

MIM Notes



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Ward Churchill speaks in San Francisco

San Francisco, March 25 — Ward Churchill spoke at a fundraiser for AK Press, which published his controversial book *On the Justice of Roosting Chickens*. It was a sold-out event attended by several hundred people, and a lot of media. Before the talk MIM and RAIL activists gathered 119 petition signatures supporting Churchill and calling for the investigation of the University of Colorado Chancellor for violating Churchill's civil rights. Almost everyone in attendance was willing to sign the petition, and we were limited only by the speed with which we could approach people, and the fact that some people were already inside when we arrived a half hour before the event.

Before Churchill spoke, Natsu Saito gave some context to the current struggles. An activist and co-author with Churchill, Saito pointed out that the firestorm over all the academic charges against Churchill is politically fueled, as these are normal disputes in academia, "not the kind of things academics get fired over." Saito, who is also Churchill's wife, testified to the blatantly racist harassment and threats they have received. These include statements like "Shivington should have finished the job," a reference to one of the men who led massacres of indigenous people in North America.

Saito said "of all the charges brought



against him, the one that sticks is the ethnicity one," noting that this underscores the racism in this country. She went on "we are being distracted collectively from the real issue, and not looking at the coordinated attacks on academic freedom." At base, all these attacks on Churchill are distracting us from the real substance of his message, and this, Saito argues, is the goal of the reactionaries.

Both Saito and Churchill commented
Go to 4...

RALLY
Defend Ward Churchill!
Prosecute the civil rights violators!
Saturday, April 16, Noon

San Francisco
16th Street Bart (16th and Mission)
Cambridge
In front of Harvard Science Center
Huntington, Indiana
Hyres Park
(See page 2.)

TWO REAL ISSUES AND FIVE PERSYNAL ATTACKS ON CHURCHILL

Ward Churchill is facing firing at the University of Colorado, originally for his speech about 9/11 called "Some People Push Back." Now there are a series of persynal attacks launched with the design of paralyzing his support, so reactionaries can push through their agenda.

1. He supposedly plagiarized a painting. This is an inherently unprovable charge because the artist is dead, and the law says verbal permission to use an art work suffices. This charge demonstrates the desperate nature of Ward Churchill's critics and their willingness to speculate to achieve their aims.

The charges in Kitty Kelly's book against the Bush family are getting less press, but they have real sources behind them. We can only imagine what articles the press would be full of, if it ordinarily allowed attacks on a Bush or Kerry based on what dead people might have thought but never said. That obviously would open the door to anything.

2. Ward Churchill has had some disgruntled students who say their grades were too low. Show us a professor who does not have some disgruntled students and we'll show you a professor who is not doing his/her job within the existing system as it exists now.

3. A scholar named Thornton says on one website(1) that Ward Churchill screwed up his footnotes on his work in connection to a smallpox epidemic among natives. Yet no one denies there is not now and not prior to now any peer-reviewed published paper on the subject for or against the subject in question. In other words, we have no proof that there is anything abnormal going on. No doubt academia has its humiliating moments. That's normal for academia. It's completely wrong to raise the normal academic processes at this moment as a reason to fire Ward Churchill.

4. The real agenda in the Thornton case

Go to 4...

Los Angeles rally makes a noise against Iraq war

Amerikan rally participants complacent

Hollywood, March 19

MIM distributed an update on the USA Patriot Act and Patriot Act II's assault on civil liberties and immigrant rights at a demonstration marking the second anniversary of the war in Iraq. A lively and overwhelmingly friendly crowd came out on this rainy Saturday, and our flyer drew responses like "oh good, we hate the Patriot Act!" from people as young

as high-school age and up into their 70s.

Now, knowing the Patriot Act is a bad thing and agreeing with MIM that it is principally an attack on non-citizens and activists are two different things. After all, the Patriot Act carries plenty of obviously heinous provisions like allowing the FBI to snoop on what books you borrow from the public library, and there are plenty of anti-Patriot Act resolutions that support the law's call to increase funding for assorted policing activities. Those people who express spontaneous sympathy with radical politics are a good reminder that our responsibility for carrying the revolutionary line increases

with every day imperialism lives on. If a segment of the most bourgeois people on earth is attracted to any aspect of the communist line, we had best



Billionaires for Bush

apply ourselves to the task of showing those people how to get from where their politics are to where the international

Go to 3...

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Defend Ward Churchill!

Prosecute the civil rights violators!

At the request of the Colorado governor, the University of Colorado is considering firing tenured professor Ward Churchill for a speech he made about 9/11 in which he called out civilian Americans for their complicity in this country's imperialist attacks on the world. Churchill compared at least some World Trade Center victims to a Nazi named Eichmann who was a bureaucratic cog in the fascist machine.

The firestorm set off by the lynch mob has resulted in over 100 death threats to Ward Churchill and a generally violent climate resulting in the cancellation of speeches. This is intolerable. The federal government should prosecute the leading activists involved and people on Colorado payroll running this witch-hunt for conspiring to deprive Ward Churchill of his civil rights.

The bureaucratic witch-hunt against Churchill should come as no surprise. Ward Churchill had badly hurt the U.S. imperialists with his past books on government documents related to FBI repression of the American Indian Movement and the Black Panther Party.

Churchill's speech titled "Some People Push Back" came from the quote: "You've got to learn, that when you push

people around, some people push back." Amerika pushes around most of the world, invading countries, aiding brutal military regimes, murdering key politicians, and destroying economies, all in the interests of making a profit. Some of those people being pushed around by Amerikan imperialism are going to push back. The real issue above all others is that Ward Churchill told Americans they have to take responsibility for their own actions. What he said about World Trade Center victims being little Eichmanns was in fact less extreme than what Americans told German civilians after World War II in 1945 and 1946, when there was a collective responsibility movement, the likes of which still present themselves in the commemorations of the Allied bombings of German civilians in Dresden in World War II.

Colorado should impeach its governor for organizing for Ward Churchill's firing. It's a violation of civil rights. The governor of Colorado is not protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution. He is part of the government and the First Amendment contrasts between the "government" and the "people." The governor along with his collaborators on government payroll are organizing this civil

rights violation. The Governor proclaims that taxpayer money is funding Churchill, but the legislature only provides 7% of the University of Colorado's money. What a bunch of cheapskate, posing windbags trying to create the impression that they actually do anything for education by lynching Ward Churchill.

MIM calls on all who want to defend civil rights to defend Ward Churchill. Instead of attacking the messenger (who tells it like it is about Amerikan imperialism) we call for impeachment or prosecution of the civil rights violators, starting with the Colorado governor and the leadership of the University of Colorado.

We call for prosecution of the U.S. government for violating the civil rights of unknown numbers of Arab and Muslim prisoners held in secret without evidence. Prosecute the U.S. government for violating the civil rights of the more than one million oppressed nationality prisoners held in Amerika who never got a trial of their peers and who face discrimination and disproportionate sentencing simply because they are not white nationality. Prosecute the U.S. government for slowly eroding even the facade of protection of civil rights by passing the Patriot Act and related bills. The failure of the government thus far shows it is a participant in civil rights violations.

Three rallies

Saturday, April 16, Noon

San Francisco
16th Street Bart
(16th and Mission)

Cambridge
In front of Harvard
Science Center

*Huntington,
Indiana*
Hyres Park

*Check for the latest news
and events information!*
Get involved!
[http://www.etext.org/
Politics/MIM/
whatsnew.html](http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/whatsnew.html)

Production by MC12

MIM Notes

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

The paper is free to all prisoners, as long as they write to us every 90 days to confirm their subscriptions. There are no individual subscriptions for people outside prison.

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For general correspondence, contact:

MIM
P.O. Box 29670
Los Angeles, CA 90029-0670
eMail: <mim@mim.org>
WWW: <<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/>>

What is MIM?

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) is the collection of existing or emerging Maoist internationalist parties in the English-speaking imperialist countries and their English-speaking internal semi-colonies, as well as the existing or emerging Maoist Internationalist parties in Belgium, France and Quebec and the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist Internationalist parties of Aztlan, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.S. Empire. MIM Notes is the newspaper of MIM. *Notas Rojas* is the newspaper of the Spanish-speaking parties or emerging parties of MIM. MIM upholds the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and is an internationalist organization that works from the vantage point of the Third World proletariat. MIM struggles to end the oppression of all groups over other groups: classes, genders, nations. MIM knows this is only possibly by building public opinion to seize power through armed struggle. Revolution is a reality for North America as the military becomes over-extended in the government's attempts to maintain world hegemony. MIM differs from other communist parties on three main questions: (1) MIM holds that after the proletariat seizes power in socialist revolution, the potential exists for capitalist restoration under the leadership of a new bourgeoisie within the communist party itself. In the case of the USSR, the bourgeoisie seized power after the death of Stalin in 1953; in China, it was after Mao's death and the overthrow of the "Gang of Four" in 1976. (2) MIM upholds the Chinese Cultural Revolution as the farthest advance of communism in human history. (3) As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM has reiterated through materialist analysis, imperialism extracts super-profits from the Third World and in part uses this wealth to buy off whole populations of oppressor nation so-called workers. These so-called workers bought off by imperialism form a new petty-bourgeoisie called the labor aristocracy. These classes are not the principal vehicles to advance Maoism within those countries because their standards of living depend on imperialism. At this time, imperialist super-profits create this situation in the Canada, Quebec, the United States, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Israel, Sweden and Denmark. MIM accepts people as members who agree on these basic principles and accept democratic centralism, the system of majority rule, on other questions of party line.

"The theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin is universally applicable. We should regard it not as dogma, but as a guide to action. Studying it is not merely a matter of learning terms and phrases, but of learning Marxism-Leninism as the science of revolution."

- Mao Zedong, Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 208.

2,000 rally against war on Iraq

Second anniversary of land invasion of Iraq

Boston, March 20

MIM attended a rally on the Boston Commons of about 2000 people against the u.s. war on Iraq. Among the speakers was historian Howard Zinn. According to him, 600 towns and cities inside u.s. borders held rallies against the war the weekend of March 19-20.

A number of political tendencies in the anti-war movement were present at the Boston rally. We had the “peace is patriotic” crowd. For the patriots, the focus was on the u.s. troops dead, not the countless Iraqis. There was an exhibit with the face of every dead soldier near coffins with u.s. flags. An activist working on international issues confided in MIM that he wished we would jointly approach the coffins and rip off the u.s. flags to raise the profile of the Iraqi dead.

One of the main organizers of the event was a young womyn. She took pains to say it was a “lie” that today’s youth are politically inert in the united States, because the rally had youth leaders joined by the older generations. At the same time, she made it a point that there were a number of parties scheduled for anti-war benefits in the coming months. The rally also featured several excellent musical performances.

A 73-year-old Black Korean War veteran voiced his disgruntlement to MIM as he was leaving the rally. He kept saying that thousands of Iraqis were dying and it’s a “very serious matter.” He contrasted that with what he called the “entertainment” approach he saw at the rally.

There were also flyers for “Hip Hop Anonymous” in which an upcoming musical presentation had advertisements

featuring people confessing that they cannot go anywhere or do anything without seeing hip hop music.

MIM’s position is that the leisure-time dynamic does work against us in the majority-exploiter countries. However, it’s not exactly the same problem as profits, oil and contract salaries arising from war. At times, the leisure-time dynamic does pose problems for the imperialists as well.

Chanting “out of the rally and into the streets,” some anarchist youth marched around the rally circle attempting to draw off rally participants for a march. Eventually, the organizers did march past the military recruitment center nearby and through the streets of the Boston area.

At the end, we had discussions with some people about whether it is appropriate for people living within the borders of the united States to take responsibility for their government’s

actions; even though we oppose them. We pointed out that spiritual or political purity of the individual is not the objective: being done with imperialism is the goal.

The problem with the prevalent Amerikan “left” view is that it substitutes any standard of ineffective spiritual purity for actually getting the job done of ending the imperialist wars. That’s another reason it’s a good idea in the majority-exploiter countries (and not in the majority of the world) to encourage people to say “we” when we take responsibility for living in an oppressor nation. Listening to death metal or hip hop and thinking well of the Iraqi people is not enough. Until we get the job done, we have to say “we” and take the blame and when u.s. imperialism does fall, we will still have an obligation to speak straightforwardly about the history preceding that collapse.

Uncle Sam Regularly Tortures and Kills Prisoners

by mousnonya

At least 26 prisoners in u.s. custody have been tortured to death during the war of terror.(1) This is by u.s. military and civilian agencies’ admission.(2)

MIM wants to point out to the reader some facts: 1) The imperialists lie. They will say whatever they need to justify wars of aggression. In Iraq it was the lie of “weapons of mass destruction”. The c.i.a. itself admits that Iraq had no “weapons of mass destruction”.(3) 2) The imperialists regularly ship prisoners to imperialist lackeys for torture.(4) These 26 dead are only the ones in u.s. custody. We don’t hear about all the victims, for obvious reasons.

International law universally condemns torture. Yet the u.s. government at Abu Ghraib and Bagram(5) regularly tortures and kills persyns. The united States regularly violates international law.

When the united States claims to be upholding “freedom,” it is lying. The u.s. government claims to be fighting for

“freedom.” In fact it is like Orwell’s 1984: the imperialists want the freedom of capitalists to rape and enslave around the globe. Their motto might as well be “war is peace”—because that is all the imperialists offer— war after war. In reality, the u.s. is not upholding “freedom” or “democracy” or “international law”: the united States is upholding one thing and only one thing— corporate profits, which are extracted from the Third World through “loans,” arms sales, structural adjustment programs, the world bank, slave labor and resource exploitation.

MIM mourns the death and torture of all u.s. prisoners whether in camps at Guantanamo(6), at Abu Ghraib(7), in “Hotel California”(8) or in the u.s. prisoner plantations in the empire itself(9). These deaths grease the wheels of capitalism. The imperialists are torturing foreigners today: tomorrow we expect them to start torturing amerikans just as happened in u.s. puppets Chile, Argentina and Indonesia. This happens because

resource dependency and overextension of u.s. imperialism continue to erode amerikans power.

Get smart. Organize resistance. End imperialism before it ends you.

Notes:

(1), (2) ‘26 criminal homicides in US military custody’, Agencies, Wednesday March 16, 2005, The Guardian, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,12271,1438982,00.html>

(3) CIA Admits: No WMD in Iraq MIM Notes N. 314, 15 Feb. 2004 <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/mn314.pdf>

(4) Craig Whitlock, WashingtonPost.Com, 12 March 2005, Europeans probe CIA role in abductions <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7164399/>

(5) Prisoners ‘Killed’ at US Base, BBC News, Mar. 6, 2003, http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/2825575.stm

(6) MIM U.s. rulers pull legal tricks, fool Amerikan public, anger the world, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/sept112001/lindhpow.html>

(7) Abuse of Iraqi prisoners: the U.s. prison connection by MC17 & MC5 <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/iraqprisonconnections.html>

(8) Welcome to CIA’s Hotel California, Sydney Morning Herald, Mar. 4, 2003, <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/03/04/1046540174835.html>

(9) A HISTORY OF AMERIKKKA’S OPPRESSIVE CONTROL UNITS by an Iowa Prisoner, Oct. 18, 1995 (reprinted from MIM Notes) <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/controlunits/ctrlunithistory.html>

Los Angeles rally makes a noise against Iraq war

From L...

proletariat is.

The Most Entertaining Demonstrators award goes to the Billionaires for Bush(1) — who came dressed in top hats and tails, carrying a banner and wearing pins that read “Four More Wars.” Theirs was the only street theater MIM saw at the demo — they gave a little speech thanking the audience for supporting the billionaires with their taxes and children’s lives, and ended with a chant of “Where’s our oil? In Iraq! We gotta bring that oil back, bring it back!”

While watching these guys was a good time and they clearly have some correct things to say, their politics are just another entry in the Bush-is-the-problem catalog.

More importantly, “the billionaires” thing, though catchy, ignores the fact that most everyone in this country but prisoners and undocumented laborers is living off the labor of the international proletariat. The idea of a handful of billionaires supported by the rest of our supposedly-productive labor is attractive to the broad and varied u.s. labor aristocracy and petty-bourgeoisie, who would rather not be confronted with the ugly truth of their own interest in their government’s crimes. But it is MIM’s responsibility to organize from the basis of our material conditions, not to try wishing imperialism out of existence.

Most Amerikans profit from u.s. militarism,(2) of which the Iraq war is only one instance. The buck-passing

“he’s not my president” and “I didn’t vote for his daddy, either” lines are good examples of why MIM needs to be out there insisting that Amerikan anti-war protesters take responsibility for our failure to stop the Iraq war. Take the Carmela Soprano analogy: just because Tony is the one bringing in cash by demanding bribes or killing people, doesn’t mean you get to spend it with a clear conscience. Those activists who say the Amerikan people can separate themselves from their government’s actions are lying to either themselves or the masses.

Notes:

1. <http://billionairesforbush.com/index.php>

2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/milit/iraqwar030905.html>



Ward Churchill speaks in San Francisco

From 1...

on the distressing number of progressive people who say they agree with Churchill's message but disagree with the words he used. As Saito noted, "People who speak less effectively than Ward Churchill don't get attacked, we just get ignored." This is a good way of describing what we Leninists call the "opportunism" problem. The dying of 500,000 Iraqi children and even some Amerikan soldiers is not a time to be polite and thus ignored as the oppression machine grinds on.

Churchill, greeted by a standing ovation from most of the audience, opened his talk by noting that he has been trying for 20 years to get the attention of the media on actual content issues, and now the media latches onto "little Eichmanns." We would point out that anyone who tries to get the bourgeois media's attention is going to fail and no strategy should base itself on any notion of influencing the media without having an independent basis of power. Churchill does write for many independent presses and he should stick with that and the rest of us who do not write should support the independent media and organizations of the oppressed.

Rightly angered by the many reporters and bloggers who have made their careers over the past few months spreading lies and rumors about him, Churchill noted that there were many from the media who had traveled far to attend this talk. All the reactionaries in government and the University have gotten a lot of help from the media in their attacks. Churchill's driving record has been published; his high school football team record has been spread across the web (which was apparently quite bad), along with anything else the press can dig up that might make him look bad. But as Saito pointed out, almost no one in the media is talking about the large body of important political writing from Ward Churchill.

So Churchill went on the attack and called out Charlie Brennan, a reporter from the Rocky Mountain News who has been a willing mouthpiece for attacks on Ward. After asking Brennan to stand up and identify himself, Churchill threw out a few ridiculous persynal attacks to demonstrate the idiocy of the current media attacks on himself including: "Are you still beating your wife?" "I want to see proof that you are white!" and "You purport to be a man..." Churchill asked Brennan how he likes being on the receiving end of ridiculous and unfounded attacks to which he does not get the chance to even respond. "This is idiotic journalism, and I expect a job at the Rocky Mountain News when I get back" said Churchill.

Churchill pointed out that Leonard Peltier is still sitting in prison for a crime not even the prosecutors believe he committed, as a symbol of the arbitrary ability of the government to repress those who oppose it. "They don't charge you

ultimately with what it is they are after you for...sedition..." The government charges you with things that sound unsavory instead. That's a really good point about the system, especially prisoners, who we often hear are not political prisoners in the United States. It's just that Amerikans go about sliming their quarry a different way than other countries.

Addressing one of the favorite attacks by the racist anti-Churchill lynch mob, Churchill discussed his Cherokee heritage. One popular myth is that Churchill came up with this nationality to get a job in academia—in which case academia would already be full of fake indigenous professors, which it is not. He pointed out what a long con this must have been, since, at age 10 he started identifying as indigenous. About these attacks on his nationality and the University of Colorado's committee deciding whether or not they are true, Churchill said: "What kind of lunatic asylum are we living in where this is treated as credible...and up to a committee to determine."

During his talk and during the question and answer period Churchill addressed the "little Eichmann's" statement that has been the focus of much of the recent furor. First Churchill clarified that Eichmann did not kill Jews. He arranged train schedules and shipments of gas and other necessary bureaucratic tasks that kept Nazi Germany running smoothly. "Eichmann symbolized the technicians who manufactured the gas, all those others who were only technicians doing their jobs who turned a blind eye to the carnage that could not have happened without them performing their jobs."

"The Eichmann mentality is everywhere" said Churchill. He went on to detail the 500,000 needless deaths of Iraqi children, in just five years of an embargo—deaths that Secretary of State Madeline Albright openly admitted to knowing about but said were worth the price. And the deaths of Palestinian children killed for throwing rocks during the Intifadah, and deaths of so many others around the world at the hands of imperialism. Churchill doesn't let the Amerikan citizens off the hook for just doing their jobs. He pointed out that the persyn buying a loft in SoHo can do so only because of the people dying around the world for the maximization of profit of Amerika. And he attacked those who protest that they didn't vote for Bush so it isn't their fault, saying "the lesser of evils is evil" and complacency "justifies maintenance of the status quo" a status quo that allows the Amerikan people to maintain their privilege.

Churchill went further with this analogy proclaiming "you can not be innocent in this country"...you are guilty if you are a perpetrator." If you are not a perpetrator, "you may not be guilty but you are not innocent, you are responsible. If you are not working to transform this

system, you are guilty." Churchill would not let any Amerikans off the hook "We are all beneficiaries, we have the obligation to oppose." And finally: "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. You're Eichmann or you're not."

Churchill was asked how far the little Eichmann analogy extends by someone who seemed to think driving cars and participating in the system was the problem. He responded "You can't disengage from the environment while fighting against it. . . . You could turn it into a lifestyle thing, but you change nothing, while being pure in nothingness. . . . It's not about personal purity. It's about being effective." Churchill was underscoring the point that you need a place to live and transportation and food to be effective in the struggle. Revolutionaries must use whatever we can within the system in our fight against the system.

During the question and answer period, which was by written submitted question only, a question from this MIM reporter was selected first: "Can you comment further on the parasitism and complicity of all Amerikan citizens, not just those working for the government or the war machine?" Churchill responded "It is the pretense that there is some exceptionalist dynamic that invades the U.S." Amerikans think they are uniquely noble, and this pretense filters down to all levels of society and even to progressive activists who will support anti-imperialist struggles in other countries. "We're in solidarity with movements of armed struggle everywhere but here...Not here because it entails risk." Churchill was clear that the United States needs to get out of other countries, but also out of this country, and this is a battle we must support. "If that means people got to suffer here, then they brought it on themselves. . . . Unless you've got an answer to the problems being addressed by the likes of the Black Liberation Army, all you have a right to do is support them."

Another question from the audience was "what can be done to effect change?" Churchill's response: "Stop asking what can be done and start doing some of it...That's the kind of question I never get in the Third World." MIM agrees, in this country we have so many potential points of attack, and it is essential that revolutionaries take leadership for themselves rather than sitting around helplessly waiting for some higher power to tell them what to do. Churchill's message was to take on winnable battles and build from there to a movement that can exercise power to effect change.

Churchill noted that in many ways this attack on him was unprecedented in Amerikan history. Even looking to the McCarthy years, they didn't have the resources or communication methods to launch such a quick and coordinated attack. In some ways it is a testimony to

his life's work: "If they generate this much against you, they consider you effective." But it is also something that both he and other activists need to learn from. And while the regents committee at the University of Colorado had, the day before, conceded that Churchill could not be fired for his statements about 9/11, he was clear: "Yesterday they conceded on academic freedom. Don't let this fool you." This battle will go on.

ISSUES ATTACKS ON CHURCHILL

From 1...

is demonstrated by the letter writing campaigns that claim Ward Churchill "made up" "the story" about smallpox infected blankets given to indigenous people by whites. That agenda is holocaust denial, the denial of the holocaust of native peoples in North America. This kooky agenda is in the open at the Denver radio station KHOW featuring reactionary Craig Silverman. The web page there denies there was a genocide against indigenous peoples.(2)

5. They say Ward Churchill is not a "real Indian," but not one of these desperate critics has offered a family tree for Ward Churchill disproving his claims. Again, it's all the realm of speculative slander by people who cannot win an argument. At the same time, bureaucrats in the specific Cherokee band in question and across the country are applying for money in new federal programs. It is their motivations that should be questioned, not Churchill's, especially since the original subject was 9/11.

The real issue above all others is that Ward Churchill told Amerikans they have to take responsibility for their own actions. What he said about World Trade Center victims being little Eichmanns was in fact less extreme than what Amerikans told German civilians after World War II in 1945 and 1946, when there was a collective responsibility movement, the likes of which still present themselves in the commemorations of the Allied bombings of German civilians in Dresden in World War II. We did not see any of these Republican windbags get up and call the mayor of Dresden a "terrorist" or "terrorist-sympathizer," for saying something more extreme about a larger massacre of civilians than what Ward Churchill said. These Republicans are too busy covering their asses for sympathizing with Hitler in the first place and dragging out opposition to u.s. entry into World War II.

It does not surprise us that the hardcore Republicans and unreconstructed McCarthyists oppose Ward Churchill along these lines, because they're still resentful for being exposed that

Next page...

Once again on Ward Churchill's indigenous identity

By a contributor March 25, 2005

After a seven-week long "investigation," that did not involve any interview with Churchill, The University of Colorado Board of Regents has adopted the strategy of saying that Ward Churchill's speech in his essay "Some People Push Back" is no longer the issue, but only his disputed indigenous ancestry and alleged plagiarism. That way, the Board may think if it fires Churchill, it will be more difficult for Churchill to sue for violating his civil rights. Trickster Phil DiStefano and others must be prosecuted for conspiring to violate Churchill's civil rights.

As Ward Churchill's attorney David Lane recently said and MIM Notes pointed out before that, "[e]ven if the university could prove that Churchill isn't an Indian, it would then have to prove 'that he knew he's not an Indian,' Lane said. 'So I wish them the best of luck.' "(1)

Ward Churchill's detractors on the identity "question" need to put out or shut the h*ll up. If they cannot actually prove that Churchill lied about his indigenous ancestry, which is not always decisive in indigenous identity anyway, then they should butt out.

The media has completely contradicted itself on such presumably basic questions as what was Churchill's status in the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee. Some say that "the tribe's principal chief told CU that Churchill is [currently] an honorary associate member, not an enrolled member." (1) David Yeagley

claims that "in 1996, all such memberships were revoked, and the records were destroyed. This, according to Keetoowah tribal employee Marilyn Craig, is the state of affairs." (2) But according to another news story, former UKC enrollment committee member Ernestine Berry said "The tribe no longer offers associate memberships, although it didn't revoke any existing memberships, Berry said." (3) Another news article confirms that Berry "said Churchill is no longer listed on any tribal rolls, even though his associate membership has never been revoked." (4) Patti Jo King completely fumbles and suggests that the issue is whether Churchill is enrolled in the Cherokee Nation, but Churchill has never claimed to be fully enrolled in any blood-based indigenous nation bureaucracy, and even his 1980 resume distributed by his enemies shows that, that he said he was "unenrolled." (His enemies are far from being able to understand potential reasons for that.) Also, the Cherokee Nation (as an organization which must be distinguished from the ethnicity) is not the same thing as the UKC. (5) From the article by Patti Jo King, we're not even certain a regular writer for "Indian Country" knows the difference between an organization and a nationality. In fact, as is typical of Churchill's indigenous critics generally, Patti Jo King takes a different political approach than Ward Churchill and says nothing about the "crafty American government" herself. It goes to show that these issues are delicate even for indigenous people

themselves, and not appropriate for lynch mob review.

David Yeagley claims that Marilyn Craig said the associate UKC memberships were revoked in 1996. But Jefferson Dodge, reporting on Craig's statements, only paraphrased Craig as saying that "the group stopped offering associate memberships in 1996." (6)

This writer could not find independent confirmation of David Yeagley's purported private conversation with Marilyn Craig. (7) We suspect the media goes easy on Yeagley and similar detractors, unlike how the media treats Churchill, because Yeagley is a Republican as are most media customers in the Rockies, so the media's motivations have to be questioned too. If the media want to make an entertainment affair of persynal attacks to make a buck, the media should spread the attacks evenly!

It is not clear from the lynch mob's media what is going on with the associate membership status issue: maybe someone removed records of Ward Churchill's associate membership after the original stories about his Dark Night essay broke, or Churchill just didn't know that the records were destroyed. The fact that Churchill could not even know about the records demonstrates the artificial nature of the identity attack on him. The whole controversy demonstrates the lack of thinking process by Churchill's critics. All they have proved with their hack jobs is that it is possible to manipulate enrollment bureaucracies. In the end, Uncle Sam does not decide who is indigenous and

who is not anyway: no nation in the world operates that way. More importantly, considering that the University of Colorado hired Churchill in 1978 and offered him tenure in 1991—long before the bureaucratic and after-the-fact political process in 1996 concerning his identity described by Yeagley—the whole discussion is irrelevant. It only tends to prove that Ward Churchill has been attacked for his views and then smeared persynally through his whole long career. The real story is why anyone on the enrollment committee would change his/her minds about his associate membership—and the motivations for that, again if a sport of persynal attacks is the bourgeois media's business.

It is clear that the detractors' accusations, insinuations, innuendo and outright lies about Ward Churchill's indigenous identity are baseless. Churchill has never claimed to be fully enrolled in any federally recognized or State-recognized "tribe" though he probably could have enrolled in the organization called "Cherokee Nation" for instance. For certain reasons he applied for membership in the UKC instead even though the UKC has a relatively restrictive blood quantum requirement. Again, Churchill has a long history of opposing the blood quantum practices and the whole bloodline theory, as well as advocating the concept of nation, instead of tribe, in indigenous identity. Churchill has been talking about these things for years. It's nothing new.

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ISSUES AND ATTACKS

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Republicans did not support going into World War II. Not only that, but Ward Churchill hit these same types of reactionaries back with their own Ayn Rand garbage in the major speech in question.

Now had Ward Churchill forgotten World War II and its embarrassments to the Republican Party and had he not used Ayn Rand to apply to Amerikans, we can be sure the furor would be less than half if existing at all. The nerve that Ward Churchill has to take the reactionaries' own words about Germany and throw them back as applying to Amerikans, as if Amerikans were not the greatest thing since sliced bread.

The governor of Colorado should have been impeached by now for organizing for Ward Churchill's firing. It's a violation of civil rights and no, the governor of Colorado is not protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution. He is part of the government and the First Amendment contrasts between the "government" and the "people." That's real issue number one, the governor along with his collaborators on government payroll organizing this civil rights violation. One does not get to use government office to organize action and then claim it was

just speech.

Along these unconstitutional lines, of using government office to violate the First Amendment, the legislature attempted to cut the University of Colorado's budget. That is the second real issue—the funding of universities and who is paying for professors. Distorted as it is in the question of a vendetta against one man, even this vendetta turned out to be hot air when the public learned that the legislature only provides 7% of the University of Colorado's money. What a bunch of cheapskates, posing windbags trying to create the impression that they actually do anything for education by lynching Ward Churchill.

The Ward Churchill case is indicative of Amerika as a whole. There is no denying that there is something very much like Amerikan office politics going on here. Attack and fail and then slime. It goes to show that people sitting around in offices across Amerika have nothing better to do but speculate how Churchill might have plagiarized a dead man or that he made up being of indigenous heritage.

Notes:

1. http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2005/02/09/churchill2_9
2. <http://www.khow.com/hosts/caplis-silverman.html> linking to <http://hnn.us/articles/7302.html>

Iraq War rally participants sign Churchill petition

Bay Area, California
March 19

MIM collected more than 100 signatures on the petition demanding an end to persecution of Professor Ward Churchill for his speech about 9-11. Churchill is a tenured professor at the University of Colorado, who is in danger of losing his job because he made a speech (three years ago) that the University administration does not agree with. Churchill's speech exposed the complicity of the Amerikan people with Amerikan imperialism's brutal attacks on the world's people. MIM agrees with Churchill's statements on this topic, but we call on all people who value freedom of speech and academic freedom to join us in defeating this attack by University Chancellor Phil DiStefano and the Governor of Colorado, Bill Owens.

The petitioning, at an anti-war rally commemorating the beginning of Amerikan attacks on Iraq, was popular with most of those in attendance. Many people recognized Churchill's name and stopped to sign the petition without asking questions, and others only needed a little information to remember that they had

heard about this ridiculous witch hunt of an anti-imperialist activist. At times people lined up around the petition eager to put their name down in support of this battle. We only remind all petition gatherers to tell people that we are going on the offensive by asking for criminal prosecution of the conspirers against Ward Churchill's civil rights.

Only a few people had any disagreement with the petition. One womyn said she disagreed with what Churchill said but still signed the petition because she thinks he should be allowed to speak freely. A Jamaican man, who also signed the petition, argued that Churchill's statements were "insensitive" to the relatives of those killed in the 9-11 attacks. The petitioner argued that if the statements were correct, we can not afford to be worrying about sensitivity when it is a question of life and death. It would be even more "insensitive" to the people of the world being murdered by Amerikan imperialism not to speak out loudly and clearly as Churchill did.

White nationalists pretend to support indigenous North Americans

By a contributor, March 19, 2005

[The following article concerns the case of Ward Churchill, a professor at the University of Colorado that the governor of Colorado is attempting to get fired for a speech he made on 9/11.]

It appears that most high school and college students today cheat, and that many college instructors who are aware of cheating among their students are unwilling to deal with the problem.(1) Many college students who do cheat plagiarize written material. Most college students do not even think Internet plagiarism is a "serious issue." While professors seem to be held to higher standards than students, it comes as no surprise that many bloggers as well as journalists have latched onto the allegations of plagiarism against Ward Churchill, who has unequivocally disputed the tenuous claims. Yet, the various uninformed bloggers and columnists keep repeating the allegations as if they were true.

Chalk it up to plagiarists' guilt, which they are projecting onto Churchill. They copy each others lies, doing little to none of their own research and often failing to even cite each other as sources. The patently false "interpretation" of Ward Churchill's "Some People Push Back" essay as saying that all the World Trade

Center dead were little Eichmanns is common. As another example, Churchill has in various places, including *Indians Are Us? : Culture and Genocide in Native North America* (1993), discussed how in his childhood and as a teenager, he was encouraged in different ways to develop an indigenous identity. Yet, National Review editor Rich Lowry insinuates that Churchill never identified as being indigenous before applying for a position at the University of Colorado.(2) Churchill has written extensively on why it is not valid to use blood quantum to determine a person's membership in an indigenous nation. His aversion to the blood quantum and "tribal" affiliation questions are nothing new.

Ward Churchill, like other North American indigenous persons, finds the blood-quantum question to be particularly objectionable for several different reasons and will refuse to answer it except to dismiss the question. Yet, Lowry takes Churchill's refusal to pin himself down on the question out of context in order to portray him as a "shaman" who is avoiding exposure. Lowry goes as far as suggesting that people who are not fully enrolled members of government-recognized tribes do not deserve to call themselves indigenous. Apparently, how indigenous persons view themselves is not

important, only their blood quantum or official indigenous statuses. There are a number of reasons for the growth since 1960 in the number of indigenous persons counted by the census, including a resurgence of indigenous identity among persons who have dispersed away from reservations.(3) Furthermore, "previous scholarship about the inconsistency of census counts of Indians has established clearly that census counts of Indians increased sharply because of changes in ethnic classification" (p. 638).(3) Since 1960, the ways in which indigenous persons are classified has changed. For Lowry to suggest that those who now self-identify as indigenous, when they were not counted as indigenous before, are just shamans or wannabes is misleading.

Something else that also needs to be considered is that increased indigenous self-identification in the census may represent a polarization of the population into the Euro-American nation and First Nations (as well as other nations, such as the Black nation). For the additional indigenous persons since 1960 who "cannot be accounted for by the usual explanations of population growth" (p. 947), Joane Nagel has argued that the growth that is unexplained by population growth can be explained by federal policy,

increased "ethnic" consciousness relating to the civil rights movement, and indigenous political activism.(5) The notion that there are only shamans/wannabes, on the one hand, and persons who have always been organically connected to First Nations, is oversimplistic and a distortion of reality.

"[T]he American Indian population includes many individuals with multiracial ancestry who must choose their racial identification. . . . beginning in the 1960s there has been a shift from negative to sympathetic and romanticized views of Indians in popular culture."(5) We should also remember that many white nationalists have had a hypocritical attitude toward oppressed nationalities, at times defending the "purity" of oppressed nations' blood, at other times stabbing oppressed nationalities in the back figuratively and literally. For instance, more than a hundred years ago, even "anti-racist" anthropologist Franz Boas considered "how far it is desirable to promote mixture between the Indians and other races. It is clear that, with the increase in settlement in our country, the chances for the Indian to survive as an independent race will become slighter and slighter. The opinion is frequently held that half-breeds . . . are much inferior in

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Once again on Ward Churchill's indigenous identity

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Thanks to colonialism- and imperialism-caused displacement, assimilation and genocide (and other reasons that even David Yeagley mentions but which Yeagley does not get into the implications of), it is difficult for many First Nations people to obtain official recognition for their blood quantum even if they wanted to cooperate with the Uncle Sam-controlled bureaucracy and go that route. This is partly why blood quantum for example continues to be controversial among many First Nations people. The other issue is that definite indigenous ancestry is not necessarily decisive in indigenous identity. This is not the same thing as saying that a Euro-American should be allowed to declare him or herself indigenous whenever wanted. As Yeagley unintentionally shows with his after-the-fact manipulation of one Cherokee bureaucracy, it is probably much easier to fake blood than it is to fake culture. All it would take is getting a bureaucrat to change a lineage report on a card somewhere—something these critics are not mentioning anywhere, because of their crypto-Nazi agenda.

Whether someone is really part of any First Nation depends on multiple criteria, and not just blood quantum— unless the First Nation in question decides it should be just blood. The whole associate membership question concerns only one bureaucracy for one part of the Cherokee nation as an ethnicity.

Only racials believe that indigenous people should be denied the right to call themselves indigenous if they are indigenous in every other way but unable to conclusively prove their definite indigenous ancestry. The American Indian Movement of Colorado, Russell Means and Ward Churchill have, before January 2005, said it is possible to prove Churchill's ancestry and even blood quantum in the official senses of the term, but Churchill is understandably unwilling to indulge the various white nationalists who insist on harassing him about disclosing his ancestry and ridiculing him as a "little Injun that could" for not proving his First Nations blood in the eyes of the white man. It is just disgusting racist ignorance saying that the only thing that matters is blood in indigenous identity. It paves the way for people to make comments such as it is okay for Kyle Cline to portray Chief Illiniwek as a university sports mascot because Cline has Illini ancestry (<http://www.ece.uiuc.edu/ingenuity/1103/top-scouts.html>). Ward Churchill does not have to prove anything to crypto-Nazis in the white nation and they certainly have not proved a thing against him.

It's time the media ceased its bias and started covering the lack of proof of the attackers and started questioning their motivations instead of spending time solely attacking Ward Churchill personally. The Republican Party activists are seeking to stir up white votes with their (native) holocaust denial and attacks on indigenous people as "fakes."

Simultaneously this is how Republicans exact revenge and make excuses for why the academic world provides so little support for Republican Party ideology.(8) Meanwhile, others attacking Ward Churchill are busy seeking money for new programs from these same Republicans. To these critics worried about the political fall-out, we say that the ability to fight for the truth is more important than Uncle Sam's welfare programs.

Notes:

1. "CU's Churchill: Indian Or Not?" http://news4colorado.com/topstories/local_story_084174926.html

2. David Yeagley, "Ward Churchill Exploits Indians," February 28, 2005, <http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/ReadArticle.asp?ID=17172>

3. Howard Pankratz, "CU prof affirms Indian heritage," February 3, 2005, <http://denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36%257E23827%257E2689334,00.html>

4. Eddie Glenn, "Controversial professor claims ties to UKB," February 4, 2005, www.tahlequahdailynews.com/articles/2005/02/04/news/top_stories/aaaaaaprof.txt

5. Patti Jo King, "King: Ward Churchill — Questionable identity and questionable scholarship," February 24, 2005, <http://www.indiancountry.com/content.cfm?id=1096410417>

6. Kate Browning, "United Keetoowah Band Leader Resigns Under Pressure," July 19, 1998, <http://www.thepeoplespaths.net/Cherokee/News/Jul98/KB980719b.htm>

This article provides this link only as a point of fact, not to involve itself in UKC leadership questions.

Jefferson Dodge, "Churchill wants statement from regents more than cash," March 10, 2005, <http://newmedia.colorado.edu/silverandgold/messages/4254.html>

7. David Yeagley, "Is Churchill a Pathological Liar?" February 24, 2005, http://www.badeagle.com/journal/archives/2005_02.html#000583

8. No less than arch-conservative William F. Buckley Jr. admitted that accomplished intellectual people are the most "left-wing," but he does not have a good answer to what that should mean to him and his ideology. The faculty of the land has succeeded in moving people politically he says and calls it "indoctrination": "Let the person who wants to wrestle with these statistics blurt forth his secret belief that there is a correlation between 'level of education' and 'political liberalism.'" (William F. Buckley, Jr., *Up From Liberalism* NY: Bantam Books, 1968, pp. 58-9) The bottom-line problem with these know-nothings is that they want to substitute church and advertising "indoctrination" for public education.

9. "Introduction to the Symposium," <http://www.ece.uiuc.edu/ingenuity/1103/top-scouts.html>

Patriarchal society tired of paying Terri Schiavo's medical bills

By a contributor, March 18, 2005

The Associated Press is reporting that Woodside Hospice doctors removed Terri Schiavo's feeding tube today even though the U.S. Congress tried to stop it through legal strong-arming. Schiavo's feeding tube has been removed twice before, only to be re-inserted. The last time it was removed was on October 15, 2003.(2) Last month, MIM Notes implicated the patriarchy in Schiavo's psychology-defined bulimia.(3) If it were not for patriarchy-imposed obsessions with body appearance, Schiavo could be having intelligible conversations with other people today. The MIM Notes article also pointed out that force-feeding people would be a manifestation of patriarchy in the long run in the sense that it involves power relations which would not exist in a society without group oppression.

Those who support Terri Schiavo's alleged "right to die" are in a bind. MIM does not pretend to understand completely what it means to be "conscious" in a cognitive, neuroscience or psychological sense (whether consciousness is located only in the cerebral cortex for instance), but if indeed Schiavo is suffering from being alive in her present condition, it is only because she is conscious in some sense, which calls into the question the whole notion of Schiavo being in a vegetative state. But if Schiavo is not conscious, then it really does not matter from her viewpoint whether her body stays alive or not—precisely because she has no point of view. For materialists, there is no such thing as carrying out the wishes of a person who no longer exists. Moreover, there is no right to die from patriarchy, just like there is no right to die

from imperialism.

The question arises is there any use in keeping Terri Schiavo alive regardless of whether she is conscious. Arguably, more people are learning about eating disorders since reading or watching mainstream news about Schiavo. A lot of TV news programs are about entertaining people, and in this entertainment context, people may draw some connections between bulimia and celebrity worship for instance. On the other hand, Paris Hilton, not Terri Schiavo, was the #1 search on the Internet search engine Lycos in the week ending March 12, 2005 (<http://50.lycos.com/>), and has been on that list for seventy weeks. This fact does not say much in itself, but it does allude to the reality that Americans can pretend to be concerned with bulimic patients, but still engage in the romance culture. This is why NBC can air *The Biggest Loser* (http://www.nbc.com/The_Biggest_Loser/), and MTV can broadcast morbid entertainment shows like *I Want a Famous Face* (http://www.mtv.com/onair/i_want_a_famous_face/), but at the same time occasionally talk about anorexia, bulimia, and body dysmorphic disorder (as MTV's SuChin Pak has done). And then there is the whole Michael Jackson thing with the media and others ridiculing his nose—even though some psychologists have suggested that he might have body dysmorphic disorder. So, we have people who pretend to be disturbed by certain people's obsessions with body appearance, but who support these obsessions themselves by watching various plastic-surgery make-over shows—and in various ways helping to

spread the oppressor-nation romance culture to the internal semi-colonies of the United States and the Third World.

This is something that Terri Schiavo commentators have not touched on at all: how the romance culture, and particularly the body-obsession aspect, impacts gender-oppressed people in oppressed nations. Individuals like Terri Schiavo may be a kind of local fallout from the romance culture in the United States (if dying from the romance culture is not a manifestation of oppression, then nothing is), but the obsession with body appearance has a broader impact than just white women suffering brain damage from psychology-defined eating disorders such as bulimia nervosa. For example, English-speaking, imperialist-country women are frequently portrayed as a standard of beauty in Asian-country advertising, particularly in a "sensual/sexy" way.(4) In certain ways, this is connected with imperialist-country female-biology adults' power as majority gender oppressors. Individuals such as Terri Schiavo are just evidence that the benefits of the romance culture for imperialist-country women are spread unevenly. The situation may be even more extreme in oppressed southern Korea, where more than half of women in their 20s have undergone cosmetic surgery reportedly, many suffering injuries as a result.(5)

MIM does not accept at face value psychological definitions of bulimia as an individual "mental disorder" or "illness." Nonetheless, it is interesting that stereotypes about oppressed nationalities and obesity have led to an "underdiagnosis" of bulimia in Black women and Latina women in the United

States.(6) As far as what causes bulimia in oppressed-nation women, oppressed-nation women's having to work in underappreciated jobs may contribute to the development of behavior that appears as "bulimia."(6) It is also interesting to MIM's line on gender that child abuse, and child sexual abuse in particular, appears to play a role in the development of some women's eating disorders.(6)

While Black women for example may develop eating disorders less frequently than Euro-American women reportedly, Black women are for economic reasons probably more likely to go to unlicensed cosmetic surgeons and die as a result. The point is that Terri Schiavo is only the tip of the iceberg as far as the lethal consequences of the romance culture in capitalist countries and occupied countries, such as Korea. MIM does not agree with evangelical, Vatican or other biblical reasons for keeping Schiavo's body alive, but patriarchal society must pay a price for causing these deaths and shorter lifespans among gender-oppressed people and among the "collateral damage" of the romance culture the media is calling "Terri Schiavo." The money Terri Schiavo received from lawsuits against negligent doctors would not be used for opposing patriarchy if Schiavo died tonight, so it should be used to keep her alive. There is no right to die under patriarchy when the death would probably be a prolonged result of patriarchy. As long as shows like *Blind Date*, *The Bachelor*, *Extreme Makeover* and *A Wedding Story* continue to be broadcast, decadent gender oppressors and gender aristocrats in the United States deserve to be inundated with

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White nationalists pretend to support indigenous North Americans

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physique, in ability, and in character, to the full-bloods. But no statistical information is available which would justify a conclusion of this character. If there was a decided deterioration of race, due to mixture, it would seem that the opportunity for race mixture should be limited so far as this can be accomplished."(6) In this particular paper, Boas believes that the "full-blood" (First Nations person) as well as the white person are the standards by which "half-blood" First Nations persons ought to be compared—criminally, physiologically, etc.

It's been more than eighty years since KKK Grand Wizard Edward Young Clarke purported to defend the purity of the Black people. White people, such as David Duke, continue up to this day pretending to defend the biological as well as cultural purity of oppressed nations.(7) Alongside them are mouthpieces like James Fenelon who repeat as fact the lie that Ward Churchill misrepresented his indigenous identity(8) when he clearly marked "unenrolled," and his associate membership with the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee was never formally revoked.(9) Neither Rich Lowry nor

James Fenelon provide one piece of evidence showing that Churchill has misappropriated any indigenous cultural practice or consciously invented his blood quantum in order to deceive people. But they insist on tarring Churchill's character and, along with him, every speaker or writer—including in peer-reviewed publications—who relies on his work.

What indigenous persons in North America actually think, about the war against Iraq for instance, is not really an issue for these bloggers and columnists. They, especially the non-indigenous writers purporting to defend First Nations, will disown anything that makes First Nations look bad in the eyes of the white man.

Notes:

1. "CAI Research," http://www.academicintegrity.org/cai_research.asp
2. Rich Lowry, "Lowry: The shaman's

a sham: Fake Indians are an insult to Native Americans," March 18, 2005, http://www.satrib.com/opinion/ci_2612564

Rich Lowry, "Putting the Sha in Shaman," March 14, 2005, <http://www.townhall.com/columnists/richlowry/r120050314.shtml>

3. Karl Eschbach, "Changing Identification among American Indians and Alaska Natives," *Demography* 30, no. 4 (1993): 635-652.

4. Joane Nagel, "American Indian Ethnic Renewal: Politics and the Resurgence of Identity," *American Sociological Review* 60, no. 6 (1995): 947-965.

"there is enormous controversy among native people about who should be considered an Indian for purposes of receiving tribal services, federal benefits, affirmative action consideration, or rights to participate in tribal governments" (p. 950).

5. Karl Eschbach, Khalil Supple, and C. Matthew Snipp, "Changes in Racial Identification and the Educational Attainment of American Indians, 1970-1990," *Demography* 35, no. 1 (1998): 35-43, p. 36.

6. Franz Boas, "The Census of the

North American Indians," *Publications of the American Economic Association, New Series*, no. 2 (1899): 49-53, p. 51.

7. David Duke, "Are you a racist?" March 12, 2005, <http://www.davidduke.com/index.php?p=266>

"I understand that there are intrinsic differences between peoples and that those differences have profound effects on society. I also believe all people have a basic human right to preserve their own heritage" (my emphasis).

8. James Fenelon, "Fenelon: What are we to do? The problem of Ward and 'Indian' issues," March 18, 2005, <http://www.indiancountry.com/content.cfm?id=1096410560>

In contrast:

George Joe, "Ward Churchill responds to controversy," March 18, 2005, <http://www.indiancountry.com/content.cfm?id=1096410567>

"While Churchill fights for his academic life, the controversy has endangered Ethnic Studies programs nation-wide."

9. Eddie Glenn, "Controversial professor claims ties to UKB," February 4, 2005, www.tahlequahdaily.com/articles/2005/02/04/news/top_stories/aaaaaaprof.txt

Whatever she 'consented' to, Schiavo didn't consent to die from gender oppression

By a contributor, March 21, 2005

The Chicago Tribune reports that President Bush signed a bill this morning permitting a federal court to review Florida judge George Greer's order to remove brain-injured Terri Schiavo's feeding tube.(1) Depending on what the federal court decides, it looks like Americans may have to keep hearing about Schiavo on the news for some time.

Various individual-rights Liberals who eschew any analysis of the patriarchy are saying that Schiavo should be "allowed" to die because she supposedly consented to it at some point before her brain injury, which was probably caused by what psychologists call "bulimia nervosa." In "Patriarchal society tired of paying Terri Schiavo's medical bills"), it was pointed out that "for materialists, there is no such thing as carrying out the wishes of a person who no longer exists." This is true generally speaking. Decisions should be made on the basis of scientific materialism and proletarian anti-imperialist and feminist morality, not on the basis of liberalism or spiritualism. If a dead person's wishes coincide with resisting the imperialist-patriarchy, then those particular wishes should not be ignored.

There is no right to die preventable deaths from patriarchy, just like there is no right to die preventable deaths from imperialist militarism and genocide. It is as simple as that. Encouraging women to exercise their "right to die" is an incitement to patriarchy-caused homicide. The fact that many of those supporting Schiavo's supposed "right to die" have not drawn the connections between her patriarchy-caused bulimia and her present situation is an indictment on its own. It is a sad state of affairs when only MIM, the Associated Press, Off Our Backs and a handful of others are bringing attention to the bulimia and socially-caused violence issues involved in Terri Schiavo's situation—in different ways of course.(2)

MIM is under no illusion about Bush's own religious and cultural reasons for keeping Terri Schiavo alive, and indeed there are bigger things going on in the world than one individual's survival: continuing Iraqi deaths from the united States-led war for profit and super-profits

for instance. However, since the media is paying so much attention to Schiavo, there is a need to increase the truth quotient in public opinion regarding Schiavo's situation. Just because the mainstream media only portrays religious zealots as supporting keeping Schiavo alive does not mean that the religious orientation characterizes every argument in defense of Schiavo's staying alive.

If Terri Schiavo's parents' lawyers were inclined to be feminist legalists (and if the courts were to let them argue in this way), they could argue that Schiavo never consented to dying from gender oppression. This is something that even the "right to die" doctors should be able to understand: even in the liberal ideology, there is a difference between consent and informed consent. Others have made a distinction between consent and informed consent in the context of the removal of Schiavo's feeding tube, but not addressed issues relating to gender oppression.

Arguably, Schiavo never consented to being taken off of "life support" after sustaining a patriarchy-caused injury. To put it one way, "would you want to be kept in a vegetative state after a car accident" is a different question from "would you want to be kept in a vegetative state as a result of a patriarchy-caused eating disorder or attempted murder." Clearly, the issue here is not whether Schiavo will be able to recover at some point in the future, but should Schiavo be "allowed" to die from patriarchy even though she is supposedly not consciously suffering now. If Schiavo truly is in a vegetative state, then "allowing" her to die is not really about comforting her, but about comforting those around her.

In an oppressive society, there is really no such thing as letting something happen. Nothing just happens on its own when it comes to people dying from "mental illnesses" that directly relate to the romance culture. To say that Schiavo should be "allowed" to die is to say that something should be allowed to overtake her and destroy her. What this "something" is, is patriarchy, and this needs to be acknowledged.

It is necessary to bring attention to the patriarchal ideology of Terri Schiavo's "right to die" "supporters." The better part

of the "right to die" crowd argues only that Schiavo said she would not want to be kept on life support in such a condition, that her expressed wishes should be respected, etc. Although whether she actually indicated any such wish is questionable, there is something to be said for this argument. MIM is not libertarians, but overall MIM would not support the imperialist-patriarchal state's attempts to control people's bodies. However, the other "right to die" speakers are emphasizing that Schiavo's situation is a "private family matter." Some even go as far as to say that it is only her husband who should decide her fate, that Schiavo's other family should be excluded from the decision-making.

The various conservative and liberal Liberals opposing the family to the state, and insisting that Schiavo's situation is a "private family matter" in various ways, are obscuring the power relations within the family. Not everyone in the family grouping has "privacy" or the same amount or kind of privacy. Depending on their position in the age and gender hierarchies, people within the family are able to intrude on each other on a daily basis. For example, parents often view children as property, and parents' consideration of their children's opinions rarely rises above tokenism even in matters relating to taking the children off life support.(3) In this sense, children do not have privacy even in their own bodies, or in relation to the control of their own bodies.

Ignoring children's intelligent opinions about their own medical treatment is not the only issue. People still debate whether likely child abusers should have a say in whether their own infant children should be taken off life support.(4) This is how powerful the notion of the "private family" is: even abusive parents might be able to have a say in whether their children, in a vegetative state as a clear result of the abuse, live or die. In a society without group oppression, individual adults would not have exclusive say in whether the children they are "caring" for live or die. And males, less likely to die or become ill from eating disorders in patriarchal society today, would not have exclusive say in whether their female partners

should be taken off life support.

The majority of women in the Euro-American nation are not gender oppressors, but this privilege is not spread evenly throughout the white nation, which is why Terri Schiavo is disabled due to patriarchy. Even women in the white oppressor nation are subject to power relations relative to the men. As gender oppressors, female-biology adults in the white oppressor nation are in a better position to control their situation, but even they do not consent to being subordinate within the patriarchal family in the short term. They live in circumstances not of their own making. Nobody can truly consent to dying from patriarchy. Patriarchy creates what looks like consent, but it is not really consent.

Notes:

1. William Neikirk, "Bush signs measure aimed at keeping Schiavo alive," <http://www.aberdeennews.com/mld/aberdeennews/news/11188463.htm>
2. Vickie Chachere, "Eating disorder is 'lost lesson' in Schiavo case," <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/living/health/11011204.htm> There is some dispute over whether bulimia actually caused Schiavo's injury; some are alleging that Schiavo's husband injured her himself. Either way, we can attribute the cause of Schiavo's brain injury to patriarchy and probably not be wrong.
Ingrid Tischer, "No Guts, Not Glory: Where Are the Feminists on Terri Schiavo?" *Off Our Backs* 34, no. 1/2 (2004): 49.
"Perhaps most frightening in its absence is evidence raising the specter of past domestic violence. I learned this information from disability rights' media sources. During a week of e-mails from otherwise progressive women's rights organizations about the assault on abortion rights, I have heard nothing about this ongoing assault on the life of a woman who is severely disabled. Not terminal, dying, or on her deathbed. Disabled. I understand the critical difference between dying and disability. Many others do not."
3. "Seen but not Heard: Are we ready to listen to what children have to say about their health?" *Berkeley Medical Journal*, Spring 1998, http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~issues/spring98/children_rights.html
4. Julie Akiko Gladsjo et al., "Termination of Life Support After Severe Child Abuse: The Role of a Guardian ad Litem," *Pediatrics* 113, no. 2 (2004): <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/>

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Schiavo's medical bills

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images of Schiavo and news of Schiavo while they eat their dinners. Terri Schiavo should forever haunt those who actually benefit from and indulge in the larger patriarchal culture in the imperialist countries and their colonies.

See: "Revolutionary feminism," on the Internet at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/gender/>; and MIM Theory no. 2/3, *Gender and Revolutionary Feminism* (<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mt/mt2+3.html>).

Notes:

1. AP, "Judge allows removal of feeding tube for brain-damaged Florida woman," March 18,

2005, <http://www.680news.com/news/international/article.jsp?content=w031859A>

2. Dave Reynolds, "Pressure Mounts On Terri Schiavo's Parents And Advocates; Federal And State Lawmakers Consider Measures To Save Her Life," March 8, 2005, <http://www.inclusiondaily.com/archives/05/03/08/030805flschiavo.htm> ; <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/10/16/health/main578359.shtml>

3. "Thanks to capitalism Terri Schiavo had an eating disorder," MIM Notes, February 15, 2004, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/mn314.pdf>

4. Katherine Toland Frith, Hong Cheng, and Ping Shaw, "Race and Beauty: A Comparison of

Asian and Western Models in Women's Magazine Advertisements," *Sex Roles* 50, no. 1/2 (2004): 53-61.

"many of the Western advertising conventions and poses for women were being transferred across cultures. They reported that female models in India were adopting poses and displays that conformed closely to gender portrayals in the advertising of the industrialized Western nations" (p. 55).

"Western models are more often featured in advertisements for body-related products—even in Asian magazines, whereas Asian models are used more often in advertisements for facial beauty. This finding is also in line with statistics on cosmetic surgery in the U.S. Kaw (1993) noted that 'the types of cosmetic surgery sought by women in the United States are racially specific' (p. 75). European American women

choose body-sculpting surgery such as liposuction and breast augmentation, whereas Asian American women most often request 'double-eyelid surgery,' which is related to the face" (p. 59).

5. Charles Scanlon, "The price of beauty in South Korea," February 3, 2005, http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/4229995.stm
6. Becky Wangsgaard Thompson, "A Way Out No Way": Eating Problems among African-American, Latina, and White Women," *Gender and Society* 6, no. 4 (1992): 546-561.
7. Vijaya K., "Taking plastic surgery to the poor," March 2004, <http://www.expresshealthcaregmt.com/20040331/profile01.shtml>

Three Years On: 'Patriot Acts' still mysterious, terrifying and indefensible

18 March, 2005

Two years since the frightening "Patriot Act II" was leaked to the public, and more than three years since passage of the original and horribly misnamed USA Patriot Act (USAPA), the u.s. government's post-9/11 domestic agenda has done more to abuse the rights and violate the privacy of its citizens than to protect them from "terrorism." The FBI has summoned the reading lists and persynal data of library users and bookstore customers,(1) as well as airline passenger lists, both without the knowledge of the people whose information was gathered. The head of NORTHCOM (the largest centralized military authority within u.s. borders since the Civil War) told PBS: "we are not going to be out there spying on people, [but] we get information from people who do."(2)

International students have been targeted for surveillance of their course schedules, and immigrants are being disappeared for months at a time in Amerikan jails. The Justice Department just reported that an unnamed Federal prison's administration and staff has been "discriminating and retaliating" against Muslim prisoners, while an FBI agent sent out a message to field agents "identifying the names and addresses of the proprietors and customers of a Muslim-based website," instructing them to "take whatever action it deemed appropriate" against people they recognized on the list.(3) Some of these actions are now legal under the USA Patriot Act, some illegal: all are excused by the authorities

under the guise of national security.

The current political climate prompted one activist to write: "There is no war on terrorism. There is only the ongoing effort by the federal government to collect as much information on as many people as possible."(4) Both Patriot Acts can unite a broad spectrum of progressive politics in opposition: open border advocates, civil libertarians, anarchists, communists, and any activists who care about their ability to gather in public and speak up without being subjected to FBI surveillance or worse in exchange.

The government is desperate to defend the USA Patriot Act (USAPA). Its major civil-liberties slashing provisions will either be renewed or expire at the end of this year. Yet the best example Attorney General Gonzalez can offer of the USAPA "necessity" is that of a solved murder case that was unconnected to terrorism.(5) Choosing to focus on the campaign to keep the USAPA in business, the Bush administration has backed down from the righteous protests of activists ranging from libertarian to communist against Patriot Act II. Instead, the administration and Congress are breaking PAII into bite-sized chunks. Just this year, Bush signed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 — not much more than a raft of regulations designed to make it harder for non-citizens to come to and stay in this country.

Among other things, this law:

* authorizes hiring up to 10,000 border patrol agents and adding 40,000 beds for immigration detention and deportation facilities between 2006 and 2010;

* tasks Homeland Security (DHS) with implementation of an automated biometric (fingerprints, photographs) entry-exit program;

* makes receiving "military-type" training from a listed terrorist organization a deportable offense for an immigrant, and blocks admission to the united States for anyone who has participated in extrajudicial "genocide, torture or killing" (both deeply interpretable offenses: obviously the Border Patrol is not now picking up School of the Americas graduates.)

* tasks the Department of Transportation with developing a national standard for state-issued drivers' licenses and ID cards;

* provides for testing advanced technology to secure the sparsely-populated border with Kanada and for remote-controlled aircraft surveillance of the southwest border;

* makes visa application requirements more stringent and orders a GAO study on potential weaknesses in the U.s. asylum system.(6)

Like the USAPA, this law works on people's fear and the assumption that if we can only control people's movements tightly enough, all will be copacetic. But honest political analysis will say that free cross-border movement did not cause the 9/11 attacks (which is not possible given that u.s. borders are not open), but by a steadily mounting pattern of u.s. aggression internationally. This country's government cannot protect its own people because it survives only by terrorizing the

international populace. The world's people respond with violence — the only response this country understands. Gutting the Bill of Rights will not make Amerika safe from those who have suffered its hegemony. The only chance for safety is getting right with the world's people through international peace achieved under communism.

The sooner the Amerikan people can join the international community and put an end to u.s. militarism, the healthier their prospects for future survival will be. Amerikans have lived for hundreds of years as if their fate is not bound up with that of the world's people. The people of Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Korea and Iran do not have the luxury of such blind ignorance. 9/11 only proved that given time, the community of oppressed nations will demonstrate to the u.s. people how small the planet has become.

Notes:

1. <http://www.ala.org>
2. <http://progressivetrail.org/articles/050128Turse.shtml>
3. Boston Globe 12 March, 2005.
4. Jim Redden, "Snitch Culture: How Citizens Are Turned Into the Eyes and Ears of the State" as quoted at [ala.org](http://www.ala.org)
5. New York Daily News 14 March, 2005
6. <http://www.keralanext.com/news/indexread.asp?id=147585>; <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=46481>; <http://www.nilc.org/immlawpolicy/cdev/congrssdev018.htm>
7. See MIM's website for background on both Patriot Acts and future updates: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/civlib.html>

You Can't Understand Patriotism without Understanding Nationalism

SuperPatriotism, by Michael Parenti; City Lights Books, 2004

Reviewed by HC93

Superpatriotism is a response to the extremes of amerikan nationalism since 9/11. With some good information and a lot of good criticisms, Parenti himself succumbs to a pro-amerikan rallying cry, ending with an attempt

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"Although the parents missed multiple follow-up appointments to meet with the ethics team, they were able to meet with the team on several occasions, and eventually, Infant Jane's parents seemed to comprehend the information about the seriousness of their daughter's condition and the likelihood that she would not improve. The parents made clear statements that they did not want their child to continue in her current state but paradoxically demanded all medical interventions that would prolong her life and refused to consent to any efforts to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatments [perhaps because one or both of the parents did not want to be charged with manslaughter or murder, rather than just abuse]."

5. "Right to die: Who should decide?" http://newswww.bbc.net.uk/2/hi/talking_point/3203921.stm

6. "Revolutionary feminism," <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/gender/>

to define a "real patriot." His mistakes stem from a lack of discussion of the national question despite its obvious relevance and his usual denial of the labor aristocracy.

Parenti attacks MIM and others for spelling "amerikkka" with a "k" or three, saying that we play "directly into the hands of leaders who opportunistically sought to treat their own war policy as a manifestation of true Americanism." (p. 14) He later claims that the lack of pro-war rallies compared to anti-war rallies indicate that the amerikan people are not behind these policies. But the point is that being a parasite doesn't require a lot of effort: that's what makes it so appealing. In fact, not having to engage seriously in politics has been an amerikan tradition for some time now. (1)

Parenti does not believe that amerikans are bought off allies of imperialism, but rather "the vast majority of us are not rich." (p. 25) On the contrary, even a minimum wage earner working full time in the united States is in the top 12% of the richest people in the world (2). Parenti goes on to talk about "some 80 percent of our population, who live with chronic money concerns and little or no net financial assets." (p.25) While the proletariat is worrying about food, water and basic medical care, Parenti wants us to feel sorry for those who lack stock options while having access to resources that far surpass anything the majority of the world has experienced. Yes, most amerikans have bills to pay each month; it may be a pain, but it is the pain of privilege.

Continuing the theme of the exploited amerikan, "As with oil, so with our wealth in general: a select coterie at the very top of the

economic ladder control more of it than all the rest of us combined. We just produce it with our hard work. They pocket it." He is correct to assert that a minority controls most of the wealth, but he is incorrect about where that wealth came from. In fact, amerikans are able to earn extravagant wages at non-productive jobs. Meanwhile, the minority who remain in productive industry, excluding non-citizen labor and prisoners, earn many times as much money as their counterparts in the Third World. (3) This is all possible because of the vast amounts of surplus labor being extracted from the oppressed nations.

In discussing the redneck cracker factor, Parenti writes, "In fact, working Americans are less the promoters of superpatriotism and more its consumers and victims." (p. 87) There is truth in this statement in that the imperialists are the biggest promoters of national chauvinism for their own interests. And they certainly will turn on their fellow amerikans as needed. But there is a reason why white trash is "white." It is the justified identification with an oppressor nation that leads many of the poorest sectors of white amerika to militantly fight for amerikan nationalism. It is justified because from amerika's earliest days of genocide, white people helped out white people in this country, even as the definition of "white" continued to change.

In the same chapter, Parenti is correct to point out that amerikans did not develop a fear of communism on their own, but as a result of years of government propaganda. Yet, we still must face the reality that the red scare did catch on in the united States, while

it wouldn't work in a place like Nepal where the majority of the country support some form of communism. This difference is tied up with the national question, which he amazingly leaves out of this discussion. In the conclusion, Parenti states that "real patriots are internationalists." (p. 158) It's a good idea, but in practice this is not the case. Despite the efforts of the Democrats and liberals to reclaim a kinder, gentler patriotism from the Bush regime, imperialist country nationalism is inherently parasitic and chauvinistic. On the other hand, oppressed nation nationalism is applied internationalism in that their struggle for self-determination is part of the global struggle against imperialism.

SuperPatriotism has a selection of good facts for such a short book. And many of his criticisms are useful in encouraging a split between the imperialists and the amerikan petty bourgeoisie. But the one that we cannot take on is the economic argument. Arguing that amerikans are somehow exploited leads down the road of amerikan chauvinism that Parenti appears to be attempting to oppose. Unfortunately, after many years and many books on imperialism, he fails to see the main contradictions that can lead us to a solution.

Notes:

- (1) see <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/sanctionspolls.html> AND <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/iraqsanctions02202005.html> for recent research on what amerikans should have known about Iraq if they cared. (2) www.globalrichlist.org. (3) Imperialism and its Class Structure in 1997. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mt/imp97/imp97c5.html>

When the lunatics have taken over the asylum

With racial and ethnic tensions firmly entrenched in the California Department of Corrections (CDC), I can't imagine segregation in prison coming to an end. Even though I endeavor to offer an informed voice on a number of criminal justice matters, I reluctantly admit I've been conditioned as a California prisoner to accept institutional racial separation as reasonable. We all have.

When the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Garrison Johnson's challenge to the CDC's policy of segregating inmates upon arrival to San Quentin, my initial reaction was shock and disbelief. In an environment distinguished by a myriad of factions who reluctantly tolerate one another at best, and explode into all-out war at worst, any judicial decision to force integration sounded like a cruel joke.

But it didn't take long for me to realize a continued investment in a quagmire of perpetual dysfunction can't be in the best interest of anyone. Moreover, for anyone to suggest the lunatics (prisoners) have taken over the asylum are sadly misinformed. As inmates, we don't run anything in this state. We have no power, no voice and no representation.

Corrections is a mammoth agency well-represented by the California Correctional Peace Officers Association and legislators absolutely beholden to them.

Still, the last time corrections approached the subject of prison gangs and ethnic issues, they hypothesized bitter rivals could be forced to get-along. This resulted in seven years of staged-gladiator fights in the Corcoran SHU and a statewide shooting policy that amounted to sanctioned murder. No one got along, too many to count were shot, and seven SHU inmates were killed – gunned down by correctional officers for fist fighting under a forced integration policy.

Prison Reform

With all eyes on prison officials to restore the public's confidence, the Little Hoover Commission voted to adopt Gov. Schwarzenegger's plan to overhaul the CDC. This plan emphasizes rehabilitation, education and accountability. While that might sound good to some, I'll believe it when I see it.

The same corrupt officials who have built the most out-of-control correctional agency in the country are still in charge. The few managerial changes to take place have barely made a difference.

In all fairness, prison reform is by no means an easy subject to broach. Revitalizing a huge agency rooted in a code of silence and systemic cost overruns depends on total illumination and dedication to social responsibility. From where I sit, based on how they've performed and who's still in charge, the CDC in its present form is an abomination.

To achieve real reform, a plethora of changes must occur to end decades of huge rates of recidivism, institutionalized violence and absolute hopelessness:

Computerize every aspect of corrections; lift the restrictions placed on the media; restore due process to the inmate grievance system; free release-worthy inmates once they've served their sentences; bring mental health and medical services to First World standards; provide marketable education and vocation programs; reestablish visiting; quite

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

extorting all monies received by inmates at a rate of 55 percent for restitution; and stop price-gouging prisoner's families with the most expensive collect-call fees in the country.

This might sound like a disgruntled inmate with a wish list. Sadly, this is the short list. Reforming corrections might make interesting copy for some or heated debate for others. But for us, it's about human rights – and being buried alive in the worst prison system in the country.

— a California prisoner, March 2005

Phony charges of gang affiliation in CA SHU

IGI, the prison gang intelligence unit has just returned all my property. I was told I had a 115 hearing when they pulled me out of my cell. I was handcuffed and placed in a holding cage. In comes IGI to take photos of all my tattoos and take my property so they can go through it. I was told something happened in another prison and that I was being investigated in regards to that.

I have been in the SHU for 4 years now on one trumped up charge after another. They are trying to validate me now as an associate of a prison gang which I will not name. Every time I turn around it's something new. I'm teaching martial arts, I'm inciting, I'm this, I'm that. And I am guilty of these things, but with good reason. If the prison would stop trying to break inmates like slaves, respect prisoners rights to due process (they do not believe you have the right to contest the charges they bring against you or to appeal policies that deprive prisoners of legislated rights). If they would just do right follow their own regulations, I would be a model inmate.

But oh well, they can lock me up, gas me, play with my food, strip me of my property, mess with my mail, handcuff me and beat me and all the other repressive tactics they use. I have four words: can't stop won't stop. Until what is wrong has been set right.

I received the MIM Notes. From participating in the study group and reading MIM Theory I am really starting to grasp the science of revolutionary communism, it is a pretty straight forward process. Or should I say Marxism, Leninism, Maoism.

I know dialectical materialist theory of knowledge can be used to effectively change society or to address and resolve society's contradictions. I would like to learn more about this process. More than learn, I am trying to master this process.

Yours in struggle, —A prisoner in California (Tehachapi SHU), March 2005

To Be, Not To Be

We are dead to the light of conscience
Because we fear the consequences that truth
Will have upon our actions and
circumstances.

We choose the blindness of pretenses and
the weakness of conformity,
As our comfort and security.
We will stand for nothing of substance and
merit

Because we prefer the shallow grave of
arrogance and stupidity.

Far beneath the surface of our life's
masquerade,
We are an emotional sea of contradictions
and biases
Always pretending our innocence and
wholeness.
We cherish the delusions that nurture our
illusions
Because the face of reality will usurp
From us our crutches and excuses-
Forcing us to be, than not to be

—A New York Prisoner, August 2004

MIM comments: This poem deals with the struggle within people between playing the role that the system has prescribed for them and recognizing that system for what it is and working to destroy it. However, this is not the even battle that idealists make it out to be. We can say with certainty which side will win out in different populations of people, even though we may never predict the outcome for an individual. That is why the ending of this poem strengthens its message; it stresses the role of material reality in bringing the world's majority into revolutionary consciousness. Only the privileged can hold on to their "crutches and excuses," but even theirs will eventually be lost in the overthrow of the very system that provides them.

Escape attempt leads to repression

There was an attempted escape of two inmates at CSP-Calipatria. Two white inmates were caught attempting to escape after being given keys or sold them by staff on December 18th. This has prompted the administration of this prison to conduct an institutional wide retaliatory style type of cell searches confiscating inmates personal property (i.e. canteen, legal work, radios, TVs, etc.) as a form of punishment for this incident.

I urgently implore you and all supporters of the struggle to file complaints against the Warden Stuart J. Ryan, Chief Deputy Warden Tim Ochoa, and the Associate Warden J. L. Janda, with the Director of Corrections: Joanne Woodford, PO Box 942883, Sacramento, CA 942883 and with the state personnel board: 801 Capital Mall, Sacramento, CA 94244.

— a California prisoner, December 2004

Institutional corruption

I am writing this letter in hopes of bringing attention to the continuous abuse of authority, the falsification of documents, and the overwhelming corruption of IGI (Institution Gang Investigators), here at High Desert State Prison, In Susanville, California.

I have been housed here at HDSP for nearly eight years. And over these years I have heard on numerous occasions about inmates being validated as "prison gang members," then placed in administrative segregation awaiting an indeterminate sentence and transfer to a security housing unit (SHU), such as Pelican Bay. This is a facility that has been proven to cause psychological and social deterioration

due to its isolated and desolate conditions.

Myself, not being a member of a "prison gang", or involved in "gang activities" never paid it much attention, nor was I ever aware to the extent of the organized corruption that truly infects this institution and it's "gang investigators" until, I myself was falsely labeled and validated as a "gang member".

I had been positively programming for the past seven years with no disciplinary write-ups (115s). Yet, I was labeled, then classified as a member of a "disruptive group," and deemed "a threat to the safety and security of the institution." This, I do not understand. Now I sit in Ad-Seg, all the privileges that accompany general population such as jobs, contact visits, phone access, open yard, social interaction, and all the other minor comforts have been taken away. Now, I also await transfer to a tortuous and degrading SHU facility, to serve an unjustified, indeterminate term.

It has been over 2-months since I was validated, placed in Ad-Seg., attended committee, and put up for transfer. And I have yet to receive any complete and proper documentation which demonstrates my

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

MIM seeks to build public opinion against Amerika's criminal injustice system, and to eventually replace the bourgeois injustice system with proletarian justice. The bourgeois injustice system imprisons and executes a disproportionately large and growing number of oppressed people while letting the biggest mass murderers — the imperialists and their lackeys — roam free. Imperialism is not opposed to murder or theft, it only insists that these crimes be committed in the interests of the bourgeoisie.

"All U.S. citizens are criminals—accomplices and accessories to the crimes of U.S. oppression globally until the day U.S. imperialism is overcome. All U.S. citizens should start from the point of view that they are reforming criminals."

MIM does not advocate that all prisoners go free today; we have a more effective program for fighting crime as was demonstrated in China prior to the restoration of capitalism there in 1976. We say that all prisoners are political prisoners because under the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, all imprisonment is substantively political. It is our responsibility to exert revolutionary leadership and conduct political agitation and organization among prisoners — whose material conditions make them an overwhelmingly revolutionary group. Some prisoners should and will work on self-criticism under a future dictatorship of the proletariat in those cases in which prisoners really did do something wrong by proletarian standards.

validation. All that has been provided is 11 confidential disclosures which are inadequate to file with my appeal. It took over a month to receive this, when such documents are supposed to be disclosed upon validation. When I then appealed this to IGI via the appeals coordinator and accused them of withholding this documentation in attempt to thwart my appeal process, they refused to even review it, claiming that I had exceeded the 15-day filing limitation. I then provided proof that I did in fact meet the 15-day limitation after receiving the 11-disclosure forms. (I had the delivering officer sign and date when I received it.) After presenting this, the appeals coordinator H. Wagner, and IGI Officer D. D. Shaver still continue to lie and reject my appeal, claiming that a complete "validation packet" was disclosed to me. At this point I have not been able to appeal the actual validation due to the violations and the obstructions by H. Wagner and D.D. Shaver who are preventing me from obtain my "validation packet."

I have proof of their false claims and they still continue to violate my due process rights. If I was in fact righteously labeled and validated then why all this effort to hinder my appeal? I viewed the confidential disclosures and I see why; all these forms contain coerced and fabricated claims. Some of which simply state "inmate was identified as a gang member." There is no articulated links to me and any "gang activity." These are all fabricated in a joint effort by HDSP Gang Investigators and inmates desperate to secure their own objective. Such as protective custody or escaping their own validation. When investigating an inmate for validation IGI explains to the inmate during an interview that they are in the process of preparing their packet for validation and that this is their chance to "debrief" (disclose any and all gang related information if any.) If they debrief they will be housed on a protective custody facility for their cooperation. If they choose not to debrief they will be validated and have to go through the entire process and wait at least a year until they will have another opportunity to debrief. Often, the inmate chooses to fabricating evidence.

When I examined my disclosure forms, I discovered that c/o. D. D. Shaver's signature is on each one of them. Many other inmates here in HDSP Ad-Seg are in the same predicament. Out of the limited amount that I have been able to speak with, a majority of them have also been disciplinary free, have falsified documentation used against them, and have also had interference in their appeal process by IGI and the appeals coordinator.

This seems to be the case with all inmates of all races. However, it is unmistakable that the majority of inmates being validated are those of Mexican race, regardless of geographical origin. Is all this racially motivated? It is very likely. There are numerous positive programming inmates here in HDSP being falsely identified and labeled as "prison gang members" when the evidence doesn't even support the claims. We are being victimized by a rogue and corrupt organization called IGI, stripped of our jobs, privileges, and all other incentives to continue our positive programming. Institution Gang Investigators are supposed to be well trained and capable of determining whether evidence is substantial or if it's simply being fabricated. Then they are to document it truthfully. Instead, they promote the fabrication of information and resort to coercion to strengthen their claims. Ultimately, leaving a trail of innocent inmates validated and sentenced to a disconsolate existence in a SHU facility.

It's not clear if this is done out of their will to demonstrate that they (IGI) are an effective branch, to ensure job security, to keep their multi million dollar a year SHU facilities operating or is it a combination of these along with their own personal vindictiveness and gratification? Whatever the case, not only is it immoral, it is illegal. This criminal activity needs to be rectified, and those guilty, punished. Not only do these crimes victimize us as inmates, they victimize our families as well who also cherish our visits, phone calls, and happiness that has been taken by placing us in a "prison within a prison," an isolated, privilegeless environment. Furthermore, SHU facilities cost the state an estimated 150 million dollars a year. It would save this amount by putting a stop to these false forms of imprisonment and shutting all SHU facilities down permanently. I hope to hear from any organizations and/or individuals who may be able to bring attention to these illicit practices here at HDSP. I am in need of legal assistance or advice in this matter. I seek to correct these unjust charges. IGI needs to know that their conduct is not going unnoticed. Please contact, or forward this letter to anybody you know that can make a difference and hopefully bring an end to this abuse.

Since this was written I have appealed directly to the Warden regarding my violation of due process and it was returned to me "rejected," via appeals coordinator H. Wagner, claiming it was a "duplicate appeal." This is impossible considering none of my appeals have been processed.

This conduct here at HDSP is in serious need of investigation. Please Help.

—A California Prisoner, August 2004

Prison Abuse

To many people's knowledge, prisons are used as a deterrent and punishment of a crime committed and not to be punished physically. But here, recently, there has been an important issue on prison abuse in Iraq. Ever since people around the Earth became aware of this severe prison abuse in Iraq it has turned into a finger-pointing scandal. He did it, he did it, she did it. He knew about it, he knew about it, she knew about it. But no matter who knew, we've all seen the photos of abuse.

The President himself said, "Any decent American would have been sickened to see those photos of abuse." The question is, are there any decent Americans? If so, why are they and the President letting what's going on in American prisons to continue? And another question still exists. How can you clean someone else's backyard when yours is filthy? Nevertheless this abuse and sometimes killings in Iraq has been made known nationally and worldly, and this issue of abuse to Iraqi prisoners has also raised the issue of the 1949 Geneva Convention. This issue of abuse has also been the topic of many human beings on the face of the Earth which has become very disastrous to America.

However, Susan Collins (R) made a statement: "The world has seen those photos of abuse on the front pages of newspapers and T.V. screens. This is not the way of America." Elizabeth Dole said that these Iraqi prison abuses are horrendous. She went on to say, "But this does not reflect the moral ways of America." These are false statements. These ways have always been the ways of America. Ever since the Europeans set foot on this land and took this land from the Indians. This country called America has more prison abuse than anywhere on the face of God's Earth. And these photos also depict exactly the immoral ways of the Americans in power and how Americans believe that they could get away with treating human beings any way they feel.

So, when are we going to have a Senate Services Committee to assess the ills of American prisons?

Again, these atrocities that happen to Iraqi prisoners are small compared to what has been, and still is, going on in American prisons.

—A California prisoner, 2004

Join the fight against the injustice system

While we fight to end the criminal injustice system MIM engages in reformist battles to improve the lives of prisoners. Below are some of the campaigns we are currently waging, and ways people behind the bars and on the outside can get involved. More info can be found on our prison web site: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>

Stop Censorship in Prison: Prisons frequently censor books, newspapers and magazines coming from MIM's books for prisoners program. We need help from lawyers, paralegals and jailhouse lawyers to fight this censorship.

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

End the Three Strikes laws: This campaign is actively fighting the repressive California laws, but similar laws exist in other states. Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Send articles and information on three strike laws.

Shut Down the Control Units: Across the country there are a growing number of prison control units. These are permanently designated prisons or cells in prisons that lock prisoners up in solitary or small group confinement for 22 or more hours a day with no congregate dining, exercise or other services, and virtually no programs for prisoners. Prisoners are placed in control units for extended periods of time. These units cause both mental and physical problems for prisoners.

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

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

1. What are the biggest challenges you face being released from prison?
2. How can these problems be addressed?
3. What are the important elements of a successful release program?

Facts on US imprisonment

The facts about imprisonment in the United States are that the United States has been the world's leading prison-state per capita for the last 25 years, with a brief exception during Boris Yeltsin's declaration of a state of emergency.(1)

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

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

The rednecks tell MIM that we live in a "free country." They live in an Orwellian 1984 situation where freedom is imprisonment.

Notes: 1. Marc Mauer, "Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration 1993," The Prison Sentencing Project, 918 F. St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 628-0871 Reference: SRI: R8965-2, 1994

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

3. United Nations Development Programme, "Human Development Report 1994,:" Oxford University Press, p. 186.

4. Figure of 51.2 percent for state prisoners there for non-violent offenses. Abstract of the United States 1993, p. 211.

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.



Irak: La cifra de bajas de EEUU se acerca a los 1.500 soldados

LA GUERRA EN IRAK Y EL SÍNDROME VIETNAM

IAR Noticias
www.eldiariointernacional.com

El número de muertos de EEUU revela que Bush y el Pentágono fracasaron estrepitosamente con su estrategia militar en Irak. En solo 5 meses, la potencia invasora perdió 500 soldados, el equivalente a la mitad de lo que había perdido al cumplirse 18 meses de ocupación militar. Esto revela la magnitud del accionar creciente y mortífero de la guerrilla iraquí, y nutre la argumentación de las organizaciones que en EEUU y en todo el mundo preparan gigantescas movilizaciones para reclamar que las tropas norteamericanas regresen a casa. En este informe, un panorama general de Irak que muestra a Bush cada vez más cerca de Vietnam.

En septiembre de 2004, el portavoz oficial de la Casa Blanca, Scott McClellan, anunció que las últimas cifras mostraban que 997 militares norteamericanos habían muerto en Irak, a 18 meses de la ocupación militar de ese país en marzo de 2003.

De acuerdo a conteos realizados por la agencia Associated Press y otros medios norteamericanos, actualmente la cifra de soldados de EEUU que perdieron la vida en Irak se aproxima a los 1500. Estos números coinciden en general con el balance proporcionado por el Pentágono.

Esto indica que, en solo 5 meses, la potencia invasora perdió 500 efectivos, la mitad de los que había perdido en 18 meses de ocupación militar.

La cifra total de bajas en lo que va del año 2005 asciende aproximadamente a 155 soldados de EEUU y más de 560 colaboracionistas iraquíes muertos (militares, policías y civiles) por atentados y ataques de los rebeldes iraquíes, según el resumen de información oficial registrado a diario por la prensa.

La cantidad de bajas de militares y policías iraquíes colaboracionistas (sobre quienes se concentra el fuego rebelde) asciende, solamente en lo que va del 2005, a más de 560 muertos, según el resumen de lo publicado en la prensa.

Solamente en el mes de enero -según el mismo conteo periodístico- murieron aproximadamente 106 soldados norteamericanos y más de 300 colaboracionistas iraquíes (entre policías y soldados).

Si bien no hay un registro oficial periodístico de ciudadanos comunes muertos por ataques (mayoritariamente chiíes), considerados "colaboradores civiles" de EEUU por los rebeldes, el balance, en lo que va del 2005, no baja de las 300 víctimas, registradas principalmente en los atentados a mezquitas y partidos políticos.

Estos números revelan, más que ningún análisis, la efectividad mortífera de la guerrilla iraquí, durante la escalada de ataques y atentados comenzada antes de las elecciones, y que continúa hasta el presente.

El accionar de la guerrilla iraquí

El mando militar estadounidense reconoció que la cuarta parte de los muertos de EEUU son por ataques a los vehículos de combate Humvees, informó hace una semana la cadena Al Jazeera.

Según el sitio CSAWeb, 500 muertos del total del total que lleva EEUU desde que se inició la invasión en Irak son consecuencia de los ataques de la guerrilla a los vehículos de combate Humvees con bombas que estallan a su paso y disparos de cohetes y lanzagranadas contra los mismos.

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Por otra parte el Pentágono oculta la cifra real de su bajas dado que en sus datos no contabiliza a los que mueren en hospitales fuera de Irak como consecuencia de las heridas ocasionadas por las acciones de la guerrilla.

El número oficial de muertos es de más de 1.495, pero otras fuentes la elevan a los 1.532, no contabilizándose entre los heridos (oficialmente 10.900) a los afectados por depresión y enfermedades mentales.

El Pentágono había anunciado que blindaría a los Humvees, no concebidos para una situación de guerra sino para transporte en la retaguardia. Hasta el momento sólo 2.000 de los 19.000 vehículos Humvee que EEUU ha desplegado en Irak han sido blindados, lo que causa mayor cantidad de muertos entre los soldados de EEUU.

La semana pasada el diario The Washington Post informó que la ofensiva rebelde contra las fuerzas ocupantes y los colaboracionistas alcanzan un promedio de 60 ataques diarios desde los comicios, el 30 de enero.

Analistas de inteligencia de EEUU citados por el Post señalan que la guerrilla actúa en células pequeñas, y que sus combatientes han huido de las grandes concentraciones de combatientes como en Faluya, lo que facilita su accionar efectivo y rápido repliegue.

Por otra parte, el diario británico The Independent informó que sólo 5.000 soldados colaboracionistas están entrenados para el combate contra la resistencia. El Pentágono está estudiando cómo concretar el plan de formación de 270.000 soldados y policías colaboracionistas se retrasa.

El fracaso de las fuerzas colaboracionistas se produce principalmente por el incremento de los ataques y atentados rebeldes que provocan desertiones constantes entre los reclutas y los efectivos iraquíes.

El Pentágono admite que unos 5.500 soldados desertaron, aunque las organizaciones de familiares creen que la cifra real es probablemente mucho mayor.

En Fort Bragg, la mayor instalación militar del mundo y sede de la célebre 82 División Aerotransportada del ejército, conocida como la "Guardia de Honor de Estados Unidos", por lo menos 50 de sus soldados en Irak murieron en acción.

Este panorama se contradice con el que presentó el general del ejército Charles H. Swannack Jr., comandante de la 82 División Aerotransportada, quien hace un año declaró

ante periodistas en Bagdad: "Estamos deslizándonos hacia el éxito".

La secretaria de Estado, Condoleezza Rice, había dicho que Washington apostaba a una "estrategia del éxito" basada en la preparación para el combate de los colaboradores de EEUU, en oposición a la "estrategia de salida" que plantean los demócratas y los medios de comunicación vinculados a la oposición.

Un informe elaborado en el mes de octubre pasado por una comisión estratégica del Pentágono admite que la guerra en Irak está perdida, y fue suprimido durante la campaña electoral.

El documento, publicado por el Destacamento Especial sobre Comunicación Estratégica del Consejo Científico de Defensa, fue "silenciado" por los medios más importantes de EEUU. Nadie en los ámbitos políticos -ni Republicano ni Demócrata- aludió a sus revelaciones.

El informe fue suprimido durante el período de la campaña electoral, cuando sus conclusiones sin duda habrían creado graves problemas para el gobierno de Bush.

Rechazo y movilizaciones en todo el mundo

Este lunes una encuesta de la consultora Zogby evidenció que el 61 por ciento de los estadounidenses piensa que fue un error la agresión armada al país árabe, en tanto un 39 por ciento considera que valió la pena.

Según informó el diario The Christian Science Monitor medio centenar de pueblos en el estado de Vermont exigirán la salida de las tropas de EEUU de Irak, mientras crece el rechazo nacional a la guerra.

De acuerdo con el diario, de los 251 pueblos de Vermont, 200 han enviado efectivos de la Guardia Nacional al país del Golfo Pérsico, y según las estadísticas la proporción de militares del Estado muertos en suelo iraquí es superior a la de cualquier otro territorio norteamericano.

Esto "trae al debate a las mismas personas que deben discutir el impacto de la guerra: las familias de los guardias nacionales, los políticos locales, los departamentos de policía, y los funcionarios de educación", aseguró Nancy Lessin, cofundadora de la organización Familiares de Militares al Habla.

La agrupación antibelicista prevé una campaña en la cual instará a las autoridades a estudiar los efectos de la guerra, sobre todo las consecuencias del envío de miembros de la Guardia Nacional, desde el estado de Oregón, en el noroeste, hasta Maine, en el noreste.

Para el próximo 19 de marzo, al cumplirse dos años de la invasión a Irak diversas organizaciones en Estados Unidos preparan manifestaciones contra la embestida bélica al país árabe.

Bajo el lema "El mundo dice fin a la guerra", la coalición Unidos por la Paz y la Justicia llamó a los norteamericanos a rechazar ese día a la Administración Bush y exigir el regreso a casa de los 150 mil militares desplegados en suelo iraquí.

"El mensaje no es "que los muchachos vuelvan a casa después de arreglar las cosas", sino "que vuelvan ahora", dijo a la agencia IPS Lou Plummer, un veterano de guerra hoy devenido en pacifista, quien tiene un hijo militar en actividad.

La movilización es organizada por veteranos de guerra y familiares de soldados. Asistirán delegaciones incluso desde el lejano estado de Hawaii, un archipiélago en el océano Pacífico.

Entre los oradores figuran Daniel Berg, padre de Nick Berg, un civil estadounidense decapitado en Irak, Lila Lipscomb, la madre de un soldado muerto que apareció en la película "Fahrenheit 9/11", y David Potorti, cuyo hermano murió en el atentado del 11 de septiembre de 2001 en Nueva York.

El fin de semana, Plummer asistió a una conferencia de activistas contra la guerra en el sudoriental estado de Missouri, en la que participaron varios cientos de pacifistas, ex combatientes y familiares de soldados de 35 de los 51 estados estadounidenses y de Canadá.

Fue la primera reunión para considerar el derrotero del movimiento contra la guerra en Irak después del comienzo del segundo periodo presidencial de George W. Bush.

La conferencia fue coordinada por la coalición Unidos por Paz y Justicia, que reúne a mil organizaciones nacionales y locales.

"Planeamos lanzar una campaña educativa a nivel nacional para alcanzar a personas que están de acuerdo con nosotros pero no participan en el movimiento", dijo a la coordinadora de la red, Leslie Cagan.

Además, los opositores a la guerra en Irak apuntarán contra los problemas económicos en las comunidades locales estadounidenses, intentarán forjar alianzas entre religiosos y laicos y mantendrán la presión sobre el Congreso norteamericano.

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También habrá protestas y manifestaciones en todo el mundo. Ya en febrero de 2003, un mes antes de la invasión, más de 10 millones de personas marcharon simultáneamente en 60 países para repudiar la inminente guerra.

Para este año se planifican actividades en Alemania, España, Dinamarca, Gran Bretaña, Grecia, Francia, Islandia, Italia y otros países europeos, así como en Australia, Bangladesh, Brasil, Corea del Sur, Japón y Sudáfrica.

En Sydney, la ciudad más poblada de Australia, los manifestantes también protestarán contra la decisión del gobierno de John Howard de enviar otros 450 soldados a Iraq, anunciada esta semana.

Las actividades en Suecia son coordinadas por la Red Contra la Guerra, que reúne a 40 partidos políticos, organizaciones religiosas y otras instituciones.

El principal acto será en el centro de Estocolmo, e incluirá en su plataforma el cese de la ocupación de territorio palestino por parte de Israel.