saffron Brigade (a term used to designate the extremist fundamentalists) to the assumption that the BJP suffered in recent assembly elections in four states.

The Supreme Court handed down a verdict that preserved, for the time being, the secular ideal by preventing groups like the VHP and the RSS from holding religious ceremonies on the disputed land surrounding the mosque.

There have been many peace vigils and marches all over India, and calls for the resignation of the Chief Minister of Gujarat, K. R. Advani. It is the Home Minister, L.K. Advani, the leader of the movement that destroyed the mosque in 1992. This shows that the BJP has not succeeded in turning the secular and humanist voice in India. It is misleading to claim that the Indian people are part of any one religion. Although Muslims are a “minority,” they are not the only group of people who define themselves as Indian. One can no more separate Muslim from Indian, than Black from American.

People are demanding that the communalism and militarism that the BJP-led government has fostered for the last five years. With the possibility of nuclear holocaust looming large in the region, there is no time to lose. —Maya Jhansi

**Israel-Palestine crisis at a boiling point**

(Continued from Page 1)

On National Immigrants’ Rights Day, Feb. 20, demonstrators outside of the Federal Building in New York City called for the banning of all immigrants without charges since September 11.

*Bank and Gaza.*

Through all this, the Israeli Labor Party has provided a “left” cover for Sharon by joining his government, thereby destroying its legitimacy. After Bush’s Jan. 29, 1994, security commission in which he named Iraq, Iran, and North Korea as members of the “axis of evil,” Sharon spoke of a “continuous war” against the Palestinians. The Bush administration then went even further, by outlining a revision of U.S. military strategy in a secret report calling for the use of nuclear weapons against Iraq, Iran and North Korea, as well as Russia, China, Libya and Syria. The document, which prophesies developing new nuclear weapons for conducting preemptive nuclear strikes against a host of nations, has shocked even the closest U.S. allies.

**PALESTINIAN QUEST FOR PEACE**

During the past months there have also seen some of the most explicit statements from Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority’s secretary general, Jibril Rajoub, demanding a resumption of negotiations for peace with Israel. In an article published in Ha’aretz in January, Dahlan clearly stated that if Israel were to withdraw to its pre-1967 borders, he would recognize Palestinian sovereignty over the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. This would work out as a just resolution for the plight of Palestinian refugees, the Palestinians would make peace. This was followed by an article in the Jerusalem Post in which he articulated the same position.

Lefflets with the message of peace were distributed to the bystanders throughout the procession. Huge banners declaring “We want peace. Stop polls of Mandir-Masjid” were displayed. Slogans condemning the tendency of inciting communal frenzy, riots and massacres by religious fundamentalists were raised by the participants. They condemned the killings at Godhra and subsequent organized genocide in Gujarat in the name of religion.

The march organized by Secular Citizens Forum, Nagpur to protest the killings of Godhra and Subhas and subsequent massacre and genocide in Gujarat in the name of religion.

The march received stupendous response from the common people, many of whom joined spontaneously. There were banners with the message in the lanes of Mahal and Itwadi in Nagpur on March 9. Hundreds of people were seen carrying placards belonging to all communities turned up in this peace march organized by Secular Citizens Forum, Nagpur to protest the killings of Godhra and Subhas and subsequent massacre and genocide in Gujarat in the name of religion.

The most prominent and the brightest feature of the peace march was the participation of a huge number of women carrying colorful banners and placards, giving lively slogans and singing songs of peace throughout the procession.

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World capitalism faces global economic slump

(Continued from page 1)

even before the recession began, from 10.2% of GDP in 1998 to 10.6% in 2000. The U.S. may have lost 1.7 million, 9% of that sector's total employment, have vanished since July 2000. As of January, 300,000 U.S. workers have been unemployed for so long that they have lost all job-related benefits. For many, this is the first time in their lives they have been unemployed. Further, another 4.2 million workers wanted full-time jobs but were working only part-time in February. An additional 2 million were working full-time while looking for other work. This is the highest number of people looking for a job in 20 years. Analysts foresee 3 million to 4 million workers'real unemployment' by the end of the year.

Thus the key question is how quickly spending will fall back on consumer spending. If growth slows down gradually over an extended period, we can expect an extend­ ed period of slow growth, perhaps below normal. If the savings rate moves back down to its previous high, and the unemployment rate begins to fall, then the recession will reverse and the recovery will begin. A recession is the only way the great majority of the unemployed can get back to work. This will be the event that allows for a sustainable recovery. The safety-net function it performed in the past, that of the state banks boosts them artificially. Partly because of falling prices and partly because of the trade deficits, the yen fell by 25% in the past year. The expansion of the 1990s was largely a matter of the trade surpluses or even a collapse of the banking system.

Sooner or later, the likely result is widespread business and financial distress. Today the work of the Black community includes many different activities. But what Black activists regarding affirmative action efforts, to street demonstrations against police brutality—and yes, the peace movement. We're facing two locomotives speeding on parallel tracks that never meet, while they are in the same direction. One of these is the national movement against global capitalism. It is working until change comes; the other is working hard to get more people to join them. Those who work against it are working to maintain gains in the Black community that was designed to organize against racism, there now is no Black organization that is recognized as a separate group. The movement against global capitalism.

ISSUES AND INSIGHTS

In fact, since the zero-percent loans induced consumers to spend more, and the expected increase in income makes it harder for them to pay off their debts. Thus if deflation in Japan continues much longer, the likely result is widespread business and financial distress. Today the work of the Black community includes many different activities. But what Black activists regarding affirmative action efforts, to street demonstrations against police brutality—and yes, the peace movement. We're facing two locomotives speeding on parallel tracks that never meet, while they are in the same direction. One of these is the national movement against global capitalism. It is working until change comes; the other is working hard to get more people to join them. Those who work against it are working to maintain gains in the...
The Allred gulag is one of the largest prisons in Texas, following a model plan used for dozens of unite state-wide. Thousands of men are housed here and you would not know that by looking around. In the corridors, elevators, and outdoor runways, distinctly unusual, peace, and quiet reign. Once an hour or so, you may see a human wearing a gray uniform scurrying one way or the other. These are guards going to and from sched­ uled breaks.

The reason for the lack of activity is a "lockdown," a moment of absolute, infamously wore. The operation of a community to mean a total and complete freeze on inmate movement and activity.

No inmate is allowed out of his cell except for dire medical emergency. That’s it! No recreation, no show­ ers, no television, no mail, no phone calls, no visitors, no contraband.

The threat of ten stamped envelopes.

From the texas gulag

Everyone was sentenced to Camp J, but all but Her­ man were executed. At Camp J, Herman will lose even the few privi­ leges he is afforded in his current solitary confinement state, CCE. He has already been stripped of all of his property except for writing materials, a dictionary, and a small Bible. The most recent organic checking in his cell was Herman. He will be forced to wear shackles during his three­ hours-per-week of solitary exercise in the fenced-in metal screen that is almost impossible to see through. In the continuation of corrections, and it is a rare occur­ rence to follow standards established by the American Association of State and Provincial Correctional Administrators that have ties to private prison concerns.

Public prisons, with no set guidelines for establishing policies and procedures, are hotbed’s of abuse when controlled by the contracting state (or the host state), but are certified by that association in order to operate or con­ duct business. The association should be used by a private company whose membership has a vested interest in the continuation of corrections, and it is a rare occurrence that the ACA will not certify a prison—even the worst managed.

An inmate in a private prison are— in theory—moni­ tored by the contracting state (or the host state), but this monitoring process is usually a rubber stamp of the contract and has no oversight or facility. After all, no state would ever admit that sending its prisoners to private operators is abusive.

INCRESSING PROFITS AND CONTROL

Private prisons are operated like chain store sub­ sidiaries of a larger corporation, and as profits are not what the industry is all about, the results are often invisible to people, there are incentives to cut corners in an already bare­bones operation.

In some private facilities this means longer hours for staff, prisoner deaths due to poor health care and improper treatment, hiring staff who are not qualified to work in the public sector, and the promulgation of policies and procedures that are abusive even by nor­ mal prison standards.

What do ten embossed stamped envelopes, Source and Vibe magazines, and photographs of happy and healthy Black children have in common? They are all that “they are not forgotten.” Therein lies the true threat—of ten embossed stamped envelopes. After all...if they do care, you will never know it.

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Have I mentioned lonely? Do you know what lonely means? Loneliness is a word created by your idiot cellmate who you want to strangle. No other contact at all with genuine humanity. Everything you eat, drink, write, what you see, what you hear, what is seen, what is heard, is seen, and what is heard. No books, no computers, no TVs in your cell.钢 is perhaps the most regulated prison com­ merce from prisoners or their families. These restrictions come in a variety of ways: limits that gives these authorized vendors unfair advantages.

Anybody who has ten envelopes is perhaps the most regulated prison commerce from prisoners or their families. These restrictions come in a variety of ways: limits that gives these authorized vendors unfair advantages.

The threat of ten stamped envelopes

The National Coalition to Free the Angola 3

Box 221100, Sacramento, CA 95822.

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by Kevin A. Barry and Mary Holmes

In March, as the war in Afghanistan entered its fifth month, reports of U.S. attacks on civilians increased. In the past few days, reports indicate that in a night raid on a village, two women and a child were killed, and that in another attack, five civilians died. In addition, at least 400,000 Afghans have been displaced by the fighting.

The death of Angolan warlord Jonas Savimbi came as welcome news indeed to all supporters of African liberation. Savimbi started his career as a minor leader in the movement against Portuguese colonialism. In 1966, he aligned himself with apartheid South Africa and Mao's China, which was a tool of Russian Communism. This charge was as ludicrous as similar ones South Africa was leveling against the African National Congress at the time. As independence loomed in 1975, he aligned himself with apartheid South Africa and Mao's China, causing the Movement for the Total Independence of Angola (MPLA), which had been promised when workers had grown to 50,000.

According to the Hong Kong-based China Labour Bulletin, "Workers from Xingjiang, Shengli and Liaohe Oilfields stood solidarity demonstrations when they heard about the Daqing workers' struggle. Most significant was their clear demand that the Daqing PAB Retrenched Workers' Provisional Union be authorized to represent their interests. In another city, Liaoyang, 7,000 workers gathered for days outside state-owned factories to protest lengthy delays in receiving wages and unemployment benefits they had earned. Only sell-out unions under the control of the ruling Communist Party are legal in China today. Up to now, attempts to form independent unions have resulted in prison sentences for anticapitalist revolutionaries. Obviously it has sent both an army tank regiment and paramilitary police to Daqing in an attempt to intimidatethe workers.

China oil workers confront the state

Thousands of unemployed workers began to gather outside the headquarters of the Daqing Petroleum Company, on March 1. They were protesting cuts in the payments they had been promised when layoffs came in 1999. At that time some workers had seen seven consecutive packages of several hundred yuan slashed, company officials were awarding themselves huge bonuses and losing millions of dollars in bonuses. By mid-March, the daily crowds of protesting workers had grown to 50,000.

People from more than 20 countries came to Quito, Ecuador, on March 17, in order to protest the capitalist agenda for Social Justice and the Dignity of People protesting Plan Colombia and corporate globalizations, Police, paramilitary and a security guard shot and wounded two people.

Death of Savimbi

The death of Angolan warlord Jonas Savimbi came as welcome news indeed to all supporters of African liberation. Savimbi started his career as a minor leader in the movement against Portuguese colonialism. In 1966, he aligned himself with apartheid South Africa and Mao's China, which was a tool of Russian Communism. This charge was as ludicrous as similar ones South Africa was leveling against the African National Congress at the time. As independence loomed in 1975, he aligned himself with apartheid South Africa and Mao's China, causing the Movement for the Total Independence of Angola (MPLA), which had been promised when workers had grown to 50,000.

According to the Hong Kong-based China Labour Bulletin, "Workers from Xingjiang, Shengli and Liaohe Oilfields stood solidarity demonstrations when they heard about the Daqing workers' struggle. Most significant was their clear demand that the Daqing PAB Retrenched Workers' Provisional Union be authorized to represent their interests. In another city, Liaoyang, 7,000 workers gathered for days outside state-owned factories to protest lengthy delays in receiving wages and unemployment benefits they had earned. Only sell-out unions under the control of the ruling Communist Party are legal in China today. Up to now, attempts to form independent unions have resulted in prison sentences for anticapitalist revolutionaries. Obviously it has sent both an army tank regiment and paramilitary police to Daqing in an attempt to intimidatethe workers.