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Israeli tank shells exploding inside the Palestinian Authority compound in Ramallah, March 29. Inset, Israeli troops storming through a hole in the wall of the Palestinian Authority compound.

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April
Actions
for Mumia
Abu-Jamal



As of March 31, 2002 Chairman Gonzalo (Abimael Guzmán) has been held in isolation for

9 Years, 150 Days

In October 1992, Chairman Gonzalo—leader of the Maoist Communist Party of Peru—was sentenced to life imprisonment by hooded military judges of the U.S.-backed regime in Peru. The fascist regime in Peru is holding this revolutionary leader of the Peruvian people under very brutal conditions in an underground concrete dungeon at a naval base. He is being denied visits by lawyers, doctors and relatives and deprived of proper medical care and reading materials. Peru's former president Fujimori publicly threatened to execute Chairman Gonzalo and boasted of applying psychological torture on him. Fujimori changed Peru's constitution to legalize the death penalty, which could be used against Chairman Gonzalo and other revolutionary prisoners. The Peruvian regime must be prevented from killing Chairman Gonzalo through the death penalty or by other means.

Fujimori repeatedly claimed that Chairman Gonzalo has made a call for negotiations from prison. In this situation, what possible excuse can the Peruvian government now offer for continuing to deny Comrade Gonzalo independent contact with lawyers, doctors and friendly and neutral visitors from outside the prison in a way that meets the basic international standards for treatment of political prisoners and prisoners of war? It is vitally important for people in Peru and around the world to hear what Chairman Gonzalo's views are from Chairman Gonzalo himself—directly and unimpeded. This heightens the urgency of the fight to create an international political climate which compels the Peruvian government to grant access to Comrade Gonzalo by his legal representatives and other friends who can meet and talk directly with him.

**Support the People's War in Peru!
Support the Communist Party of Peru!
Defend the Life of Chairman Gonzalo,
Fight to Break the Isolation!**



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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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Palestine: Tanks of Injustice

Israeli Occupation of West Bank and Gaza



A hospital in Ramallah occupied by Israeli troops, March 30.

On March 29, the Palestinian people of Ramallah faced the second invasion within a month by occupation forces, as 150 Israeli tanks rumbled into the West Bank town. Crushing cars and anything else in their way, many of the tanks headed to the offices of the Palestinian Authority (PA) located in a walled compound. The Israeli troops forced their way into the compound, smashing gaping holes in the walls as they fired tank shells and machine guns. Soon the Israeli military had control of the compound, and PA head Yasser Arafat was holed up in a second-floor office—the electricity cut off, a cell phone his only means of communication to the outside world.

Since December, Arafat has been held a virtual prisoner in Ramallah, prevented from traveling outside of the town by Israeli troops. But this latest assault signaled a new and very heavy intensification of Israeli military moves against the Palestinian areas. As we go to press, Israel continues to hold Arafat hostage — and it is unclear how things will develop. What is certain is that the new Israeli offensive in the West Bank and Gaza will mean further death and destruction for the Palestinian people—more people cut down in the streets, by overwhelming Israeli firepower, more houses razed to the ground by Israeli military bulldozers, more fly-by murders by U.S.-supplied jet fighters and helicopter gunships.

The scene in Ramallah—the tank invasion of a town and the siege of the PA headquarters—pointed to the essence of the two sides of conflict in Palestine: occupier vs. occupied, justice vs. injustice, Zionism and imperialism vs. the oppressed people of Palestine. The Israeli action put a glaring spotlight on the real power relations that exist in Palestine. For years, Arafat has worked with the U.S. and Israel in their “peace process” and is



Some of the hundreds of Palestinians rounded up by Israeli troops in Ramallah for “questioning,” March 30.

basically recognized as a “head of state” by governments around the world. Yet, in Ramallah, Israel deployed its massive military—bristling with powerful high-tech weapons thanks to U.S. aid—to swoop down on the PA offices in a lightning strike and utterly humiliate Arafat in front of the world. It was a naked power move to deliver a gangster-like message: *We* are the ones in charge here, we’re the ones that occupy this land, and we hold your fate in our hands.

There is another message that Israel’s Zionist rulers are delivering: If there are to be any “truces” or “peace agreements,” it will be on terms dictated by Israel and the U.S. to the Palestinians. Just a few days before the invasion of Ramallah, Israel had prevented Arafat from attending a summit of the Arab League in Beirut, Lebanon. Sharon treated Arafat like a

schoolboy, saying that Arafat had not “done enough” to shut down armed Palestinian groups, and refused to guarantee that Arafat would be allowed to return if he traveled to the summit. The U.S. also scolded Arafat for “not doing enough” to shut down the resistance and denied him a chance for a meeting with Vice President Dick Cheney. At the same time, Bush’s special envoy to the Middle East, General Zinni, demanded that the Palestinians agree to a ceasefire which did not even mention the Palestinian state.

The Arab League summit endorsed a proposal from the Saudi crown prince which offered official recognition of the state of Israel by Arab League members—in return for Israel’s withdrawal from areas seized in the 1967 war, establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza with East Jerusalem as the

The scene in Ramallah—the tank invasion of a town and the siege of the Palestinian Authority headquarters—pointed to the essence of the two sides of conflict in Palestine: occupier vs. occupied, justice vs. injustice, Zionism and imperialism vs. the oppressed people of Palestine.

capital; and a solution to the situation of Palestinian refugees. Israeli officials called the proposal a “non-starter.” And by the weekend, they were backing up that stand with tanks aimed right at Arafat.

The immediate justification used by Israeli officials for this invasion was that they were responding to a series of recent Palestinian suicide bombings, especially one in the Mediterranean coast city of Netanya that killed more than 20 people attending a Passover celebration. But according to reports in the media, Israeli Premier Ariel Sharon and his generals had been discussing possible “broad military action” against the PA a week before the recent suicide bombings.

The Sharon government declared that the invasion of Ramallah and Arafat’s headquarters was only the start of major military operations in the West Bank and Gaza that will go on “without a time limit.” In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces divided this small area—which is already like a huge prison packed with poor people—into three smaller zones. And hundreds of Palestinians were reportedly being rounded up for “questioning” by Israeli troops. Earlier in March, Israeli forces had attacked Palestinian refugee camps and towns throughout the West Bank and Gaza in the biggest Israeli military operation since the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Now, Israel has launched an even more massive and brutal assault on the Palestinian people.

As the Israeli troops seized control of the PA compound in Ramallah, Colin Powell emerged from a National Security Council meeting to speak to the press. The news footage from Ramallah showed dozens of Israeli tanks surrounding the compound and heavily armed troops swarming over the area, leaving Arafat trapped and helpless. Meanwhile in Washington, D.C., Powell blamed Arafat for bringing on this current “crisis” by not doing enough to stop “terrorism.” Powell said he “understood” the Israeli response and praised Sharon for showing “flexibility” in negotiations in recent weeks. But at the same time, Powell declared that Arafat continues to be “central” to the “process.”

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March 30—1,000 people marched and rallied in San Francisco to protest Israel’s actions against the Palestinian people.

India Offers More Support for Counter-revolution in Nepal

At the end of March, Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba went to India for six days with a 100-member delegation. He met with India's top government and military officials and at the top of the agenda was getting India's help in combating the popular Maoist insurgency that has been going on in Nepal since 1996.

There were good reasons for Deuba to think he could get help in New Delhi. India has long dominated Nepal and has been watching the growing Maoist insurgency in Nepal with much concern. Soon after September 11, the Foreign Minister of India made a point of calling the Maoists in Nepal "terrorists"—a label that had, up to then, not been used by India to describe Maoists in Nepal. Many saw this as a sign that India was laying the basis for getting more directly involved in attacking the People's War.

Then in November, Deuba's government declared a state of emergency and officially put the "terrorist" label on the leadership of the People's War, the

Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist). The Indian government quickly endorsed the Nepalese government's "search and destroy" campaign by the Royal Nepalese Army against the Maoists and sent 11 trucks full of sophisticated weapons and surveillance equipment to be used against the Maoists. The Indian government also gave Nepal two Cheetah helicopters.

For the last few months, the fighting between the Royal Nepalese Army and Maoist guerrillas has intensified. And contrary to the government's initial bragging that it would quickly quell the Maoist insurgency, the fighting has remained very two-sided—with reports of battles involving thousands of Maoist guerrillas, armed with some of the new sophisticated weapons from India that have been captured in battle.

The CPN (Maoist) has always warned of the danger of Indian intervention, and Deuba's trip to New Delhi—the first by a Nepali premier in nearly two years—is indicative of how much the reactionary Nepalese government relies on India, eco-

nomically, politically, AND militarily.

Deuba met Indian Home Minister L.K. Advani, External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh, Defense Minister George Fernandes, as well as India's Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. Indian officials came out of these meetings announcing a public pledge to help Nepal with intelligence information, equipment and training to help crush the Maoist insurgency.

An Indian official, who did not want to be identified, told the press, "We offered to cooperate by way of exchange of information, cooperation between intelligence agencies, improved surveillance along the border and offers of equipment and training." The official did not say what kind of equipment it would provide to Nepal. But it is widely known that the Royal Nepalese Army wants more and better weapons to fight the Maoists. A junior foreign minister from Nepal told the press that Nepal faced a shortage of "means and resources" in battling the guerrillas and needed international support.

India and Nepal also agreed that each

other's territory should not be used for "terrorist activities," and agreed to strengthen a 1953 extradition treaty. The Indian ambassador to Nepal said, "The border authorities of the two countries are already having very close cooperation to see that Maoists don't get any support from India and cross over to the Indian territory." In his meeting with Deuba, India's home minister suggested that the two countries have a mutual legal assistance treaty and work closely on intelligence sharing to help both countries control their borders effectively.

Last fall India had already begun putting more soldiers on the porous India-Nepalese border—a move aimed at detaining "suspected Maoists." India has also been cracking down on Nepalese Maoists living in India—in the West Bengal area the government has carried out raids and arrested a number of Nepalese Maoist leaders.

A particularly sinister aspect of the new cooperation between Nepal and India is the accusation by India that Nepal is harboring members of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence—who are known to have close ties with the Taliban forces in Afghanistan. There have also been completely fabricated tales spun out in the media about the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) getting arms from the ISI. Such lies could be used to lay the basis for new pretexts to attack the People's War.

India has a long history of dominating Nepal, both economically and politically. The ruling classes in Nepal have long been subservient to India. And there is widespread resentment among the masses of people in Nepal over Indian domination. This makes Deuba's request for arms from India a risky move. As the Maoists in Nepal have pointed out, many of the new and sophisticated arms India sends to the Royal Nepalese Army will end up in the hands of Maoist guerrillas. And increasing intervention by the Indian government could become very unpopular in Nepal, resulting in even more trouble for the government and an alignment of forces even more favorable to the People's War.



Photo: Li Onesto—RWJOR

Maoist guerrillas in Nepal, 1999

The Danger of India's POTO

On March 26, the Indian parliament passed a controversial new "anti-terrorism law"—the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance. POTO sets strict new rules for arrest, interrogation and investigation:

- It allows suspects to be held for 30 days without appearing before a court.
- It allows police to detain suspects for questioning for 90 days without charges and an additional 90 days with approval from a special court.
- It allows anyone suspected of giving money, shelter, transportation or other support to "terrorists" to be tried on terrorism charges. People who *unknowingly* rent a room or car to a terrorist or engage in a financial transaction with them can be arrested on terrorism charges, detained for up to six months without trial and have their home or business seized.
- It denies access to witnesses for cross-examination.
- It gives the police broad powers to intercept telephone and internet communications and use them as evidence in court.
- It gives the government freedom to clamp down on the funding of any group suspected of being "terrorist."
- It puts the burden of proof on the accused with no mandatory right to compensation for those detained and later found not guilty.
- It makes it a crime to not provide authorities with "information relating to any terrorist activity."
- It provides punishments ranging from a minimum of five years in prison to

death.

India is following the example of the United States. Using the so-called "war on terrorism," it is instituting heavy repressive measures that can be used against anyone the government doesn't like—including genuine revolutionary groups.

POTO specifically targets two revolutionary Maoist groups that are waging armed struggle—the Maoist Communist Centre and the Communist Party of India (ML) People's War—outlawing them altogether. And as POTO was being passed into law, Indian officials were declaring renewed support for the reactionary Nepalese government's fight against the popular Maoist insurgency that's been going on since 1996.

Elements of POTO had already been in force under a presidential decree back in December, but the ordinance was scheduled to lapse in April if not passed into law.

From the beginning, human rights groups opposed POTO, pointing out that its extreme measures give the government freedom to violate all kinds of constitutional and human rights. Critics of POTO say that in the few months POTO has been in effect, it has already been ruthlessly used to intimidate Muslims in India and intensify repression in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir.

Indian law had prohibited confessions unless they were made voluntarily in court. POTO now changes Indian law to admit confessions made to police as evi-

dence, and many are fearful this will lead to even more "torture confessions." POTO also gives the police more room to cover up human rights abuses with a clause that gives impunity to security forces that can prove they acted in "good faith" while handling a case.

POTO sets forth a broad definition of "terrorism" that includes acts of violence or disruption of essential services carried out with "intent to threaten the unity and integrity of India or to strike terror in any part of the people"—a vague and loose definition that gives the government wide powers to target and persecute anyone they want.

Ravi Nair, director of the South Asia Human Rights Documentation Center in New Delhi, said, "Because it lets you lock up a person and throw the key away, the police [are] going to abuse the new law. People don't want this bill because of their earlier experience with the anti-terrorism law and its abuse. They don't want a police state."

For many years, India used TADA (the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities [Prevention] Act, 1987) to detain those it suspected of carrying out "anti-national" activities. In areas of armed conflict such as Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and the Northeast, security forces were given increased powers under other "special legislation" and TADA was used to detain people throughout India. Implementation of this act led to widespread human rights violations, and many innocent people



were detained. TADA allowed for detention for long periods without charge or trial and individuals were detained pending trial for years at a time without the hope of bail.

In 1995, following a sustained campaign by human rights organizations, the Indian parliament was forced to not reauthorize TADA.

Now POTO basically reinstates a modified version of the notorious TADA—which facilitated tens of thousands of arrests, detentions, and acts of torture in violation of international law, and was used to crack down on political opponents, social activists, and human rights defenders.



Protest against U.S. bombing of Afghanistan and racist attacks on immigrants, New York, October 7, 2001.
Photo: Diane Greene Lent

Uniting With All Who Can Be United, in the U.S. and Throughout the World

by Bob Avakian

"Uniting With All Who Can Be United, in the U.S. and Throughout the World" is an excerpt from a tape-recorded talk by Bob Avakian, the Chairman of the RCP, USA, in the aftermath of September 11 and in the context of the war launched by the U.S. government, focused initially against Afghanistan.

RW 1143 featured major excerpts of this talk in the special magazine section—"The New Situation and the Great Challenges." The magazine is available online at rwor.org and at Revolution Books stores and outlets.

In the battle against the heightening repression and in the overall struggle against the imperialist juggernaut, both the importance and the acute contradictoriness within our "two 90/10s" orientation stand out very sharply. As put forth in our Party's *Draft Programme*, the "two 90/10s" refers to the strategic orientation of seeking "to win over the '90 percent,' whose fundamental interests ultimately lie with the proletarian revolution, against the '10 percent'—the ruling class and its die-hard supporters—within the U.S. while doing this in unity with the '90 percent' internationally, the great majority of the people of the world who suffer exploitation and oppression under the domination of imperialism and its allies and puppets."

To win people to apply this orientation, and maintain it through all the twists and turns, will of course be a struggle—and this will be true not only in the broader movement but within the ranks of our Party as well. I have seen some reports concerning discussions within the Party,

for example, where it has been raised: "How can we really carry out our two 90/10s orientation when we see that in this situation so many people are waving flags or supporting the government?" Or the question is directly raised: "Does this show that our two 90/10s orientation is not correct, or at least that we're not going to be able to carry it out?" Well, it's good these questions are being raised, but it's important to emphasize that, if you go back and read how this is characterized in the *Draft Programme*, it never presents this—and it would be wrong to present it—as if this is a straight-line, linear process and at every point you're going to have 90 percent of the people with you or that 90 percent can be very easily mobilized around your banner. On the contrary, it is recognized, and emphasized, that this is an acutely contradictory process because, considering things just within the U.S. itself, there are ways in which many people, significant forces in society, are spontaneously and in the short run pulled in the wrong direction; and, as pointed out in the *Draft Programme*, there is the very acute contradiction between maintaining a bedrock position and activity based on proletarian internationalism and still seeking to unite the broadest number possible and strategically maintaining an orientation of uniting with the 90 percent in the U.S. itself. So what these events are bringing out is precisely the profound correctness and farsightedness of what's said in the *Draft Programme* about the two 90/10s. To quote the *Draft Programme* again:

"It must be recognized that there are significant contradictions involved in these 'two 90/10s'—contradictions which at times can become quite acute. In a

country like the U.S., the requirements of upholding and applying proletarian internationalism and acting in accordance with the interests of the '90 percent' of the world's people can, in a number of circumstances, bring the class-conscious proletariat into conflict with the more narrow interests of segments of society, particularly the more privileged strata.

"In order to correctly handle these contradictions—and the often acute 'tensions' involved—the proletarian vanguard must at all times keep uppermost the fundamental interests of the proletariat and masses of people worldwide and at the same time persevere, from a strategic standpoint, in its work to win over the broadest number from all strata among the people."

In fact, to build the most powerful movement of opposition, and to link this with and make it serve strategic revolutionary objectives, it is crucial to grasp firmly that at any given time the alignment may be vastly different than 90 percent of the people on our side. This applies on various levels. In terms of our fundamental program of proletarian revolution, it is clearly not going to be the case that 90 percent of the people (or anything close to that) will be in agreement with this, or even have a stance of friendly neutrality toward it, before a revolutionary situation emerges. Even at "crunch time"—even when the objective basis and the need is acutely posed for the masses to rise up and make revolution—it is unlikely to be the case that 90 percent will be with this right from the start—even then many middle forces will have to be won to the revolutionary camp through the course of actually carrying out the revolutionary seizure of power. This is something that is spoken to and emphasized in our Party's *Draft*

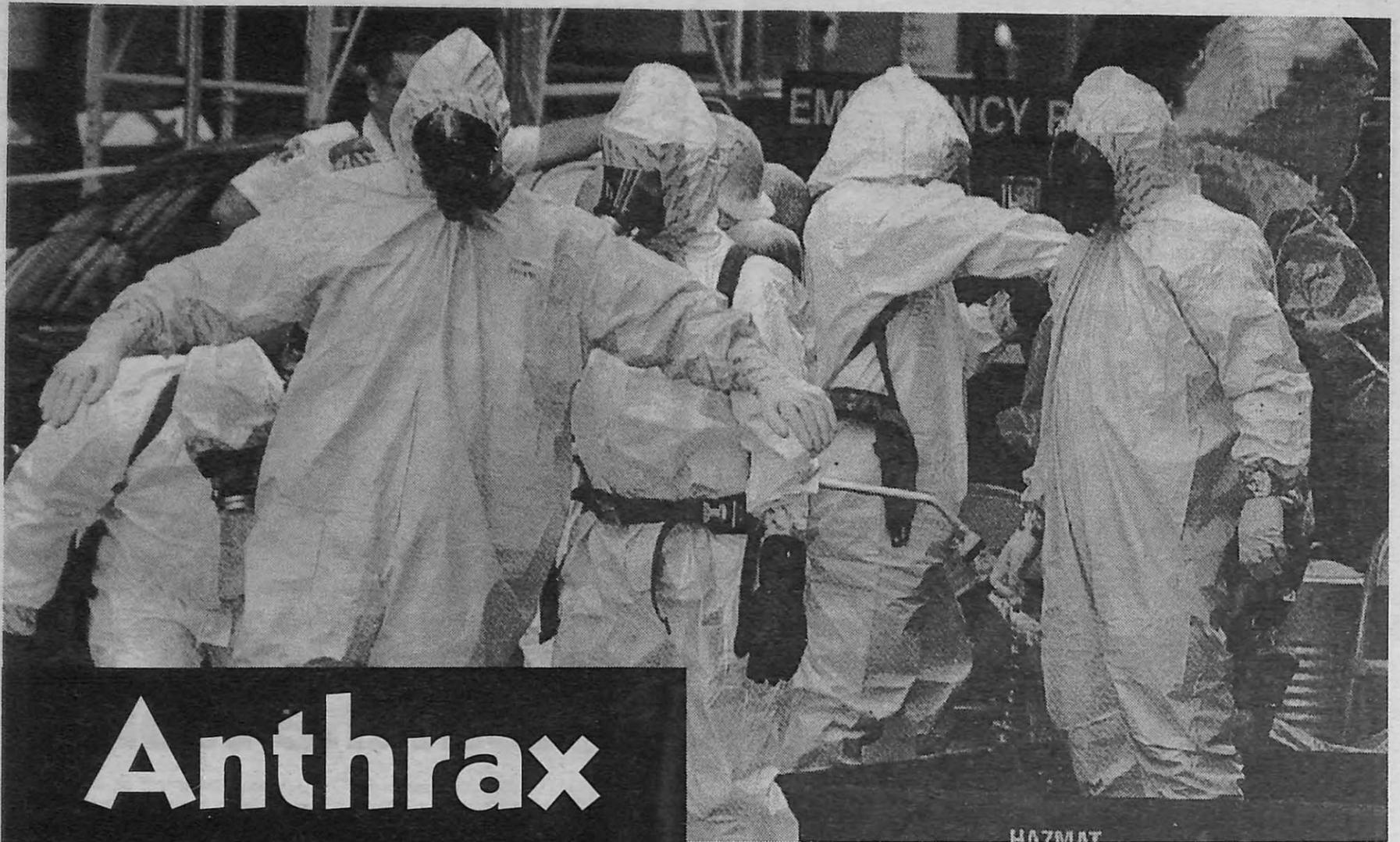
Programme, and it will be important to continually go back to that and regroup people in that, especially the advanced revolutionary-minded people at every point, in order to be able to most effectively struggle to bring into being a more favorable alignment, through the course of the whole process preceding a revolutionary situation as well as at the point where that situation does emerge.

And, on the level of building the broader movement of resistance, this also applies: at any given point, the alignment may be such that far fewer than 90 percent of the people are standing with—or have a stance of "friendly neutrality" toward—that movement, and it will be crucial to continue building that movement in a way that "stick[s] to basic principle and still build[s] the broadest united front, keeping in the forefront what it will take to actually stop the whole juggernaut of war and repression vs. getting caught up in sectarian or even simply more narrow and limited interests." (from an internal party document)

* Once again, this involves taking up the big challenge of changing the whole political terms and the political terrain, realigning things in society as a whole, achieving a repolarization that is more favorable for the movement of resistance, and doing this in a way that is consistent with and contributes to realizing the fundamental revolutionary interests of the masses of people, not just in the U.S. but worldwide. Here, once more, is the crucial point concerning the need to correctly handle the often very acute—and right now very acute—contradiction between maintaining proletarian internationalism, and at the same time uniting all who can be united within the U.S. itself.



Immigrant workers in Rome, Italy protesting against the U.S. war, November 10, 2001.



A hazmat team inspecting a letter suspected of containing anthrax bacteria, Trenton, New Jersey, October 2001.

Anthrax Letters: MADE IN THE USA

Barbara Hatch Rosenberg is a widely recognized expert on anthrax and biological warfare. She is making some shocking charges against the U.S. government, its military and its FBI investigators.

Dr. Rosenberg insists that the anthrax attacks of last fall were clearly done by someone working within the U.S. government biowarfare projects. She says the FBI quite likely knows who mailed the anthrax letters and asks why the government is afraid to arrest the suspects they have identified. She suggests that the government is holding back because the true story behind these anthrax letters could then become public—damaging powerful forces within the government and the military.

The evidence from the anthrax attacks of last fall leads to the doorsteps of U.S. military laboratories and the CIA. And the FBI appears to be waist deep in a cover-up.

On September 18, a few days after the World Trade Center attacks, someone started mailing letters containing anthrax spores. The spores can infect people with a deadly disease.

Ultimately, four anthrax letters were recovered. Two had been sent to the Senate offices of leading Democratic senators, Tom Daschle and Patrick Leahy. Two had been sent to media offices in New York—the *Post* newspaper and Tom Brokaw at NBC News.

The letters did not kill their intended targets, but the anthrax material was so sophisticated that the spores passed through the envelopes and infected people all along their path—including secretaries and postal workers. Five people are known to have died from inhaling spores from these letters, and 13 others were infected but survived. Authorities believe a fifth letter killed a photo editor in Florida, but the letter was never found.

President Bush quickly suggested on TV that the Islamist al-Qaida organization might be behind the anthrax attack. The *Wall Street Journal* wrote (Oct. 18): "By far the likeliest supplier is Saddam Hussein." Everyone remembers how these anthrax attacks were used to fan support for the U.S. war against Afghanistan and Iraq. And this has continued: As recently as March 23 the *New York Times* ran a front-page story blaring, "U.S. Says it Found Qaeda Lab Being Built to Produce Anthrax." Such reports have repeatedly proven to be false—no evidence has ever connected these attacks to foreign forces.

Evidence gathered by Dr. Barbara Hatch Rosenberg and her colleagues reveals that the anthrax used in these attacks came from U.S. military stockpiles—and U.S. officials must have known this, almost from the beginning.

EVIDENCE FROM THE ANTHRAX LETTERS

"The weaponized anthrax is made by a highly secret process belonging to the United States, and the material seems to fit that recipe. Their best lead at present is the contractor that worked for the CIA."

Professor Barbara Hatch Rosenberg, reported by the BBC, December 19, 2001

"If you want to see the intersection of two talents—the microbiologic ability to obtain and safely grow lots of anthrax, and the industrial capacity to turn it into dry powder—then that would suggest to me that the person did indeed have some experience with the biological warfare program."

USAMRIID, 1977-1990 Salon, February 8, 2002

"From the moment one saw that it was highly concentrated Ames strain anthrax, the first lead candidate should have been a U.S. laboratory with a military contract."

Jonathan A. King, professor of microbiology, MIT Salon, February 8, 2002

Dr. Rosenberg is a molecular biologist and research professor of environmental science at the State University of New York. For more than a decade she has been involved in the Federation of American Scientists' (FAS) Chemical and Biological Weapons Program, where she now serves as director.

On December 10, Rosenberg's FAS working group released "A Compilation of Evidence and Comments on the Source of the Mailed Anthrax." In this report, Rosenberg documents that all the features of the anthrax used in the attacks point to U.S. military stockpiles.

First, the anthrax used was the Ames strain (named after the U.S. government labs in Ames, Iowa). This Ames strain is the form of anthrax central to the U.S. government biological warfare development—going as far back as the 1960s.

Second, for anthrax to be a weapon, it has to be prepared into a dust so fine that it floats in the air and is inhaled. This requires complicated processes that separate the spores and prevent "clumping" from moisture or static electricity. All of this has to be done under elaborate laboratory conditions so the technicians themselves don't die from the spores.

All the techniques used to develop the anthrax letter material point to U.S. government labs: The sample was extremely concentrated (one trillion spores per gram) and highly pure in ways "characteristic of material made by the U.S. process."

Four different labs reportedly docu-
Continued on page 12



Anthrax spores.

April Actions for Mumia Abu-Jamal

International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal has called for four days of action April 4-8 to protest the unjust imprisonment of revolutionary political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Last December in federal district court in Philadelphia, for the first time in 20 years a court admitted there was *something* wrong in the trial that has kept Mumia on death row for two decades after he was framed for the murder of Philadelphia cop Daniel Faulkner. Judge Yohn ruled that the sentencing hearing—which sentenced Mumia to death—was in violation of the law.

But in a deeply unjust decision, Judge Yohn *upheld* Mumia's murder conviction and refused to consider new evidence in Mumia's case.

The fact that Yohn upheld the conviction is an outrage. Yohn turned down 20 claims in Mumia's petition for habeas corpus which argue clearly and in detail that Mumia was wrongly convicted. These claims include many instances of misconduct by the trial judge and the prosecution: suppression of evidence, coercion of witnesses, police perjury, forcing a totally ineffective court-appointed lawyer on Mumia, and the refusal of Mumia's right to defend himself or to have assistance from legal counsel of his choice. Yohn also turned down Mumia's claim that the judge and prosecutor engaged in racist jury selection — although he left open the possibility on this one point for later appeal (see *RW* #1133 for more information).

Yohn's court was also Mumia's last chance to introduce new evidence. Yet Yohn refused to hear new evidence or allow oral arguments—despite the emergence of affidavits by Mumia and his brother describing the events the night Philly cop Daniel Faulkner was killed; an affidavit by Arnold Beverly, who has stated he was the one who killed Faulkner; and an affidavit by a Philadelphia court employee who overheard the judge in Mumia's original trial, Judge Sabo, say in a conversation "I'm going to help 'em fry the n*gger." (A lower court judge also refused to hear the new evidence and Judge Yohn declared he did not want lower courts to hold hearings on it.)

Since Yohn's ruling, more evidence surfaced that proves Mumia was unjustly framed. In a sworn affidavit Yvette Williams declared that Cynthia White told her that police forced her to lie and identify Mumia as the shooter. Williams was in prison with White after the shooting. White was the key eyewitness in Mumia's trial and the only witness who testified she saw Mumia shoot Faulkner.

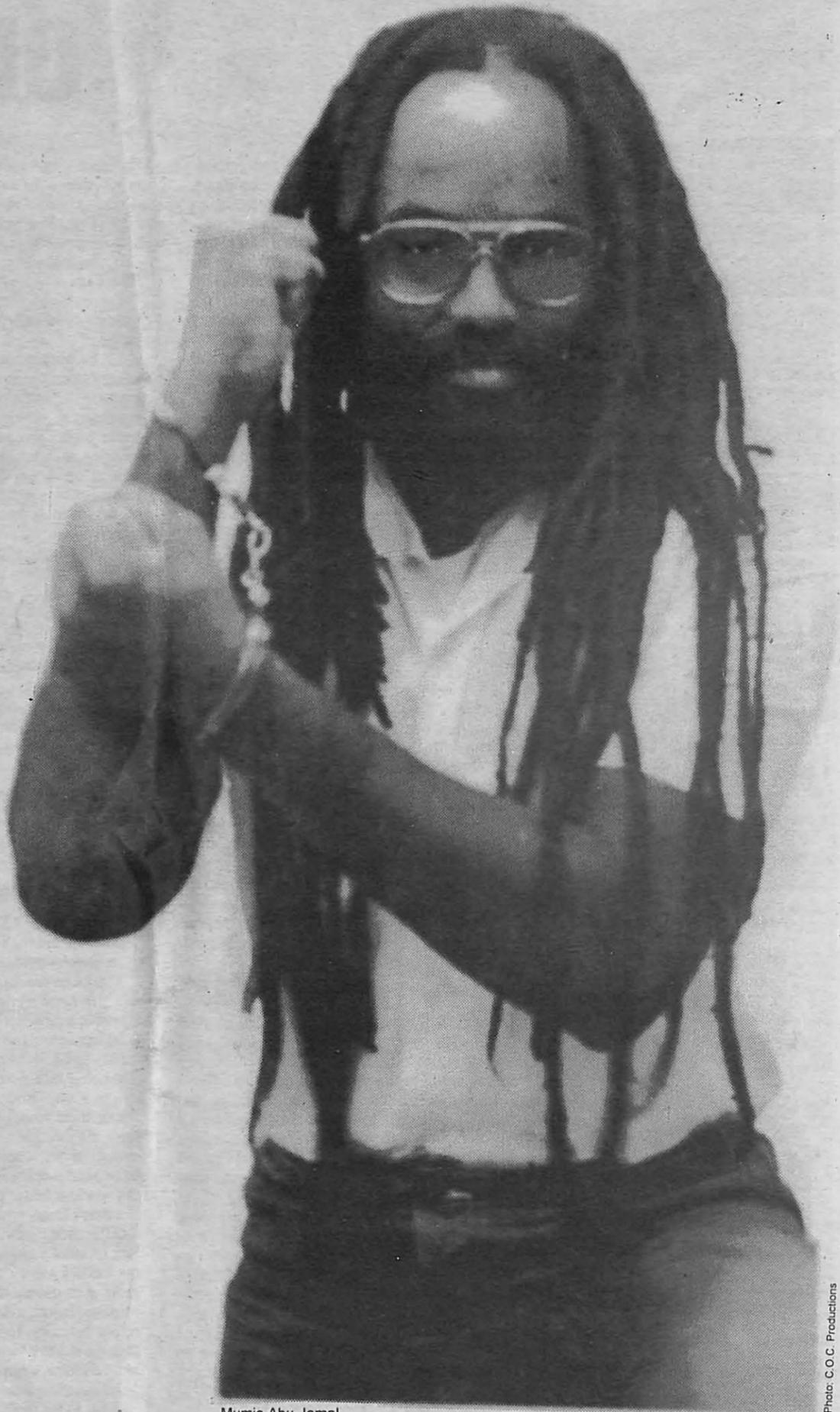
In Yohn's December ruling, the prosecution was given 180 days to schedule a new sentencing hearing. If they do not, Mumia's sentence will automatically be changed to life in prison without parole. This would be a totally unjust outcome—one that threatens to completely close the prison door on Mumia.

The prosecution remains intent on murdering Mumia and has appealed Yohn's ruling on the death sentence to the Circuit Court. If they win, the death sentence would be restored—and the Pennsylvania governor could immediately announce an execution date. Mumia's attorneys have appealed Yohn's decision upholding the murder conviction to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. And they have filed court papers requesting hearings be held on the new evidence.

Mumia Abu-Jamal was framed because he is a revolutionary who has always spoken out on behalf of the oppressed. From death row, he has continued to do so for the past 20 years, exposing the crimes of this system and shining a light on the lives of the oppressed. In the past few months his weekly columns have included exposing and denouncing the U.S. "war on terrorism" as a war of aggression. Mumia's case is even more important in today's political climate where the government is trying to criminalize dissent.

The more closely people look at Mumia's case the more it becomes clear that the system has carried out a profound injustice. The possibility that the death sentence on Mumia might be restored or that he may be locked up for life poses great dangers — especially given the current climate of repression and intimidation in this country. This situation makes it all the more important for people to fight through to build the kind of broad, diverse and determined movement that can win complete justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

No New Death Sentence! Overturn the Conviction! Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!



Mumia Abu-Jamal

Photo: C.O.C. Productions

Some of the events the *RW* has learned about include:

April 4— International Honk for Mumia Day

In Philadelphia: 11:00 a.m.—In commemoration of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Educators for Mumia Abu-Jamal will hold a press conference featuring Philadelphia area scholars at 1199C Union Hall, 13th & Juniper Streets.

3:00 p.m.—Demonstration at the corner of Broad and Spring Garden.

April 5— International Day of Action for Mumia

In Philadelphia there will be a night of poetry with artists from the Blackout Poetry Collective. Time and place to be announced.

April 6, Philadelphia— "Let The Evidence Be Heard! The Truth Must Be Told!"

11:00 a.m.—Rally at State Office Building, Broad & Spring Garden Streets

11:15 a.m.—March through North Philly to Mumia's high school

12:00-6:00 p.m.—Teach-in at Benjamin Franklin High School, Broad & Green Streets. The first half of the teach-in will focus on Mumia's legal situation and action proposals. The second half will address the context of the fight to free Mumia: war, repression, reparations and other death penalty cases. \$10 donation requested (no one will be turned away).

April 7, Philadelphia: 6:00-8:00 p.m.—*Resist This!* Speaking Tour—Clark Kissinger and youth from Refuse & Resist! are featured speakers as R&R! launches a nationwide campus speaking tour to expose the police state atmosphere in post-9/11 America, encourage resistance to the unending, unjust war, help build support for those under attack, and discuss the need—more than ever—to free Mumia. Robins Books, 108 S. 13th Street. For more information contact Philadelphia Refuse & Resist!, 215-552-8548.

April 8, Philadelphia: 9:00 a.m.—Pack the courtroom at the hearing for the people arrested after being attacked by police at a December 8th protest marking the 20th year of Mumia's unjust imprisonment. Criminal Justice Center, 13th & Filbert.

12:30 p.m.—Rally in support of those arrested on December 8th at the northwest corner of City Hall across from the Criminal Justice Center.

For more information on these and other activities contact international Concerned Friends & Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal, icffmaj@AOL.com, 215-476-8812, www.mumia.org

Prisoners Join Revolution on New Draft

There are many prisoners and political prisoners that need to get their hands on the Draft Programme of the Revolutionary Communist Party. The brothers and sisters behind bars must be a part of this discussion and debate. To do this, we ask all people who see the need to spread the vision of a revolutionary program, to contribute to the Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund (PRLF). PRLF is also looking for volunteers to help get the RW into prisoners' hands.

You can reach PRLF at: 773-227-4066. Send contributions to: PRLF, Merchandise Mart, PO Box 3486, Chicago IL 60654

The following excerpts are from letters prisoners wrote to the Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund after receiving the new Draft Programme of the RCP, USA.

A Thirst for Knowledge

I recently obtained the *Draft Programme of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA*. I was in awe. I have had a lot of ideas about a world that is VERY similar to what is projected in the ideals of the RCP. I must admit that I do not have much knowledge on Marxist-Leninist-Maoist parties and/or organizations. I do want to learn! I am writing in hopes that you could give me any literature, sources of literature. I thirst for knowledge. Unfortunately there is not any useful information where I am at—in prison. I would like to be put on a mailing list. Please! Thank you for putting your *Draft Programme* into print, it helped me realize that I am not the only person with a need to rebel against capitalist oppression. I now have hopes of proper guidance. Thank you.

Transformation

Salutations comrades! I received your missive only recently due to an ongoing struggle between us and the Gestapo working in the mailroom here. To make a long story short, since your message was sent under separate cover, it arrived with a compañera of mine and they considered it "3rd party mail." I filed an appeal in haste and here I am months later with your missive at my side. Thanx!

I want to acknowledge having long since received our copy of the *New Draft Programme* and the continued subscription to the RW. We have composed a study-struggle group here and have incorporated the *Draft* in our curriculum. I look forward to sharing with you, and all, some of our "notes" on the related... I have no organizational affiliation. Quite simply, I'm a communist who has been captive since I was 15 (I'm 24 now) and who has endeavored to transform myself from the

"homeboyism" culture (a product of capitalist/imperialist colonization of the barrios as it is) to a revolutionary internationalist! One, I'm open for any critique or dialogue on the related or otherwise. So don't hesitate to get at me or encourage others to.

I'm enclosing here a copy of a drawing I did in 1999 called, "The essence of capitalism."

I'll be packing in about 13 months, after having been down 10 years! And I'm trying to make some contacts and build some meaningful relationships so that I can begin organizing, agitating and educating as soon as I touch down.... Let me tell you, I've been digging into Marxist-Leninist-Maoist theory and scientific socialism in general since almost day one in prison. I dug into the SWP Trokskyist line, the Mexican cultural nationalist line (I speak the Mexican language, Spanish and of course English), the New Afrikan revolutionary nationalist line, and a host of others and believe only the RIM and RCP is capable of being the revolutionary vanguard of the proletariat in specific and a new revolutionary socialist/communist hegemony in general, within this country. I am confident that given the opportunity, I could contribute significantly to the RCP.

Yeah, comrades, that's a big door I'm kicking open and I hope that you may be able to respond to this in full. In closing, I extend my deepest regards and concrete solidarity to all!

A New Light

My name is XXX and I would like to thank you and the RCP for opening up my eyes to the world.

I've been reading the weekly newsletter and the *Draft Programme* and seeing the world in a new light. I never used to notice how censored the American newspapers were until I read the *Revolutionary Worker*. I like how they don't hold their tongues and how they're not afraid to speak their minds. Plus the *Draft* is like ten times better than the [U.S.] Constitution. It makes me want the *Draft* to be read worldwide. Wouldn't that make the world a better place?

I don't know what I can do to help make a difference, but if you think of anything, just let me know. My family comes to see me once a month and I'm trying to open their eyes. Some of them think that communism is just a dream, but the others are really listening to me. I don't try to beat them over the head with communism. I just tell them what has capitalism done for you? And the answer is always, nothing. I just try to let them know that they wouldn't have to struggle this hard under com-

munist. It's capitalism that's making their lives so hard, they're breaking their backs on jobs that have no meaning. They're being open-minded and maybe when I educate myself more about communism I'll be able to educate them.

If I can spread communism by word of mouth, I will. I will do anything that I can to help the struggle. I really want to make this world a better place for our women and children.

"Putting a Puzzle Together"

The weekly issues of the *Revolutionary Worker* and the *Draft Programme* have been received and it is my duty to criticize what needs to be criticized. It's like putting a puzzle together—you have to find out what pieces fit and what pieces don't.

First of all with this so-called "War on Terrorism" nobody has seen to take it into consideration as to whether or not bin Laden was behind the plane crashes. First of all, there has been no evidence that he actually was behind it. Secondly it is hard to believe that a handful of people would hi-jack an airplane with box cutters. All of us have seen a situation where somebody has done something and then made it look like somebody else did it and this might very well be the case. The question is why would the U.S. government plot and carry out such a thing and part of the answer to that question is why wouldn't they — with the capitalist system and their conspiracies — to bring about a New World Order, a One World Government with some of their most ruthless killers in office such as President George Bush who murdered over 34 people as the governor of Texas; such as Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge who bombed the MOVE organization and tried to have Mumia Abu-Jamal executed while he was governor of Pennsylvania; such as Mayor Rudolph Giuliani who has been behind the murder and police brutality in New York?

As to criticizing your *Draft Programme*, I haven't read all of it yet. Page 11 states, "The proletarians are trapped in a vicious circle—they have to work in order to live." Well, that's the whole catch to it; they don't have to do nothing; they have been fooled into thinking that they have to work to live and when they work, they still don't live because most of the time somebody else (the ruling class) receives the profit behind what they work for and to those that do receive some, it is designed to have it taken right back from them. We live in a system of trickery. It's like, Okay, I got what you want and to get it you gotta do whatever it is I want you to do. An example is what goes on back here in prison. When it's time for an officer back here to gas someone or restrain them by use of force you can see the look in their face showing that they really don't want to do it and many will admit that they don't want to do it and that they know it's wrong, but they say that they need the job, the money to survive so they end up becoming bribed. But when you are dealing with a briber you have to make sacrifices and it must be understood that usually what you are bribed for ain't usually worth it. The ruling class never allows you to make it to the top with them. Their intention is to use you and get rid of you, to bring you in and kick you out.

As to all of your emphasis on Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. Well, if Mao lived in a desert and you lived in a jungle and you are trying to grow a garden, there is nothing you can learn from Mao to help you grow one because someone from the desert knows nothing about growing a garden. This is why Sun Tzu said in the



"The essence of capitalism"

Revolutionary Conversation at Programme

Art of War that circumstances never repeat themselves exactly and so the rules of strategy can never be set out in such detail that every situation is catered for in advance. So it is not necessary to specifically apply the rules of Marx, Lenin and Maoism...

I hope I have said enough to keep us going in the same direction, if not you have to further show me where you are going and how you are getting there so that I may learn the same.

Keep the papers coming and hopefully we can get together more often and in more ways.

"The DP will work"

I hope my letter has found you in good health mentally and physically. I am always glad to sit down and write you a letter. I am glad because it is really difficult to find a party that boldly voices its opinion as the *Revolutionary Worker* does. All the other socialist-communist parties read more like the bourgeoisie than the right wing media. Sometimes I wonder are they reformist-liberals.

The *Draft Programme* is really revolutionary as I have said before. The only thing that is wrong with the *Draft* is that it is printed on bio-degradable paper.

The *Draft* reads on page 37, "A truly revolutionary party is the deadly enemy of the bourgeoisie." All those other so-called communist newspapers sugar-coat the story about how this imperialist society is destroying people's lives around the globe. They act as if they are afraid to speak out against imperialism. But the *Revolutionary Worker* and the Party pulls no punches.

I was reading also at the end of page 39, "To win victory, the Party must be made up of those who embody the best qualities of the proletariat and are prepared for great sacrifice, jail, even execution at the hands of the ruthless enemy." These are true words to the last letter. I look at people in prison and many of them realize that some of us must die in order to free ourselves from the clutches of our oppressors. But everyone is waiting for someone else to die. Everyone cries loudly for unity and the *Draft Programme* clearly states, "But without the initiative and independent role of the class-conscious proletariat, the unity that is built with other class forces will not be as broad or as powerful as it can be. The proletariat, through its vanguard party, must strive to lead the united front." (page 57).

Prisoners have many issues in the California Prison System. But they spend most of their time fighting with each other on racial issues like who will have what side of the yard. Or who owes who for "a-you-know-what-debt." And when the races do unify, the unification is for a superficial issue like we need candy bars in the canteen, or we should fight to get can goods in a package. That is why *The Communist Manifesto* says: The communists are distinguished from the other working class parties by this only: In the national struggles of the proletarians of different countries, they point out and bring to the front the common interests of the entire proletariat, independently of all nationality; 2: In the various stages of development which the struggle of the working class against the bourgeoisie has to pass through, they always and everywhere represent the interests of the movements as a whole.

The Manifesto goes on to read, "The communists, therefore, are on the one hand, practically, the most advanced and resolute section of the working class parties of every country." In order to break

past these walls of prison inertia created by the prison administration, the communists in every prison must quickly seek out other class-conscious communists and start holding study groups under the guise of religion or whatever means of meetings are available. The *Draft Programme* will work but we communists must be willing to exhaust the study of the *Programme* and put its policy into practice. Because the *Draft Programme* will work. It is based on Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.

"What do you think?"

I like to thank you for your letter dated the 31st day of January 2002. Thank the sponsor for my sub, it will help me keep up with the struggle. I believe the RCP *Draft Programme* needs to give the youth of the world more rights to control their own life — e.g. jobs, education, body, relationships and marriage. That is what is wrong with the world governments killing the young people. They can't get a job, marriage, sex, etc. The world treats them as property of the parents and/or government. What do you think?

Thoughts on Rehabilitation

Greetings to all my brothers and sisters united in the struggle for revolution and ultimately freedom. I am reaching out to you from the belly of the beast — the ultimate incarnation of political and social oppression. Not to mention the emotional, physical, and mental oppression and abuse inflicted upon prisoners literally 24 hours a day.

On pages 69-70 in the *Draft Programme*, there is an appendix with the title, "Prisons and Prisoners." This has caused our "study group" (which must be kept underground due to prison rules) to have many interesting and thoughtful debates. I am of the view that no crime is nonviolent. Allow me to explain. Non-violent crime would mean that no one has been hurt by the crime. If you take a man's money in a nonviolent way such as a confidence game or credit card scam or just steal his wallet, do you deprive him of the money needed to support his family or himself? Does this not cause pain? Although possibly not physical pain, it can cause emotional pain. It can cause hardship to a family even if only for a week or two. A nonviolent crime has caused pain.

Let us look at nonviolent drug offenders. Drugs are a poison and the harm they cause not only to the user but also anyone who comes in contact with the user can be very violent. Speaking from experience the things I have done to get the money to buy drugs have caused untold pain and suffering to not only my family but to many innocent people who did not even know me.

Drug dealers perpetuate violence and pain and misery. Certainly I don't know a man's hustle but I call it the way I see it. Dealers know what their clientele do to get the money to supply their habits. They know what harm the drugs they sell cause to society. So to consider their crimes non-violent to my way of thinking is ludicrous.

I understand the underlying principles behind dealing drugs and I know the different reasons why a person uses drugs. However I don't feel that merely giving the "lower rung" criminal type of individual the revolutionary outlook is going to solve substance abuse and all it entails. On page 69 on the "Lumpen proletariat" the *DP* states, "But winning them to the revolutionary cause will be possible only by exercising an absolutely firm hand and sharply struggling to instill in them the revolutionary outlook of the proletariat."

This phrase has the sound of forced indoctrination. It gives the sense of, "We will not permit this so do what you're told or else." There is no inducement in such a phrase and one phrase can stick in a person's memory and color his judgment far into the future.

To rehabilitate prisoners you will need much more than socialist revolution. Once the common enemy is gone where do you channel all the hatred?

I will continue these thoughts in the near future. However my time this evening is limited so I must cut this letter short. I will be certain to share more of my and our study group's thoughts with you soon. United in the struggle for freedom.



Outrage at Hunters Point

Photo: Tenisha Bishop



Police arresting Hunters Point youth on MLK Day, January 21, 2002.

"They keep telling everyone to look out for this gang and that gang but the most dangerous gang is the San Francisco Police Department. That's the biggest gang and it's legal for them to do whatever they want to do to us. And we're not just about to sit back and accept it and say that's OK."

Susan McAllister, mother of 13-year-old Alema, who was abused by SF police

San Francisco. It's the evening of Monday, January 21, 2002—Martin Luther King holiday. Four children, aged 12 to 14, are sitting in a car in front of their home on Kirkwood Street in the Bay View-Hunters Point neighborhood listening to the radio. Their parents had let them stay up late because it was a holiday.

Bay View-Hunters Point is one of the largest African-American communities in San Francisco (see sidebar). Kirkwood is a quiet street, where children play during the day. It is a close-knit neighborhood where the adults all watch out for the kids. Across the street is the Boys and Girl's Club, one of the few recreational centers for youth in this Black community.

Tenisha Bishop is driving home from her work with her 6-year-old son in the car. As Tenisha parks her car in front of her apartment she sees the police surround the car where the children are listening to music.

pleading for the police to put the guns down as well. Jerome, who didn't get an answer or an explanation, asked again.

"Suddenly, one of the officers shouted out, 'Take him down.' I saw with my own eyes eight white officers come over and slam Jerome's body to the ground. One of them had come up behind him and pushed his head. He went down head first, with his feet flying in the air. I heard the knock when his head and jaw hit the concrete.

"For at least five minutes, one officer pinned Jerome down with his knee between Jerome's jaw and neck, grinding the boy's face into the pavement.

"Janell's stepfather, Kevin Hall, told the police that Jerome was just a kid and they had no right to do him the way they did. So another force of police rushed Kevin without saying anything. The police beat him while forcing him into the police car.

"Jerome was lying on the ground in a pool of blood. His eyes looked glassy, and it didn't look like he was breathing. As I stared at him, his eyes did not blink one time. I thought Jerome was dead."

The police later justified this whole attack by saying that they were responding to a tip that two African-American men had been spotted taking guns out of a red car. The four kids were in a banged-up red Escort.

Jerome Brown's father described his son's injuries at a meeting of the Police Commission: "My son was hospitalized that night. No treatment was given him after he was knocked down and his head slammed into the concrete. I witnessed a puddle of my son's blood on Kirkwood Road where this happened. I was appalled. When I saw my son [in the hospital] he could not even recognize me. ... Three of his teeth were shoved up into his gums. He had a hole in his jaw. He had to have surgery that night and stitches to close up the wounds. He had a concussion. He didn't know what his name was. He didn't even know he was in the hospital."

Tenisha described, to the *Bay View*, the next outrage: "Then I asked why were there so many police out here for these little kids. [The police officer] replied, 'As long as you people are here, we will act like this.' I asked, 'What the hell did you just say?' I said, 'Are we monkeys, baboons, or niggas today?' Inell, Sue, and Leonard said, 'What do you mean, 'you people'?' I then snapped a picture of him with a stupid racist smirk on his face. I said to him, 'How dare you say that—especially on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday holiday.'

"Brian's cuffs were so tight he was screaming to the officers to loosen them. So one officer pulled him to his feet by his cuffs and slammed him back down on the ground. Tyrell, Alema, and Janell were upset at what they had just seen the police do to Brian. They were saying they hated the police. I also heard the kids say that all they had been doing was sitting in the car listening to music, so what was all of this for?"

"As I was crossing the street, Sue and Inell were asking the police if they could cross the street and be with their kids. The police told them that if they crossed the street they would get shot.

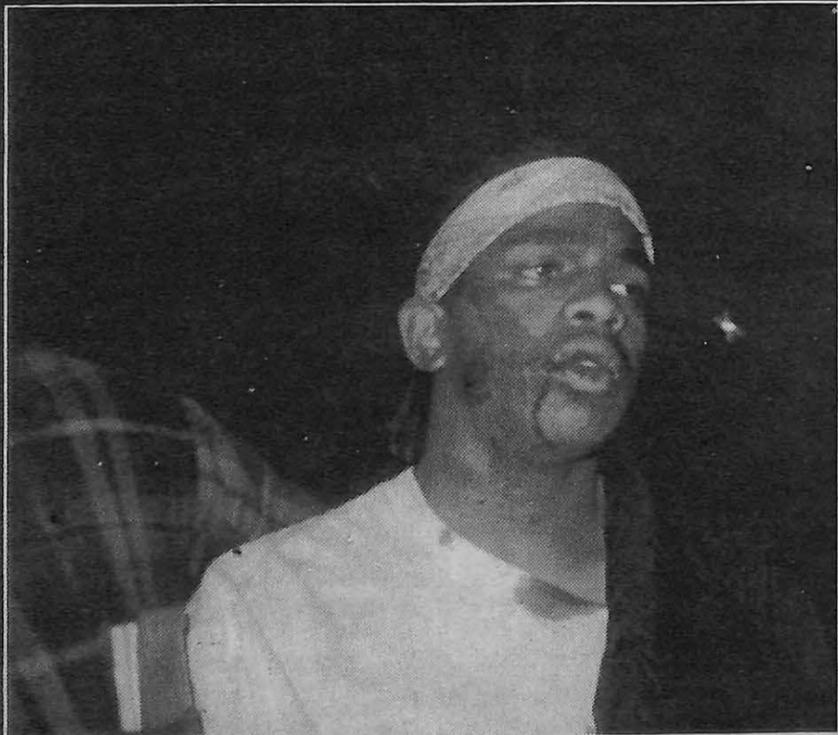
"The police searched the girls, rubbing them on the breast, hip, buttock, and between the thighs. Imagine seeing these helpless, violated, innocent beautiful black babies. Alema, who just made 14 the following Friday, is the curvier of the two. The officers lifted up her sweater because it was tied around her waist and rubbed and fondled instead of searching. The whole while Alema was being searched, her mother was screaming across the street saying, 'That's not right. Y'all can't search my baby like that. Call for a female officer. She is just a baby,' as she broke down in tears."

Susan McAllister, Alema's mother, described the police sexually abusing her daughter. "One of the officers took the palm of his hand and went across my daughter's breast. I started screaming that they needed to get a female police officer out here. The police officer continued to feel down my daughter. He went up between her legs to her crotch and lifted her sweater and felt on her behind with the palm of his hand. I broke down in tears

Photo: Tenisha Bishop



Photo: Tenisha Bishop



Jerome Brown after he was beaten by San Francisco Police on January 21

In a front-page article in the African-American newspaper *San Francisco Bay View* Tenisha Bishop described what happened next:

"I began to step out of my car, the police had guns drawn and were on the loudspeaker. I screamed at the police and told them they were making a mistake because those were kids. He ignored me. I started screaming towards my building, saying somebody go and get Janell's mother because the police are about to shoot her."

When Janell's mother came out, her daughter, who is only 12, was out of the car on her knees with her hands on her head. Then her friend, Alema Hoskins, 13, was ordered to do the same.

"I wanted to grab my son and dart across the street, but I was afraid I would get shot or beat up by the police," Tenisha wrote. "This scene was familiar to me; I've seen it done before.

"Police cars, a police van and police officers in army fatigues came onto the scene. Standing where I was, I saw police running with guns drawn on the fence between Milton Meyer Gym and the Hunters Point Boys and Girls Club."

"Jerome Brown, 14, was in the gathering crowd. He was telling the police to take the guns off his 'li'l cousin.' Parents, neighbors, passersby and other kids were



SF Police Commission, February 27, 2002.

because of the pain and humiliation my daughter was going through.”

Community Outrage

The *Bay View* newspaper has played an important role in exposing this attack. And there is a lot of outrage in the community both about this incident and about the police brutality and harassment that is a part of daily life for the people, especially the youth.

“The community is very, very angry,” Susan McAllister told the *RW*. “And it’s not just this case. It’s other cases too, and how easily it gets swept under the rug, locked in the closet and that’s it, you don’t hear any more about it. Well, they’re going to continue to hear about this. And I’m going to be in their face until they do something about it. We’re taking our community back. If you’re going to treat us like this we want you out. We can handle our situations ourselves.”

The police have promised an investigation but they have refused community demands that the cops involved in the incident be taken off active duty. Instead, the cops have just been transferred to do their dirty deeds in another part of San Francisco.

“You should not allow these police officers to go into any other community to do these things to other children,” an older woman from the community told the Police Commission.

In a further outrage, the police have assigned Commander Greg Suhr to deal with the community about the incident. Suhr was the officer in charge six years ago when a group of cops beat and pepper-sprayed Mark Garcia, placed him faced down on hot concrete with their boot on his back. Though the police violated many of their own policies and procedures causing Mark’s death, no cop has received more than a token slap on the wrist in that incident. And Suhr has

Inell Manuel points to pictures of the police abusing her daughter, during the protest at the San Francisco Police Commission, February 27, 2002.



RWOR photo

climbed up the cop chain of command while the Mark Garcia case has been swept under the rug.

On February 27, some 80 people confronted the San Francisco Police Commission to protest the police attack in Hunters Point. The incident has brought together older residents and youth, community activists, and long-time homeowners who are determined that this police brutality must be stopped.

At the police commission, Mesha Monge-Irizarry described how the police killed her son, 23-year-old Bay View resident Idriss Stelley, outside the Sony Metreon Theatre in downtown San Francisco on June 13, 2001. The police

fired more than 20 bullets into Idriss, who was unarmed.

An older Black woman who has lived in Hunters Point since 1943 also got up to speak: “Don’t say to me there’s two sides to every coin. Not this one. All those children had never been in any trouble and the only thing the parents asked is why are you doing this. Now I’m the mother of six. I’m the grandmother of 21, great-grandmother of 40. If it was me that night I would have been shot. No ifs, ands, or buts about it. Because it was unacceptable and it still is.”

“This whole situation is fucked up. This takes me back to when I was beat up by the police and there wasn’t no camera

back there,” a Black youth told the commission. “You all got to stop coming into our communities and harassing us, beating us up and killing us like we ain’t gonna do nothing about it. That’s fucked up. You motherfuckers better put them motherfuckers on trial and put them motherfuckers in jail or something...and another thing, you talk about it’s a couple of bad apples in the police force. No, it’s the whole system. It’s the way that you’re trained, the way that you handle yourselves out there on the streets. You aren’t there to ‘protect and serve’ us. You all really is there to do what you all are doing. You all are going to stop this shit or we’re going to make you stop it.”

A Short History of Hunters Point

Before World War 2, San Francisco was a segregated city with a Black population of only 5,000. “Whites only” real estate practices kept Black people out of almost all housing and a whites-only job market kept Black people out of most jobs.

In the 1940s, thousands of African-Americans migrated to Hunters Point from Texas, Louisiana and other Southern states to work in the shipyards building the battleships for the U.S. Navy in WW2. The shipyard workers initially lived in barracks in Hunters Point.

Many Black people settled in the Hunters Point neighborhood near the shipyards. The neighborhood lies on a hill in the

southwest corner of San Francisco with beautiful views overlooking the San Francisco Bay.

There is a long history of police brutality and resistance in Bay View-Hunters Point. One police officer is quoted in a book on the history of San Francisco on his technique of dealing with African-American youth in the early 1960s: “Get back upon the hill where you belong, n*gger. If I see your black ass down here again, I’ll shoot it off!” On September 27, 1966, a rebellion lasting several days broke out in Hunters Point after a white police officer shot and killed a 16-year-old Black youth.

The shipyard was closed in 1974, leaving behind a legacy of unemployment and toxic and radioactive waste. Last August, a fire burned for weeks at a toxic waste dump at the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, spewing green and orange-yellow smoke. The Navy did not alert people in the community to the danger, saying that there was nothing dangerous even though a local TV station reported that one carcinogen was 17 times the safe level. The area has some of the highest cancer and asthma rates on the planet, according to the *San Francisco Bay View* newspaper. The highest incidence of breast cancer for women under the age of 40 in the U.S. is

in the Bay View-Hunters Point neighborhood of San Francisco.

Black people are being driven out of San Francisco at an incredible rate by high rents, lack of jobs, racism and police brutality. The number of people in San Francisco who list their race as African-American fell from 79,039 in 1990, to 60,515 last year—a decline of 25%.

“I live where you can hear the games from the new Giants’ ballpark and everything and you can see the lights,” a Hunters Point resident told the *New York Times*. “And it’s just a beautiful view. If it wasn’t for the toxic waste, they would have taken this hill a long time ago.”

Anthrax Letters: MADE IN THE USA

Continued from page 6

mented that the anthrax letter samples were “unmilled anthrax spores.” Most governments use milling techniques to weaponize the spores. The U.S. does not.

The U.S. military uses a special combination of chemicals for its weaponization. And when the letter anthrax samples were analyzed using an energy dispersive X-ray spectroscope, traces of several chemicals have been found. The anthrax in the “Senate sample” used a silica additive — the kind used in U.S. military projects.

The person (or team) who created the anthrax letters also needed an annual anti-anthrax booster shot, which is only available for people with government connections.

In short, the anthrax attacks almost certainly come from U.S. military or CIA labs. It could not have been done by amateurs or by foreign governments. Scientists and FBI investigators knew this very quickly after the October attacks. For example, it is known that Iraq’s military research uses bentonite, not silica, as an additive, but this did not prevent the government from continuing to blame Iraq.

Because the anthrax comes from a known strain of anthrax — it is possible to determine with great precision which laboratory the letter attacks came from. The Ames strain has “substrains” that develop over time during research, and only a small number of labs are capable of weaponization.

The Rosenberg report writes, “Contrary to early speculation, there are no more than about 20 laboratories known to have obtained the Ames strain from Fort Detrick.... Of these, probably only about four in the U.S. might possibly have the capability for weaponizing anthrax. These include both U.S. military laboratories and government contractors.”

Rosenberg clearly believes that the FBI knows who sent the anthrax letters — or, at the very least, has a very small number of suspects. Only about 50 people had the know-how to do this. Rosenberg says that, based on discussion with people in the government, she believes that the FBI had a prime suspect in mind since October.

Despite this, no one has been arrested in this case. And the public has been deliberately kept in the dark about the most basic facts. The next question is “Why?”

HIDING U.S. GOVERNMENT CRIMES

“Does he [the mailer] know something that he believes to be sufficiently damaging to the United States to make him untouchable by the FBI?”

Dr. Barbara Hatch Rosenberg,
Federation of American Scientists

In November at the Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention, John Bolton, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, was asked about the anthrax letter attacks.

He said: “We don’t know, as I say in the statement, at the moment, *in a way that we could make public*, where the anthrax attacks came from.” The meaningful words in Bolton’s statement are “*in a way that we could make public*.”

Rosenberg writes: “At first, U.S. officials provided miscellaneous bits of information, some conflicting; then denied some of the earlier information, then clammed up. They now have a great deal of information that has not been made public. ... The Secretary of Health and Human Services said in October that some of the relevant information is classified, and some is restricted by the FBI.”

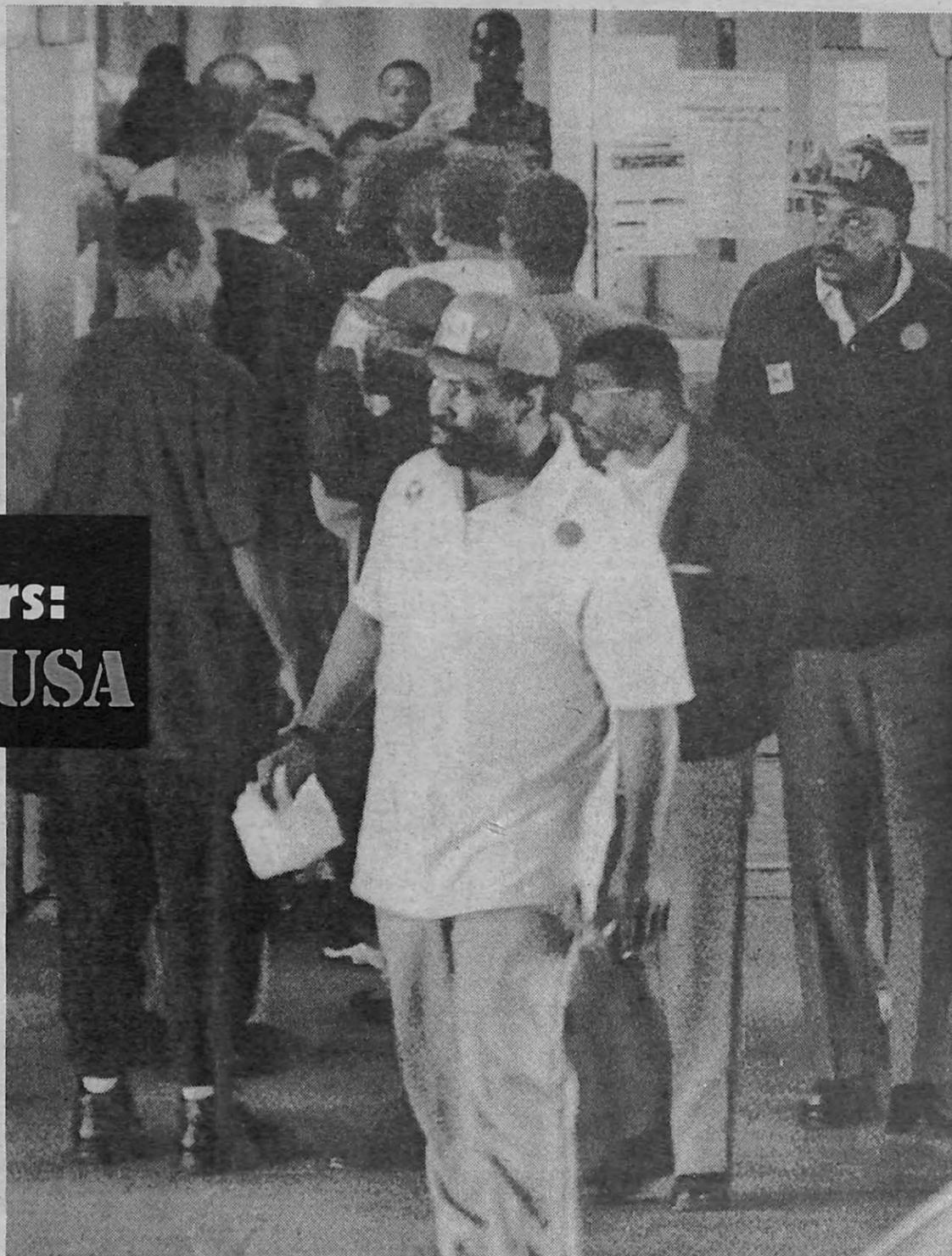
The U.S. has talked for years about “Sadaam Hussein killing his own people.” Now it turns out that U.S. biological “weapons of mass destruction” were somehow turned against the people within its own borders—including an attempt to assassinate leading Democratic politicians.

If this was widely understood, it would have a profound impact—weakening the credibility of the government and the military at exactly the time when the government wants support for its war moves and domestic security.

In addition, whoever put the anthrax in the mail might have information on the U.S. government’s secret anthrax program—and these details could trigger a huge international scandal.

For 30 years, the U.S. government has bragged that it “unilaterally” stopped U.S. biological weapons development in 1969. The U.S. signed the Biological Weapons Convention in 1972, renouncing biological weapons together with 144 other countries.

But now, in December, a spokesman for the Army labs at Utah’s Dugway Proving Ground had to announce that all their stocks of weaponized anthrax are “well protected” and entirely accounted for. (Dugway is where 6,000 sheep died in 1968 after a nerve gas experiment got out of control.)



Postal workers at D.C. General Hospital for anthrax tests, October 22, 2001.

Less than a week later, the CIA admitted publicly that they have their own secret program to make anthrax weapons. The CIA claims their bioweapons don’t use the Ames strain, and that all their weapons stocks are accounted for.

These shocking public announcements are the first admission by any government in 30 years that they still have germ weapons material.

A front-page *Washington Post* report (Dec. 16) said: “The FBI’s investigation into the anthrax attacks is increasingly focusing on whether U.S. government bioweapons research programs, including one conducted by the CIA, may have been the source of deadly anthrax powder sent through the mail, according to sources with knowledge of the probe. The results of the genetic tests strengthen that possibility. The FBI is focusing on a contractor that worked with the CIA, one source said.”

The arrest and public trial of biowarfare weapons operatives could bring much more damaging information into the light of day.

Rosenberg told the *Trenton Times* that this is why the FBI has declined to arrest the person responsible for mailing the letters: “We know that the FBI is looking at this person, and it’s likely that he participated in the past in secret activities that the government would not like to see disclosed... I know that there are insiders, working for the government, who know this person and who are worried that it could happen that some kind of quiet deal is made that he just disappears from view.”

WHO WAS INVOLVED? HOW HIGH DOES IT GO?

It is remarkable how strictly the discussions of the anthrax attacks avoid any mention of domestic groups, political forces and intelligence networks who could have been involved. The BBC news

in Britain (March 14) raised the possibility that a covert CIA operation was involved — but no similar reports have appeared in the U.S. media.

Even people who are exposing the FBI cover-ups and military involvement speak as if this *must* have been some lone individual taking advantage of “lax security” without the knowledge of his military and CIA superiors.

However there is no reason to assume this “lone individual” theory is true.

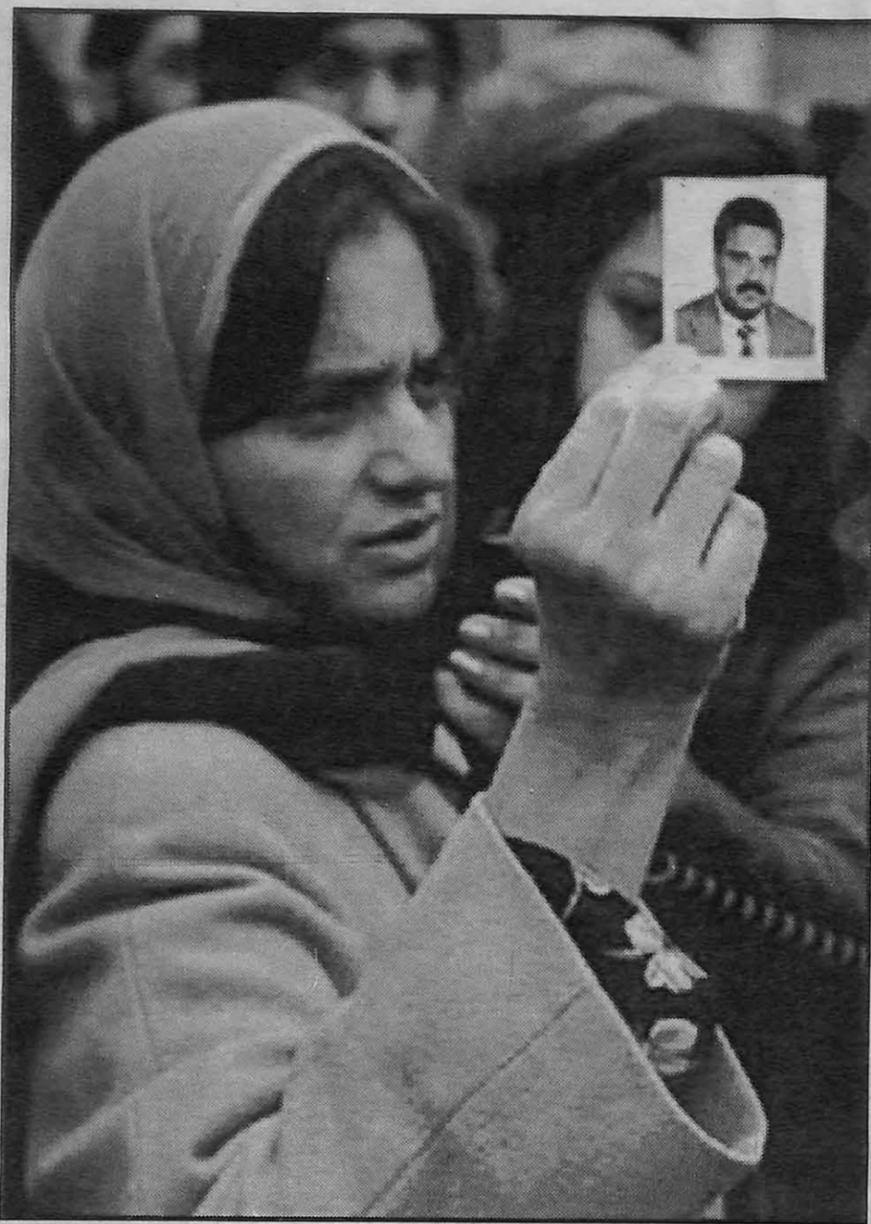
The targets of the anthrax letters were leading liberals and representatives of the media—both deeply hated by reactionary forces. The military is riddled with rightwing groups who might want to trigger a war climate and intensified domestic crackdown. The CIA, which admits to having weapons anthrax, is well known to conduct covert operations to influence policy and public opinion.

There has been a massive investigation into these anthrax attacks—involving over 5,000 FBI interviews over six months. The U.S. government has mailed letters to 40,000 scientists asking for information and offering a \$2.5 million reward. They have gathered anthrax samples from laboratories across the U.S. And after six months of this, there is a clampdown on the evidence.

Courageous people, like Barbara Hatch Rosenberg, have fought to get some basic facts into the public view—but these facts have always appeared surrounded by the stone-wall denials and disinformation of government agencies.

The evidence shows that the U.S. government conducted an anthrax weaponization program in violation of international treaty, and that anthrax from there was almost certainly used in these attempts to assassinate prominent liberal Democrats.

Now the question becomes what else are the government agents hiding? Who exactly was involved in the anthrax attacks? What were their motives? And how high up in the military establishment and CIA did this operation go?



Uzma Naheed speaking at a press conference in Union Square, New York City, January 19, 2002.

The Story of Uzma Naheed

by Debbie Lang



Protest at the Passaic County Jail in Paterson, New Jersey, where hundreds of immigrants are detained, January 19, 2002.

Hundreds of thousands of immigrants from the Middle East and South Asia live in the New York City area. And if you are Arab, Muslim or South Asian, you have definitely been on edge since September 11. Hundreds of people have been rounded up here by the authorities. Some have just "disappeared." Others were taken away after federal agents raided their homes or workplaces. Racial profiling has created a hate-filled atmosphere. People have been attacked, beaten and in some cases even killed by racists. Many are afraid to leave their homes.

When I first heard about Uzma Naheed I was intrigued. She is a 39-year-old Pakistani woman with four children. Her husband, Anser Mehmood, was detained by the authorities on October 3. Despite the fact that her own visa had expired and she faced deportation, Uzma Naheed spoke out publicly at protests against these unjust detentions and appealed for the release of her husband. She and her 11-year-old son Harris spoke at the February 20 National Day of Solidarity with Arab, Muslim and South Asian Immigrants. Uzma seemed nervous and simply thanked people for coming out. Harris told us: "I don't know why they're doing this. What they're doing is wrong." Uzma and her family have found themselves caught in the crosshairs of the U.S. imperialists' bloody plans to impose a new world order on people across the planet.

Uzma's Story

Uzma Naheed's story shines a light on the ugly reality of life in the U.S. for the thousands of Arab, Muslim and South Asian families who have been ripped apart since September 11. George Bush hypocritically claims the system's "war on terrorism" is being waged to defend "freedom"—while U.S. government agencies round people up based solely on their nationality or religion and detain them for months without charging them with any crime.

On October 3, Uzma Naheed was awakened by FBI and INS agents who were searching her bedroom. Uzma and her husband Anser were questioned for five hours. Three days before, the authorities had arrested her brother. Now they had come for her. Why? They said her address was on her brother's immigration papers but he didn't live there. Worried about their young child Hassan, Anser told them to take him instead of Uzma.

That was the beginning of what has become an unending nightmare for Uzma

and her family — and the end of a journey that had seemed to have so much promise for them. Anser Mehmood came to the U.S. from Pakistan in 1989 seeking a better life. He got a job as a truck driver and the couple bought a house in Bayonne, New Jersey. They had four children: Umair, 14; Unzair, 13; Harris, 11; and Hassan, 15 months.

Anser was the family's only source of income. After he was arrested, Uzma could not make ends meet. As her money ran out, she sold the family's possessions one by one—the bed, tables, even the refrigerator—so she and her four children could survive. She told a reporter: "I have no job here. I have four children to support. Nobody's helping me. Everything's gone wrong."

For two weeks after Anser was arrested, Uzma didn't even know where he was. An attorney she hired finally found him. The authorities would not tell Uzma why her husband was being held and would not allow her to see him. For over two months she was only able to speak to him by phone a few times. Uzma described how Anser was treated after his arrest: "In the beginning, they were treating them very badly. They were kicking them and my husband told me he was bleeding all over. And why? He did not do any crime." Uzma still has no idea what happened to her brother.

Anser has been held on a visa violation. Like many immigrants, the couple's visas expired and for whatever reason they didn't renew them, something that's not uncommon. Before September 11 immigrants whose visas had expired were not automatically arrested and deported. Now it is one of the excuses the government uses to detain people indefinitely without charges.

Week after week Uzma went to the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn where Anser has been held in maximum security. She brought a letter he had written her and their marriage license to prove who she was and asked to see her husband. The response? "First they were saying he's not here. Then they were saying I had to come one hour earlier. Then they said I was not on the visitor's list. Finally I went early and I just sat there. I said I was not leaving until I get to meet my husband."

Uzma described her emotions when she finally was able to see Anser after nine weeks: "After so long I managed to see him, thank god. But it was so terrible to see him through the bars with his hands

and legs chained. It was very shocking. I didn't expect to see him like this. He can't move his hands. He can't touch me. I can't touch him. It was terrible.... He was crying. I was crying. He's telling me leave the country. Leave the house as it is. Take the children and go. But how can I leave him here? Who will look out for him?"

"Correct Procedures"

ABC News asked prison officials why it took so long for them to allow Uzma Naheed to see her husband. A prison spokesperson cold-heartedly refused to discuss "specific cases" and blamed family members of detainees for not following the "correct procedures." Like so much that comes out of the mouth of the authorities on all levels of government these days, this is nothing but doublespeak. Even the Pakistani consulate has been unable to get information about Anser. Foreign diplomats have repeatedly complained to the U.S. government that they are unable to get information about why their citizens are being held or even their citizens' names. Human rights organizations have repeatedly been denied access to the detainees. And officials at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn denied a request by ABC News to interview Anser Mehmood.

Anser Mehmood is one of over 1,200 Arab, Muslim and South Asian men who have been rounded up and detained by the U.S. government. Some have been deported. Others have been released. Close to 500 remain in prison. A small number have been charged with minor crimes. Others are held on immigration violations. Only one of the 1,200 arrested has been charged in connection with the events of September 11.

And the arrests have not stopped. On February 27, 20 FBI agents busted into the home of a Syrian family in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. They arrested Reem Khalil, a 23-year-old biochemistry major at City College of New York, her parents and three siblings. Two younger children who were born in the U.S. were left with neigh-

bors after they watched the rest of their family dragged away in chains.

And as I was writing about Uzma and her family, I learned that on March 11 a Pakistani man named Raja Aftab Iqbal was jumped by at least six cops. They called him "Taliban" and beat him over and over—including after he was handcuffed. The cops are from the 70th Precinct in Brooklyn—the same precinct where police used a toilet plunger to sodomize Abner Louima. Recently, several of these cops had their convictions thrown out by a federal court.

Over 1,200 people have been rounded up, arrested, detained indefinitely without being charged with any crime, beaten and abused, denied the right to practice their religion and access to lawyers or contact with family members. Their attorneys have been ordered not to speak publicly about the cases, court records have been sealed and hearings held in secret. Almost all of those arrested are Arab, Muslim and South Asian men. The largest percentage are from Pakistan, followed by Egypt, Turkey, Yemen, India and other countries in the Middle East and South Asia. And for every one, there is a trail of tears and torn-up lives leading to people like Uzma.

What does this say about the nature of the U.S. crusade in the so called "war on terrorism" where such injustices are perpetrated in the name of "freedom"?

On February 20, Uzma Naheed courageously stepped into the light to join with others to demand a stop to these roundups. Now, the people will have to carry on this fight for Uzma and so many others.

Uzma was ultimately forced to make a terrible choice by the rulers of this system. On February 27, she and her children went back to Pakistan. Her children have grown up in the U.S. and have been ripped away from everything they've known. Uzma has been forced to leave her husband behind, not knowing if she will ever see him again, and has gone back to a country where the future is very uncertain. Anser continues to be held in maximum security, not charged with any crime.



Los Angeles, March 30—2,000 people march against the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Palestine

Continued from page 3

of working out an Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

The juxtaposition of Powell's words and the images coming out of Ramallah was almost surreal. What twist of logic is involved in Powell's insisting that Arafat must "do more" while the U.S. supports Israel's moves to seriously weaken, if not shatter, the Palestinian Authority? But what Powell said also reveals some realities about the situation in Palestine and the role and maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists.

Powell's defense of Israeli actions as an "understandable" response to Palestinian "terrorism" is typical of how U.S. officials—and the U.S. mainstream media—treat the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The U.S. may at times criticize Israel for "overreacting" or shed crocodile tears about Palestinian civilians "caught in the crossfire." But the U.S. almost always describes Israeli actions as justified "retaliation" for Palestinian actions.

A chart that recently appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* tracked the Palestinian and Israeli casualties in the current conflict. The chart begins with the intifada (Palestinian uprising) in September 2000, as if all the blood that has been spilled since then can be traced back—and blamed—on the Palestinian side. Again, this is typical of how the U.S. government and media discuss the events in Palestine.

But in reality, the Palestinian protests that began in September 2000 were in response to a move by Ariel Sharon, who employed his highly honed skill at reactionary provocation by visiting Haram al-Sharif, a religious site in central Jerusalem that is of major importance in Islam. At the time, he was not a government official—he would become premier several months later. But he was accompanied by a huge security escort of a thousand Israeli soldiers and police. Sharon made a deliberate, calculated move that was certain to touch off widespread outrage among the masses of Palestinian people—who were already deeply angry at the continued oppression and poverty they suffered as the U.S.-backed "peace process" dragged on. And when the Palestinian people did rise up in righteous resistance, the Israeli military used this as justification to gun down people and put the West Bank and Gaza under lockdown. The political fallout in Israel from these developments brought Sharon to power.

This pattern of Israeli provocation and brutality has been repeated many times since September 2000. The Israeli government has an open policy of assassinating leaders of Palestinian organizations, and the Israeli military has "eliminated" a number of Palestinian officials—sometimes gunning them down on city streets and killing bystanders in the process. Sharon and other Israeli officials know full well that such killings provoke retaliatory actions. But their hypocritical and cold-blooded method is clear: when such retaliations do come, the Israeli officials act "shocked" and then order their military to carry out more deadly assaults on Palestinians.

The Zionist rulers and their U.S. backers often point to the reactionary nature of Islamic fundamentalist groups like Hamas as another justification for Israeli military

actions. But the truth is that Israel had a hand in the growth of Hamas in the 1980s, when the Zionists wanted to counter the secular leadership of the Palestinian resistance. Israel was following in the footsteps of the U.S., which during the same period built up Islamic fundamentalist forces in Afghanistan and elsewhere in opposition to national liberation movements and against Soviet imperialist rivals.

Now Israel and its U.S. backers are moving against these same fundamentalist forces. They demand that Arafat use his PA police to shut down these forces. And when Arafat is unable to do so, Israel uses this as another excuse to strike out viciously against the Palestinian people.

Israel especially points to suicide



Cairo, March 30—Egyptian lawyers burn a U.S. flag in protest of the Israeli invasion of Ramallah.



Palestinian families stopped at an Israeli military checkpoint outside Ramallah, March 28.

bombings as acts that justify labeling the Palestinian resistance as "terrorism" that needs to be crushed. And the U.S. accuses Arafat of "not doing enough" to stop such bombings. But why is it that hundreds of Palestinian youth are willing to give up their lives in such actions? The British paper *Guardian* quoted an al-Aksa Martyr Brigades leader who said that 200 young women in Bethlehem alone have joined units of female suicide bombers. These youths have heard their parents and grandparents talk about how the Zionists violently dispossessed them of their land and forced them to become refugees. They have seen the occupying troops gun down rock-throwing kids, tear down people's homes, uproot precious fruit orchards, and carry out countless other crimes. The realities of life under occupation have kindled in these youth a desperate determination to fight against the occupiers. The Islamic fundamentalist groups and secular militias associated with national bourgeois forces have their own political agendas in organizing suicide squads. But in the absence of an actual revolutionary strategy for taking on and defeating the occupiers, many youth have taken up this way of hitting back against the enemy.

The Zionists and their U.S. backers ask, Why doesn't Arafat do more to stop this

flow of suicide bombers? But what about the deadly flow of jet fighters, helicopters, and billions of dollars in military aid from the U.S., without which Israel would not be able to maintain their brutal occupation of Palestine for a day? It is this unjust occupation that is the real fuel for the fury among the youth of Palestine.

Echoing the "war on terrorism" talk of the U.S. imperialists, Sharon declared that Israel's new military offensive is aimed at destroying "structures of terror" in Palestine. Powell basically endorsed this justification; the *New York Times* noted that with his statement on Israel's move on Ramallah, "Powell made clear that combating terrorism remains the centerpiece of the Bush administration foreign policy."

Given this basic U.S. support for the Israeli actions, why did Powell say that Arafat still plays a "central" role in the "political process" in Palestine?

The U.S. imperialists are making a cold calculation that their interests are best served by working out some kind of a "peace settlement" between Israel and the Palestinian national bourgeoisie—or at least dangling the possibility of such a settlement. They hope that the idea of a pos-

sible agreement will douse the fire of Palestinian resistance as well as anti-U.S. sentiments that could threaten pro-U.S. regimes in the region. But the events in Ramallah have made the nature of this "peace process"—and Arafat's assigned role in it—very clear: he will either accept the terms of the United States or be crushed.

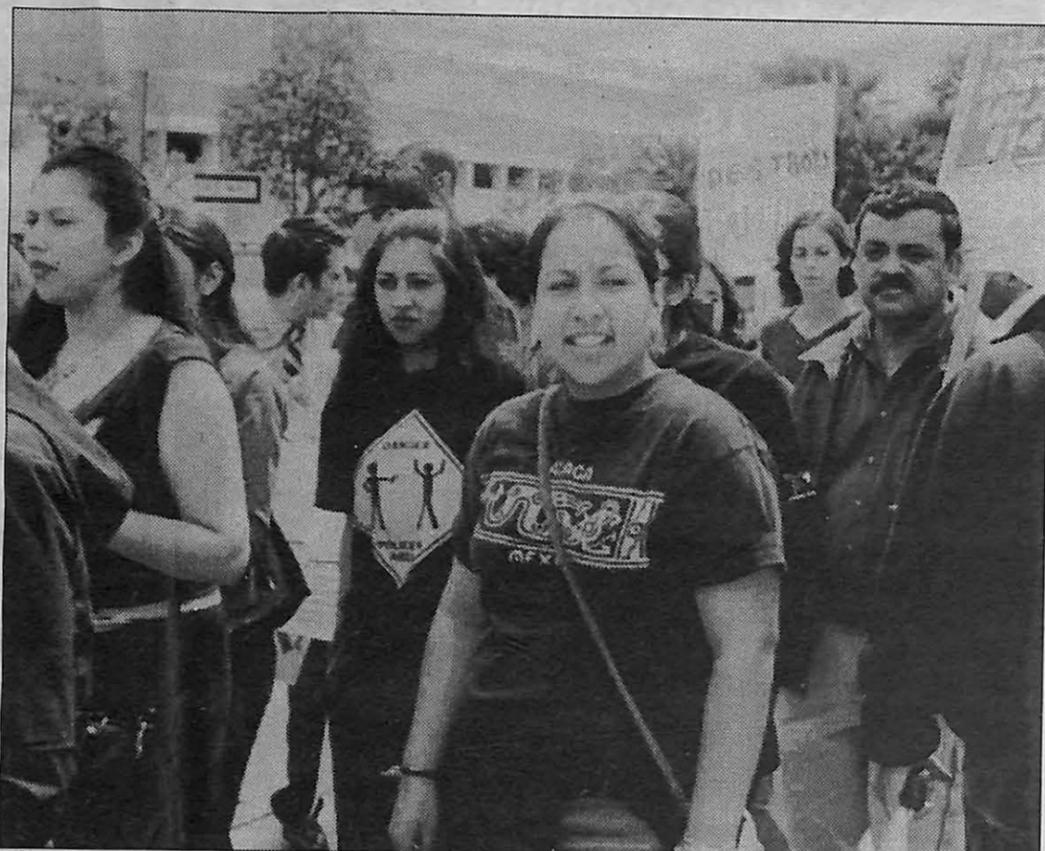
The Bush administration has recently started talking about a "vision" of a Palestinian state at some point. And they signaled interest in the Saudi "land-for-peace" proposal—in particular the part about formal Arab recognition of Israel. But the U.S. officials are not talking about a genuinely independent state that is free from imperialist and Zionist domination. What they envision—at most—is a mini-state in the shadows of the Zionist state, at the mercy of outside forces economically and militarily.

In short, the U.S. "vision" is of an entire people locked into a giant ghetto (or several ghettos) in parts of the West Bank and Gaza, who will not present a threat to U.S. interests in the region. Clearly, this "vision" has absolutely nothing to do with justice and liberation for the oppressed Palestinian people.

Protesting INS at LAX



L.A. Airport, March 28.



L.A. Airport, March 28.

“¡Aquí estamos! ¡No nos vamos!” “They say ‘Go away.’ We say ‘No way!’” Hundreds of voices echoed along the sidewalks of LAX, L.A. International Airport, in a loud, spirited protest of a recent series of raids by the INS (La Migra).

U.S. airports are one of the centerpieces of the “homeland security” program of the U.S. government. In California, they are patrolled by National Guard troops as well as large numbers of airport and local police. As you drive into LAX, huge electric signs flash the warning “Unoccupied vehicles will be towed.”

It’s the gateway into an atmosphere of “assume the position,” where IDs are checked multiple times and passengers as young as three years old are singled out for body searches. The least incident can provoke a “security sweep” where thousands of passengers and employees are herded outside for hours at a time.

Immigrants who work at the airport are routinely harassed. The L.A. head of the SEIU, the union that represents janitors and others, said that 80 or 90 airport employees have had their security badges arbitrarily taken away.

Then on Monday, March 18, agents of La Migra targeted Terminal 1, used by Southwest Airlines, stopping Latino-looking people and asking them for immigration documents. TV news broadcasts showed desperate immigrants dodging through the heavy traffic circling through LAX, trying to avoid capture and deportation. Immigrants who were heading to work in Washington, DC, Phoenix or San Francisco were arrested and deported.

This was the first INS raid at the airport in several years.

“I was enraged,” said a woman from the United Farmworkers at the Thursday, March 28 protest. “Nobody should be persecuted as if they’re chasing animals. What the INS did was terrorize anybody who’s an immigrant in this country, and I was furious about it.”

Over 500 people gathered for a march and press conference. A bus from the SEIU opened its doors and dozens from Justice for Janitors came out, many of them veterans of the 2000 janitors’ strike. There were students, garment workers, ministers and other religious activists. Signs in English, Spanish and Korean denounced the raids. A special guest at the press conference was a representative of the Muslim Public Affairs Council.

James Lafferty of the National Lawyers Guild talked about the stakes for the people: “First they came for Muslims, first they came for the Arabs, and there are still

RW/OR photo

RW/OR photo



L.A. Airport, March 28.

RW/OR photo

nearly a thousand of them locked away in prison, their identity unknown and no charges for almost six months. Now they are coming for the Latinos.”

For over an hour, protesters marched through the airport and circled in front of Terminal 1. There was a huge Mexican flag, a group of Korean drummers, janitors in their famous red T-shirts, pictures of Emiliano Zapata, a special banner from the jornaleros (day laborers).

The protest was widely covered in the mainstream media. It was the lead story on the Korean-language news and was covered by college radio stations, Pacifica and the IMC.

A spectrum of mainstream Latino organizations denounced the raids from the beginning. The president of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) called the racial profiling “intolerable.” The executive director

of the Salvadoran-American National Network said the raids gave credibility to the idea that “this society is turning into a *zona militarizada*, a militarized zone,” where people who look Latino or Arab are the targets.

The INS held a press conference to try to defend their actions. They said it had nothing to do with the events of September 11, 2001. They said that they didn’t pick people out because of their race, but because they “looked like” undocumented workers. But a reporter from the Los Angeles daily *La Opinión* went to the airport and watched as INS agents singled out only Latinos—especially Latinos who weren’t wearing a suit and a tie.

As news spread on Spanish-language radio and TV stations, many immigrants avoided LAX, even if they had to lose money on their plane tickets. By the end

of the week, the INS said they were ending the raids, but arrogantly added that they might resume them at any moment.

Over 180 people were deported in the LAX raids. This is a great injustice. It means incredible hardship for those who must again cross the border to work and survive, and hardship and privation for the many who depend on wages that immigrant workers send back home. Eighteen of those arrested were children, and it’s unknown whether they were separated from their parents.

Raids like this are also staged to intimidate and isolate *all* immigrants, to force them into the shadows. But once again, the system found out that oppression breeds resistance. And their *zona militarizada* can be turned into a zone of protest and resistance.

THE NEW SITUATION AND THE GREAT CHALLENGES

By Bob Avakian, Chairman of the RCP, USA

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“I want to speak first of all to the strategic dimension involved in the current and developing situation since September 11.... To put it in stark terms, the range of possibilities involves everything from, on the one hand, on the negative side, devastating defeats for the proletariat and the proletarian revolution internationally, of a character that would set us back for decades...and at the same time to very great advances and consolidations by the imperialists, the U.S. imperialists in particular.

“Or, on the other extreme, on the positive side—and this too is possible—the whole course that the imperialists are embarking on could turn into its opposite for them in a profound, and perhaps even an unprecedented, way—it could lead to tremendous advances for the revolutionary struggle of the people all over the globe....”



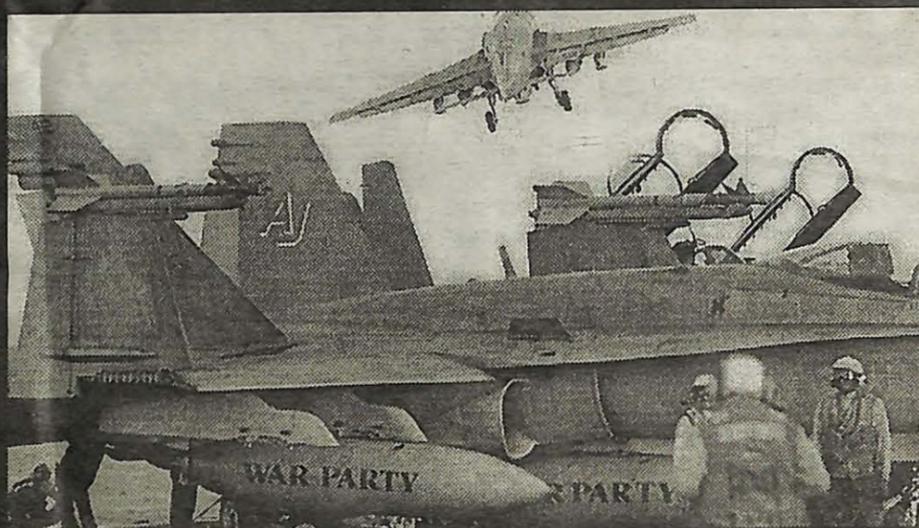
Kabul, Afghanistan

“As can be seen in many ways, including in the major speeches by Bush since September 11, 2001, these imperialists—the U.S. imperialists in particular—certainly have wild ambitions. But they also have a great deal of necessity they’re facing. And we need to look at both.

“They have ambitions of essentially reshuffling the whole deck, reordering the whole situation—beginning with the strategic areas of Central and South Asia and the Middle East that are more immediately involved now—but, even beyond that, on a world scale....”



Protester against U.S. war in Afghanistan being detained by riot police in Istanbul Turkey, September 29, 2001.



A U.S. bomber taking off from the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, October 9, 2001.

“I want to emphasize a fundamental point in relation to the war and repression juggernaut of the imperialists: It is good that many people have made statements of opposition and have mobilized, and are mobilizing, in various ways against this; and it is also good that many others are at least raising questions, concerns, and even criticisms; but there is a profound and increasingly urgent need for things to be developed to a qualitatively greater and more profound as well as broader level. What the powers-that-be are already doing and, beyond that, what they are clearly indicating they are planning on doing—both internationally and within the U.S., both in terms of war and in terms of repression—must not only be questioned, must not only give rise to the expression of concerns, must not only be criticized or just opposed. There must be an orientation of actively resisting and of *stopping* this, through the mobilization of hundreds of thousands and ultimately millions of people.

“We are called on to rise to the challenges that are posed with both a sense of real urgency and with a broad overview.”



Union Square, New York City, September 22, 2001.