



# REVOLUTIONARY WORKER

Voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

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**AMERIKKKA'S  
CONCENTRATION  
CAMPS  
EXPOSED!**

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Above: Miami, April 29.  
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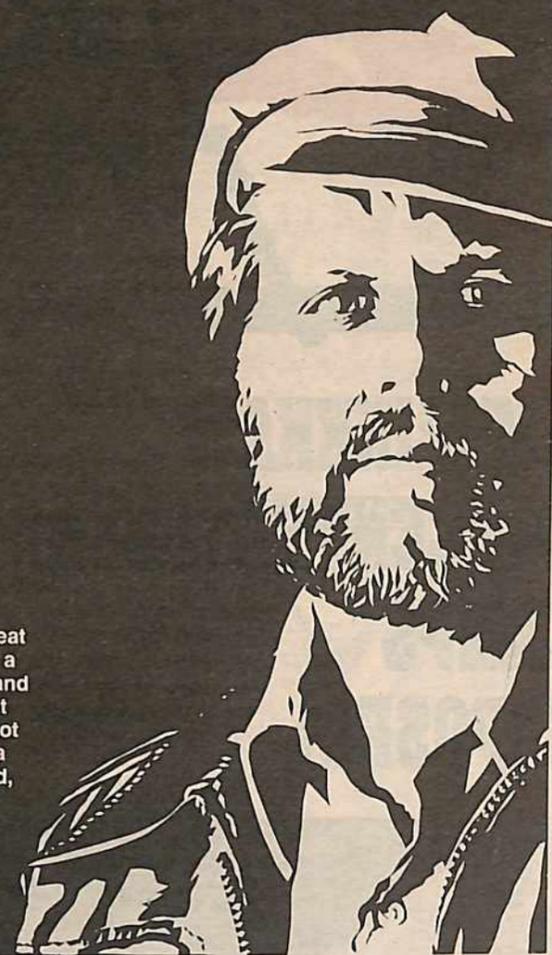
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A Call to Action Against Mandatory  
Patriotism from Joey Johnson

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# REFLECTIONS, SKETCHES & PROVOCATIONS



**Bob Avakian**

*Essays and Commentary  
1981-1987*

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—from the Introduction

This broad-ranging collection of articles and essays is a kind of political compass of the 1980s. Certain themes stand out: the obscene hypocrisy of the imperialists, the limits of reformism, the shifts in the world since the 1960s and the strategic weakness of imperialism, the crucial importance of internationalism, the need to oppose war with revolution, and the nature and necessity of revolutionary preparation. Whether drawing lessons from an NCAA basketball championship game, addressing fundamental questions about intellectual inquiry and debate to Carl Sagan and Stephen Jay Gould, reviewing a routine by Richard Pryor or a song by Phil Ochs, or contrasting two kinds of "festivals" occurring simultaneously in Miami (a rebellion in the Black community and the Orange Bowl regalia), Avakian is consistently fresh and original in his insights. From a piece that extends only a paragraph to an expansive essay, he draws the reader into invigorating debate.

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**S**ome people say we shouldn't just go off and do something drastic, like try to overthrow the system, without giving the system a chance to reform itself. Well, alright, let's see. Maybe the system can change its nature, and the people who run it can change their ways. Maybe, if they were given time, they would no longer enslave, oppress, and degrade people. Maybe they would turn away from mass slaughter in wars and instead devote their technology to eliminating human suffering throughout the world. Maybe they would stop treating people as things to be used so long as money can be made off them and to be thrown onto the garbage heap when there is no money to be made from them. Let's be reasonable. Let's give them not just a few months or a few years. Let's give them a long time—say, maybe 200 or 300 years. . .Okay. . .**TIME'S UP!**

Bob Avakian, Chairman of the RCP, USA

## Three Main Points

by **Bob Avakian**  
Chairman of  
the RCP, USA

What do we in the Revolutionary Communist Party want people to learn from all that is exposed and revealed in this newspaper? Mainly, three things:

- 1) The whole system we now live under is based on exploitation — here and all over the world. It is completely worthless and no basic change for the better can come about until this system is overthrown.
- 2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against things this system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with nothing to lose but their chains who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow this system and create a new system that will put an end to exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.

3) Such a revolutionary struggle is possible. There is a political Party that can lead such a struggle, a political Party that speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains: The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

This Party has the vision, the program, the leadership, and the organizational principles to unite those who must be united and enable them to do what must be done. There is a challenge for all those who would like to see such a revolution, those with a burning desire to see a drastic change for the better, all those who dare to dream and to act to bring about a completely new and better world: Support this Party, join this Party, spread its message and its organized strength, and prepare the ground for a revolutionary rising that has a solid basis and a real chance of winning. □

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# AMERIKKKA'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS EXPOSED!

## May 1st Rebels Confront the Terrordome

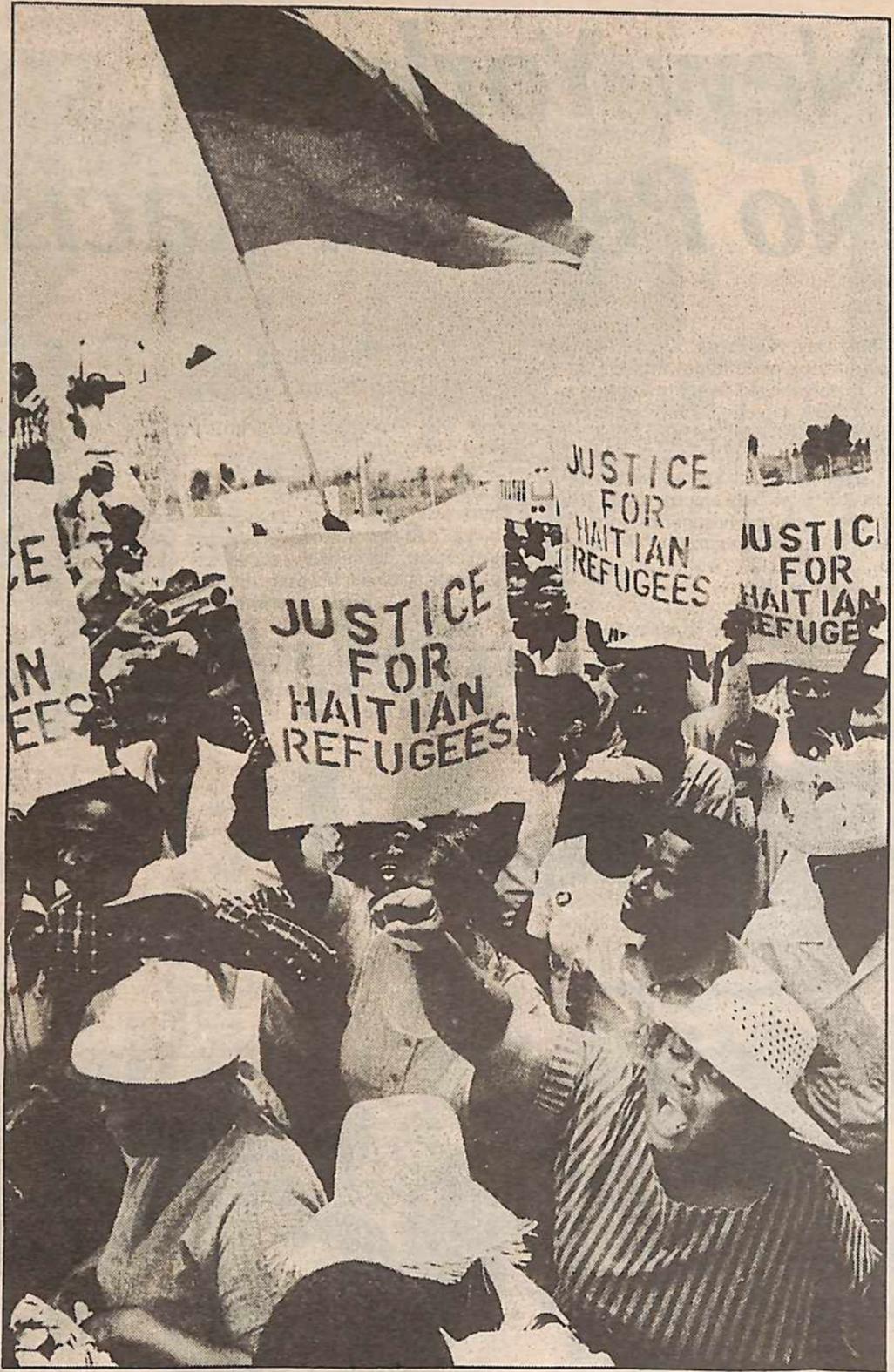
Powerful actions rocked prison walls last week on opposite ends of the country. On April 29, thousands of Haitians and supporters stormed the Krome "processing center" outside Miami! And then, on May First itself, on the other coast, for a short time hundreds of revolutionary people shut down a secret "detention center" hidden in one of Los Angeles' "barricaded" ghetto districts!

This is Amerikkka 1990: walls of police and media silence protect concentration camp realities. Haitian refugees fleeing the brutality of the Tonton Macoute's Haiti are imprisoned, even raped and murdered in Krome "processing center." Central American immigrants escape U.S.-sponsored wars against the people only to be captured in constant L.A. roundups and "detained"—facing deportation back to death-squad regimes.

But this week the people took some significant steps. Right up in the face of the enemy! Red flags and banners flying! Key centers of oppression taken on, *hard*. Secrecy and lies ripped away.

In a call for action at Pico-Union detention center for Cinco de Mayo, La Resistencia in Southern California issued a news release that said: "These two outbreaks show that determined, mass action is both POSSIBLE and the only way to stop and prevent the government from rounding up, detaining and deporting immigrants. Through these actions new opportunities have opened up. These immigrants, refugees and youth have set an example for us all! How can we not take up their challenge!"

Following are reports the RW received from Los Angeles and Miami.



Miami, April 29.

## Los Angeles: Confrontation Behind the Barricades



Los Angeles RCYB'er Rojo and cops on roof of INS detention center.

"The whole incident made me realize that the people can stand up against the pigs and the support the people got was great, huge—they really hurt the enemy. It was a slap in the face to them. And it was really dreadful that the police brought in seven helicopters and caused so much damage. They cannot continue oppressing the people in this area, the people from Central America. This area belongs to the people and their vanguard, the Party. I would also like to emphasize that this is a school of war, and that the people are learning each day and in every place, in each battle that they wage. And it really was great. I'm really excited because I never expected this. May First was truly great. We saw the people come out in support of the demonstration when the dogs were repressing them. . . . The reaction was really significant."

Salvadoran youth from Pico-Union, Los Angeles

On May First in Los Angeles, a big hole was blown in the attempts of the government to pen in, lock up, and kill off our people, and the spirit of rebellion and liberation was established on the streets of Little Central America (La Centroamericana). Hundreds of revolutionary immigrants and youth of many

nationalities united to boldly shut down a secret concentration camp for immigrants. This camp is inside a "barricade zone"—one of L.A.'s six gestapo ghettos set up by the LAPD to lock down oppressed Black and Latino people. On the outside it looks like an old motel, but up to 250 prisoners, including families and children, are imprisoned behind its iron bars and gates. As a reporter for Channel 7 local ABC-TV news said: "Until two hours ago, nobody knew this was a detention center." But everybody knows now!

They know because the revolutionary people of L.A. went straight up against the clampdown/lockup plans of the rulers with the spirit of a very different future. While hundreds of people gathered in the area of the INS Detention Center, blowing whistles and chanting revolutionary slogans, the iron gates of this concentration camp were chained from the outside and a big banner saying "Revolution, The Only Solution" was stretched across the front. Rubber tires blocked all the entrances. On the roof, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade, Rojo, proclaimed the goal of all-the-way Maoist revolution and shouted, "Free My People." For a short time, the concentration camp was

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# New York: No Peace 4 Racists on May 1

May Day, New York. A bold May 1st protest took place in downtown Brooklyn, raising the red flag of revolution and particularly targeting the oppression of Black people. Also on May 1st in New York other outpourings of rage and struggle took place against national oppression, especially among young Black people. And revolutionaries joined in these struggles, bringing the "We want to bury this system" politics of May Day into these battles.

## Red Flags in Downtown Brooklyn

A May Day march starts at Long Island University in downtown Brooklyn. Black people, white people, Asians, and Latinos march together. There are homeless proletarians, including members of the Revolutionary Homeless Organization, Haitian activists, and proletarians from the Free South Africa, Free South Bronx Network with a "Devastate Apartheid" banner. A bullhorn is passed from hand to hand and people speak out with bitterness against the system and with determination to fight the Powers.

At one point an effigy of a killer cop is about to be strung up on a lamp post. A cop grabs it and then a homeless proletarian snatches it back. He grabs the effigy's pig head, shimmies up the lamp post, and hangs the pig head from the top of it. The cops go after him, chasing him for several blocks. But they never catch him.

When the march gets to the courthouse, people bolt for the steps, shouting "Justice for Yusuf!" This is the courthouse where the trial of those who murdered Yusuf Hawkins has been a platform for racists to spew their filthy garbage. This is where the Bensonhurst trial has been used to punish a young woman, Gina Feliciano, for daring to have Black

and Latin friends and for defying the racist men who think they own her. This is the courthouse that most of Yusuf's murderers have never seen—because they've never been arrested. And this is the courthouse where killer cops, like those who murdered Juan Rodriguez, get set free. Now the people fill the steps of this courthouse with banners declaring: "Racists, Rambos, Rulers of Amerikka—It's All Going To Fall on You!"

When the police start to shove people off the steps the march takes off again, only to take over the steps at the back of the courthouse. More cops come running and push people out into the street. The police are furious when they look back and find May 1st Manifestos up on the courthouse. They charge after the protesters, flinging people to the ground, beating them in full view of rush hour traffic on the entrance road to the Brooklyn Bridge. In all, thirteen people—ten women and three men—are arrested and charged with criminal mischief, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

## CUNY Students: "This Is Our March"

On May 1st, 500 students from the City University of New York (CUNY) hit the streets of lower Manhattan. The protest was called to commemorate last year's city-wide student strike that defeated the authorities' plan to raise tuition and protest current efforts to increase tuition.

Black students, students from the Caribbean, Latinos, Palestinians, and other from different CUNY campuses defiantly marched down Broadway. Students sang in Caribbean style, "No, no, no Cuomomomo." Some marched with kafiya wrapped around their heads. Others wore bright African prints, joining in with the Kid 'n Play-styled youth. The pigs ringed the march on both sides with motorcycle cops, confining it to one



May 1—CUNY students march in Manhattan.

Photo: Margot Harry

## "Free South Africa! Free the South Bronx!"

New York, May 5. A powerful action took place against national oppression in the South Bronx. Black, Latino and white people, including proletarians from the South Bronx, members of the Revolutionary Homeless Organization and the RCYB, marched through the streets to declare: DOWN WITH APARTHEID AND IMPERIALISM FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO THE USA! The march made its way past the 40th Police Precinct, also called "Fort Apache" and known and hated for its brutality against the people. The march also went way through the area where the Biko Lives! festivals have been held and where the slogan "Free South Africa, Free South Bronx" originated.

The pigs, freaked by the march, ran to the front and grabbed and arrested a Latino man who was speaking out over a bullhorn. When a Latina woman started yelling, "Let him go," she was also arrested. By this time, hundreds of people had gathered on the streets and more were hanging out of windows. Things got very tense, very fast. The pigs started going after a Black man in the crowd but then retreated.

People then marched to the precinct to demand that the two people arrested be freed. A few dozen Black and Latino youth joined in. Youth were yelling, "Riot! Riot!" The raps "Fight the Power" and "Fuck Tha Police" blasted out on the street across from the precinct. Youth bought eggs and threw them at the pigs. Stickers with "Fight the Power, Seize the Power" and other slogans were all over pig cars parked in front. Hundreds of leaflets and May Day Manifestos got out as youth debated what to do to bring the system down.

In less than fifteen minutes the two people arrested were freed! The group marched back to the site of the arrest, where someone from the RCYB and the Latino man who had been arrested climbed up on a phone booth and spoke to the crowd. After the demonstration ended, behind on the sidewalk, someone had spraypainted, "Fight the Power, Devastate Apartheid, Free South Africa/South Bronx, Fuck Police."



Photo: Margot Harry

May 2—Demonstration at Long Island University.



Photo: Matt Stohower

May Day march at Brooklyn courthouse.

lane of traffic. But students resisted this—one student shouted into a cop's face, "This is OUR march!"

The march went down Wall Street and then occupied the steps of Federal Hall. At this point some students bought American flags from a street vendor and promptly torched them. One student started up the chant, "The whole system's got to go."

The march then went to the World Trade Center where Governor Cuomo's office is and people sat down in the middle of the street. Pigs in and out of uniform charged in, viciously grabbing students and arresting nine people.

Throughout the day RCP May 1st

Manifestos got out broadly in the crowd. One student told the *RW* when asked about May Day, "Revolution outrage. That's right. That's just what it's supposed to be. And that's just why we doing it today."

As we go to press, student protests are continuing. At CUNY's Hunter College the students have taken over a building and are still holding it.

### No Peace for Racists at Long Island University

Students at CUNY are predominantly proletarians and lower middle class. A

Continued on page 6

**"For all the brothers and sisters here who are fighting these racist dogs. . . In every city you can find you find killer cops killing African, Latino, and European people who are standing up for struggle against oppression. So he says for everybody to stand strong and fight back. Freedom or death!"**

Al Hajj Idris Mohammed who delivered a message of support from Adam Abdul Hakeem (formerly known as Larry Davis)

**"Those who hate the system need to be out here marching with us 'cause this is May 1st, the day when people all around the world struggle against their oppressors and say, 'No More. We're tired of this shit and we're not gonna take it.' They say get back. We say fuck that!"**

Black woman at the New York May Day march

# "Resist to Exist" at T-Square Park

Tompkins Square Park is in the East Village section of New York City. It's a place where people of all different nationalities go to hang out together. Where middle class youth from the suburbs mix with Latin proletarian youth from the neighborhood. And it's a place people go if they want to fight the system. This whole scene is a threat to the clamp-down the powers-that-be are bringing down on the people—especially Black and Latin youth. And that's why they've attacked people over and over again and tried to shut the park down.

May First: A concert in Tompkins Square Park was viciously attacked by the pigs. The concert was the last of four days of May Day events sponsored by Resist to Exist, which is a coalition of East Village activists including squatters, anarchists, homeless people and others active in the struggle against homelessness. The gathering of a few hundred people was a mixed crowd—mostly young middle class youth, anarchists, squatters and some homeless people. At 9 p.m. when the sound permit expired, without warning the pigs stormed the stage, arrested three organizers of the event, and began beating band members and people dancing.

People fought back and defended themselves against the police. The press reported that rocks and bottles flew through the air at the cops. The pigs didn't expect this response. They thought they could just get away with this shit. They didn't even have the backup on hand to get the injured cops off the stage, and it took them over fifteen minutes to get reinforcements. Then thirty pigs in military formation were sent in to rescue the wounded pigs and haul away the three who had been arrested.

Suddenly a Black man jumped up on a 55-gallon drum and burned a huge American flag. Some fascist skinheads

kicked the drum out from under him. The skinheads collaborate with the police and have been used to help enforce their control over the area, by confusing and intimidating people. But this time the youth weren't gonna go out like that. The skinhead was driven off. Other skins with sticks were disarmed and chased out of the park. This sparked off a heated debate for about forty-five minutes over what the U.S. flag really stands for. Many people spoke out on the crimes of U.S. imperialism the flag represents, including the oppression of Black people, the invasion of Panama, the war in Vietnam and homelessness. In the midst of this RCP May Day Manifestos got out in the crowd.

All this strengthened people's determination not to let the powers-that-be get away with their brutal attack, especially not on May Day. They marched to the precinct to demand that those arrested be released. The pigs had the entire precinct barricaded off. The march continued through the East Village. At one housing project a crew of six Latin and white youths 11 to 13 years old joined and held up the May Day Manifesto, saying, "Yeah, we wanna bury this system." Traffic was blocked around the area for about an hour. When police finally brought in some backups and blocked the march youth dumped over garbage dumpsters to block the streets and made their way back to the park. Throughout the night people chanted, "May Day, May Day!"

According to the press, twenty-eight pigs were wounded. Twenty-seven people were arrested. Most were charged with assault, inciting to riot and disorderly conduct. Many more were beaten and injured by police, as the people continued to block traffic and confront the police until 3 a.m. □

Photo: drew



May 1, Tompkins Square Park



May 1, Kreuzberg, West Berlin.

### South Korea

In the days leading up to May First, the U.S.-backed South Korean government of Roh Tae-woo tried to crush mass resistance of workers using the most brutal means. On Saturday, April 28 one thousand government police stormed the shipbuilding complex of Hyundai Heavy Industries in the city of Ulsan to remove striking members who had taken over the site. More than 600 workers were arrested. This ignited a surge of struggle throughout South Korea which burst into full flame on May First. Tens of thousands of South Korean students and workers rose up in battles against the brutal South Korean ruling class across the country.

An illegal network of workers called for a national strike to mark May Day. Authorities responded by saying that all such strikes are illegal and that organizers would be arrested. Ignoring such pig threats, about 110,000 workers staged May First strikes at more than fifty major worksites. Massive May Day rallies and protests were held in at least five cities, and in many cities workers fought riot police with rocks and firebombs. In Ulsan, which is the center of Hyundai Motors, about 19,000 workers held May Day rallies, and 4,000 battled riot police with rocks and

molotov cocktails.

More than 8,000 students from twenty-two universities gathered in Seoul, the capital, for a rally that turned into widespread street fighting with riot police. About 1,000 protesting students at Seoul National University adopted a resolution vowing to "stage struggles against the government party in alliance with Hyundai workers who are standing up against cruel suppression to push their cause."

A leaflet distributed at a demonstration by students of Ewha Women's University called for "crushing the government party" in a "sea of fire with a general strike by students and workers" on May 9. CNN TV news has shown young women playing a front-rank role in the street fighting—squad of fierce sisters can be seen hurling firebombs as they charge riot police.

Around midnight Monday police raided the Korean Broadcasting System headquarters in Seoul and detained 333 striking reporters, producers and technicians staging a sit-in there. As that struggle continues the South Korean mass media may remain shut down—depriving the ruling class of one of its most powerful weapons for suppression.

# May 1st

The U.S. ruling class had a script for their parrot media to follow on this May Day. That script read, "Communism is dead. Capitalism is victorious. So May First must be dead too."

TV news on May Day was full of pictures of Soviet leader Gorbachev being booed in Moscow and of people in Eastern Europe having nonpolitical picnics—just like Labor Day in the U.S. The U.S. propaganda machine is trying to take advantage of the fact that the phony communism of the Soviet bloc has collapsed. That phony communism claimed to be a society without exploitation, but it was really just a little different form of capitalism—full of corruption, oppression, crisis, and suffering just like in the U.S. and other Western countries.

But that doesn't mean that real revolutionary struggle has stopped. In fact, revolutionary May Day is very much alive around the world!

This article is an early summary of May First events worldwide. Much of this material comes from bourgeois news sources, which often put out lies and distortions when reporting on people's struggles. But one thing is clear: Important and radical struggles ripped on this May First across the globe.

### West Berlin

The reunification of Germany is supposed to be the only *real* issue in West and East Germany these days—at least according to the bourgeoisie. On May First, various revisionist, social democrat, and other such reactionary forces held a "unified" May Day in Berlin to drink beer, eat sausages, and speculate what *their* slice of some future Fourth Reich might be.

But this ugly fest was overshadowed by powerful actions centered in Kreuzberg, an inner-city ghetto of Berlin with a reputation for revolutionary energy. About 15,000 people participated in a counter-rally in Kreuzberg which brought together both immigrant Turkish and native German rebel youth.

"We are all a bit nervous," said West Berlin's city spokesman. "We just hope the rioting doesn't spread to other city districts." As part of the new "East-West cooperation" between the two Germanies, East Berlin deployed 3,000 of its police Tuesday—preparing to help suppress any May First uprising that their West German brother-pigs couldn't contain!

The column of protesters weaved its way for two miles through Kreuzberg under the watchful eye of police in full riot gear. Marchers chanted refreshing antipatriotic slogans against the German imperialist reunification. Banners said "No to one Germany" and "Smash the European house."

As night approached fighting broke out. According to bourgeois news sources, "More than 500 youths fought pitched battles with police Tuesday in the Kreuzberg District on into Wednesday morning." They further claim that police arrested more than fifty rioters but were unsuccessful in suppressing the action. There were repeated volleys of rocks and bottles. There were molotov cocktails, and at least two police vehicles supposedly went up in flames. City officials later claimed a great number of police were injured in the fighting.

### Peru

We have not yet heard any news of what happened on May First in Peru, where a genuine people's war under the leadership of the Communist Party of Peru (PCP) has been growing. But we can report that exciting signs of support for the Peruvian people's war were visible right in the U.S.—under the noses of the U.S. imperialists who are setting up a Green Beret base in Peru and stepping up other military intervention against the people's war.

On Monday evening, April 30 the face of Mao Tsetung was projected on the United Nations Assembly Building in New York, filling the expanse from ground to roof. Above Mao's portrait were the words "Victory to the People's War in Peru" and below it the words "Mao More Than Ever."

At New York's Peruvian consulate, two large pillars on both sides of the entrance were covered with May Day manifestos. Two walls on both sides of the main door were covered with English and Spanish slogans stenciled in bright yellow paint: "Support the People's War in Peru!" and "Down with U.S. Intervention in Peru!" Ten feet of sidewalk graffiti spelled out in red: "U.S. Out of Peru" and "Viva el PCP!" Meanwhile, at New York's office of the Drug Enforcement Agency, the walls were covered with slogans that read "DEA Murderers of the People!", "The War on Drugs Is a War on the People!", and "Viva el PCP!" There was also a hammer and sickle. DEA agents are stationed at the Vietnam War-style Santa Lucía firebase in Peru.

## New York

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lot of students are from oppressed nationalities, many are from other countries, many are young women. The oppressors are now not only making it hard for these students to afford to go to school. They are also bringing open reaction and racism onto the campuses.

White professor Levin at City College in Harlem openly teaches that Black people are intellectually inferior to whites. This racist claims that white people have a moral right to be afraid of Black people when they see them on the street because "Black people are criminals." This racist has been getting

promoted in the media and was invited to speak at a May 2 conference at the downtown Brooklyn campus of Long Island University. LIU's Philosophy Department defended this invitation, saying Levin had a right to "free speech."

The students took a firm stand of "No peace for this racist!" And they weren't stopped by hypocritical talk of "free speech." They saw: Levin ain't about free speech. He's about justifying the racist attacks coming down on Black people. Hundreds of students gathered, determined to stop Levin from speaking. The cops were immediately on hand to stop people from getting inside the meeting

room. But this only made the students angrier and more determined. Angry chants rang out: "Get the racist out!" "No Justice, No Peace," "Racism is ignorance," "No Peace, No Peace, No Peace for Racists!"

One Black woman talked about how Black people were brought here in chains, robbed of their culture and religion, raped, and called less than human. Now, she said, we are paying \$10,000 a year to go to a school that allows this racist to speak! When one student said, "They think we're 'niggers,'" another student shot back: "Niggers with attitudes," and the crowd

cheered. A table blocked the way to the meeting room where Levin was speaking. People started to pound it like a war drum.

At one point an older Black man addressed the students, asking them what was preventing them from stopping Levin. There was a one-second pause. And then the students surged for the door. Cops guarding Levin's room picked up two metal coat racks, formed a V, and rammed into the students. Then all hell broke loose. Fists pounded on the walls. Coffee urns went flying. One Black sister fearlessly cursed out the police as blood dripped from her head. A student

# Across the Planet

## Turkey

For a decade, celebrating May Day has been illegal in Turkey. Police have shot into May Day crowds and killed people. Yet this year, once again, the masses of people seized May First to express their hatred of the reactionary system in Turkey.

Turkish news agencies reported that the police used extreme means to try to stop the demonstrations. Serious fights between police and demonstrators broke out at marches in Istanbul. More than 380 people were arrested. Seven demonstrators were seriously injured, including two with gunshot wounds. One young woman student was shot twice in the back. At least seven police were also injured.

According to this report, demonstrators defied both the legal ban and the police attack and continued their rally in the early afternoon.

## Mexico

Usually the Mexican government holds official May First rituals in the capital city of Mexico City—even forcing government employees to show their loyalty by attending. But this year several different antigovernment counter-marches wound their way through the city. The protesters targeted the U.S. imperialists who dominate Mexico and the reactionary Mexican ruling class. According to the Associated Press, two groups marched past the U.S. embassy chanting, “Gringo thieves to the firing squads!” Police on horseback and on foot charged one of the antigovernment marches and beat demonstrators as well as journalists.

## Philippines

May First this year saw a powerful new upsurge of anti-imperialist struggle against U.S. military bases on Philippine soil. The reactionary Corazon Aquino government starts negotiations with the Bush administration this month over the future of U.S. bases in the Philippines. Demonstrations of thousands rocked most major cities, and street fighting raged outside U.S. bases. There were 50,000 people at the largest demo, near the U.S. embassy in Manila. Filipino troops charged into nearly 5,000 protesters near Clark Air Base. Over and over again demonstrators destroyed the U.S. flag—they burned it, they stomped it, and, in one case, a crowd threw tomatoes at it. Speakers denounced the Aquino government as “pro-rich” and “a puppet of the Americans.”

## Panama

In Panama City, 5,000 workers chanted, “Get out Yankee invaders,” and “Here, there, the Yankees will die” as they marched down Central Avenue in downtown Panama City. A poster carried by marchers said, “Panama: Occupied Territory” and had a picture of a U.S. soldier arresting a Panamanian. U.S. troops received orders from their commanders to avoid going out among Panamanian civilians on May First. The May Day march was the greatest outpouring of anti-American protest in Panama since the U.S. invasion last December. □



May 1—United Nations Assembly Building, New York.

Photo: Clear © 1990

inside the room where Levin was speaking told the *RW* that when the chanting outside grew to a roar, a terrified Levin stood up with such force he knocked over his chair and his papers went flying. Levin was quickly escorted out via the basement and the conference was canceled. More cops flooded the lobby, billy clubs flying, forcing students out into the courtyard. But all this brutality did the oppressors no good. They lost control and were dealt a defeat: their racist mouthpiece Levin was shut up, shut down, and shipped out.

The politics of revolutionary May Day was boldly united with this struggle. LIU

students had gotten May Day Manifestos and revolutionaries from the Brooklyn May Day march had been invited to join the protest against Levin. At a rally held after Levin was shut down, Carl Dix, spokesperson for the RCP, and Mary Lou Greenberg, spokesperson for the RCP New York Branch, addressed the crowd of students who gave them an enthusiastic response.

There's a war coming down—a war that would have Black people locked down and subjugated. But on May Day the oppressor didn't have things their way as the people made sure there was “No Peace for Racists!” □

**“People out here notice that this march is made up of people of all different nationalities, all different colors. And that's the way it's gotta be if we're gonna go after the enemy and really bring him down. . . . When we unite it's gotta be firmly against the male chauvinism and the white supremacy that keeps both women and Black people and people of all different nationalities down.”**

Mary Lou Greenberg, spokesperson for the RCP New York Branch, wearing a “Mao More Than Ever” T-shirt at the May Day march

**“Get off the sidewalks and get in the streets, join this demonstration. Take your stand now. Don't wait until it happens to yours 'cause as far as we're concerned it already did. . . . We're not gonna tolerate this shit no more. . . . Don't be intimidated by this sea of blue, for this sea of blue will soon be through!”**

Black brother at the New York May Day march

# STORM GATES O

Miami, Sunday, April 29. The Krome Detention Center—an INS concentration camp where almost 400 Haitian immigrants are imprisoned. Veye-Yo, a mass organization of progressive and revolutionary Haitians has called for a demonstration and 5,000 people have gathered to demand: "We want our people freed! Shut Down the Camp!"

The authorities have put the concentration camp on "lockdown" status. They have announced the posting of 90 Federal sharpshooters and a special riot control team of 79 INS officers has been deployed. The police have sealed off the area and have prevented several hundred people from getting to the demonstration.

The angry crowd is overwhelmingly Haitian, but there are also people of other nationalities, including progressive white attorneys, Black and Puerto Rican youth, revolutionary communists and Iranian revolutionaries. Angry signs are everywhere: "Never again—How can this happen?" "Haiti-Fort Dimanche = INS-Krome" (Fort Dimanche is an infamous Duvalier political prison and torture chamber in Haiti) "Krome Camp, Touch of Hitlerism!" "Apartheid à la INS!" Father Gerard Jean-Juste tells the crowd, "We want freedom and justice for the Haitian refugees and all the refugees detained. We must break down the walls of Krome, which remind us of Hitlerism."

Most of the crowd has gathered around a makeshift stage set up outside the camp. But there is a section of several hundred people who aren't into speeches on this day. Many youth, women and new immigrants are in this group, and they are determined to shut this concentration camp down.

Pointing to a police helicopter overhead and then at the camp, one man shouts, "They can't kill us all. They can kill some, but not all. We should go in!"

A couple of hundred people move back and forth between the stage and the outer gate. Officials are trying to in-

timidate people by taking their photos at the front gate. But people are defiant and their attitude is: "How many times are we going to just come out here and make speeches when they're beating and raping our people in there?" Recently, over 100 affidavits have been filed by people testifying to the brutalities going on inside Krome—from broken bones and beatings to women prisoners being raped and others simply disappearing. Many of those demonstrating on this day have been on the other side of the gate—and this sharpens their determination to free the people still held prisoners.

In the midst of all this is an RCYB May Day banner held high. It reads: "Outcasts, Downcasts, Slaves, Illegals and Rebels—It's Right to Rebel!" It had been made by Puerto Rican youth from a Miami neighborhood where the cops have been clamping down. People take turns holding it up—an Iranian, Black people born in the U.S., a Puerto Rican, Haitians. Revolutionaries circulate a leaflet by the RCP and another by supporters of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement which demands: "Shut Down the Camps! Tear Down the Walls! Break Down the Borders! Make Revolution All Over the World!" Red armbands and headbands are also grabbed up and worn by many in the crowd.

Someone starts singing a battle song by Les Frere Parents (a popular Haitian singing group) which says, "Duvalier's gone, Hallelujah, Hallelujah." One group of people begin singing "Grenadier a L'Assaut," traditionally sung by men going into battle. Suddenly those between the stage and the gate come together as one mass of several hundred. They push into those already at the gate. In an instant the huge gate topped with barbed wire is toppled and people rush on through. With the RCYB banner up front, the crowd marches and dances to the second gate, a quarter of a mile up the road.

The people are determined to break through this second gate as well. But it



has been fortified on the other side with seventy-five marshals in riot gear and gas masks. The road between the two gates quickly became liberated territory. The

crowd is furious, hurling taunts of "Ton-ton Macoutes" (the death-squad police of the Duvalier regime in Haiti). Some rocks fly over the fence at the riot squad.

## Los Angeles



May 1, Los Angeles

Photo: René X

Continued from page 3

shut down. The rulers' fantasy of immigrants being penned up like sheep and shipped back to the death squads of Central America—while the rest of the people went along with the program—had been challenged.

Stung badly, the enemies of the people went crazy. It's fine with the LAPD if our youth fight or kill each other over some bullshit. They get off on that. But when our youth rise up, united, with a vision of a new kind of society, the authorities see their doom and go all out to crush the youth.

The LAPD launched a brutal assault on the courageous revolutionaries, attacking them with billy clubs and jackboots. A pig pulled his gun out and pointed it right at Rojo on the roof of the concentration camp, but Rojo was defiant. He did not move off the roof. Los Angeles TV viewers witnessed live coverage as Rojo was taken into custody on the roof by firemen and police. The reporter later stated that police were saying he had head injuries, but they claimed that he had not been injured when taken into custody. Then, a spokesman for the INS concentration camp said on TV that Rojo had hit his own head against the wall!

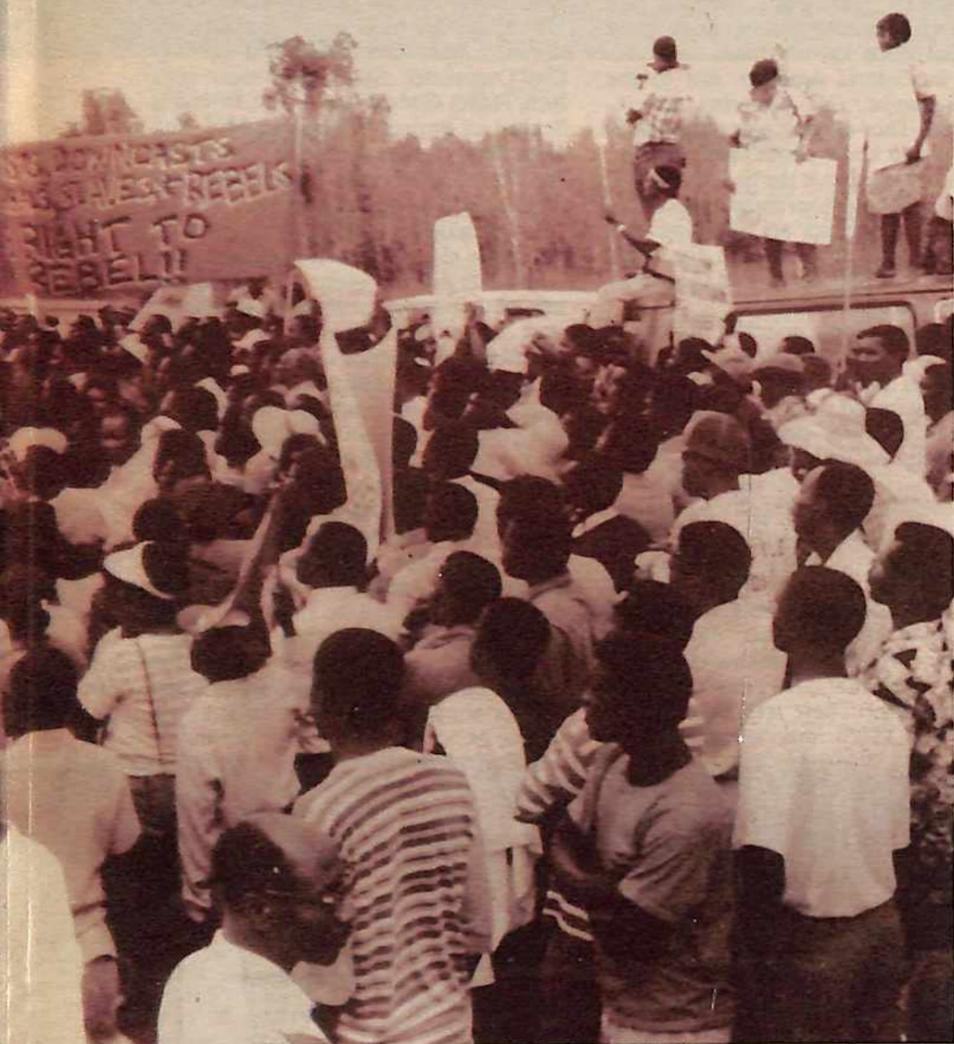
In fact, Rojo was beaten in custody by eight pigs with clubs and required twelve stitches, six of them for very deep gashes. He has bruises all over his body, including a boot mark on his back. Sasha, a woman leader of the RCYB, whose life has been threatened repeatedly in the past by the LAPD (who have deliberately put her in their "Salvadoran" file—implying she is a target of L.A. death-squad attacks), has had her life threatened again by the authorities while in jail. One youth was hog-tied and seriously beaten, causing kidney or liver damage, and both of his eyes are swollen shut. Another youth had his spine in-

jured when he was beaten by police with his hands tied behind his head. He needed four stitches to his head and his eye is swollen shut. A woman RCYBer was repeatedly beaten, stepped on and dragged on the ground in front of the detention center, but she continued shouting revolutionary slogans—including "You can kill a revolutionary but you can't kill the revolution." Altogether, the pigs arrested eighteen people and held them for a total ransom of \$86,000 bail. By Saturday, due to the support of the people, all those arrested were out on bail.

The heroic actions of the revolutionary youth and immigrants on May First, in the face of the fascist assault, reverberated throughout the city and beyond. A Latino columnist for the *L.A. Times* had to admit that the revolutionaries had become "Heroes of the Barrio": "Policemen, like tiger sharks, are less than discriminating when it comes to a feeding frenzy. They jumped on anything young and noisy, sometimes six of them wrestling one scrawny kid to the ground in a display of witless overreaction I haven't seen since the riots of Berkeley 25 years ago. . . . In the odd transformation of social protest, the winners were the people behind bars, and the losers were the ones who had put them there." Hundreds went up against the concentration camp and the pigs (who found themselves under siege for much of the day), with people shouting "Zona del Pueblo" and "Vayan a la mierda" at the police all day long.

May First had started with a rally at Damián García Park—a rally bursting with youthful revolutionary spirit. Red flags, revolutionary banners—"Revolution, The Only Solution," "Mao More Than Ever" "Outcasts, Downcasts, Slaves, Illegals and Rebels, It's Right to Rebel!"—red streamers, manifestos up on the trees, revolutionary graffiti sud-

# ING THE F KROME



April 29—Breaking through the gate at Krome.

One Haitian man, dead serious, calmly points to the guards and says, "We're gonna get you."  
One group of Haitian youth repeated-

ly bangs on the gate and shouts at the cops, then breaks out in laughter and dancing. A young woman steps back and tries earnestly, in rapid-fire Creole, to

"The confrontation lasted about a half hour. Eventually the demonstrators who had broken through the camp enclosure resigned themselves to withdrawing and to rejoining the rest of the demonstration. They left proudly, singing *la Desalinienne* and bringing with them, as a trophy, the twisted metal gate. They carried it on their shoulders for more than a kilometer. One of them planted this sign in front of the camp before leaving: 'Let Our People Go.'"

From *Haiti en Marche*

"I am pleased to see our people break down the gate. But that isn't enough. I wish they would destroy the camp—stone by stone. Our countrymen haven't committed any crime to justify locking them behind the bars of Krome."

Manés A., from *Haiti en Marche*

"Some of us started singing, 'Grenadiers a l'Assaut,'" said Eddy Sanon, "In a second, everyone was excited. And then like one person, the crowd dived toward the metal barrier."

From *Haiti en Marche*

explain to an English-speaking demonstrator what they are saying to the cops. She gets her message across: "The Haitian people are going to kick their ass." Meanwhile a group of white youth hang a banner right on the fence that reads, "Refuse and Resist the Concentration Camps!"

For an hour the struggle goes on at the second gate. Some rally marshals try and cool things out, telling people they are "going too far." They form a line between the angry crowd and the gate, but the people try to push on through. A young Haitian woman, who was the second person through the first gate, leads the charge at the second gate, wrestling herself from the grasp of one gate "defender" after another. The crowd is unable to break through the second gate, but they leave victoriously. They pick up the first broken gate, hold it high above their heads, and dance around with it. Later they hurl it into the swamp.

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In the aftermath of this powerful demonstration the INS is desperately trying to cool things out. They released sixteen Haitians on the eve of the demo and afterwards announced plans to release 200 more. The April 29 demonstration represents a real leap in the struggle of Haitian immigrants—a leap to determined offensive action by the masses to actually shut Krome down. Veye-Yo has now called for another demonstration on May 10 at 3:00 p.m. at the INS main office in Miami.

In the Black Miami communities of Liberty City and Overtown, news of the Krome demonstration was greeted like a breath of fresh air. One Overtown woman said, "We talked about it all day at work." One Haitian woman said, "Now I think they're starting to see just how angry we really are." A Puerto Rican youth who participated in the Krome demo said, "I've always supported the Haitian people's struggle, but now I see just how important they can be to revolutionary struggle here." □

denly appearing all over the place, a sculpture of *Damián García* done by a local artist. The rally featured a short speech by Lucas Martínez, spokesperson from *Libros Revolución*.

From the park, the May Day activists took off on a militant march down Alvarado Street toward the barricaded zone. Before it had gone a block, the LAPD attacked and arrested several people, including the driver of a car with the *Damián* sculpture sticking out its roof. But the marchers quickly regrouped and headed off down the street, double-time and into the barricaded zone. People from the neighborhood—including some who had previously told reporters that they didn't know what was going on—joined up along the way, waving red flags, some chanting the revolutionary slogans of the day and others crying out, "Viva Mexico" or "Viva El Salvador."

When the marchers arrived at the concentration camp, the prisoners were watching from the barred windows. The marchers moved quickly to shut down the detention center while hundreds gathered nearby. The police attack on those right in front of the concentration camp began immediately. Within minutes, several large squads of police had moved on the crowd, making repeated assaults on the people with their billy clubs as they tried to push the people away from the once secret prison. They blocked off four square city blocks to keep people away. But many of the people fought back, and the cops—who attacked and beat people as they tried to pick out those who had gone on the march—found themselves besieged and under attack for much of the afternoon.

The very next day, while all those arrested and brutalized by the police were still in jail, the May Day Committee held a press conference right in front of the detention center to announce the deter-

mination of the people to keep up the struggle until the concentration camp was shut down. Among those who showed up at the press conference were immigrants who spoke about the brutal attacks of the police. A doctoral student in Religion and Social Ethics from the University of Southern California came to tell the press that reports from Christian base communities in El Salvador reveal that the U.S.-backed government is pouring napalm on the countryside and that this is what the immigrants in the concentration camp are being deported back to.

How uptight the authorities were about this whole situation was further revealed when this press conference was surrounded by LAPD units, who blocked

off four square blocks with barricades and flares once again and prepared to arrest everyone in the area. The press conference participants marched out of the area. But demonstrations and press conferences in front of the detention center continued throughout the week—including an appearance by a battered but defiant Rojo just after he was bailed out of jail.

As the communique from the L.A. May Day Committee says, "All those who saw a new future on Alvarado on May First, and the millions who were inspired by seeing the heroic youth out there on TV, must step forward! The oppressor has thrown out all pretext of freedom and democracy and declared his intention to openly beat and brutalize and jail

anyone who exposes their evil concentration camp and their fascist future. While they go on about how there's not enough freedom for dissidents in their rival superpower—they act like nazis when a different future is fought for here.

"Step forward! Take up the revolutionary tasks presented by the advance of May First. The eyes of people like us—and even many who have had their eyes closed until now—are on Pico-Union and the Concentration Camp. Will it go back to business as usual? Never! It can't! Will the revolutionary cause be jailed, beaten and terrorized off the map so they can get over with their clampdown? It's in your hands..." □



Photo: René X

May 1, Los Angeles

# La Resistencia: "Liberar todos



Photo: Ken Light

La Migra captures an immigrant.

Pico-Union, Los Angeles, Cinco de Mayo

At 10 a.m. La Resistencia held a powerful rally, picket line and press conference in front of the INS Detention Center in Pico-Union. They had come to demand an end to an intolerable situation—where immigrant people are locked up in concentration camps to be deported back to the death-squad regimes in Central America. But to the powers-that-be, this gathering was intolerable. They do not want the masses of people to know about these prisons. And they do not want the basic people to know that people from many walks of life and different classes are standing with them. For the third time in five days, squads of riot police attacked those who demonstrated at this location.

Two dozen people marched in front of the detention center's iron gates, while sixty more, mostly immigrants from the area, participated from across the street. The demonstrators—including La Resistencia activists and supporters, RCYB youth and other revolutionaries, and youth of different nationalities from the area—carried banners reading "Shut Down the INS Concentration Camp" and "From Krome to Pico-Union, Shut Down the Concentration Camps" and homemade picket signs that read "Dachau, Krome, Auschwitz, Pico-Union, Treblinka" and "Liberar todos los detenidos." There was also a black coffin with "U.S. imperialism" written on it.

The press conference/rally showed both the depth of feeling about shutting down Amerikkka's concentration camps

and the breadth of forces that are beginning to turn this into a national movement. Speakers included Florvil Samedi from the Krome concentration camp struggle; Rojo from the RCYB; Dick Laird from the Los Angeles chapter of La Resistencia; Roberto, a revolutionary youth from the area who was arrested on May 1; and Lucas Martinez, spokesperson for Libros Revolución and the May Day Committee. Statements were read from Father Gerard Jean-Juste, from Vic Scutari of Project Lifeline in N.Y. and from Peter Schey, executive director of the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law in Los Angeles.

In Amerikkka 1990, concentration camps are legal, but protest against them is met with police violence. The rally was met with massive repression from the start. Armed INS agents on the roof with flak jackets and videocameras. Phalanxes of riot police on either end of the picket line, blocking the sidewalk. Many more riot police, vans and buses in a staging area just a half block away. It was a police-state atmosphere all around.

Suddenly, banners appeared right on the front of the concentration camp, and the iron gate that appeared to be newly battered flew open. The pigs decided to declare the picket line officially illegal and began a massive assault with about sixty riot police moving on the demonstrators and pushing them further and further north on Alvarado Street. A couple hundred people from the neighborhood gathered on the corner of Alvarado and Olympic, many blowing whistles and others following along as the police drove the demonstrators

## BIG MIGRA RAIDS STALK HOUSTON

Houston, Texas. Early morning, May 4. Stormtroopers begin a coordinated assault against immigrants and Black people living in the Gulfton district, an area which has the largest concentration of Central Americans in Texas. On a day-labor corner where men from El Salvador and Mexico gather to find work, the pigs swoop down and I.D. everyone and arrest several people. Youth walking to school or standing at bus stops are jacked up by the pigs. Some are made to spreadeagle against cop cars and are handcuffed and taken away.

In the name of the "war on drugs" a one-and-a-half square mile area is quickly turned into pig city. Virtually anyone out on the street is stopped. The pigs also go door-to-door in apartment complexes, demanding people show papers. They use their snitch network to finger people and break down people's doors. By nightfall, the normally lively area is lit up by the flashing cherry tops of numerous prowl cars and the piercing beams of pig helicopters. As one person said, the scene was like something from San Salvador.

By the 10 o'clock news, the pigs claim 214 people have been arrested, only twelve on drug-related charges. They announce this operation will go on for thirty days, until "these people meet a brick wall wherever they go." By Sunday, according to the *Houston Chronicle*, 329 people had been arrested.

Police sweeps and raids by La Migra are not unusual in Gulfton. About a year ago, a major immigration sweep rounded up over 500 people, and 50 people were deported. Now the powers are again escalating their fascistic terror and repression against the masses. All the information on people being arrested is being turned over to the INS and anyone ar-

rested on anything more than a class C misdemeanor is being scrutinized by the INS for possible deportation. The police themselves admit the INS is interviewing people. But even more, La Migra is helping the pigs coordinate this whole effort. An article in the *Houston Post* revealed that "two individuals at the police command post in the Gulfton area acknowledged they represented the INS but refused to comment."

On Saturday, May 5 La Resistencia held a press conference and demonstration at the Gulfton pig station which is being used as the command post for this operation. Travis Morales, a spokesperson for La Resistencia, denounced the raids for being a pretext, under the banner of the "war on drugs," to "terrorize and round up immigrants, and deport them to death squads in El Salvador and Guatemala." He called on people throughout the city to launch resistance to this vicious attack. That evening all three TV networks covered the press conference on the news.

After the press conference, demonstrators marched through the Gulfton area and got a tremendous response from people. The La Resistencia leaflet on the struggle against the INS concentration camp in L.A. got out to many people. At one point the march stopped where some pigs were harassing people. People began chanting and exposing how this whole operation is a war on the people, and the pigs were prevented from making any arrests.

More plans are now being made for further actions to stop the clampdown in Gulfton and all attacks on immigrants. The situation urgently demands that broader levels of resistance meet and defeat this vicious attack. □

# 50,000

Sometimes the political force and potential of a section of the people appears on the scene overnight, seemingly out of nowhere. That happened in New York City on Friday, April 20. A demonstration of over 50,000 people, mainly Haitians, delivered a sharp blow to national oppression in the United States. Last February the Federal Drug Administration issued a memo to all blood banks and hospitals in the country advising them that all people born in or emigrating from Haiti and Sub-Saharan Africa should be barred from donating blood as a precaution against AIDS. This was an extension of previous racist government policies branding Haitians as carriers of the AIDS virus. There is no scientific basis to this notion—it is based solely on racism and discrimination.

To protest this racist policy tens of thousands of Haitians and others refused to go to work or school on April 20. Instead they gathered early in the morning to demonstrate in downtown Brooklyn and then marched across the Brooklyn Bridge to lower Manhattan, virtually shutting it down. There were simultaneous protests in Washington, D.C. and outside the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. New York police and city authorities were caught completely off guard by the huge crowd of angry people in the streets. Mayor Dinkins rushed out to urge people to disperse. And later the press voiced concern that such a massive action could have been built through the Creole network, totally outside the English-language media. But for the basic people, this demonstration was a welcome round in the battle against national oppression in this country. Haitians in the U.S. face all the racism that's dished out to Black people in general and then some. The stigma of AIDS they have been branded with has meant increased discrimination in the schools, in employment, in medical care and insurance. The very afternoon of the demonstration the FDA Blood Products Advisory Committee met in emergency session and voted to retract their policy and to submit it to review by the entire FDA.

# los detenidos"

farther away from the prison. When they were far enough away, some flak-jacketed INS agents came down from the roof and took down the banners and then backed their way into the prison once again.

The pigs singled out people for arrest and charged after them. Included among the five people arrested and charged with misdemeanors were Sasha, the RCYB leader, and Lucas Martinez, as well as

two other youths who were arrested and brutally beaten on May First.

But the situation has been dramatically changed, and no matter what the pigs do, the struggle must be taken higher. Everybody in Pico-Union, even those who weren't aware of the concentration camp before, is now talking about it and the struggle to shut it down. The next day La Resistencia issued a call for national action to take the struggle higher. □

*This is an excerpt from a call put out by the Los Angeles chapter of La Resistencia on Sunday, May 6:*

News Flash #2 from La Resistencia, Los Angeles

## COAST TO COAST: Step Up the Struggle to Shut Down America's Concentration Camps!

The struggle to close America's concentration camps for immigrants and refugees has been taken to a new level this past week. . . .

The events of this week exposed the existence of concentration camps in the U.S. used to incarcerate refugees and immigrants from throughout the world.

The efforts to SHUT DOWN the Pico-Union concentration camp is also part of a campaign initiated by La Resistencia during October 1989 aimed at bringing down the barricades from areas of Los Angeles made up of mainly immigrants, other Latinos and Blacks. The barricades and concentration camp in the Pico-Union area has as its primary purpose the roundup of Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees by joint Los Angeles police/INS forces, resulting in the deportation of the refugees to their death at the hands of U.S.-sponsored death squads in their home countries.

The Los Angeles chapter of La Resistencia, along with other chapters throughout the country, is calling for a National Day of Action within the next 3 to 4 weeks to shut down all concentration camps in the U.S. as well as the removal of all barricades from metropolitan neighborhoods. The National Day of Action will also expose the U.S. government's phony "war on drugs" which is being used as a cover to barricade whole communities, suppress human and civil rights, and clamp down on refugees, immigrants and other oppressed peoples in the U.S.

Join the Campaign to Shut Down America's Concentration Camps! For more information, contact:

La Resistencia  
1833 W. 8th St. #100 - 163  
Los Angeles, CA 90057;  
(213) 285-3071.

For Campaign expenses or to help cover the cost for bail for those arrested this week, checks can be made out to "La Resistencia."

"I'm here because we found out after we stormed the concentration camp at Krome that they have concentration camps all around the country. They need to be shut down.

"The more you shut up, the more they gonna kill you. Like me, I don't mind—if one of them shot me right here, I know I got killed because I'm working for my freedom, I'm working for the freedom of the other people, we got to be free."

Florvil Samedí, a Haitian immigrant active in the Krome concentration camp struggle, at the La Resistencia action May 5 in Los Angeles. The U.S.-backed Haitian government killed Samedí's father before he escaped to the U.S. only to be locked up in Krome for 17 months. Four friends of his from Krome who were deported back to Haiti were killed by government forces there.

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"This operation is part of an operation by the U.S. government to kill the people of Central America. That war to kill people in Central America is waged in Central America and it is waged elsewhere. It is waged here in Los Angeles. This building, this concentration camp, is part of that war. These people have not committed any crime. The only 'crime' they have committed is to be from a country that the United States has invaded or has decided to take over and sponsor death squads and kill the people there. . . .

"When a government engages in these kind of atrocious activities, as the U.S. government is so engaged around the world and in our own country, it has to find an excuse for these atrocities. That excuse is the war on drugs. It's a phony war. They're not making drug busts. The barricading of this neighborhood, with a concentration camp within a concentration camp, is for the purpose of rounding up these refugees and sending them back to their certain death.

"We are challenging the people of Los Angeles, the people of the country. This effort is part of a national effort to close down concentration camps around the country. We are challenging anyone of conscience. These people are going to die unless we stop them. We are calling for everybody in this city and across the country to challenge these atrocities that are being accomplished by the U.S. government along with local police agencies and INS agents. We are challenging organizations that represent refugees and immigrants. We are challenging organizations who are opposed to the U.S. involvement in Central America. . . . We are challenging you to participate in shutting down the concentration camps."

Dick Laird, spokesperson for the Los Angeles chapter of La Resistencia

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"We Haitians in South Florida call upon the U.S. Justice Dept., President Bush to listen to our voices for justice and freedom. Close all the concentration camps in the United States of America. Freedom and justice to all detainees, particularly the Haitian detainees and the Central American refugees. These camps remind us of Hitlerism. They are an ugly scar on the face of America. Americans who seek justice for all—stand up. Help the immigrants fight for their rights. We need each other to change America for the better."

Statement by Father Gerard Jean-Juste, Veye-Yo, Miami, Florida  
Read at the La Resistencia action May 5 in Los Angeles

# Haitians March Against Racism



Photo: Peter Eslick

# Rojo: "A bold stand with cold revolutionary politics in command"

A correspondent for the RW in Los Angeles talked with Rojo, a member of the RCYB who took part in the May 1st action against the INS concentration camp in the Pico-Union area of Los Angeles on May 1st. This is one of the areas in Los Angeles which the police have barricaded up, using the so-called War on Drugs as an excuse:

**RW:** Coming into the barricaded area, it was a fairly intense situation. The police first attacked the march between 7th and 8th—right in front of where there used to be a Revolution Books outlet. More and more police kept coming into the area. Why did you feel it was necessary to continue to go on in that kind of intense situation?

**Rojo:** Because, as I have said, they will not pen in, lock up and kill us off. We must continue to expose the lies that this government continues to throw out at us. First of all, we are not to believe 'em, and we must not believe 'em. We must continue with this struggle, and we must keep on exposing their lies, also their plans to lock down and isolate entire neighborhoods, and ghettoize 'em, like they did in 1939 in Warsaw. Unless we rise up and speak up now, there will come a point, like in 1939, when it was too late to do anything about it. That is why we must continue, and we will not stop.

**RW:** You didn't feel any intimidation on your way down the street when you knew the police were coming for y'all?

**Rojo:** That is the only tool they have is intimidation, brutality and terror. And if we buckle under to their only power, then they have won. But we will not allow them to win. We know that they will brutalize us, we know that they will beat us, and we know that they will kill us off. But if they kill us off, then we are ready for that. I am ready for that. Because if that's what it takes to expose them, that is what I am willing to do for my people.

**RW:** People were really jazzed by what you did. What were you thinking up there on the roof, what was going through your mind?

**Rojo:** What I was thinking was—I was up there to make a statement. Make a very powerful statement, that they were either going to release our people, or they were going to kill me trying to do it. If that's what it would have taken, for them to do that, then that is exactly what I was ready to sacrifice. I was ready to sacrifice my life if that's what it took to liberate my people.

**RW:** People in the area, the masses in the area I was talking with yesterday, people themselves who got brutalized just for being there, who weren't part of the demonstration—they had welts very much like your own on their bodies just for being there. But they were all very supportive and wanting to know what



Photo: René X

happened to you. What do you want to say to these people?

**Rojo:** That goes to further expose the LAPD and their terror tactics as well as the brutality that they will take in order to suppress such people getting this word out, that this is indeed a concentration camp and that it is indeed a center of death. Basically, the day of the demonstration went to show that simply for being the color of skin that you are, they will beat you and they will brutalize you and they will terrorize you and they will stop you and put you on your knees, and they will simply dehumanize you in order to get their point across that they are the power and they will go to any extent to prove that point.

**RW:** So what should the masses do in the face of that—that's their conditions of life every day—what should they do in the face of that?

**Rojo:** What they should do is take a bold stand with cold revolutionary politics in command, and they should not buckle under and they should not submit themselves to the enemy, and they should not have any fear, because if you show fear, then the enemy has won. As we know, they will go to these brutal measures. If they are willing to do it simply on the basis of the color of your skin, then take it much higher, and fight for your people, and fight for our people, our people which is the Black, Latin and

all oppressed people in this country, as well as worldwide.

**RW:** Yesterday there was a press conference and the LAPD locked down the neighborhood again. Clearly the other side sees something they don't want getting out, and I think we're looking at a situation where they've made clear their intentions. They don't want this getting out, they wanted to stop the demonstration before it even got started, they tried and couldn't. People fought through that first attack with determination. Even the *L.A. Times* reporter admitted they had no reason for that first attack. How do the people take forward the fight around these concentration camps? Where does that struggle go from here?

**Rojo:** One thing I would like to point out—this is not business as usual. This is not your simple demonstration where you go out for a couple of hours, say what you have to say, and then you go home, and you lay down in your soft bed, and have your nice meal, and forget that these problems exist. This is not that type of struggle. We must remember that this is a revolutionary struggle, this is a struggle where we will take it much higher. We will keep advancing and we will keep hounding the enemy until we win. And that's what this struggle is about. This is not a simple exposure, or two-hour demonstration, or a one-day thing, and then people forget about it. This is the

beginning of revolutionary struggle.

**RW:** So in other words, what happened on May 1st was kind of like the announcement, the opening statement of this political battle?

**Rojo:** Correct, correct. Not only will it have been May 1st, but May 2nd, and May 3rd, and May 4th, and May 5th, and on and on until we have won. Our true victory will be when we finally tear this system down from power and put it in the hands of the people.

**RW:** What brought you to become a revolutionary?

**Rojo:** First of all I had a consciousness, knowing that all this injustice and suffering that is being brought on by this U.S. capitalist system is indeed affecting the whole world, and is indeed affecting the peoples of the world. Not only does it exist within our own borders, but it grapples just about every continent on the face of this world. Not only is it a system that oppresses the people nationwide, but worldwide. What brought my revolutionary consciousness was when I asked myself what was I going to do about it. Was I going to stand on the sidelines and let this go on and not say anything, like a good German? Or say I did not know, or say it was just a job. It's not about that, it's about liberating our people and bringing this struggle on a much higher basis. That's what brought me about to where I am today. □

# FTP Locks Up CHA

May Day in Chicago was marked by a militant action in the Chicago Housing Authority projects called by Fight the Power. The tables were turned when FTP carried out a brief takeover of a CHA office that erupted into a wild fight with the security guards and Chicago pigs. As we go to press, the enemy has viciously counterattacked and the struggle is escalating.

The stage was set for this bold action two days earlier as Black public housing residents and homeless people from Fight the Power joined Latino brothers and sisters and radical white youth in an internationalist contingent within the traditional May Day march. The vibrant contingent of 30 to 35 people, the largest in the demonstration, was charged up and ready to get it on. Chants of "Mao more than ever" and "Support the people's war in Peru" blasted out as the march of 100 people went through the Spanish-speaking Pilsen community. The American flag was righteously torched and white youth, Black proletarians, and revolutionary artist Dread Scott dashed to the front of the march waving the burning rag and stomping on it. A spokeswoman from Fight the Power received a strong response from the crowd as she linked the apartheid-style CHA lockdowns and ID cards for Black people with green cards and the oppression of immigrants. Black, brown and white fists shot into the air as the contingent concluded with a determined and united singing of the "Internationale."

That evening Fight the Power issued its proclamation for the coming action at a May Day party. It condemned the CHA



May 1, Chicago

lockdowns which have already turned 16 high-rise buildings into jails and called on the masses to "Break the chains that bind us. We proclaim this right as free human beings in a world that now chains us down and locks us up. . . . We have been THREATENED with Evictions, Fines and Harassed by Managers and Guards." In the spirit of internationalism the proclamation continued, "We as residents of the CHA see and can identify ourselves with the South Africans and apartheid, with the Jewish community because of their permanent ID numbers tattooed on them, the Hispanics, because they were issued green cards, and the dogs in the kennels who must also wear tags."

A mood of anticipation was in the air as May 1st dawned in the Harold Ickes housing project. Overnight May Day manifestos and graffiti reading "CHA =

Apartheid" had appeared on the walls of the buildings. At 3 p.m., a contingent of "people's guards" from FTP entered the CHA office while a dozen radical youth and RCP supporters posted themselves outside. The *Chicago Tribune* reported that the protesters "used 2-by-4 lumber and a metal gate to barricade eight CHA employees and three residents inside the office." Within minutes, two burning tires were sending black smoke into the air, drawing a crowd and more security guards. A banner reading "Lock down the real criminals—the CHA" was hung on the building and a dumpster was moved to block a fire lane. The guards were quickly surrounded, and as the crowd swelled a barrage of paint-filled balloons splattered red paint on the buildings and the guards. They backed off as protesters refused to be grabbed and dragged off.

A 15-minute confrontation went down until reinforcements arrived—six Chicago pig squad cars, drawing a crowd of 150 people. An object smashed against a police car and the pigs went wild, clubbing and grabbing demonstrators and beating them with blackjacks. A leaflet from "revolutionaries at the Ickes" which appeared the next day said, "FTP raised a ferocious fight right in front of our eyes." Four people were arrested, two of them requiring hospital treatment after they were beaten by the pigs. Three were charged with mob action, criminal trespass and destruction of property; the fourth with the additional charge of battery.

The manager of the project, Beverly Shepard, a hated symbol of authority, came out after the police arrived. People were yelling "stop the lockdowns" and "fight the power" and demanded to know, "Why are you beating these people?" Shepard, her legs splattered with paint, screamed, "They were going to lock us up in there!" A youth responded, "Right, that's what you are doing to us!"

The CHA office closed down for the rest of the day—no business as usual for the enforcers of the clampdown—and Shepard returned to retrieve her belongings under police escort. Shepard and the pigs and guards who front for the whole rotten system had gotten a taste of the people's righteous anger. People on the scene after the battle grinned and reported, "They jumped on CHA bad," and "They beat their ass."

Two groups of residents were mobilized to go to the jail to bail out FTP member Maurice who lives in a high-rise in Prairie Courts, the annex to Ickes and the only building in the complex which has been locked down. But there was widespread sentiment that much more than this should have been done to come to the aid of FTP during the fight. "Everyone was saying, 'We should have helped them,'" one tenant reported, and

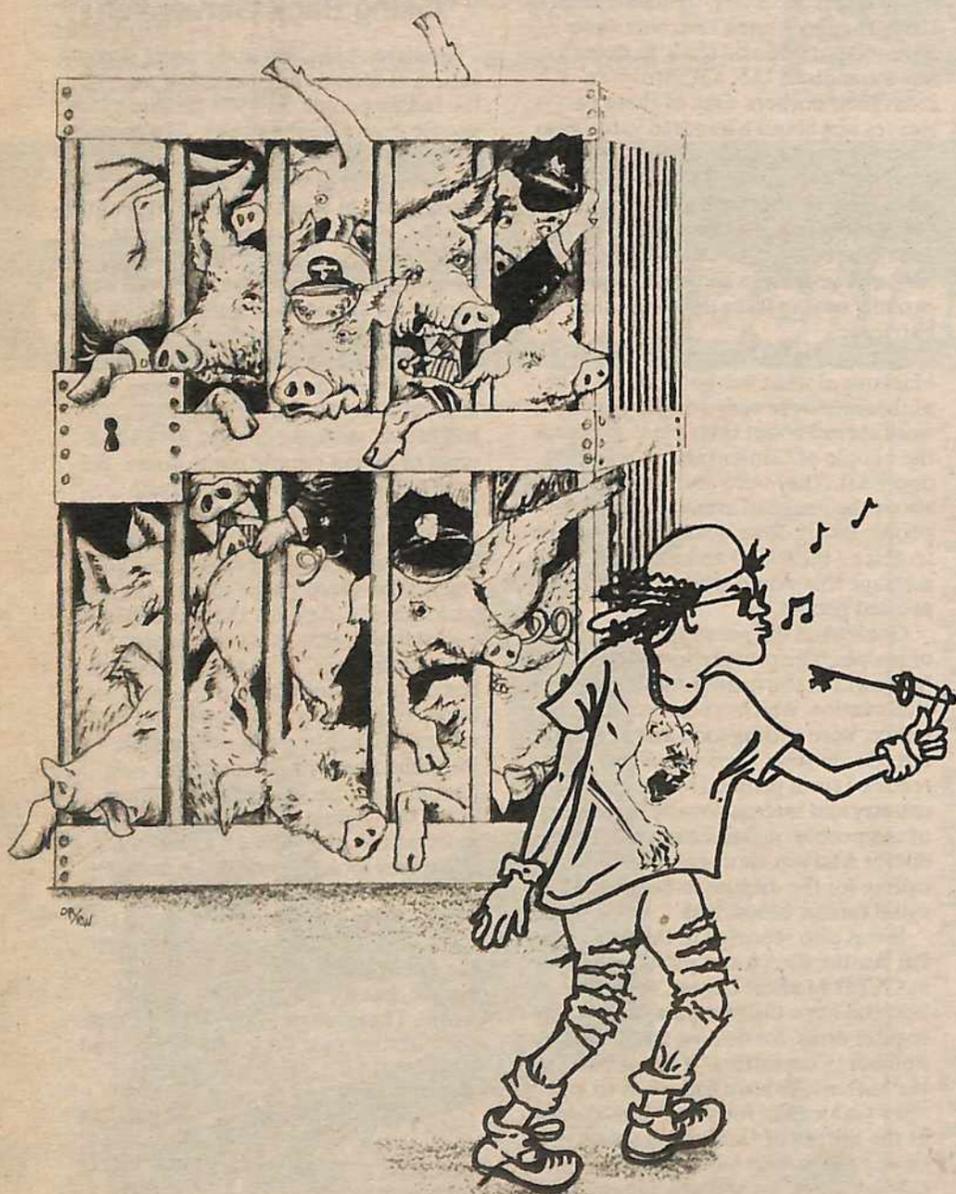
this question is being widely debated.

The necessity to build organization in the projects that can defeat the clampdown was driven home within days as the enemy counterattacked viciously and the struggle began escalating. According to residents, Shepard called a meeting of a CHA-sponsored tenant group to complain that she's being harassed and pelted with garbage and bottles. Then she delivered outrageous threats of massive retaliation for the crime of protesting the lockdowns. Shepard told the Local Advisory Council (LAC) that *everyone* in the crowd at the FTP action will be evicted, and she called on the LAC to act as her snitch network to identify those on the scene.

For his courageous stand as a frontline fighter in defying the lockdown, Maurice and his family were immediately targeted for eviction. This is on the bogus grounds that he created a "threat to the health and safety of others" for his participation in the action to lock down the CHA office. Maurice's teenage daughter was also threatened by Beverly Shepard's nephew during school, but students from the Ickes came to her defense. The struggle is heating up in the high school, with three youth suspended for putting up May Day stickers.

During the struggle in revolutionary China, the masses had a saying that "The people cannot light a candle, but the emperor can burn down whole villages." In the housing projects, the authorities have carried out an offensive against the people—the lockdowns, pig patrols, evictions, repressive rules and regulations—and constructed a whole setup where Black people are treated like criminals and animals. But at the first sign of determined protest against this, the Man has brought his foot down on the people's necks to oppress them and keep them down. This not only shows the desperate viciousness of the enemy but his fear of the revolutionary potential among Black people. If ever there was a time to turn the tables on the real criminals, to stand up and fight and to exercise some power of the people, it's now. FTP, supported by the Campaign to End the CHA Lockdowns, is making plans to mobilize the masses and take on these attacks in a real battle that can explode right in the faces of the CHA, the pigs, the school authorities, and the whole imperialist system they front for.

The leaflet that appeared from "revolutionaries in the Ickes" on May 2 read, "We lost the initiative once. Let's not lose it again. Let's hit them hard, make them think twice about coming down with more oppression. . . . Let's turn the Ickes into another Soweto or Peru. If we can drive the enforcers out even one time, this will be a seed of the future revolutionary people's war when we can defeat them and run all of society." □



# The Fight for the Land of the Flint

On the weekend of April 7, we drove up Interstate 87 in New York not knowing quite what to expect. We knew that state police and the FBI were threatening to invade Ganiienkeh Territory where the Ganiienkehaga live.

(Ganiienkehaga is Mohawk for "the People of the Land of the Flint.") On March 30 a Vermont National Guard helicopter on a medical flight had been shot at and a doctor on board wounded. Authorities claimed the shots came from Ganiienkeh. The Indian people claimed that the shots came from near Akwesasne Reservation, about fifty miles away. One thing was clear: the authorities used this as an excuse to bring out their armed forces and prepare to invade Ganiienkeh Territory.

Ganiienkeh Territory is in northern New York state, just south of the Canadian border. It is beautiful country, full of snow-capped mountains, streams and lakes. Before Europeans colonized the United States and stole the land from the Indian people, almost 9 million acres of land in what is now New York, Vermont and Canada was the land of the Mohawk Nation. In 1774 Joseph Grant, a British citizen who was half Mohawk, sold the land for \$1,000. The Mohawks explain that he was not a chief and had no authority to do this. The Indians did not believe in European concepts of property, they did not believe that the land could be owned or sold. This "sale" has been and is still being used to rob the Mohawks of their land and their right to exist as a sovereign nation.

This land is valuable to the powers-that-be. And even more, they cannot tolerate the fact that the Indians do not recognize their authority on this land. It looks like the powers are putting on some heavy power moves to get it back.

As we turned onto Route 190 heading north, signs announced that the road was closed ahead. The state police had blockaded all the roads leading into Ganiienkeh. Local citizens were allowed in and out. But they had to have picture IDs, their trunks were searched and pictures were taken of all adults going in and out. But the police would not allow any reporters or supporters of the people of Ganiienkeh into the territory.

Shortly after the helicopter was shot down, authorities demanded access to Ganiienkeh to conduct an "investigation." They were told that Ganiienkeh was a sovereign nation and that they

would conduct the investigation themselves. As soon as they were denied access to Ganiienkeh Territory, the government mobilized its armed forces in preparation for an invasion. They did this despite the fact that they didn't have any real evidence that the shots came from Ganiienkeh. The people of Ganiienkeh did conduct their own investigation and found that no residents of the territory were responsible.

An article in *The Press Republican*, the main Plattsburg daily paper, ran down the kind of force the government had prepared to use against the people of Ganiienkeh: "More than 200 state police troopers and FBI agents were in the area and state police activated an emergency contingency plan in preparation for an armed assault of Ganiienkeh. The County Sheriffs Department, CVPH Medical Center (located in Plattsburg), Altona Correctional Facility (a prison not far from Ganiienkeh) and four Northern Tier ambulance squads were put on alert and advised they might be asked to treat casualties and house prisoners. . . . A triage unit (an emergency battlefield hospital) was set up Friday in the gymnasium of the Altona Correctional Facility. An Army National Guard armored personnel carrier was parked on the prison lawn Saturday. Altona Correctional is less than two miles from the Ganiienkeh Territory." According to other press reports, a temporary morgue was also set up. The whole thing was coordinated from Plattsburg Air Force Base. Lawyers for Ganiienkeh later told the press that all proposals and decisions that were made had to be approved by the Justice Department. So it was clear that the top levels of the federal government were in on plans to invade Ganiienkeh.

The people of Ganiienkeh boldly stood up in the face of the government's plans to invade. They were will-

ing to die, if necessary, to defend their land. They built their own barricades and stood armed and ready to defend any attempts of U.S. authorities to cross their borders. One of these barricades was about a hundred yards away from the pig barricade. It was made of cars, vans and trucks. Sand had been piled high in front with a backhoe. The Ganiienkeh flag, a picture of the rising sun on a red background with a Mohawk warrior in the center, was proudly waving from the top of the barricade.

The state tried to keep up a press blackout of what was going down. The authorities were very worried that if word spread about their plans to attack the people of Ganiienkeh, many would oppose it. They were also worried about the image of armed Indian people facing down government troops to defend their land and what kind of message this would send to other oppressed people.

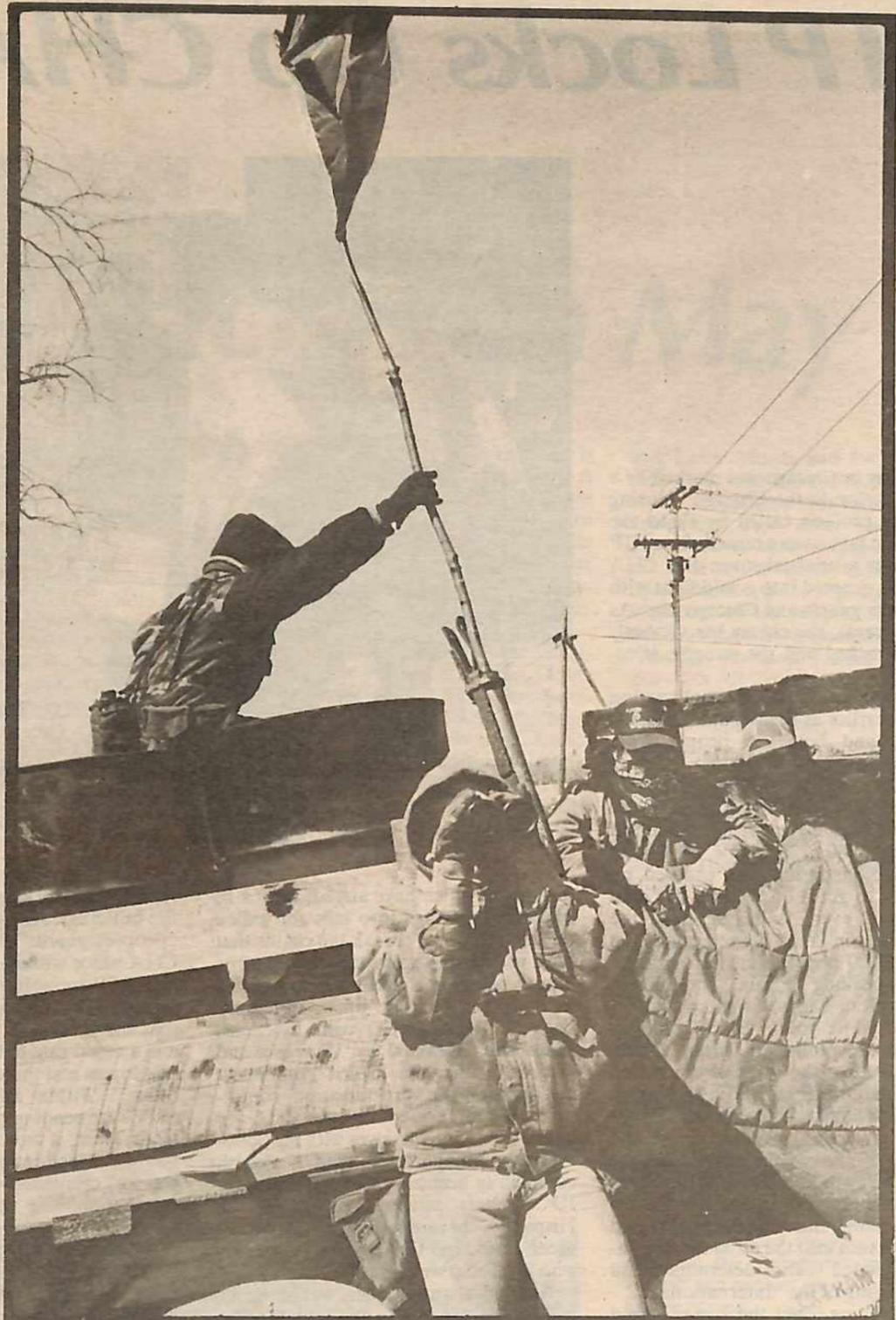
Ganiienkeh did get support from a lot of people. The press reported that Mohawks at the nearby Akwesasne Reservation, which is also barricaded by police, were getting food and supplies into Ganiienkeh. Messages were received from people around the country and internationally in support of the people of Ganiienkeh. And the doctor who was shot sent a telegram calling for the dispute to be settled to avoid further bloodshed.

It was also reported in the press that Pat Austin, director of public relations at CVPH Medical Center, said the hospital has a disaster plan, tested with regular drills, for dealing with "a large number of casualties." This reveals that the authorities have had plans to go after Ganiienkeh for some time. A look at the history of Ganiienkeh shows part of why the powers-that-be want to bring Ganiienkeh down and why the oppressed people stand with the Indians.

## Taking Back Ganiienkeh

Ganiienkeh is a territory, not a reservation. It is land that was *taken back* by the Indian people. In 1974 Indian people from Caughnawaga, Akwesasne and other reservations *repossessed* Mohawk land in what is now known as Moss Lake, in upstate New York, southwest of Altona. "A lot of our people came from reservations in different parts of Mohawk country," a spokesperson for Ganiienkeh told the *RW*. "And when the repossession of land took place, when word got out, people of all different nations came down. We had Ojibwas, we had Sioux people, we had Hopis, we had Navajos, we had all types of Indian people come down. We even had some people from South America come down. So it wasn't a small thing. The reason why our people left the reservation is because on the reservation there's a lot of government backstabbing. And it's that government backstabbing that turns the people upon each other. . . . And that friction has erupted into violence at times. So a bunch of people got together and said why are we fighting our own people. We should be trying to save our own people. Because so much energy was going into fighting just within your own reservation. And then on top of that, when they looked toward the outside, we have to fight a whole different force. . . . And so people moved to start a new life. And along with that to set the example, for not only Indian people, but for people all over the world. That if somebody wants to take their destiny into their own hands, and to say that I am going to support myself, I am going to grow my own food, I am going to clothe my children any way that I can. That we don't have to rely on different government hand-outs. . . ."

White residents in the area frequent-



Barricades set up to defend the Ganiienkeh territory against government invasion.

Photo: draw

# Invasion at Akwesasne

As we go to press, the United States and Canadian governments have sent State Police and Mounted Police into the Akwesasne Indian Reservation. The National Guard is assisting the state police and remains on alert. And the press is creating public opinion for a major military invasion.

Akwesasne reservation is 28,000 acres of land which borders New York State on the south and Canada on the north. A struggle has been raging among the Mohawks who live there over the issue of control of their nation, over sovereignty. One form this has taken is a struggle over gambling. Anti-gambling forces, led by Indian officials with ties to the U.S. and Canadian governments, have erected barricades to prevent people who don't live on the reservation from coming on. The Warriors Society (described to us by a spokesperson as men whose duty in traditional Mohawk culture is to protect the boundaries of their land) and other Mohawks have torn down these barricades. The press has reported gun battles between the two. The conflict escalated and on Tuesday, May 1st, two Indian men were killed.

Press reports blame the Warrior Society for the deaths and the violence in general. They say they started gun battles with anti-gambling forces and that both sides have been using AK-47's, grenades and firebombs. The Warriors Society of Akwesasne strongly denies any involvement. A press release of theirs states, "The policy of the Warriors Society is not to fight against their own People," and they claim that the violence is being instigated by Indian tribal officials tied to the U.S. government. One member of the Warriors Society told the *RW*: "From our view, we are still a sovereign state and our people will constantly fight. We do not want to be Americans. We do not want to be Canadians. We want to be Mohawks. Politically, economically, socially, culturally."

The full story at Akwesasne has not yet come to light. But a number of things are

very clear. It is a testimony to the oppression of the Indian people in this country that they are driven to resort to gambling in order to survive. And most importantly, whatever position one takes on the question of gambling, the intervention of U.S. and Canadian government authorities can only do great harm to the Indian people.

U.S. authorities and their imperialist partners in the Canadian government have used the current situation as an excuse to invade. One hundred state troops have invaded the reservation and are patrolling Indian land. Over two hundred others are posted at the entrances to the reservation that border the U.S. The National Guard is standing ready with two armored personnel carriers, three troop carriers and other military vehicles. Canadian military personnel have surrounded entrances to the reservation. Troops have been sent to the reservation entrance in Cornwall, On-

tario. They brought 14 amphibious assault vehicles, two helicopters and four armored personnel carriers. Senior Canadian and U.S. officials have been meeting to discuss long-term solutions to the gambling issue. No Mohawks are even at the meetings! This invasion is nothing but a calculated attempt by these imperialists to enforce their rule and reassert their control over the Mohawk people and their land.

They say they are doing this out of concern for the Mohawk people. These imperialists are nothing but liars. The U.S. government has a whole history of bloody attacks against the Indian peoples. They have broken treaty after treaty. And right to this day they are attempting to undermine treaty rights of Indian people on reservations from coast to coast. They cannot tolerate having an area within their borders where it looks like they do not have complete control. And they are afraid of the example given

to the oppressed generally when the Indians take up arms against *them* and do not allow their police onto Indian lands.

They care only about their power. They don't care anything about the lives of Indian people. Their filthy corporations have poisoned much of the Akwesasne reservation's land. According to an article in the *City Sun* by Clinton Cox, six major industrial complexes dump toxic chemicals into the St. Lawrence River a few miles from Akwesasne. Areas of the reservation are named "Contaminant Cove," "Biphenyl Brook," and "Dead Clam Cove." Fish can no longer be eaten. GM has created a huge PCB dump. PCB levels are 600 times higher than the bottom level for hazardous waste.

Both governments have been stepping up their attacks against the Mohawks. Last month New York state police and FBI agents barricaded Ganienkeh, a Mohawk Indian territory about 50 miles from Akwesasne. (See "The Fight for the Land of the Flint.") Sixteen warrants were issued for the arrest of Mohawks who righteously stood up to this attempted invasion. Then last week four state police and FBI agents arrogantly went onto Ganienkeh Territory to try and serve the warrants. They were unsuccessful. In the process they fired a shot at one of the Mohawk people. A spokesperson at Ganienkeh told us, "Our people responded in full force and state police were chased off the territory." Meanwhile at Kanafatake Territory 40 miles north of Montreal, Quebec Provincial Police are blockading Indian land because they want to expand a golf course and take back Indian land to do it!

These cold-blooded military moves should be called out for what they are: an invasion of Indian lands and sovereignty. The U.S. government and police have no right to enter Indian land. And they *urgently* need to be exposed and opposed by progressive people everywhere. U.S. HANDS OFF THE MOHAWKS! □



Canadian armored personnel carriers outside reservation.

ly drove by and shot into the Indian encampment. It was reported and authorities did nothing about it. One night the Indian people fired back. A young girl was hit accidentally. The powers-that-be used the shooting to justify attacking Ganienkeh. In her book *Sovereignty and Symbol*, Gail H. Landsman writes, "They were told they had two hours in which to remove the women and children from the camp; after that time police would enter the territory and 'wipe them out.'" The women decided not to leave, saying "There are worse ways for our children to die than from State Police bullets." Police blockaded the territory. "There was a standoff for three years after. There's been a standoff ever since the inception of the community. Because they were looking at Mohawk people as being like squatters. They had no right to be there. But we knew we had every right to be there."

In 1977 a settlement was reached. While the government didn't outright recognize the sovereignty rights of the Mohawks, a trust fund was set up which purchased and turned over 4,000 acres near Miner Lake in the town of Altona to the Indian people. But the authorities have never stopped trying to destroy Ganienkeh. In 1979 a clan mother and spokeswoman was placed under indictment for a takeover of a police station on Akwesasne Reservation. Government plans for a radioactive waste dump in the area were defeated by the people of Ganienkeh and local residents. In 1988 the people of Ganienkeh opened a bingo hall on the territory. They were sued by the Attorney General of the State of New York, Robert Abrams. He declared the bingo hall was illegal because it was not registered and did not pay taxes and sued to prevent it from opening. The hypocrisy of this is incredible! New York State sponsors Off Track Betting and many lotteries. And this system is proud of its Donald Trumps, who boasts he's just built the eighth wonder

of the world—the Taj Mahal, a giant new casino—which towers over run-down buildings no longer fit for human habitation in Atlantic City! How dare they charge the people of Ganienkeh for running a bingo hall! Ganienkeh has ignored restraining orders issued by the Supreme Court demanding that the bingo hall be closed.

## A Tense Truce

On Monday, April 9, 1990, eleven days after the government barricaded Ganienkeh, an agreement was reached. The authorities ended the blockade. A task force made up of supporters of

Ganienkeh and state police was set up to work with Ganienkeh representatives supposedly to resolve this and other problems in the future. The people of Ganienkeh agreed to allow the state police and the FBI to perform a limited investigation under Ganienkeh supervision. The press release announcing the agreement ended, "This is Mohawk Territory! Any foreign law enforcement agency will never be allowed in the Mohawk Territory without the community's consent. We will defend and protect our territory and all living creatures who reside within."

But no sooner was the tense standoff

over than the authorities began more treachery against the people. The authorities refused to agree to grant immunity to the Indian peoples that manned the barricades. And on March 12 AP reported that "the FBI has filed charges against several Mohawk Indians for hindering its investigation" at Ganienkeh. This recent attack on Ganienkeh shows that this system will never stop trying to destroy the Indian peoples. And it raises a serious question about how much longer this "cowboy" system—where genocide became a national children's game—can be allowed to exist.

A correspondent from New York City



Police photograph all people entering Ganienkeh territory.

Photo: drew

# Come to Washington, D.C. on May 14

**L**ast year the people won a major victory when the Supreme Court was forced to rule in favor of Joey Johnson and declare the Texas anti-flagburning law unconstitutional. This badly stung the U.S. ruling class, who responded with a major campaign to enforce patriotism and flag-worship. President Bush started campaigning for a constitutional flag amendment restricting freedom of speech, and the U.S. Congress passed a law criminalizing destruction of the American flag. Within days, people across the country protested this Fascist Flag Law by publicly burning flags. Four flagburners were arrested in Seattle, Washington, and four were arrested on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Joey Johnson was one of those arrested at the Capitol, but the government refused to indict him for this flagburning.

On May 14 the combined case of the seven remaining flagburning defendants will come before the Supreme Court. The Emergency Committee To Stop the Flag Amendment and Laws is calling on people to demonstrate on that day outside the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

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On May 3 the Emergency Committee held a press conference in New York. Speakers were:

- Edward Hasbrouck, Emergency Committee
- Barbara Hansman, People for the American Way, Vice President of Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts
- Jon Hendricks, artist who helped organize People's Flag Show
- Mark Goodman, attorney who prepared the major amicus brief
- Joey Johnson, Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade, the defendant in the original flagburning case heard by the Supreme Court in 1989
- Shawn Eichman, artist, member of Refuse & Resist!, Supreme Court defendant for D.C. flagburning

A statement was read from the PEN Writers Guild

More than three dozen professional, religious, artistic, legal and political organizations, as well as fifteen individual artists, have joined together to challenge the Flag Protection Act of 1989 which is now pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. Six separate amicus curiae briefs are being submitted in support of the seven flagburning defendants. Separate amicus curiae briefs will also be submitted on behalf of:

- American Bar Association
- American Civil Liberties Union
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- People for the American Way, who have been joined by:
  - American Society of Newspaper Editors
  - Radio, TV & News Directors Association
  - Office of Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association
  - Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts

Fifteen artists: Claes Oldenburg, Paul Conrad, Oliver Stone, Coosje van Bruggan, Hans Haacke, Irving Petlin, Faith Ringgold, Richard Serra, Jenny Holzer, Michael Glier, Nancy Spero, Leon Golub, Sol Lewitt, Carl Andre, Jon Hendricks

Thirty-three organizations:

- Article 19-International Centre on Censorship
- Authors League of America
- Bay Area Coalition Against Operation Rescue
- California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
- Chicago Artists Coalition
- Christic Institute
- Clergy and Laity Concerned
- Committee for Artists' Rights
- Committee of Interns and Residents
- Community for Creative Non-Violence
- Emergency Committee To Stop the Flag Amendment and Laws
- Fellowship of Reconciliation
- Fund for Free Expression
- Humanists of Washington
- Illinois Arts Alliance
- Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy
- LAMBDA Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Modern Language Association
- National Conference of Black Lawyers
- National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee
- National Lawyers Guild
- New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- New York Criminal Bar Association
- PEN American Center
- Refuse & Resist!
- The Nation Institute
- Theater Communications Group
- United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America
- Vietnam Veterans Against the War Anti-Imperialist
- Wabun-Inini, Anishinabe (a/k/a Vernon Bellecourt) as a representative of the American Indian Movement
- War Resisters League
- Writers Guild of America, East
- Writers Guild of America, West

## A Call to Action Against Mandatory Patriotism from Joey Johnson



On May 14 the mummies of the U.S. Supreme Court are going into special session to hear new oral arguments about flagburning. This is the latest chapter in the government's attempt to make people bow before their flag. The Emergency Committee To Stop the Flag Amendment and Laws has called on people to come to Washington, D.C. on the 14th to demonstrate outside the Supreme Court. I want to second this call. People have to understand that we're faced with a serious situation.

In the year since the victory for the people came down in my flagburning case, the rulers have feverishly and desperately tried to snatch back that victory. Pig-in-Chief Bush has assumed leadership of the campaign to enact a constitutional amendment that would compel respect for the flag. Not to be outdone or upstaged when it comes to dictating allegiance to the flag, the Democrats in Congress passed a law making flag "desecration" a crime. And now the Supreme Court is going to take up the question of flagburning again.

This is strange behavior for people who are always proclaiming how healthy and secure their democracy is, how the American people are so totally with them, how acts of flagburning involve only a tiny, isolated handful of "punks" and "hotheads." If it were true, why the handcuffs and jail, why all the demagoguery and legal contortions? The fact is the people that run this country can't live with flagburning. It's like the sight of a wooden stake to Dracula—it spells the doom of their system. You hear it across the bourgeois political spectrum, from Judge Bork to Governor Cuomo: "America is such a diverse and pluralist society that we need the flag to bind the country together." Decode this mumbo jumbo and what they're saying is that in Amerikkka there are deep divisions and antagonisms based on class, race, sex, and nationality that can explode uncontrollably, and the flag is one way of keeping people bound and gagged. Making people worship the flag is part of the program of intimidation and control to deal with the turbulent and dangerous times ahead. The rulers of this country face trouble in every corner of the world. They need the flag to drown people in a sea of chauvinism as they perpetrate their international crimes. This is the flag decorating the planes and jeeps of occupation in Panama. This is the flag flying over the fire bases the U.S. has set up in Peru.

But the new law hasn't stopped people. It's been opposed broadly...and defiantly. Talk about a thousand points of light. At pro-choice demonstrations, at marches against U.S. intervention in Central America and against Bush, in art galleries and museums, on college campuses—the flag has been righteously dissed and torched. A thousand threads connect these moves towards mandatory patriotism with the downpressing reality that is confronting people on all sides. And more and more people are making the connections between the flag and the pain this system rains down on people here and throughout the world. This is something the powers-that-be can't tolerate. You even got people from what they call the "heartland" getting alienated over this enforced patriotism. I've said it before and I'll say it again: "This is a sick and dying empire desperately clutching at its symbols."

It would be a big mistake to think that because the Supreme Court ruled in my favor last year they wouldn't reverse themselves. Check it out. This is the same court that's been reversing itself left and right, handing down oppressive rulings against Black people, women, and the political rights of prisoners. They ruled the way they did in my case last year because it came at a time when America was trying to preserve the appearance of free speech for the rest of the world. But they've got to tighten up and clamp down. I mean these are the same people that put up barricades and an INS concentration camp in the "la centroamericana" district of Los Angeles. These are the same people that are imprisoning almost 400 Haitian immigrants in the Krome INS detention center in Miami. No, the issue of mandatory patriotism won't go away. There is no easy way out. This thing must be fought. The powers-that-be have a vicious game plan: to criminalize antipatriotic protest and dissent and to use this as a way to open the door even wider to new acts of political suppression and thought control. Will we allow them to get away with this?

There must be a powerful political statement made in Washington, D.C. on May 14. This political repression will not go down. This must be a festival of internationalism. Immigrants who have experienced first hand the domination and brutality of U.S. imperialism must be there or send statements of support. Veterans who have seen the death and destruction delivered in the name of the "red, white and blue" must be there. The youth who are offered death at an early age by this system must be there. I know the RCYB will be there to take a bold stand with revolutionary politics in command, raising the red flag. Black people, Native Americans and Puerto Ricans, who know that the flag stands for genocide, land theft, terror, racism must be there. Women fresh from the trenches of the abortion battle must be there. Artists taking on the reactionary flag-waving thought police must be there. Civil libertarians who oppose restrictions on the first amendment and people who believe what's happening is a betrayal of the ideals they see the flag as symbolizing must be there. And those who live the American nightmare and who dream of the day when they can rise up and decisively defeat this dog-eat-dog system must be there. Our hearts must beat to one pulse on this day.

**FIGHT THE FASCIST FLAG LAW!  
DOWN WITH ENFORCED PATRIOTISM!**