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FIRE THIS TIME

In English / En Español



Page 12

Page 8

**STOP ATTACKS ON
WOMEN'S RIGHTS
AT HOME &
ABROAD!**



**No to Poverty!
No to War!**

SOMALIS STRUGGLE AGAINST OCCUPATION

By Thomas Davies

The calendars say that it has been two months since the US backed Ethiopian invasion of Somalia. The current events scream of a country thrust backwards by foreign troops, but also of a people thrust forward by their fight against foreign occupation, and their attempt to restore the stability and progress they had been nursing before the invasion.

Somalis Call Them "Warlords" For a Reason

Somalia's "internationally legitimate" transitional government came to the capital of Mogadishu onboard Ethiopian military helicopters and guarded by Ethiopian troops. The *Financial Times* summarized their situation well in a January 4th article, "The transitional government by itself lacks all credibility. It was created in Nairobi [Kenya] and confined until last month's invasion, to Baidoa, close to Ethiopia's border. It never asserted its authority; its Prime Minister, Ali Mohammed Gedi, does not even command the support of his sub-clan."

This coalition of warlords has wasted no time in demonstrating why they have never had support

The *New York Times* February 21st article on Somalia titled, "The New Somalia: A Grimly Familiar Rerun" admitted that since the invasion, "gun prices are soaring" and that, "Somalia is actually becoming a more violent and chaotic place." Thousands of residents have fled Mogadishu since invasion, as fighting rages between the Ethiopian soldiers and armed Somalis.

The transitional government has blamed any violence on a supposed remaining "3,500 Islamists" but denies any responsibility for the fighting, which started when they violently took power. Given the widespread increase in misery for all Somalis under occupation, it would also make no sense that only 3,500 Somalis out of a country of 10 million would fight them.

Somalia Boiling Over

Since invasion and occupation of the Mogadishu, Ethiopian troops have been attacked both at the Mogadishu airport where they are based, as well as another of their bases in the former Somali defence ministry. This is only drops in the bucket of what al-Jazeera News Service modestly calls, "near daily" fighting between Somalis and the Ethiopian forces.

protest organizers, reiterated the position, "We are against any kind of foreign military invasion and we are ready to fight them."

Occupation Stumbles

African Heads of State met in Ethiopia for the 8th African Union Summit at the end of January, with the creation of a military force for Somalia taking up much of the agenda. In the end, despite a determined US and EU push coupled with a promise of funds (\$20 Million from the EU and \$40 Million from the US) they were unable to create the proposed 9 battalions or 7,600 member troop force.

Uganda has so far been the only country to confirm the actual deployment of troops, verifying it will send 1,500 troops in the near future. Countries like Malawi, Nigeria, and Ghana have said they might offer troops, but continue to offer no concrete deployment date. Even if these troops do materialize, it would still be only about half



Somali community demonstrates in Britain against the US-backed Ethiopian invasion of Somalia.



word "quagmire" - which likens the military occupation to being stuck in quicksand - had until then been reserved for American disasters in Vietnam and Iraq. The situation remains the same, even now that the UN Security Council has unanimously authorized and supported the mission, and that the Somali transitional government predictably officially welcomed the UN decision.

intervention and distortion, which at one point had divided the country into five separate areas, was being overcome. The racist myth that Somalis and Africans were unable to govern

from Somali people. They began by declaring 3 months of military law and applauding US bombings that killed hundreds of Somalis. Now their recent highlights include:

- Since mid-February they have enforced a ban on wearing the Hijab, or veil, worn by some women in the predominantly Muslim country. To this end, they have stationed police around the capital, forcibly removing them.

- Deputy Defense Minister Salad Ali Jelle announced they would use an, "iron fist" against "extremists".

- The country's three independent radio stations, "Shabelle", "Horn Afrik" and "Banadir" have been censored from covering anything related to Somali/Ethiopian military operations in Mogadishu. "We simply do not want them to create panic among the population," reasoned General Nur Muhammad Mahamud, deputy chief of the Somali national security agency.

Perhaps if the Ethiopian troops stopped occupying and killing people, it would be a more reasonable way to stop the panic, instead of just trying to hide the atrocities? The use of "extremist" as a cover-all for every person opposing the occupation is also very familiar to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, who have faced the worst mass killings of the 21st Century by their occupiers.

Somali opposition action runs much deeper than attacks, as protesters brave military suppression by taking to the streets to oppose the current occupation, as well as the attempted deployment of another 8,000 troops under the African Union (AU).



Since early February, protests have seen the burning of flags of the United States, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and Malawi - countries who have expressed possible willingness to provide logistical or military support for the AU force. One protester summarized the sentiments of the demonstrators, "The burnt flags are a message for you before you arrive. You still have an opportunity to avoid coming."

Mohamed Farah Nur, one of the

of what the AU is proposing. No word yet either on how the AU will pay the additional \$100 Million needed according to AU planners, for the first six months of the operation.

For a more detailed history of Somalia's long and proud history of anti-colonial and anti-imperialist movements and victories, read *Fire This Time* Volume 4 Issue 1. However, it's not hard to see that the African governments understand that history, as well as the present failures of Western initiated wars and occupations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Haiti. Richard Cromwell, a senior analyst at the Institute for Security Studies in the South African capital Tshwane, summarized this reluctance,

"There is no peace plan, and no political or diplomatic framework on which to hang a mission. If one looks at the context of the AU summit, it's nice to say you are going to send troops, but it's another thing to actually send them. Why would you devote rare African troops to a quagmire when you might need them for future conflicts?"

It's important to note that the

Progress Interrupted

Why would the US go through such obvious trouble to occupy Somalia? Is it the fact that Somalia has Africa's longest coastline at 3,025 kilometres, and links the Suez Canal, Red Sea, and the African Ocean? Is it its mostly unexploited reserves of iron ore, tin, gypsum, bauxite, copper, salt, and natural gas? Perhaps it is that a World Bank study in 1992 found that Somalia and Sudan were the most promising areas in the region for oil development?

It is all of those things. The CIA does not hide that it calls Somalia a "strategic area" in the Horn of Africa. However, the US found it necessary to invade at this time because of the emergence last year of an increasingly stable, unified, and most importantly, independent Somalia under the rule of the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC).

Under the UIC the armed checkpoints, which extorted millions of dollars from Somalis, were becoming a thing of the past. This past July, the UIC organized the first garbage removal in over a decade in Mogadishu. In the same month, the first commercial flight left Mogadishu airport in over a decade, and in August the first ship docked in Mogadishu harbour since 1991. Gun sellers lamented that AK-47's they used to sell for \$550 were barely going for \$350.

Over a century of foreign

themselves was being overcome, in a very public way. So what did the US do? It invoked the "War on Terror" and anti-Muslim justifications and tried, literally, to blow up the progress and precedents.

The Stakes Have Never Been Higher

As Mogadishu is surrounded in fighting and flames, George W. Bush has announced the creation of a New African Command ("ARFIRCOM"), a centralized military command to be up and running by the end of September 2008. The race for countries like the US, France, Canada and the UK to secure strategic areas and resources has now spilled over like the blood of millions of Iraqis and Afghans, from the Middle East and onto Africa.

Instead of fighting to improve their country, Somalis are now forced instead to fight against a cruel occupier and its puppet administration. However, the opening of this new imperialist "Scramble for Africa" is being met with their determined opposition. Somalis, alongside their brothers and sisters from the Middle East to Latin America, are creating an increasingly powerful force which has begun to meet imperialists at every turn. We must support them all in this fight.

ALL FOREIGN TROOPS OUT OF SOMALIA!

NO TO AU INVASION!

HANDS OFF AFRICA!

MARCH 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Born at a time of great social turbulence and crisis, IWD inherited a tradition of protest and political activism. In the years before 1910, from the turn of the 20th century, women in industrially developing countries were entering paid work in some numbers. Their jobs were sex segregated, mainly in textiles, manufacturing and domestic services where conditions were wretched and wages worse than depressed. Trade unions were developing and industrial disputes broke out, including among sections of non-unionised women workers. In Europe, the flames of revolution were being kindled.

Some socialists saw the demand for the women's vote as being unnecessarily divisive in the working class movement, while others such as German Clara Zetkin and Russian Alexandra Kollontai successfully fought for it to be accepted as a necessary part of a socialist program. Other socialists argued that it was more important to do away with property rights in respect to the vote than it was to campaign for the women's vote which, if successful in England, would by implication mean votes for women of property.

There were other divisions within the English suffragette movement about the way the movement was autocratically run from the top and about the sort of radical tactics adopted. Sylvia Pankhurst split with her more famous mother and sister over such issues, arguing that the main emphasis should be on connecting with and involving the

mass of women, which meant also taking up the concerns of the sorely exploited working class women. She also argued that the suffragette movement should link itself with all other oppressed groups.

In the United States in 1903, women trade unionists and liberal professional women who were also campaigning for women's voting rights set up the Women's Trade Union League to help organise women in paid work around their political and economic welfare. These were dismal and bitter years for many women with terrible working conditions and home lives riven by poverty and often violence.

In 1908, on the last Sunday in February, socialist women in the United States initiated the first Women's Day when large demonstrations took place calling for the vote and the political and economic rights of women. The following year, 2,000 people attended a Women's Day rally in Manhattan.

In that year, 1909, women garment workers staged a general strike. 20-30,000 shirtwaist makers struck for 13 cold, winter weeks for better pay and working conditions. The Women's Trade Union League provided bail money for arrested strikers and large sums for strike funds.

In 1910 Women's Day was taken up by socialists and feminists throughout the country. Later that year delegates went to the second International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen with the intention of proposing that Women's Day become an international event.

The Cuban Revolution & Women's Liberation

By Tamara Hansen

"I've been interested in... the history of those little grandmothers, small domestic marvels who embroider the table cloths where their oppressors would eat."

"For forty years I have tried to give life to a chorus of voices historically silenced who are reborn in the language of my work far beyond their origins, their race or their gender."

- Two quotes from Nancy Morejón (a Cuban poet) receiving the Golden Wreath Award in Struga, Macedonia



Cuban rebel soldiers, January 1959, Havana Cuba.

for all of humanity. It is a well known fact that one of the most important steps to improving the lives of children - is the empowerment of women.

Advancing women's rights is a constant struggle. Today in this era characterized by war, both at home in imperialist countries, and abroad in oppressed or 'third world' countries - women's rights are coming under attack and many gains are being violently or silently taken away. There is one country that has truly made great strides in offering women hope, Cuba. Some people might ask, "How is this true?" Well let us look a bit at the situation for women in Canada and Iraq, and then let's talk a bit more about women in Cuba.

Canada: an Imperialist Country

"Women in Canada still only earn 72.5 cents for every dollar earned by a man."

- BC Federation of Labour Press Release, October 5th 2006

Living in Canada we look at many of the gains made by the women's rights movement and many feel we have come far enough, but unfortunately



Cuban Revolutionary Celia Sanchez.

figure for double-parent families and less than 60% that of single-parent families headed by men.

Most importantly the report charged that in 2003, the average annual pre-tax income of women was just 62% the figure for men - how's that for equal?

Not only this, abuse against women is also very prevalent in Canada as a 2006 report by the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS) showed that over half of women in Canada were victims of at least one act of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16.

It's important to note as well that



Cuban schoolgirls.

International Women's Day - March 8th

Every year March 8th comes as a day to celebrate the accomplishments of women; to commemorate women who have been lost - as victims of oppression or heroines for our liberation; and to reaffirm the goals and aims of our continued fight for equality.

Women are a diverse group of people. We are of different backgrounds, cultures, countries, races, ages, and classes. However, we are all similarly oppressed in a world that privileges men. In our history and present, we have let this diversity both divide us and other times we have overcome these obstacles to protect and advance our rights. Fighting for women's equality and liberation is not only for women, but

as women our rights are never guaranteed and can always come under renewed attack. Most recently the Conservative government announced its 38.5% budget cut to the Status of Women agency and the removal "women's equality" from the goals of the agency.

Some people might ask, "But aren't women equal in Canada? Do they really NEED a special agency to promote their equality?" A good response to that comes from the government's own statistics to be found on the Stats Can website. In its 2005 report on women, 20% of all families with children were single-parent female-headed families and these families have, by far, the lowest incomes of all family types in Canada. In 2003, single-parent families headed by women had an average income of only 38% of the

on top of these cuts to programs for women, the government of Canada has increased tax cuts and the military spending budget.

Iraq: an Occupied Country

"Kawkab Sami wakes up at 5 o'clock every morning to clean her house and feed her four children breakfast before getting them off to school. As a resident of Baghdad, the 35-year-old widow says she lives in constant fear of a bomb killing her children and herself at any moment. Her husband was killed by US troops in the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. Her children are between the ages of 4 and 10. With only a few hours of power a day at home, no clean water, and broken sewer pipes in the road outside, Sami cries every night, worried about how long she will be able to take care of her family and keep them healthy. "I cannot afford a generator and special filter for the water because my salary is hardly enough for the main needs of my children...People tell me that I have to boil the [tap] water before I drink it, but I will need to use gas to do that and it is so expensive. The only thing I can do is pray my children do not get sick from it," she added."

- October 6th 2006, from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

While Sami's story is an important illustration of the burden put on women in Iraq and especially women in now single-parent families; war takes its toll on every aspect of life. Especially access to important resources needed to survive with dignity: food, water, shelter, jobs, healthcare and education. Usually

Continues on Page 3

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Women's Liberation in Cuba

Continued From Page 2

women are the first to go without as they will give everything to their husbands and children, because of this, women suffer the most under war and occupation.

In Iraq the healthcare system is in shambles. For example, Iraq's Ministry of Health says that the US government has spent nearly US \$1 Billion on Iraq's healthcare system, but they also say more than \$8 Billion is required over the next four years to fund the current healthcare structure. The shortages seen by this lack of funding are already evident as the Iraqi Medical Association (IMA) reported that 90% of the nearly 180 Iraqi hospitals are lacking resources.

Because of the violence and destruction in Iraq many families are being forced to move, this is not only devastating for the family which is forced from their home, but is also having an impact on provinces that people are moving to. Ghalib al-Daami, a member of Karbala Provincial Council admitted to IRIN news, "The province is suffering under the pressure of the increasing number of displaced families. Service directorates like health, education and municipality are no longer capable of meeting the needs of more families."

US/UK war and occupation is also taking its toll on children's access to education. In 2004, only two years after the bombing started, Roger Wright of UNICEF said: "Iraq used to have one of the finest school systems in the Middle East... Today,

the advantage of living in a society where the people and government are fighting on the side of women. "Prejudices are thousands of years old and have survived through various social systems. If we consider capitalism, women - that is, lower-class women - were doubly exploited or doubly humiliated. A poor woman, part of the working class or of a working class family, was exploited simply because she was poor, because she was a member of the working class. But in addition, although she was a woman of the working class, even her own class looked down and underrated her," said Cuban President Fidel Castro in 1966. He continued, "Naturally, a considerable amount of prejudice still persists. If women were to believe that they have totally fulfilled their role as revolutionaries in society, they would be making a mistake. It seems to us that women must still fight and exert great efforts to attain the place that they should really hold in society. If women in our country were doubly humiliated in the past, then this simply means that women in a social revolution should be doubly revolutionary."

Today 86% of women in Cuba have voluntarily joined the Cuban Women's Federation (FMC). In a report on the United Nations meeting of the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women, a Cuban representative explained how the Federation of Cuban Women was developed in the early years of the revolution as a

This report released on Feb 28th 2005 goes on to say, "the most recent (2000) public figures of the Cuban Women's Federation (FMC), a mass organization affiliated with the CP [Communist Party], women held 33% of managerial positions.



The FMC also asserted that 11,200 women received land parcels to cultivate, more than 561,000 women had begun working as agricultural workers, and that women devoted 34 hours a week to domestic work, approximately the same number of hours they spent working outside the home." Women's power in divorce is also higher, for example under the Family Code a man can not evict a woman with underage children from a house because the children would be left unprotected.

Today women have made big steps forward, representing 45.2% of the active labour force in the state civil sector, and 66.4% in technical and professional force, according to the Peoples'

Power Assembly. A recent census in Cuba also showed that women head 40% of households. Since the 2005 elections, women now hold 28.19% of the political posts in local government, this percentage is larger in the national parliament, but we will discuss that later.

Organizations such as the FMC push women in Cuba to get involved in politics. Not necessarily by running for a position in government (although the FMC does have representation in top levels of the Cuban government) but more in terms of recognizing and evaluating the situation facing women and looking for ways to improve the situation of women in Cuba and around the world. As a part of this, the FMC runs or supports different political and educational campaigns. For example as a lead up to International Women's Day last year, over 300,000 Cuban women signed petitions against war and terrorism as part of the international campaign "Women Say No to War".

Cuba and Canada, which Government is Working for Women?

In UNICEF's list of the 15 countries in the world with the highest participation of women in political power, Cuba appears as number eight, with 36% of its parliamentary seats occupied by women. Interestingly, Cuba is counted as one of only two countries on this list of 15 that do not have either constitutional, electoral law or political party quotas for female involvement in parliament. Further added to all of this, Canada and the United States appear nowhere on this list, in fact Canada ranks 47th in the world as only 20.7% of parliamentarians in Canada are women. Although these statistics are important, we must note that having more women in Canada's parliament does not insure that she will represent the interests of women. For instance, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women - Bev Oda, a member of Conservative Party - encouraged the government's cuts to the Status of Women Agency.

In Cuba most women are organized within the FMC and because of that, voters in Cuba are assured that women who run for official positions have women's issues on their agenda. Cuba does not have

Continues on Page 4



millions of children in Iraq are attending schools that lack even basic water or sanitation facilities, have crumbling walls, broken windows and leaking roofs. The system is overwhelmed."

"Aid agencies estimate that thousands of Iraqi parents do not send their daughters to school for cultural reasons and because of the general insecurity in the country," reported IRIN news only two months ago in December 2006. Instability is also causing the literacy rates to decline. UNESCO estimates that the literacy rate in Iraq as of Dec 11 2006 was below 60 percent, this is horrifying, considering between 2000-2003 literacy was much higher at 74 percent. According to UNICEF in 2004, only 37 percent of rural women are literate, and only 30 percent of high school aged women are enrolled in school which compares to about 42 percent of boys.

Cuba: A Permanent Revolutionary Development

"The main thrust behind our development has been a Revolution that since its beginning on January 1st 1959, put women in an important place, and the FMC [Cuban Federation of Women] has been part of that battle since the beginning... The women's situation in Cuba is important. Before the revolutionary triumph, we were second in the Cuban society, and our presence today has expanded to all levels of the country's social and economic life."

- Yolanda Ferrer, General Secretary of the FMC, March 7th 2006

Cuban women did not always have

political organization. Today this federation represents a broad range of women in the country, of all ages, religions, professions and races. For more than 48 years, the organization has built influence and recognition in society, because it reflects the needs and views of women. One of the focuses of the local FMC's in each municipality is teaching women about their rights in their workplace, at home and in society.

An interview in 2000 with a woman named Theresa Vigil from Habitat-Cuba sited some important statistics to understand the situation of women in Cuba. She said, "With rent, and childcare geared to income, free education and all medical services for children free, the economic burden on single mothers is greatly eased. Women are entitled to three months' maternity leave at full salary, from 1 1/2 month before to 1 1/2 month after delivery. After that a mother has the right to six months of leave at half her salary while she retains the right to return to her job for up to one year."

An important document for women in Cuba is The Family Code, which was passed into law in 1974. Interestingly the United States State Department's "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices" outlines quite well what the Code is about. "The Family Code states that women and men have equal rights and responsibilities regarding marriage, divorce, raising children, maintaining the home, and pursuing a career."

Black Woman

By Nancy Morejón*

I still smell the foam of the sea they made me cross.
The night, I can't remember it.
The ocean itself could not remember that.
But I can't forget the first gull I made out in the distance.
High, the clouds, like innocent eye-witnesses.
Perhaps I haven't forgotten my lost coast,
nor my ancestral language.
They left me here and here I've lived.
And, because I worked like an animal,
here I came to be born.
How many Mandinga epics did I look to for strength.
I rebelled.
His Worship bought me in a public square.
I embroidered His Worship's coat
and bore him a male child.
My son had no name.
And His Worship died at the hands of an impeccable
English lord.
I walked.
This is the land where I suffered
mouth-in-the-dust and the lash.
I rode the length of all its rivers.
Under its sun I planted seeds, brought in the crops,
but never ate those harvests.
A slave barracks was my house,
built with stones that I hauled myself.
While I sang to the pure beat of native birds.

I rose up.
In this same land I touched the fresh blood and decayed
bones of many others, brought to this land or not, the
same as I. I no longer dreamt of the road to Guinea. Was
it to Guinea? Benin?
To Madagascar? Or Cape Verde?
I worked on and on.
I strengthened the foundations of my millenary song and
of my hope.
I left for the hills.
My real independence was the free slave fort
and I rode with the troops of Maceo.
Only a century later,
together with my descendants,
from a blue mountain
I came down from the Sierra
to put an end to capital and usurer,
to generals and to bourgeois.
Now I exist: only today do we own, do we create.
Nothing is foreign to us.
The land is ours.
Ours the sea and the sky,
the magic and the vision.
Compañeros, here I see you dance
around the tree we are planting for communism.
Its prodigal wood resounds.

(Translated by David Frye)



Nancy Morejón

* Nancy Morejón, one of Cuba's major authors was born in 1944 in Havana, Cuba where she continues to live today. She was born in a working class family, her father a dock worker and her mother a seamstress. She was a fast learner and began writing poetry when she was only 13. She is fluent in Spanish, English and French and has held many important posts in the areas of culture and art in Cuba since the revolution. In 1986 she won the Cuban "Premio de la crítica", and in 2001 was the first black woman to win Cuba's National Prize for Literature. She has toured extensively in the United States, and her work has been translated into numerous languages. Most recently she was awarded with the 2006 Golden Wreath Award in Struga, Macedonia.

War, Occupation, Mass Murder, Abu Ghraib, Najaf, Kut, Fallujah, Haditha, Shia, Sunni, Mahdi Army, US Army, Al Qaeda, Mercenaries, Poverty, Hunger, Brutality, Torture, Prison, Execution, Disease, Shortages, Destruction, Quagmire, Killing, Killing...

what IRAQ has the US created?

By Shannon Bundock

50,000 hired killers swarm the streets of Iraq. After the US military itself, mercenaries form the second largest force in Iraq, enormously outnumbering even the closest US allies.

Spain's Jose Luis Gomez del Prado, a member of the UN working group on mercenaries, recently revealed that high-tech hitmen are being recruited on the streets of Peru, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador. They are lured from poverty and bleak futures by massive pay checks – at least large enough to outweigh the risk of entering one of the most deadly war zones of the 21st century. Unlike regular troops, mercenaries function outside the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and have little or no legal accountability.

The US Department of Defense is currently working with private companies that provide such services as intelligence, weaponry, interrogation, prison security and ground support troops. The Centre for Public Integrity currently lists 125 companies with contracts worth more than \$40.7 billion for work in Iraq. Amada Guevara, also a member of the UN working group on mercenaries, put it succinctly, "This amounts to privatization of warfare."

Along with the recent 21,500-strong surge of US troops, this adds up to more than

According to a February 23rd article in the Japan Times, "The U.S.-led invasion of the country has greatly affected Iraqi children's psychological development, according to a report of the Association of Psychologists of Iraq (API) released in 2006. One thousand children were interviewed for the report, which concluded that fear of kidnappings and explosions has led to severe stress among children.

"The only thing they have on their minds are guns, bullets, death and a fear of the U.S. occupation," Maruan Abdullah, the API spokesman concludes."

within a week of each other. Given the suppression of media in Iraq it is surprising that such stories even make it past the borders of Iraq. The fact that even some accounts of the strikes, protests, pickets, sit-ins, and mass actions are leaking out to the rest of the world, is a heartening testament to the breadth and scope that the Iraqi anti-occupation resistance has managed to achieve. At the core of the anti-occupation resis-



Iraqis demonstrate in Baghdad.

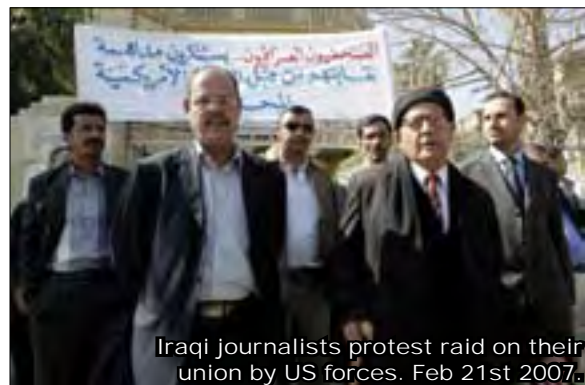
200,000 trained and equipped soldiers, all aiming to defend and advance the position of the occupying forces.

What Kind of Life has Occupation Delivered?

Since the March 2003 invasion, the impact of these forces on the ground in Iraq has resulted in roughly 700,000 Iraqi deaths. The last four years of war and occupation in Iraq have been characterized by the destruction, suffering and pain delivered to the Iraqi people through gun barrels and warplanes.

At the end of January a letter was sent to the UK government by 100 prominent British doctors who have worked in Iraq, Iraqi doctors, leading British consultants and general practitioners. According to UK Independent Newspaper, "...the conditions in hospitals revealed in their letter amount to a breach of the Geneva conventions that require the protection of human life."

Backing up the assertions outlined in this letter are the experiences relayed by Iraqi medical professionals. Doctors at Basra's Maternity and Child Hospital have noted that every month between 14 and 16 new cases of leukemia are reported but cannot be treated for lack of medication.



Iraqi journalists protest raid on their union by US forces. Feb 21st 2007.

Battling the Occupiers

Amid the battlefields of Basrah, Kut, Najaf, Nasiriyah, Baghdad, Karbala, Kirkuk, Mosul, Samarra and Umm Qasr, which have brought such great pain and suffering, Iraqis still believe a brighter future is possible and they have unrelentingly fought back.

On Wednesday February 21st Iraqi journalists led a protest and sit-in against a US raid of the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate (IJS). According to the protesters US forces stormed the union's headquarters in Baghdad on February 19th with troops ransacking offices, arresting 10 of the union's security guards and confiscating 10 computers and 15 small electricity generators. The raid just two days after the IJS received formal recognition from the Iraqi government. This new status allowed the IJS access to its previously blocked bank account and it had just bought new computers and satellite equipment. Aidan White, General Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) condemned the US raid and stated, "Anyone working for media that does not endorse US policy and actions could now be at risk." The demonstrators vowed to continue their demonstration until the U.S. forces release the guards they arrested and return seized equipment and property.

In the same week Iraqis in Basra took to the street demanding that UK forces release detained Iraqis. According to the Agence-France Presse the demonstrators chanted, "No, no to occupation. We want the detainees released," and waved placards which said "No to colonialism".

These two examples come

tance is the only demand that can solve the problems that come with occupation, and that is the demand for the end of occupation and recognition of self-determination for Iraqi people.

America's Bootless Mission

While the Iraqi people are poor and ill-equipped, their resistance has managed to prevent the wealthiest and most powerful countries in the world from stabilizing the occupation of Iraq. Each month, each week there are new developments in the crisis faced by occupation forces. The statistics released by US think-tank the Brookings Institution show a consistent and astonishing increase in the daily attacks on US/UK occupation forces. In February 2004, this average was 14 attacks a day. By December 2006, the average reached 185 attacks per day.

Given these conditions, the US military, and its commanders in Washington, are evidently facing tremendous pressure. By this point the cracks in the war planners' strategy have been widely exposed. Some of those cracks stem from the underestimation of the Iraqi resistance, and the arrogant prediction that, "We will in fact, be greeted as liberators... I think it will go relatively quickly... weeks rather than months," as forecast by US Vice President Dick Cheney on March 16th 2003.

Other cracks have emerged in the US ruling class itself, as it debates and battles to come up with the "winning strategy" for Iraq. Such differences resulted in Iraq

Cuba & Women

Continued From Page 3

quotas for women's involvement in parliament, because as Fidel said they must fight twice as hard to achieve their rights. Cuban women are elected based on their qualities as equal human beings, not to fill a certain prescription.

Another interesting way to compare Canada and Cuba is government spending. From UNICEF statistics we learn that, an average of 23% of the Cuban government's expenditures from 1994-2004 were allocated to health, while during the same period 10% was allocated to education. This is in what is considered to be a developing or 'third world' country with an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of approximately \$40Billion. In Canada, a much richer country with an annual GDP of \$1Trillion, the government spent 9% of its annual expenditures on health and 2% on education from 1994-2004.

Women's Liberation – Change is possible!

Cuba is by no means perfect, however, something they fought for and gained is access to their true human rights: jobs, education, housing and health. These human rights are provided for all in Cuba. This is especially advantageous to women because, as mentioned before, in situations of poverty or scarcity women are usually the ones who will give up what little they have for their families.

In Cuba families are not so desperate to have to make these kinds of choices and the government is standing beside them, opening space, especially for women, to get involved in the revolutionary process taking place in their country. In the same speech I cited earlier from 1966, Fidel Castro said, "Discrimination will never be wiped out within the framework of capitalist society. Discrimination with respect to race and sex can only be wiped out through socialist revolution, which eradicates the exploitation of man by man. Now, does the disappearance of the exploitation of man by man mean that all the conditions are immediately created whereby woman may elevate her position in society? No. The conditions for the liberation of women, for the full development of women in society, for an authentic equality of rights for women and men in society, require a material base; they require the material foundations of economic and social development."

We can trust Fidel's assessment of steps needed to advance towards the liberation of women. History and the present

illustrate well that women's rights have never been handed to women; we have always had to fight for them. But today in Cuba women are not fighting alone, they have the support and encouragement of the Cuban government and society, and the unprecedented step being taken towards the equality of women.



Cuban women's basketball team celebrates victory over the US. Aug 2003.

taking centre stage as *The* election issue during the November 2006 elections in the US.

Democrats and some Republicans slammed the current campaign to bulldoze through Iraq and secure the country with brute force. It is important to note that these criticisms were not founded in a disagreement with the objective to secure Iraq in the favour of US/UK interests. The core of the debate centred on just how they can secure Iraq in the favour of US/UK interests. The failures of the Shock-and-Awe strategy harkening back to 2003 weigh heavily and resulted in significant losses for the Republicans and the Bush camp in the November elections.

In February, the House approved a non-binding resolution that criticized the decision to deploy the additional 21,500

Continues on Page 5

"Taliban Rising" in Afghanistan? Or the Rise of a Popular Resistance Movement?

By Nita Palmer

The daily news reports from Afghanistan warn of a major offensive by Taliban forces in the coming months, and that NATO forces must do all they can to protect Afghans from the Taliban. Yet, on February 17th NATO soldiers shot and killed an innocent Afghan civilian walking near their convoy. The same day, Canadian soldiers gunned down an obviously mentally ill man in a village outside Kandahar on the grounds that he appeared to have wires, presumably from a bomb, sticking out of his jacket. The "wires" were later revealed to be bits of string holding his tattered jacket together. The next day, Canadian soldiers also shot and killed a homeless man in Kandahar.

An Examination of NATO's Track Record in Afghanistan

The most recent examples of Canada and NATO "saving lives" in Afghanistan doesn't give much hope to the claim on the Department of National Defence website that Canadian forces are in Afghanistan to "provide the people of Afghanistan with a hope for a brighter future". 2006 was the bloodiest year in Afghanistan since the US-led invasion and bombing campaigns in 2001. Human Rights Watch estimates that 4,400 Afghans were killed by the NATO occupation in 2006, although the actual numbers are likely much higher. In June 2006 alone, US Central Command recorded 340 NATO air strikes, which cost many civilian lives.

"We're going to... continue the fight against the Taliban and continue our reconstruction efforts for the people of Afghanistan."



- Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, February 2007

NATO claims that, in fact, great progress is being made in Afghanistan. What does this progress look like? The UN's World Health Organization (WHO) notes that:

- Life expectancy is down to 42 years
- 1 in 4 children dies before their 5th birthday
- 1 in 6 women dies during childbirth.

These are some of the shining examples of life in Afghanistan.

The WHO also notes that there are only 1.28 hospital beds per 1,000 people in Kabul that number drops to 0.22 beds per 1,000 people in rural Afghanistan. "War Zone Hospitals in Afghanistan: A Symbol of Wilful Neglect", a report released in February by the Senlis Council, an international policy think-tank, found Afghanistan's few hospitals were barely able to function, never mind save lives.

The report details the conditions at the Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar City, where the bathrooms lack soap or even hot water for sanitation, where patients with infec-

tious diseases such as polio are crammed side by side, and where, more than half the time, there is not even an oxygen tank available to save patients' lives. There are also virtually no facilities available to treat patients with head injuries; 95% of head injured patients admitted to Mirwais hospital die.

In more rural areas outside Kandahar city, where NATO frequently carries out bombing campaigns, war zone hospitals are not even available to treat these patients. An orthopaedic surgeon at the Mirwais Hospital told the Senlis Council that, "no one, no doctor, from the Canadian Army base has ever come to our hospital to ask about the patients." (January 17, 2007). This is how much Canada and NATO care about bringing a "brighter future" to the people of Afghanistan.

Afghan Government: NATO's Corrupt Lackeys

In addition to the brutal reality of just trying to live under the gun of occupation forces, Afghans also have their "democratically elected" government to contend with. 78% of Afghans see massive government corruption as a major problem, and one in four say they or someone they know has had to pay a bribe to receive a government service. (Pak Tribune, Feb 15th)



Girls rally in Kabul.

Iraq

Continued From Page 4

troops, but the measure was blocked in the Senate. Manoeuvres with toothless motions will not bring about any strategic change in Iraq – least of all an immediate withdrawal – but rather they serve to document the depth of division setting in among the US ruling class.

From the perspective of regular poor and working people, what these splits signify is a weakening and deteriorating political, economic and military position for the imperialist powers in Iraq. People living in the US have become more and more frustrated with the US government's war campaign. After being lied to about, "Weapons of Mass Destruction"; bringing "Liberation"; and overthrowing the beacon-of-all-that-is-evil, Saddam Hussein, the people in the US have overwhelmingly not accepted that the war and occupation of Iraq is achieving anything positive for them or for Iraqis. This was the driving force behind the January 27th demonstrations that swept US cities following the decision to increase troop levels in Iraq by 21,500.

Beyond the splits and debates in top circles of the US ruling class, and even beyond the anti-war demands being flung towards Washington from the streets of US cities and towns, there are more problems arising for the occupation.

In February the British government announced that it will begin a withdrawal of its troops from Iraq. While the British force is significantly smaller than the US' 140,000 troop presence, they play a considerable role in Southern Iraq. The first batch to leave will reduce the British force by 1,600. On top of this

Denmark has also announced that it will withdraw all of its 460 troops stationed in Iraq in August. Most of the Danish troops are stationed in Basra in southern Iraq under British command. Since the beginning of



Demonstration in Baghdad.

the invasion in 2003, Italy, Spain, Hungary and Japan have all withdrawn significant troop contributions.

With this pullout pressure on the US is further compounded and they are left in a very difficult position, to say the least.

Solidarity and Resistance: Building an Effective Antiwar Movement

As March 2007 approaches, antiwar demonstrations will be held around the world to mark the fourth anniversary of the brutal US/UK invasion of Iraq. For these anti-war rallies to be an effective part of the anti-war movement, it is absolutely necessary that they are framed in a strategy for consistent anti-war action and movement building.

As the US, UK, Canada and other imperialist powers expand their plundering and killing machines across the Middle East, they draw a map for the anti-war movement. Iraq is at the centre of this map as the most critical axis in the imperialist strategy for hegemony and domination in the Middle East. Thusly Iraq is the axis of focus for the anti-war, anti-imperialist movement. With the close of 2006, the era of war and occupation opened a new chapter – the re-colonization and ramped up plundering of Africa. US bombs in Southern Somalia, and a UN military threat to Sudan are at the forefront of this campaign. On the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq the anti-war movement must respond to this expansion of the era of war and occupation. While building an effective anti-war movement, we can also draw a new map – one of anti-occupation resistance in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, and everywhere that the war sites are set.

For those active in the anti-war movement around the world, it proves both humbling and inspiring to learn of the anti-occupation action which Iraqis are engaging in despite four years of the most brutal suppression. Imperialist warplanes and tanks are arranged to stem the flooding brought on by this river of resistance. Despite all odds however, the tributaries still spring up, raising the waves of resistance ever larger and stronger.

The education and mobilization which is organized in Canada and the US can contribute to this flood, and help to overwhelm the war-mongers, the murderers, the plunderers and destroyers. Waves of resistance leave fertile ground. Oppressed nations, free of occupation, can begin healing, growing and determining their future in the interest of their people.

US/UK Out of Iraq! Out Now!

Afghan Resistance Rising

In 2006, the occupation forces in Afghanistan began to be faced with a new level of resistance, unseen since the 2001 invasion. The news reports here call the resistance a "Taliban insurgency". But reports from Afghanistan speak otherwise.

"Although the current insurgency in Afghanistan is being carried out by a group described as the Taliban, this has come to loosely mean all anti-government groups which operate somewhat independently of each other, but which continue to be referred to as the Taliban."

- Countering the Insurgency in Afghanistan: Losing Friends and Making Enemies, Senlis Council, February 2007

The government of Canada and NATO continue to maintain that they are fighting a "Taliban insurgency" in Afghanistan. Why? Because saying otherwise would mean admitting the truth: that they are not fighting and killing a small number of isolated rebels, but that they are battling a popular resistance movement of regular Afghan people who are fighting with sticks and stones and everything they have against the occupation.

While the Taliban does form part of the resistance movement against the occupation – One has to understand many people join the Taliban simply because they are the most organized armed group. This happens everywhere, people always look around for the most organized group either in politics or war – Senlis Council report notes that the grassroots resistance movement is significantly larger, and is driven, "mainly by economic incentives and by grievances held against the government and the international community". With the hundreds of bombings, civilians being shot for walking down their own streets, and people dying from lack of health care every day, it is little wonder that the resistance to the occupation is growing in strength and size every day?

NATO Scrambles in Afghanistan Quagmire

When the US, Canada, and NATO invaded Afghanistan in 2001, they understood the importance of securing the country for their interests. Afghanistan was an important country for them

Continues on Page 7

prisoners of war at home the secret trial five + the new face of the working class in Canada

By Ivan Drury

Under the "Security Certificate" provision of the "Immigration and Refugee Protection Act", Immigration Canada can have anyone who is not a Canadian citizen arrested and detained indefinitely. All it takes is a single judge to be convinced that they may pose an unspecified risk to "Canada" due to suspicions of connections to "terrorist" organizations. The courts are not required to provide the accused or their lawyers with any information about their case. The courts do not have to release evidence that could be used against the accused. They do not have to release the charges against the accused. They do not have to allow the accused or their lawyers the opportunity to defend themselves. It is not a secret that there are trials happening where they are accused, but the trials themselves remain secret; all they know are the results.

The results have been found – in the now highly publicized cases of the "Secret Trial Five" – against the accused. How could it be different in a secret trial?

The "Secret Trial Five"

Arrested in June of 2000, Mohammad Mahjoub was stuffed away in an overnight holding cell where he was held for five years with the lights on 24 hours a day until he and co-imprisoned Hassan Almrei went on a series of hunger strikes in 2005. Almrei staged two hunger strikes

considered an improvement.

After a visit to the holding centre in January of this year, NDP MP Bill Siksay wrote in an editorial in the Hamilton Spectator, "KIHC is two small, school portable-like buildings. One is the residential unit and the other the administration unit. Cells are small. There is no real exercise yard, just a paved area the length of two wheelchair ramps between the buildings. The detainees have no programs, have complained of harassment by guards and face restrictions on their religious practices. They are subject to petty procedures, such as standing counts three times a day in a facility that has only three prisoners. In the five and six years of their detention, they have never been allowed a private visit with their families or 'touch' visits with their spouses, something regular prisoners at Millhaven can access regularly."

Minister Siksay's visit to the KIHC was instigated by a combination of, first - the hunger strike of the three inmates there passing its 80th day, second - a ground-swell of support mounting for these three men from labour unions all the way up to Canada's national union federation, the Canadian Labour Congress, and third - a political opportunity to better define the NDP's position on Canada's imperialist war drive.

Immediately following Minister Siksay's visit to KIHC, Canada's Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Stockwell Day, also visited KIHC. He, however,

in 2005: the first, which lasted 39 days was for a pair of shoes to wear in his freezing cold cell. The second, lasting 73 days, was for an hour's exercise a day. Mahjoub struck at the same time, demanding treatment for the Hepatitis C that he contracted while in custody.

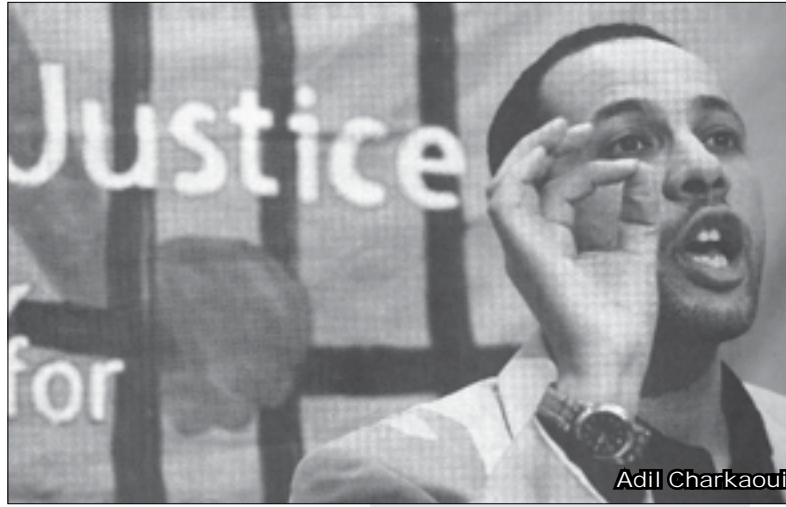
Last year Mahjoub, Almrei, and the third Secret Trial Five-er who is still imprisoned, Mahmoud Jaballah, were moved to the newly constructed Kensington Immigration Holding Centre (KIHC) – part of the Millhaven Maximum Security Prison. The conditions there can hardly be

took an invisible tour of the holding grounds, refusing to meet with, speak to, or even see the prisoners. His comments on the floor of parliament were geared to discredit the three's hunger strike that was approaching its three-month point. Day said, "[in KIHC] ...there is a large kitchen where any detainees have their own washer and drier, microwave, refrigerator stocked with a variety of juices, soups, soy milk, chocolate sauce and honey."

As if in response to this attempt to slander the hunger strikers, Amnesty International spelled out the situation that faced the Secret Trial 5 in a letter sent to Minister Day on February 5th, 2007:

"Amnesty International recognizes that a hunger strike can be a form of non-violent protest against an abuse of human rights. It comes as no surprise that these individuals, facing great stress and with no other effective options, have resorted to such action. ... concerns about lack of a fair process and risk of return to torture lie at the heart of the hunger strikes. ... These men have felt compelled to take this desperate step as a result of the government's failure to address these serious human rights shortcomings."

Or for an even better explanation of the conditions of the hunger strikers and their relationship with the government of Canada, consider the words of the hunger strikers themselves... in an open letter released by Mohammad Mahjoub, Hassan Almrei, and Mahmoud Jaballah on January 8th, they stated:



Adil Charkaoui

"Some people have called this place Guantánamo Bay North. Like the detainees in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, we are held indefinitely. This is a kind of psychological torture that is almost unimaginable. We do not know when, or if, we will be released from jail."

The Release of Mohammad Mahjoub

Suddenly, on February 15th, an about-face. The very courts that had placed Mohammad Mahjoub in prison indefinitely without charges in June of 2000, were releasing him. These were the same courts that had him held for years without adequate footwear or blankets against the cold in a cement overnight facility, denied him necessary medical attention, forbade him private contact with his wife and children. These courts were

suddenly releasing him.

Why this sudden change? Let the newspapers speak for the vulnerabilities of the Canadian ruling class:

The Ottawa Sun ran a headline on February 3rd, "PM grilled on hunger strikers."

Canadian Press headline, February 4th, "Hunger strikers being 'left to die' by 'unaccountable' government: advocates"

From the Ottawa Citizen, February 8th, "Given the lack of an independent complaints process and the apparent failure to carry out ongoing medical monitoring, it is vital that the government move without delay. It must ensure there is an impartial review of the allegations and demands made by the hunger strikers."

Or Maclean's Magazine February 14th, the day before the ruling, quoting Conservative Senator Hugh Segal: "This is not the old Soviet gulag or Iran or China under the Cultural Revolution - this is Canada, and we should not let people starve when they are guests of Her Majesty. On a humanitarian level, no effort should be spared."

The newspapers sounded the alarm, giving voice to human rights organizations like Amnesty International. Within days it was being echoed by certain Parliamentarians and Senators. Then the government and courts acted on the tip – they had gone too far. On the heels of the embarrassment of the Maher Arar scandal, that Canada had supplied Syrian torture chambers came this. At the same time, the news of Maher Arar-esque abuse against Abdullah Almalki, Ahmed Elmati and Muayed Nuredin. The hunger strikes of three of the Secret

Trial Five were too much too soon. The release of Mohammad Mahjoub was the sound of the Canadian ruling class retreating to release the pressure of "human rights" scandals, and to regroup.

Without a hint of irony, and after six-and-a-half-years, Federal Court Judge Richard Mosley stated, "The applicant today is an ailing and aging man preoccupied with his health and the lack of contact with his family apart from telephone calls and occasional visits. The conditions of his detention have exacerbated that problem." He ordered Mahjoub released to the care of his family and friends, under a bail bond of nearly \$100,000 from those same supporters. Judge Mosley clarified, "I wish to stress that this will amount to a form of house arrest and that Mr. Mahjoub will be returned to

the ruling class to steamroll through any repressive legislation they could dream up), every opposition party has come out against a continuation of Bill C-36. The Liberals remain largely divided, but the official party position now lines up with the NDP and the Bloc Québécois. They all now say what none had the gumption to say in 2001 – that Bill C-36 is a third wheel. That, in the words of Liberal Justice critic Sue Barnes, "We know today that the Criminal Code already contains all the necessary offences and powers for law enforcement officials to adequately respond to the threat of terrorism."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper was quick to respond, in his characteristic fashion on February 14th, "For the first time in history we have a leader of the opposition who is soft on terrorism." And Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day chimed in the very next day, "I would remind my colleagues that Canada is still on Osama bin Laden's list. He named several countries which he was directing his malevolent forces to attack whenever they had the opportunity. Canada is still on that list." He went on to list every terrorist attack not carried out by Canada, the US, UK, or Israel in the past 6 years as proof of why Bill C-36 is essential to the safety of Canada.

Notwithstanding the views of the party-in-power, the sunset clause

to Canadian bosses at this time.

Are the Streets Paved with Gold Now?

"Canadians count on their government to uphold our country's proud record of human rights and respect for justice. It would be remiss for the Conservative government to ignore those principles domestically while preaching them abroad." – NDP MP Bill Siksay in Feb 7th 2007 edition of the Hamilton Whig

"The special powers contained in C-36 are far less draconian than comparable measures adopted in other western democracies, such as the United Kingdom." – Liberal MP John Manley in response to Parliament discussion on Bill C-36 as recorded on the Maclean's Magazine website, Feb 15th 2007

The same day that Mohammad Mahjoub was ordered released by the Supreme Court, the issue of Canada's anti-terror laws, enshrined in Bill C-36, was discussed on the parliamentary floor. On this day, the Liberals came out against a continuation of the same bill abolishing civil liberties and the rule of law that they themselves had enacted in 2001-2002.

For the first time since these laws were introduced in the wake of the September 11th "anti-terrorist" hysteria (when it was possible for

written in to Bill C-36 at the time it was enacted means that it will expire on March 1st unless it is voted on in parliament to extend its life. The united opposition of the opposition parties means that the minority government will not be able to plug in the iron lung of this reactionary bill on its own. And the pressure is on. Canada got a black-eye from the torture of Maher Arar, and Bill-C-36 is a monument to Canada's "bending" of civil liberties.

On February 22nd the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, a "multi-sector coalition that promotes respect for human rights and civil liberties" (from their release) released a statement calling for the withdrawal of Canada's "Anti-Terrorist" Act. This monitoring group is composed of the very organizations that set public opinion in Canada and internationally about the "good" and "bad" countries regarding human rights; groups like Amnesty International, Canadian Auto Workers Union, Canadian Association of University Teachers, Canadian Labour Congress, CARE Canada, David Suzuki Foundation, Greenpeace, PEN Canada, World Vision Canada, and more.

Then, mere days later, all the way on the other side of Canada, Amir Kazemian was seized from the sanctuary of Saint Michaels Church *Continues on Page 7*



Top: Mohamed Harkat
Centre L-R: Mohammed Mahjoub, Mahmoud Jaballah
Bottom L-R: Adil Charkaoui, Hassan Almrei



secret trial five

Continued From Page 6

in Vancouver. Kazemian is an Iranian refugee who took sanctuary in Saint Michaels when his claim was rejected by Immigration Canada just over two years ago. Although "sanctuary" is not legally protected, it has been a principle that has traditionally been respected by the police, courts and government of Canada.

The only other time police have broken the principles of sanctuary, gone into a church and dragged out their hunted, they have sparked tremendous outcry and protest from respectable organizations and church officials all across Canada. That was in 2004, Algerian refugee Mohammad Cherfi was seized from a church sanctuary, and the United Church of Canada responded, "we denounce the violent intrusion of the Quebec police into one of our sanctuaries. Moreover, it appears this police action, an action we deem both unwarranted and wrong, was carried out with the full knowledge and concurrence of your ministries."

Kazemian was the most high profile church sanctuary dweller in Canada, setting an unofficial record for the length of his stay in the Saint Michaels Church. When the Vancouver Police Department arrested him and took him from his sanctuary, the government though twice. By the time Kazemian's supporters had a chance to gather in front of the offices of immigration Canada the news had been released – the government was blaming an innocently ignorant single officer for the arrest of Kazemian. Furthermore, they had approved his refugee claim on humanitarian and compassionate grounds – a statute only approved in around 2% of the cases it is applied

for. They had buried the scandal.

The changing dynamics of the working class in Canada

Of course, things are not rosy at all. In the midst of last year's non-status worker awakening prompted by the massive immigrant rights protests in the US the October 26th Globe and Mail reported, "Ottawa has ruled out amnesty for the estimated 200,000 undocumented workers toiling in Canada's underground economy..." The same article noted that more than 80,000 permitted temporary workers were imported into Canada in 2005.

And the Toronto Star reported on January 31st, "[A] Statistics Canada report released yesterday found that in 2002, immigrants during their first year in this country were 3.5 times more likely than Canadian-born people to be low-income. By 2004, the rate had dipped slightly to 3.2 times. That's up from about 3.0 in the 1990s. And it has happened despite a 1993 shift in the immigrant selection process that put the emphasis on admitting more highly skilled immigrants. Among immigrants defined as "chronic low income" – meaning they had lived in poverty for at least four of their first five years in Canada – 41 per cent who came in 2000 had university degrees, compared to 13 per cent of those who came in 1993."

It is here where we find the tides that pull, draw, push, and drag the levels of immigration closed vs. openness, and repression vs. 'pro-immigrant' legislation and manoeuvres.

The CIA world factbook ranks Canada's birth rates as only number 186 out of 224 regions in world. This, combined with an aging "baby-boomer" population means that immigrant workers are needed by the Canadian ruling class. But, in the context of a world economic

crisis where, in the words of last years' international strategy document, Canada must become, "A Place of Pride and Influence in the World," Canada must "break out" of its historic middle power status; or risk losing it all.

The population born-in Canada – as with Europe and the US – is shrinking. The relatively prosperous 1970's to 1990's created a top heavy layer of relatively well-off workers that are now aging and tipping the labour market unfavourably to the bosses, who always prefer a buyers market when it comes to buying and selling workers labour. The Canadian ruling class needs more workers, but not just any workers - they need workers who will continue the past decade's trend towards de-unionization and therefore lower wages and deteriorating conditions. They need mechanisms of control and terror over these communities of immigrant workers - and suddenly - here we are again with the Secret Trial Five.

The face of the working class in Canada is changing, and the ruling class is still divided on how to approach the management of this new crop of workers.

Neither A nor B – No one is illegal!

The two approaches of the Ruling Class of Canada to this problem of managing these new workers are best explained by the factions that have emerged in Parliament:

A) On one side there's the ruling Conservative Party with its main spokesperson, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day. Their "option A" is in defence of a "traditional Canada" with big guns. They are for a full assault on the rights and lives of the new immigrant workers – right alongside

low by keeping these workers quarantined from unions through temporary visas and instability. They on-and-off agree that Canada should reduce its prominence in Afghanistan, and should pull back from Kandahar to a more "traditionally Canadian" role in Kabul.

Stop the "War on Terror"! Free the Secret Trial Five now!

From the perspective of working people in Canada, the face of the working class is really not changing at all. Since the foundation of the Canadian state, the working class has always been built mostly of immigrants. It wasn't long ago, when in 1931 the RCMP arrested the entire leadership of the Communist Party of Canada under Section 98 of the Criminal Code, in order to try to break down the labour movement in Canada.

At that time it was anti-immigrant racism and anti-communist hysteria that the government and police used to show workers that these arrests were to protect them against "Commies" and "Polaks".

While it should be obvious that the racist Conservative "war on terror" must be fought against, it should also be clear that the so-called "alternatives" that are being put forward on the floor of parliament are no answer either to the problems facing working people in Canada.



Toronto, Ontario.



Montreal, Quebec.

Mahjoub and Ali, and "Communist" with "Muslim," but their cause is the same. In 2006, when they arrested 17 young Muslim men in the Toronto area, the government, CSIS, and the RMCP left upon Muslim leaderships across Canada to define themselves against these "bad apples." For the most part, these leaderships did just that. And the division of communities into "good" and "bad" has meant – in 1931 as today – the gagging of the entire community of oppressed people because to protest is to pass into the camp of the "bad" immigrant. 1931 led to the internment camps of 1940, of these same communists, alongside Japanese, Italian and German "bad" immigrants.

AFGHANISTAN

Continued From Page 5

to occupy not because it was "harbouring terrorists", but because of its strategic place in the world, located on the old Silk Road from China between the major trade markets of the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. When they invaded, they thought the country, weakened by thirty years of war and a government that lacked popular support would be easy to occupy. Today, with the Afghan resistance growing and learning how to fight back every day, their occupation is going anywhere but where they planned. They are finding themselves in a quagmire in Afghanistan. This quagmire in the face of a major downturn in the world economy, is increasingly dividing NATO as its imperialist member countries are beginning to shift and scramble to find the best way to preserve their interests on the world stage.

The US, facing an even worse quagmire in Iraq, is looking to Afghanistan as another way to secure its interests. The US military budget for Afghanistan was recently doubled to \$11.8Billion, and 3,200 US troops in Afghanistan have had their deployment extended. The UK, even as it begins to pull its troops back from Iraq, is deploying an additional 800 to Afghanistan. The government of Canada has taken a similar route, giving \$10Million to the Afghan police force in January. Canada's Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence recently released a report recommending that 250 Canadian Forces instructors and 60 police trainers be sent to Afghanistan to train the Afghan military and police. The report also criticized France and Germany specifically for not pulling their weight in the Afghanistan mission. France, though, is looking to other places in the world to secure its interests, and has responded that it already has troops in many other missions around the world (primarily in Côte d'Ivoire, where it has 3,700 troops stationed), and cannot afford any for Afghanistan.

What Future for Afghanistan?

As the imperialist powers negotiate their plans for Afghanistan, one thing is sure: whatever the outcome, it won't be in the interests of Afghan people. After five years of yet another foreign occupation, Afghans have learned that this occupation, like occupations by the former Soviet Union, the British, and many others before them, has not brought "reconstruction" – only death and misery. The only way to reconstruct Afghanistan and meet the needs of the people is through Afghans themselves. It is not an easy road, but it is the only one possible. From here in Canada, those fighting for peace, justice, and self-determination in Afghanistan need our support. This means not just opposing the occupation, but actively building an anti-war movement against Canada's war drive in Afghanistan. We must call for an immediate withdrawal of all Canadian troops and NATO forces from Afghanistan, and for an independent public inquiry into the government of Canada's war drive, which has been launched, extended, and had its budget doubled without the consultation of people in Canada, at the cost of the lives of people in Afghanistan.

CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN!

NATO OUT OF AFGHANISTAN!

CALL FOR AN INDEPENDENT PUBLIC INQUIRY!

their strategy for a full-out assault on the people of Afghanistan. They stand for more troops to Afghanistan, more regressive anti-immigrant legislation to further destabilize immigrant worker communities with the constant threat of deportation. They are also for the most restrictive "anti-terrorist" legislation to drive deeper wedges between so-called "white-Canadian" workers and the new generation of immigrant workers, and to fracture these immigrant communities themselves with direct terror.

B) On the other side is a hodge-podge of ideas about what this new working class might look like and differing estimates regarding its strength. While they generally see more clearly that this "new face" of the working class is inevitable, and therefore their approach is less aggressively oppressive than the Conservative camp, coalition "B" is still calculating how to best manipulate these immigrant workers to best defend and advance Canadian capital and business. This is what Liberal justice critic Sue Barnes was getting at when she said, "We know today that the Criminal Code already contains all the necessary offences and powers for law enforcement officials to adequately respond to the threat of terrorism."

The NDP-Bloc Quebecois-sometimes-Liberal camp is saying that it is not necessary to have a whole separate "anti-terrorist act" because that just "unnecessarily" aggravates relations with Muslims. They agree that there should be more "guest worker" programs to fulfill the needs of Canadian capital and are sure that wages can be kept

The 1931 arrests of the Communist Party leadership was an example to the communities – largely though not entirely of immigrant workers – that they came from. A friend of this newspaper who lives in Campbell River said that these Toronto



Mohammed Harkat and his wife Sophie.

arrests terrified Eastern European immigrants all the way across the country on Vancouver Island. He recalled his own Mother and Father gathering up and burning all their radical pamphlets and newspapers and burning them the night they heard of these arrests. He also remembered that the feared police did come, to "talk", weeks later.

In 2006-2007 the dates have changed, and so have the names of the lightning rods that the ruling class is picking out to strike with their thunder. Krawchuk and Lapshinoff has been replaced with

It should be clear that the attacks on the civil, democratic, human, labour, immigration, and legal rights of immigrant workers – especially today with the increasingly new-immigrant face on labour in Canada – is an attack on the rights of all workers in Canada.

The motions towards immigrant-defence that have come from some of the higher levels of the labour movement should be taken as a very good sign. Recent demonstrations organized demanding an end to the use of Security Certificates have been sponsored by the Canadian Autoworkers Union, the Canadian Labour Congress, the Canadian Postal Workers Union, alongside activist groups and human rights NGOs. This has opened more space for immigrant and non-immigrant workers to stand together and struggle together for an end to these attacks on working people in Canada, and to say:

We reject the government's racist baiting to continue the "war on terror" in Afghanistan and against immigrant workers in Canada.

We defend and demand the full rights of all workers, without question of status or conditions.

We demand the opening of all books in the cases of the Secret Trial Five and their immediate release.

We demand an end to Security Certificate legislation unconditionally and all so-called "anti-terror," anti-democratic, anti-immigrant, anti-worker legislation.

End the "war on terror" now.

Fidel is Gaining Strength & Health

Imperialists-Watching-with-Fear,—He's-Coming-Back-Again!



By Tamara Hansen

"Cuba is at a critical point in its history... The country is poised for change. The policy of the Bush administration has been to help the Cuban people achieve their freedom through democratic change."

- Carlos Gutierrez, US Secretary of Commerce, speaking to the Council of the Americas

In July 2006, after undergoing an emergency operation- Fidel Castro - Commander-in-Chief of Cuba, provisionally handed over his responsibilities to the first Vice President of Cuba, Raul Castro.

I happened to be in Cuba when the news was announced that Fidel had had emergency surgery. Do you know what happened the next day in the capital city of the Holguin province where we were staying? Nothing, everything was the same as it had been the day before. Except at the Communist Party of Cuba offices, where different officials were wearing their military uniforms, symbolizing that with or without Fidel they were prepared to defend their country and their revolution.

US Wishful Thinking

This is a tense time for Cuba as less than a month before Fidel fell ill the United States released its second report from the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba. Some of the objectives of the commission are to, "Bring an end to the ruthless and brutal dictatorship [in Cuba]" and, "Assist the Cuban people in a transition to representative democracy." This report set aside \$80Million to work towards its goals and also contains a secret section, sealed off from the public. But we must ask, if you are already stating publicly that one of your objectives is to, "bring to an end the ruthless and brutal dictatorship" then what could you possibly need to hide? Obviously Cubans have fairly legitimate reasons to feel apprehensive about the

US government and its commission's promises for "representative democracy" for Cuba as they have all seen quite clearly what is happening with US "democracy" in Iraq.

Don't Worry, Fidel is OK

The US government for some time was also trying to convince the world that Fidel had terminal cancer; but they haven't used that argument much since December 2006 when Dr. Jose Luis Garcia Sabrido, the head of surgery at the Gregorio Maranon hospital in Spain, who is seen as more 'objective' or reliable than a Cuban doctor by international bourgeois media said, "He is in good condition. Within the confines of doctor-patient privilege, I can say President Castro is not suffering from a malignant condition." He continued, "He does not have cancer... He has a problem with his digestive system."

The US government and media continue to try and paint Fidel



Jan. 30 released a new video of the leader that showed him looking as if he had gained strength and weight... Fidel had looked far more gaunt and pale during a video released by the government in late October."

Sign of Stability: Smooth Transition in Leadership

The important question on everybody's mind is always, what will happen in Cuba after Fidel? In many ways Fidel's sudden surgery seems to be a good solid indicator showing how smoothly the government

asking, but what about when Fidel ACTUALLY dies? Will Fidel's death really mean big changes and unrest? The US apparently thinks so, as they are preparing to use their Guantánamo Naval base in Cuba to house the fleeing Cubans they presume will run when Fidel dies. In fact the Department of Defense has reportedly planned to spend \$18Million, US tax payer dollars, to expand the Guantánamo Bay facility to house these Cubans as they are estimating up to 500,000 may seek asylum. From the Guardian

at the CIA, agrees and says Raul Castro has been acting more boldly than expected, encouraging debate among Cubans and calling on university students to "fearlessly" discuss the country's problems... There is little evidence of pro-democracy ferment in Cuba. The answer to whether that reflects fear or contentment on the island depends

on whom one asks. One visible indication of unrest is the single word that appears on occasional street signs: "Cambio"

But what does "Change" written on a street sign in Cuba really symbolize? Isn't the whole point of the Cuban revolution to make change? To stop systemic racism, sexism and homophobia; to provide jobs, healthcare and education to everyone in Cuba; and to stand up in the face of the US' "war on terror" and say, no thank-you we do not need your "democracy" (we already lived

as being on the verge of death, including an article by Reuters on January 17th 2007, which said, "a report in Spain's El Pais newspaper yesterday [said] that Castro was in serious condition after operations to his large intestine for diverticulitis, or an inflamed bulge in the intestine, complicated by infection. Castro's prognosis is "very serious" and he is being fed intravenously, the paper said, citing two medical sources at Madrid's Gregorio Maranon hospital, where Garcia Sabrido is head of surgery."

This report and these "sources" where slammed a few days later when Fidel appeared on Cuban TV again with Hugo Chavez. Not even the Associated Press could deny that Fidel looked noticeably stronger and healthier. They said, "The communist government

of Cuba can function in the absence of Fidel. It also shows that there is no real "pro-democracy" movement (looking to overthrow the revolution and embrace US capitalism) as the US has been claiming. When Fidel first had surgery many people were wondering if a civil war would break out in Cuba, with people rising up against the government as mainstream capitalist media propagated. Many of the same mainstream news stations were attempting to paint Cuba as a politically unstable country. But to their disappointment, as we have seen, Cuba has continued down its strong path towards a brighter future for humanity without Fidel directly in charge.

"The regime of Fidel Castro is not viable without Fidel Castro... A transition to democracy in Cuba is inevitable, but Fidel Castro needs to die for the future of Cuba to begin."

- Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart, a Cuban-born Florida Republican

Today the media is



UK in February 2007, "As U.S. officials see it, the seismic political event for Cuba has yet to come. "We don't feel that we've lost an important moment, because quite frankly, we don't see any significant possibility of change of any kind until Fidel is gone." Tom Shannon, the top State Department aide for Latin America, says."

An interesting analysis a friend of mine gave on this was - imagine - hundreds of thousands of Cubans have clandestinely hid boats and rubber dingy's in their backyards and are turning on their radio every morning asking, "is he dead yet?" Waiting for their chance to go to Guantánamo Naval base. Somehow this seems unrealistic and ridiculous.

From the Associated Press on February 17th 2007, "Brian Latell, a former top Cuba analyst

through that in the 1950's with the dictator you supported in our country, Batista).

These sentiments were echoed by his niece Mariela Castro Espin, who heads the national centre for Sex Education CENESEX, who said, "Fidel is stupendous... I imagine him returning and not returning, because one way or the other he is going to be present and very active."

We are happy to hear of this slow but visible recovery by Fidel, we wish him a speedy recovery but know that with or without Fidel the Cuban revolution will continue because it is the will of people in Cuba. Here in Vancouver, BC and across Canada we will fight along side the Cuban people and continue to defend them against US-sponsored attacks and to defend the gains of their revolution.



HOMES NOT GAMES

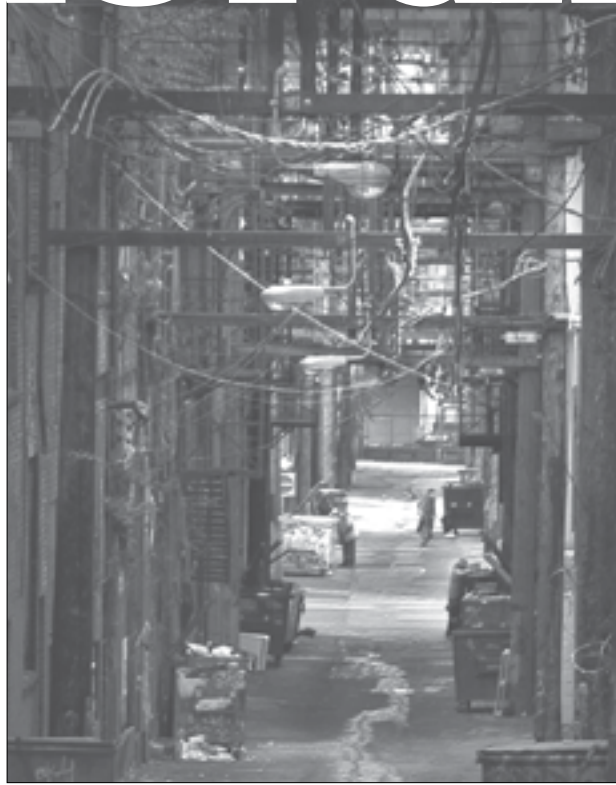
By Nita Palmer

In her BC Provincial budget speech on February 21st Finance Minister Carole Taylor declared that "Budget 2007 is a major step towards ensuring that every British Columbian has access to a safe, appropriate and affordable place to call home." According to Taylor, the new budget champions the growing homelessness crisis in BC by putting \$27Million into emergency shelter beds; adding \$6Million to transition houses for women and children fleeing violence at home; and raising the shelter allowance rate for those on income assistance from \$325/month to \$375/month.

What Taylor didn't mention was that this money will go nowhere in solving the fact that homelessness in BC has doubled since the BC Liberal government came to power in 2001. She didn't mention that between June 2005 and June 2006, only 82 units of social housing were built, while nearly 400 were lost in Vancouver alone (Pivot Legal Society, Sept. 2006, <http://www.pivotlegal.org>). Also not

Committee (VANOC) official, shouting into the microphone and chanting "Homes not Games!"

While the method of the protesters might not be seen by many working people as the most effective in building a movement against the crisis of homelessness and poverty in BC, the demands the protesters raise are vitally important, absolutely legitimate and must be fully supported. The coming Olympics have brought with them a campaign of "gentrification" of Vancouver's poorer neighbourhoods, particularly the DTES. This "gentrification" involves many single-resident occupancies (SROs) being redeveloped, having the rent increased, or simply being closed and torn down to make way for new buildings. At the same time, the DTES is marketed as the new "hip and affordable" place to live. As more people with more money move in to the newly "gentrified" neighbourhood of the DTES, low-income residents and families are pushed out of their homes.



or in shelters in the Vancouver area. However, outreach workers estimate the actual number to be four to five times higher, and showing no signs of slowing down. Pivot Legal Society in Vancouver estimates that the number of homeless people living on the street will be 3,177 by 2010, although the actual

number will undoubtedly be much higher.

For poor and working people, for Vancouver's homeless population, and for the 125,000 people in Vancouver who are at risk of homelessness, this is a daily crisis of human misery and stolen dignity. For the ruling class of Canada, the government

of BC, and conservative NPA run Vancouver City Council, this is the crisis of the true face of capitalism hiding itself no longer. As 2010 looms closer, they are desperately scrambling to hide the festering open wound that threatens to rip off the mask of the "advanced society" and expose Canada's capitalist system for what it is. This is why now they are suddenly throwing in a few dollars to create short-term beds in shelters. But the international economy is entering a free-fall, and the wound of homelessness and poverty is no longer one that can be covered with a band-aid solution. Even if the municipal and provincial governments live up to their promises of creating more beds in shelters, this will not solve the human crisis that they have created.

Social Housing - A Step in the Fight for a Better World

It has been a century now since the appearance of imperialism, the next stage of the decaying development of capitalism, that lords of capital can no longer effectively hide their own crisis,

mentioned is the fact that the 2007 BC Budget does not include a single penny for permanent social housing, instead funding only emergency shelters. As the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver approach, the BC government is getting more and more desperate to cover-up the crisis of human suffering that their system has created.

Homes Not Games! Vancouver Activists Protest

With the increase in the crisis of homelessness, and an increase in the hype promoting Vancouver as a major tourist destination for the 2010 Olympics, protest against the homelessness crisis have come as well. On February 12th about 100 Vancouver activists and Downtown Eastside (DTES) residents protested the unveiling of Vancouver's new "countdown to 2010" Olympic clock, demanding "Homes Not Games!" and calling attention to the growing homelessness crisis which is especially prominent in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Protesters shouted at speakers and rushed onto stage, grabbing the microphone from a Vancouver Olympic

Capitalism's Crisis of Human Suffering


"Since we got to Vancouver, all six of us have been staying in a bachelor apartment. Social Services came and said that the place was unfit for the children, and ordered us to leave. They told us to find a shelter by ourselves, and to phone the welfare system if we cannot find one."

— affidavit from Pivot Legal Society's "Cracks in the Foundation" report on homelessness.

The 2005 Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) Homelessness Count found 2,174 people living on the streets



"Homes Not Games" demonstration on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Cracks in the Foundation: Solving the Housing Crisis in Canada's Poorest Neighbourhood

Published September 2006.

If no new low-cost housing is built and the current stock of low cost housing continues to close and deteriorate at its present rate, visitors to Vancouver in 2010 will see nearly three times as many homeless people living on the streets of Vancouver as they see today, according to findings in Pivot Legal Society's housing report, Cracks in the Foundation...

Copies of the Report are available for \$20 ea.

For ordering information call:
604 255 9700
or
Visit:
www.pivotlegal.org

Our office hours are
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PST Monday to Friday.

Pivot Legal Society
678 East Hastings St
Vancouver B.C.
V6A 1R1



never mind to solve it. The only force which can confront this crisis is a mobilization of poor, working, and oppressed people against this system which places the wealth and property in the hands of a few. It is not only possible for us to build this movement, it is necessary and must be done. We must make the fight against homelessness an issue for poor and working people to unite around. We must not accept the few dollars that are thrown into creating emergency shelter beds or a few units of social housing tacked on to sparkling new condominiums as a solution. No lover of humanity or decent human being can accept this removal of human dignity. A first step in the struggle against homelessness and poverty is the fight for social housing – but ultimately, we must fight against the system of capitalism that destroys basic human rights. Then we must fight for a world based on human rights, with the masses of people capable of ending to this human misery, because this crisis cannot be confronted any other way.

Vancouver Women's Memorial March Draws Hundreds

By Janine Solanki

Vancouver - On February 14th, over 500 people - friends and families, women and men, young people and elders - gave flowers, respect and dignity to the 72 missing and dead women of the Downtown Eastside (DTES).

The Women's Memorial March started off at the Carnegie Community Center,



Women's memorial march Feb 14, 2007.

where family members and friends of victims spoke to the crowded hall about their daughters, sisters, nieces and friends, promising that we will not forget them as the police and the government of Canada have. They spoke of women in Vancouver's

corrected when she outlined how there was only 26 detox beds available to help women in the DTES. Now there are only 6.

After forming a full circle in the intersection of Main and Hastings for an opening ceremony, elders from the Indigenous community led the solemn march down Hastings and through Gastown, stopping along the way as the elders honoured the sites where women had been killed with a rose, an offering of tobacco, prayers and a cleansing ceremony for healing. More speakers addressed the crowd when they arrived at the Vancouver Police Department, exposing the corruption of the police who ignore and fail to investigate missing

DTES, women on the Highway of Tears (Highway 16) in Northern BC, and the women whose remains were found on the farm of Robert Pickton, who now stands trial in the murders of several missing women. All these women faced beatings, rape and murder due to the inequality imposed on them as women in Canada. This is compounded by hundreds of years of continued colonial policies against Indigenous women, who make up the majority of the victims of violence. Canada's institutionalized racism was outlined by prominent women from the Indigenous community, such as Mary Uslick (Shuswap/Sto:lo) and Kelly White (Squamish First Nation), along with Phil Fontaine (national chief of the Assembly of First Nations). Lillian George, president of the United Native Nations, pointed out the city of Vancouver's priorities, noting that they "...can raise \$8 million to save the trees in Stanley Park yet do nothing to raise the level of poverty that people are facing on the Downtown Eastside..." Another speaker, a friend of a victim and former drug addict and prostitute was

women's cases. After a healing circle at Oppenheimer Park, the march finished with many gathering together for a feast at the Japanese Language Center.

This march served to remember these missing and murdered women. But we have to prove that we don't forget them and go beyond recognizing the tragedy of the life and death they were subjected to. We must take action against the Government of Canada's recent \$11 million cuts to childcare in BC and the \$5 million to Status of Women Canada! We must demand funding for affordable housing, detox centers, childcare facilities and healthcare, and not war and occupation in Afghanistan where Canada is also trampling on women's rights. We must fight against police brutality and neglect, and for missing women's cases to be investigated seriously, with the books opened to the public with all findings! We must remember the women who are gone by ensuring that those still on the streets are safe and can claim their dignity.



Women's memorial march Feb 14, 2007.

In Memory of Harriet Nahanee Lifelong Warrior for Justice & Freedom

Harriet Nahanee was an elder of the Pacheedaht Nation, a hereditary chieftan of the Squamish Nation and a life-long fighter for Indigenous rights.

On February 24th, Harriet died from pneumonia which was complicated by previously undiagnosed lung cancer at the age of 71. A month before, on January 24th, Harriet was sentenced to 14 days in the Surrey Pretrial Centre for her part in protesting the development of Eagleridge Bluffs despite her poor health.

Harriet's cruel experience in one of Canada's residential schools and her fight for justice for those who survived through them; her work for the over 500 missing women in Canada, and defending the land for the future generations are an inspiration.

She is someone who will be missed, but she has left us with her wisdom and courage, and she leaves a strong legacy for those to continue her fight.

In 1995, these words spoken by Harriet were recorded.

In Her Own Words



On colonization:

We're in an awful state.

I'm not talking about just where I live-- I'm talking about all across the country. We live in dictatorships run by federal government band-elected Band Chiefs, [and] Councillors.

We survived for 50,000 years under a chief who looked after all his people, or her people, depending on where



you lived. Everything was considered: environment, the people, everything. They had a beautiful system and it was a good life until Europeans came.

Their idea was to civilize us and make us Christians, actually it was a process to take us away from the land.

They took children at five years of age away from their families, housed them in huge Residential Schools--impersonal places--they taught us a little ABC, just a little of that, but they trained us for servitude, this was to serve the white people.

They took our culture, our culture is our spine. We survived for 50,000 years with our methods.

Our ancestors were conservationists.

On de-colonization:

What I would like to see is people with [traditional] knowledge to teach the small, little people how to grow up with pride. This generation is lost. My generation is lost--they're assimilated.

They don't think like an Indian. What I'd like to see is our five-year-olds being taught their language, their songs, their games, their spirituality, their Indian, eh, their Indian-ness.

I'd like to ask all the people out there to reclaim their culture--practice it, teach the children, and let's reclaim our backbone, our culture and put some pride in our children.

What we need is [an] Aboriginal Malcolm X to put some pride back into these lost souls.



To mark Black History Month, in this issue of *Fire This Time*, we honor the revolutionary leaders that have fought for black rights, an end to racial discrimination, and for all oppressed people internationally. We have chosen excerpts from the speeches of four black leaders who left behind their revolutionary spirit for the struggle for a better world. Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr, Thomas Sankara and Maurice Bishop, all four made the most valuable sacrifice for humanity - their lives.

- *Fire This Time*

THREE SPEECHES BY MALCOLM X

Malcolm X, Speech 9th November, 1963

Look at the American Revolution in 1776. That revolution was for what? For land. Why did they want land? Independence. How was it carried out? Bloodshed. Number one, it was based on land, the basis of independence. And the only way they could get it was bloodshed. The French Revolution - what was it based on? The landless against the landlord. What was it for? Land. How did they get it? Bloodshed. Was no love lost, was no compromise, was no negotiation. I'm telling you - you don't know what a revolution is. Because when you find out what it is, you'll get back in the alley, you'll get out of the way.

The Russian Revolution - what was it based on? Land; the landless against the landlord. How did they bring it about? Bloodshed. You haven't got a revolution that doesn't involve bloodshed. And you're afraid to bleed. I said, you're afraid to bleed.

As long as the white man sent you to Korea, you bled. He sent you to Germany, you bled. He sent you to the South Pacific to fight the Japanese, you bled. You bleed for white people, but when it comes to seeing your own churches being bombed and little black girls murdered, you haven't got any blood. You bleed when the white

man says bleed; you bite when the white man says bite; and you bark when the white man says bark. I hate to say this about us, but it's true. How are you going to be nonviolent in Mississippi, as violent as you were in Korea? How can you justify being nonviolent in Mississippi and Alabama, when your churches are being bombed, and your little girls are being murdered, and at the same time you are going to get violent with Hitler, and Tojo, and somebody else you don't even know?

If violence is wrong in America, violence is wrong abroad. If it is wrong to be violent defending black women and black children and black babies and black men, then it is wrong for America to draft us and make us violent abroad in defense of her. And if it is right for America to draft us, and teach us how to be violent in defense of her, then it is right for you and me to do whatever is necessary to defend our own people right here in this country.

So I cite these various revolutions, brothers and sisters, to show you that you don't have a peaceful revolution. You don't have a turn-the-other-cheek revolution. There's no such thing as a nonviolent revolution. The only kind of revolution that is nonviolent is the Negro revolution. The only revolution in which the goal is loving your enemy is the Negro revolution. It's the only revolution in which the goal is a desegregated lunch counter, a desegregated theater, a desegregated park, and a desegregated public toilet; you can sit down next to white folks - on the toilet. That's no revolution. Revolution is based on land. Land is the basis of all independence. Land is the basis of freedom, justice, and equality.

Malcolm X, Speech 3rd April, 1964 in Cleveland, Ohio, USA

When we begin to get in this area, we need new friends, we need new



allies. We need to expand the civil-rights struggle to a higher level—to the level of human rights. Whenever you are in a civil-rights struggle, whether you know it or not, you are confining yourself to the jurisdiction of Uncle Sam. No one from the outside world can speak out in your behalf as long as your struggle is a civil-rights struggle. Civil rights comes within the domestic affairs of this country. All of our African brothers and our Asian brothers and our Latin-American brothers cannot open their mouths and interfere in

the domestic affairs of the United States. And as long as it's civil rights, this comes under the jurisdiction of Uncle Sam.

But the United Nations has what's known as the charter of human rights, it has a committee that deals in human rights. You may wonder why all of the atrocities that have been committed in Africa and in Hungary and in Asia and in Latin America are brought before the UN, and the Negro problem is never brought before the UN. This is part of the conspiracy. This old, tricky, blue eyed liberal who is supposed to be your and my friend, supposed to be in our corner, supposed to be subsidizing our struggle, and supposed to be acting in the capacity of an adviser, never tells you anything about human rights. They keep you wrapped up in civil rights. And you spend so much time barking up the civil-rights tree, you don't even know there's a human-rights tree on the same floor.

When you expand the civil-rights struggle to the level of human rights, you can then take the case of the black man in this country before the nations in the UN. You can take it before the General Assembly. You can take Uncle Sam before a world court. But the only level you can do it on is the level of human rights. Civil rights keeps you under his restrictions, under his jurisdiction. Civil rights keeps you in his pocket. Civil rights means you're

asking Uncle Sam to treat you right. Human rights are some thing you were born with. Human rights are your God given rights. Human rights are the rights that are recognized by

all nations of this earth. And any time any one violates your human rights, you can take them to the world court. Uncle Sam's hands are dripping with blood, dripping with the blood of the black man in this country. He's the earth's number-one hypocrite.

He has the audacity—yes, he has—imagine him posing as the leader of the free world. The free world! And you over here singing We Shall Overcome. Expand the civil-rights struggle to the level of human rights, take it into the United Nations, where

our African brothers can throw their weight on our side, where our Asian brothers can throw their weight on our side, where our Latin-American brothers can throw their weight on our side, and where 800 million Chinamen are sitting there waiting to throw their weight on our side.

Let the world know how bloody his hands are. Let the world know the hypocrisy that's practiced over here. Let it be the ballot or the bullet. Let him know that it must be the ballot or the bullet.

When you take your case to Washington, D.C., you're taking it to the criminal who's responsible; it's like running from the wolf to the fox. They're all in cahoots together. They all work political chicanery and make you look like a chump before the eyes of the world. Here you are walking around in America, getting ready to be drafted and sent abroad, like a tin soldier, and when you get over there, people ask you what are you fighting for, and you

have to stick your tongue in your cheek. No, take Uncle Sam to court, take him before the world.

Speech by Malcolm X at the London School of Economics, Feb. 11, 1965

It is only being a Muslim which keeps me from seeing people by the color of their skin. This religion teaches brotherhood, but I have to be a realist—I live in America, a society which does not believe

Brute force is used by white racists to suppress nonwhites. It is a racist society ruled by segregationists....

[W]here the government fails to protect the Negro he is entitled to do it himself. He is within his rights. I have found the only white elements who do not want this advice given to undefensive Blacks are the racist liberals. They use the press to project us in the image of violence.

There is an element of whites who are nothing but cold, animalistic racists. That element is the one that controls or has strong influence in the power structure. It uses the press skillfully to feed statistics to the public to make it appear that the rate of crime in the Black community, or community of nonwhite people, is at such a high level. It gives the impression or the image that everyone in that community is criminal.

And as soon as the public accepts the

fact that the dark-skinned community consists largely of criminals or people who are dirty, then it makes it possible for the power structure to set up a police-state system. Which will make it permissible in the minds of even the well-meaning white public for them to come in and use all kinds of police methods to brutally suppress the struggle on the part of these people against segregation, discrimination, and other acts that are unleashed against them that are absolutely unjust.

They use the press to set up this police state, and they use the press to make the white public accept whatever they do to the dark-skinned public... They have all kinds of negative characteristics that they project to make the white public draw back, or to make the white public be apathetic when police-state-like methods are used in these areas to suppress the people's honest and just struggle against discrimination and other forms of segregation.

A good example of how they do it in New York: Last summer, when the Blacks were rioting—the riots, actually they weren't riots in the first place; they were reactions against police brutality. And when the Afro-Americans reacted against the brutal measures that were executed against them by the police, the press all over the world projected them as rioters. When the store windows were broken in the Black community, immediately it was made to appear that this was being done not by people who were reacting over civil rights violations, but they gave the impression that these were hoodlums, vagrants, criminals....

But this is wrong. In America the Black community in which we live is not owned by us. The landlord is white. The merchant is white. In fact, the entire economy of the Black community in the States is controlled by someone who doesn't even live there. The property that we live in is owned by someone else. The store that we trade with is operated by someone else. And these are the people who suck the economic blood of our community.

And being in a position to suck the economic blood of our community, they control the radio programs that cater to us, they control the newspapers, the advertising, that cater to us. They control our minds. They end up controlling our civic organizations. They end

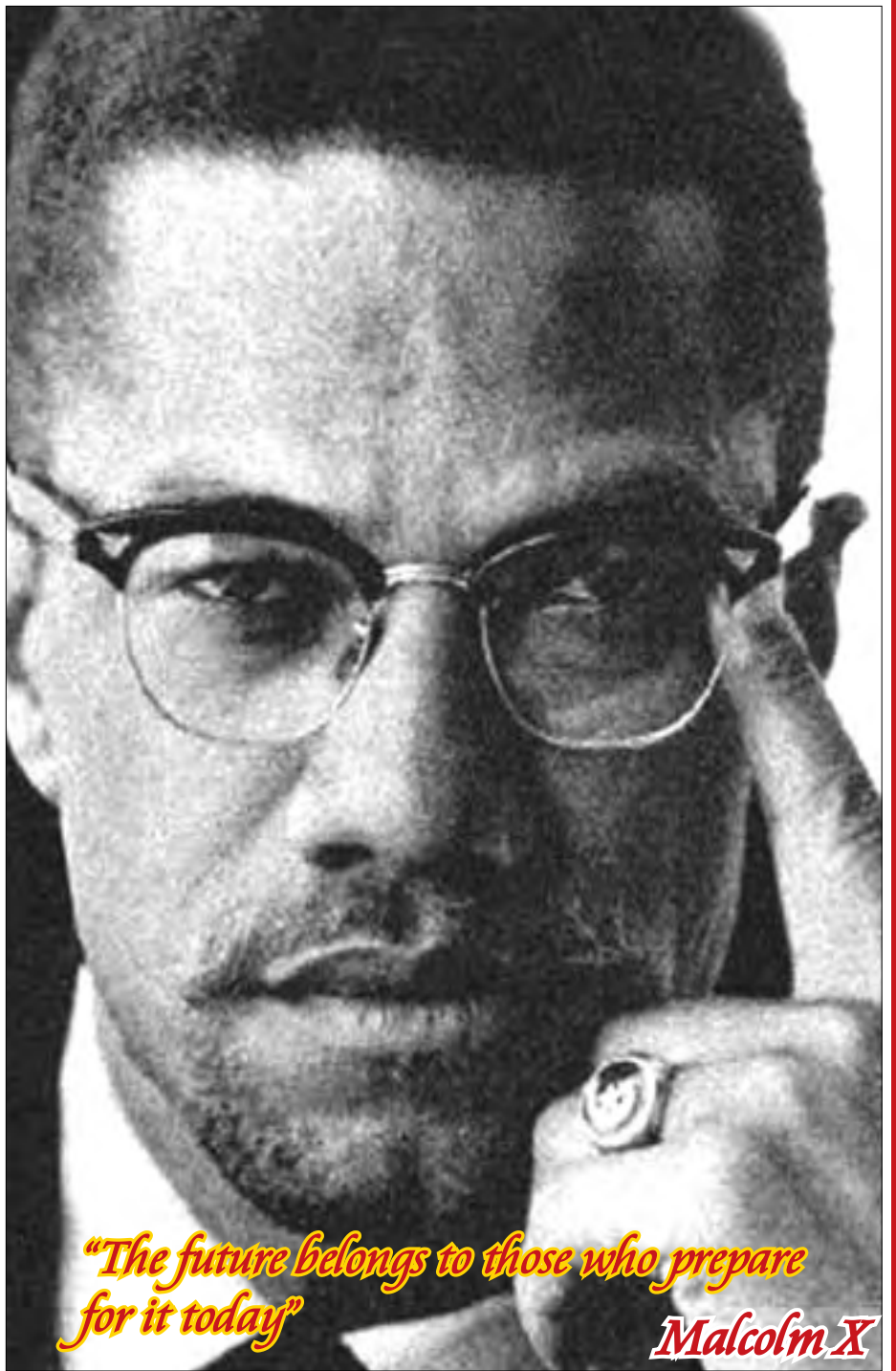
up controlling us economically, politically, socially, mentally, and every other kind of way. They suck our blood like vultures.

And when you see the Blacks react, since the people who do this aren't there, they react against their property. The property is the only thing that's there. And they destroy it. And you get the impression over here that because they are destroying the property where they live, that they are destroying their own property. No. They can't get to the man, so they get at what he owns. [Laughter] This doesn't say it's intelligent. But whoever heard of a sociological explosion that was done intelligently and politely? And this is what you're trying to make the Black man do. You're trying to drive him into a ghetto and make him the victim of every kind of unjust condition imaginable. Then when he explodes, you want him to explode politely! [Laughter] You want him to explode according to somebody's ground rules. Why, you're dealing with the wrong man, and you're dealing with him at the wrong time in the wrong way.





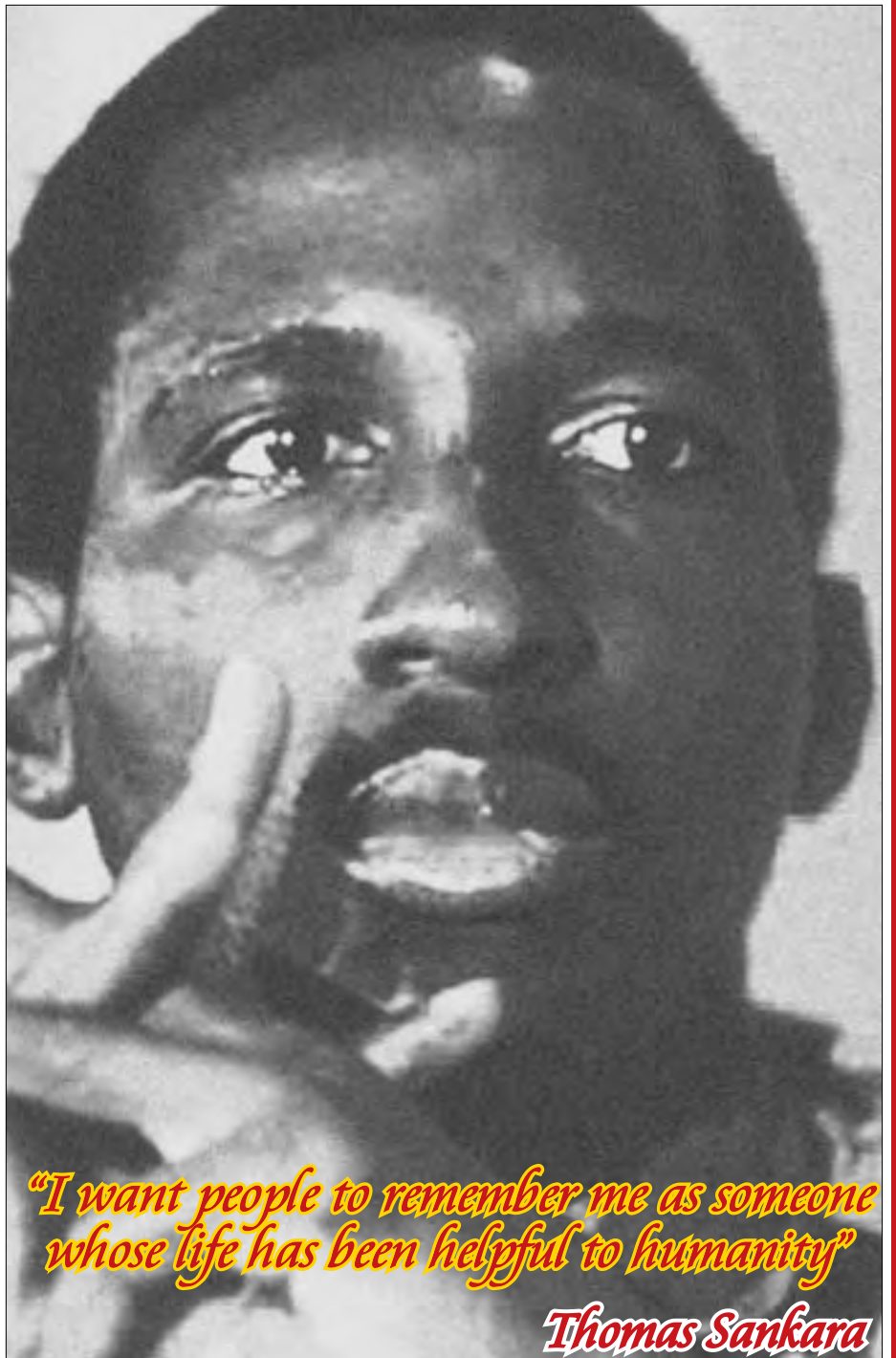
"Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle"
Martin Luther King Jr.



"The future belongs to those who prepare for it today"
Malcolm X



"Forward ever backward never"
Maurice Bishop



"I want people to remember me as someone whose life has been helpful to humanity"
Thomas Sankara

Speech by Martin Luther King Jr. 1967

Excerpt of speech delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King on April 4th 1967, precisely one year before Dr. King's assassination on April 4th 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. In this important speech Dr. King portrays the latest development of his political vision and gives a comprehensive analysis of US imperialist war drive in Indochina, specifically in Vietnam. Dr. King also connects the war the imperialist ruling class were conducting in Vietnam to the war against Afro-American and other oppressed people in the United States, like the restriction of democratic rights, poverty, and racism.

I come to this magnificent house of worship tonight because my conscience leaves me no other choice. I join with you in this meeting because I am in deepest agreement with the aims and work of the organization which has brought us together: Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam. The recent statements of your executive committee are the sentiments of my own heart and I found myself in full accord when I read its opening lines: "A time comes when silence is betrayal." That time has come for us in relation to Vietnam.

The truth of these words is beyond doubt but the mission to which they call us is a most difficult one. Even when pressed by the demands of inner truth, men do not easily assume the task of opposing their government's policy, especially in time of war. Nor does the human spirit move without great diffi-

is often a vocation of agony, but we must speak. We must speak with all the humility that is appropriate to our limited vision, but we must speak. And we must rejoice as well, for surely this is the first time in our nation's history that a significant number of its religious leaders have chosen to move beyond the prophesying of smooth patriotism to the high grounds of a firm dissent based upon the mandates of conscience and the reading of history. Perhaps a new spirit is rising among us. If it is, let us trace its movement well and pray that our own inner being may be sensitive to its guidance, for we are deeply in need of a new way beyond the darkness that seems so close around us.

Over the past two years, as I have moved to break the betrayal of my own silences and to speak from the burnings of my own heart, as I have called for radical departures from the destruction of Vietnam, many persons have questioned me about the wisdom of my path. At the heart of their concerns this query has often loomed large and loud: Why are you speaking about war, Dr. King? Why are you joining the voices of dissent? Peace and civil rights don't mix, they say. Aren't you hurting the cause of your people, they ask? And when I hear them, though I often understand the source of their concern, I am nevertheless greatly saddened, for such questions mean that the inquirers have not really known me, my commitment or my calling.

relative to the rest of the population. We were taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in southwest Georgia and East Harlem. So we have been repeatedly faced with the cruel irony of watching Negro and white boys on TV screens as they kill and die together for a nation that has been unable to seat them together in the same schools. So we watch them in brutal solidarity burning the huts of a poor village, but we realize that they would never live on the same block in Detroit. I could not be silent in the face of such cruel manipulation of the poor.

My third reason moves to an even deeper level of awareness, for it grows out of my experience in the ghettos of the North over the last three years -- especially the last three summers. As I have walked among the desperate, rejected and angry young men I have told them that Molotov cocktails and rifles would not solve their problems. I have tried to offer them my deepest compassion while maintaining my conviction that social change comes most meaningfully through nonviolent action. But they asked -- and rightly so -- what about Vietnam? They asked if our own nation wasn't using massive doses of violence to solve its problems, to bring about the changes it wanted. Their questions hit home, and I knew that I could never

me beyond national allegiances, but even if it were not present I would yet have to live with the meaning of my commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ. To me the relationship of this ministry to the making of peace is so obvious that I sometimes marvel at those who ask me why I am speaking against the war. Could it be that they do not know that the good news was meant for all men -- for Communist and capitalist, for their children and ours, for black and for white, for revolutionary and conservative? Have they forgotten that my ministry is in obedience to the one who loved his enemies so fully that he died for them? What then can I say to the "Vietcong" or to Castro or to Mao as a faithful minister of this one? Can I threaten them with death or must I not share with them my life?

Finally, as I try to delineate for you and for myself the road that leads from Montgomery to this place I would have offered all that was most valid if I simply said that I must be true to my conviction that I share with all men the call-

reconquest of her former colony.

Our government felt then that the Vietnamese people were not "ready" for independence, and we again fell victim to the deadly Western arrogance that has poisoned the international atmosphere for so long. With that tragic decision we rejected a revolutionary government seeking self-determination, and a government that had been established not by China (for whom the Vietnamese have no great love) but by clearly indigenous forces that included some Communists. For the peasants this new government meant real land reform, one of the most important needs in their lives.

For nine years following 1945 we denied the people of Vietnam the right of independence. For nine years we vigorously supported the French in

Before the end of the war we were meet their abortive effort to recolonize Vietnam.

A Time to Break the Silence

culty against all the apathy of conformist thought within one's own bosom and in the surrounding world. Moreover when the issues at hand seem as perplexed as they often do in the case of this dreadful conflict we are always on the verge of being mesmerized by uncertainty; but we must move on.

Some of us who have already begun to break the silence of the night have found that the calling to speak

Indeed, their questions suggest that they do not know the world in which they live.

The Importance of Vietnam

Since I am a preacher by trade, I suppose it is not surprising that I have seven major reasons for bringing Vietnam into the field of my moral vision. There is at the outset a very obvious and almost facile connection between the war in Vietnam and the struggle I, and others, have been waging in America. A few years ago there was a shining moment in that struggle. It seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poor -- both black and white -- through the poverty program. There were experiments, hopes, new beginnings. Then came the buildup in Vietnam and I watched the program broken and eviscerated as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad on war, and I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic destructive suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.

Perhaps the more tragic recognition of reality took place when it became clear to me that the war was doing far more than devastating the hopes of the poor at home. It was sending their sons and their brothers and their husbands to fight and to die in extraordinarily high proportions

again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today -- my own government. For the sake of those boys, for the sake of this government, for the sake of hundreds of thousands trembling under our violence, I cannot be silent. For those who ask the question, "Aren't you a civil rights leader?" and thereby mean to exclude me from the movement for peace, I have this further answer. In 1957 when a group of us formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, we chose as our motto: "To save the soul of America." We were convinced that we could not limit our vision to certain rights for black people, but instead affirmed the conviction that America would never be free or saved from itself unless the descendants of its slaves were loosed completely from the shackles they still wear. Now, it should be incandescently clear that no one who has any concern for the integrity and life of America today can ignore the present war. If America's soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read Vietnam. It can never be saved so long as it destroys the deepest hopes of men the world over. So it is that those of us who are yet determined that America will be led down the path of protest and dissent, working for the health of our land.

As if the weight of such a commitment to the life and health of America were not enough, another burden of responsibility was placed upon me in 1964; and I cannot forget that the Nobel Prize for Peace was also a commission -- a commission to work harder than I had ever worked before for "the brotherhood of man." This is a calling that takes

ing to be a son of the living God. Beyond the calling of race or nation or creed is this vocation of sons hip and brotherhood, and because I believe that the Father is deeply concerned especially for his suffering and helpless and outcast children, I come tonight to speak for them. This I believe to be the privilege and the burden of all of us who deem ourselves bound by allegiances and loyalties which are broader and deeper than nationalism and which go beyond our nation's self-defined goals and positions. We are called to speak for the weak, for the voiceless, for victims of our nation and for those it calls enemy, for no document from human hands can make these humans any less our brothers.

Strange Liberators

And as I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond to compassion my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them too because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries.

They must see Americans as strange liberators. The Vietnamese people proclaimed their own independence in 1945 after a combined French and Japanese occupation, and before the Communist revolution in China. They were led by Ho Chi Minh. Even though they quoted the American Declaration of Independence in their own document of freedom, we refused to recognize them. Instead, we decided to support France in its

ng eighty percent of the French war costs. Even before the French were defeated at Dien Bien Phu, they began to despair of the reckless action, but we did not. We encouraged them with our huge financial and military supplies to continue the war even after they had lost the will. Soon we would be paying almost the full costs of this tragic attempt at recolonization.

The only change came from America as we increased our troop commitments in support of governments which were singularly corrupt, inept and without popular support. All the while the people read our leaflets and received regular promises of peace and democracy -- and land reform. Now they languish under our bombs and consider us -- not their fellow Vietnamese -- the real enemy. They move sadly and apathetically as we herd them off the land of their fathers into concentration camps where minimal social needs are rarely met. They know they must move or be destroyed by our bombs. So they go -- primarily women and children and the aged.

They watch as we poison their water, as we kill a million acres of their crops. They must weep as the bulldozers roar through their areas preparing to destroy the precious trees. They wander into the hospitals, with at least twenty casualties from American firepower for one "Vietcong"-inflicted injury. So far we may have killed a million of them -- mostly children. They wander into the towns and see thousands of the children, homeless, without clothes, running in packs on the streets like animals. They see the children, degraded by our soldiers as they beg for food. They see the children



Marking the anniversary of King's assassination, 1987.

selling their sisters to our soldiers, soliciting for their mothers.

What do the peasants think as we ally ourselves with the landlords and as we refuse to put any action into our many words concerning land reform? What do they think as we test our latest weapons on them, just as the Germans tested out new medicine and new tortures in the concentration camps of Europe? Where are the roots of the independent Vietnam we claim to be building? Is it among these voiceless ones?

We have destroyed their two most cherished institutions: the family and the village. We have destroyed their land and their crops. We have cooperated in the crushing of the nation's only non-Communist revolutionary political force -- the unified Buddhist church. We have supported the enemies of the peasants of Saigon. We have corrupted their women and children and killed their men. What liberators?

Now there is little left to build on -- save bitterness. Soon the only solid physical foundations remaining will be found at our military bases and in the concrete of the concentration camps we call fortified hamlets. The peasants may well wonder if we plan to build our new Vietnam on such grounds as these? Could we blame them for such thoughts? We must speak for them and raise the questions they cannot raise. These too are our brothers.

Perhaps the more difficult but no less necessary task is to speak for those who have been designated as our enemies. What of the National Liberation Front -- that strangely anonymous group we call VC or Communists? What must they think of us in America when they realize that we permitted the repression and cruelty of Diem which helped to bring them into being as a resistance group in the south? What do they think of our condoning the violence which led to their own taking up of arms? How can they believe in our integrity when now we speak of "aggression from the north" as if there were nothing more essential to the war? How can they trust us when now we charge them with violence after the murderous reign of Diem and charge them with violence while we pour every new weapon of death into their land? Surely we must understand their feelings even if we

do not condone their actions. Surely we must see that the men we supported pressed them to their violence. Surely we must see that our own computerized plans of destruction simply dwarf their greatest acts.

How do they judge us when our officials know that their membership is less than twenty-five percent Communist and yet insist on giving them the blanket name? What must they be thinking when they know that we are aware of their control of major sections of Vietnam and yet we appear ready to allow national elections in which this highly organized political parallel government will have no part? They ask how we can speak of free elections when the Saigon press is censored and controlled by the military junta. And they are surely right to wonder what kind of new government we plan to help form without them -- the only party in real touch with the peasants. They question our political goals and they deny the reality of a peace settlement from which they will be excluded. Their questions are frighteningly relevant. Is our nation planning to build on political myth again and then shore it up with the power of new violence?

Here is the true meaning and value of compassion and nonviolence when it helps us to see the enemy's point of view, to hear his questions, to know his assessment of ourselves. For from his view we may indeed see the basic weaknesses of our own condition, and if we are mature, we may learn and grow and profit from the wisdom of

the brothers who are called the opposition.

So, too, with Hanoi. In the north, where our bombs now pummel the land, and our mines endanger the waterways, we are met by a deep but understandable mistrust. To speak for them is to explain this lack of confidence in Western words, and especially their distrust of American intentions now. In Hanoi are the men who led the nation to independence against the Japanese and the French, the men who sought membership in the French commonwealth and were betrayed by the weakness of Paris and the willfulness of the colonial armies. It was they who led a second struggle against French domination at tremendous costs, and then were persuaded to give up the land they controlled between the thirteenth and seventeenth parallel as a temporary measure at Geneva. After 1954 they watched us conspire with Diem to prevent elections which would have surely brought Ho Chi Minh to power over a united Vietnam, and they realized they had been betrayed again.

Hanoi remembers how our leaders refused to tell us the truth about the earlier North Vietnamese overtures for peace; how the president claimed that none existed when they had clearly been made. Ho Chi Minh has watched as America has spoken of peace and built up its forces, and now he has surely heard of the increasing international rumors of American plans for an invasion of the north. He knows the bombing and shelling and mining we are doing are part of traditional pre-invasion strategy. Perhaps only his sense of humor and of irony can save him when he hears the most powerful nation of the world speaking of aggression as it drops thousands of bombs on a poor weak nation more than eight thousand miles away from its shores.

At this point I should make it clear that while I have tried in these last few minutes to give a voice to the voiceless on Vietnam and to understand the arguments of those who are called enemy, I am as deeply concerned about our troops there as anything else. For it occurs to me that what we are submitting them to in Vietnam is not simply the brutalizing process that goes on in any war where armies face each other and seek to destroy. We are adding cynicism to the process of death, for they must know after a short period there that none of the things we

claim to be fighting for are really involved. Before long they must know that their government has sent them into a struggle among Vietnamese, and the more sophisticated surely realize that we are on the side of the wealthy and the secure while we create hell for the poor.

Protesting the War

Meanwhile we in the churches and synagogues have a continuing task while we urge our gov-



Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X

ernment to disengage itself from a disgraceful commitment. We must continue to raise our voices if our nation persists in its perverse ways in Vietnam. We must be prepared to match ac-

tions with words by seeking out every creative means of protest possible.

As we counsel young men concerning military service we must clarify for them our nation's role in Vietnam and challenge them with the alternative of conscientious objection. I am pleased to say that this is the path now being chosen by more than seventy students at my own alma mater, Morehouse College, and I recommend it to all who find the American course in Vietnam a dishonorable and unjust one. Moreover I would encourage all ministers of draft age to give up their ministerial exemptions and seek status as conscientious objectors. These are the times for real choices and not false ones. We are at the moment when our lives must be placed on the line if our nation is to survive its own folly. Every man of humane convictions must decide on the protest that best suits his convictions, but we must all protest.

There is something seductively tempting about stopping there and sending us all off on what in some circles has become a popular crusade against the war in Vietnam. I say we must enter the struggle, but I wish to go on now to say something even more disturbing. The war in Vietnam is but a symptom of a far deeper malady within the American spirit, and if we ignore this sobering reality we will find ourselves organizing clergy- and laymen-concerned committees for the next generation. They will be concerned about Guatemala and Peru. They will be concerned about Thailand and Cambodia. They will be concerned about Mozambique and South Africa. We will be marching for these and a dozen other names and attending rallies without end unless there is a significant and profound change in American life and policy. Such thoughts take us beyond Vietnam, but not beyond our calling as sons of the living God.

In 1957 a sensitive American official overseas said that it seemed to him that our nation was on the wrong side of a world revolution. During the past ten years we have seen emerge a pattern of suppression which now has justified the presence of U.S. military "advisors" in Venezuela. This need to maintain social stability for our investments accounts for the counter-revolutionary action of American forces in Guatemala. It tells why American helicopters are being used against guerrillas in Colombia and why American napalm and Green Beret forces have already been active against rebels in Peru.

Increasingly, by choice or by accident, this is the role our nation has taken -- the role of those who make peaceful revolution impossible by refusing to give up the privileges and the pleasures that come from the immense profits of overseas investment.

I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a "thing-oriented" society to a "person-oriented" society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.

A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth. With righteous indignation, it will look across the seas and see individual capitalists of the West investing huge sums of money in Asia, Africa and South America, only to take the profits out with no concern for the social betterment of the countries, and say: "This is not just." It will look at our alliance with the landed gentry of Latin America and say: "This is not just." The Western arrogance of feeling that it has everything to teach oth-

ers and nothing to learn from them is not just. A true revolution of values will lay hands on the world order and say of war: "This way of settling differences is not just." This business of burning human beings with napalm, of filling our nation's homes with orphans and widows, of injecting poisonous drugs of hate into veins of people normally humane, of sending men home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped and psychologically deranged, cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice and love. A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.

The People Are Important

These are revolutionary times. All over the globe men are revolting against old systems of exploitation and oppression and out of the wombs of a frail world new systems of justice and equality are being born. The shirtless and barefoot people of the land are rising up as never before. "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light." We in the West must support these revolutions. It is a sad fact



Demonstrators in Memphis at a memorial and rally for Martin Luther King, Jr., four days after his assassination, April 8, 1968.

that, because of comfort, complacency, a morbid fear of communism, and our proneness to adjust to injustice, the Western nations that initiated so much of the revolutionary spirit of the modern world have now become the arch anti-revolutionaries. This has driven many to feel that only Marxism has the revolutionary spirit. Therefore, communism is a judgment against our failure to make democracy real and follow through on the revolutions we initiated. Our only hope today lies in our ability to recapture the revolutionary spirit and go out into a sometimes hostile world declaring eternal hostility to poverty, racism, and militarism. With this powerful commitment we shall boldly challenge the status quo and unjust mores and thereby speed the day when "every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places plain."

A genuine revolution of values means in the final analysis that our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Every nation must now develop an overriding loyalty to mankind as a whole in order to preserve the best in their individual societies.

This call for a world-wide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all men. This oft misunderstood and misinterpreted concept -- so readily dismissed by the Nietzsche of the world as a weak and cowardly force -- has now become an absolute necessity for the survival of man. When I speak of love I am not speaking of some sentimental and weak response.

Let us hope that this spirit will become the order of the day. We can no longer afford to worship the god of hate or bow before the altar of retaliation. The oceans of history are made turbulent by the ever-rising tides of hate. History is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals that pursued this self-defeating path of hate. As Arnold Toynbee says: "Love is the ultimate force that makes for the saving choice of life and good against the damning choice

Speech by
Maurice Bishop
1982

The Grenada Revolution

Maurice Bishop was the central leader of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) and the anti-imperialist, revolutionary Prime Minister of Grenada, a small island of 100,000 people in the Caribbean. He was in office between March 1979 and October 1983. Under his leadership, and with revolutionary help from Cuba, Grenada went through substantial revolutionary change. This process improved the lives of Grenadians, created hope for the Latin American countries and served as an example of revolutionary change. This revolutionary process ended with his murder in a coup d'état by the corrupt and Stalinist leader of the revolutionary movement and member of Provisional Revolutionary Government in Grenada, Bernard Coard.

Excerpt from Address Given by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop at the International Airport Site to Commemorate Jeremiah Richardson Day, Sunday, April 18, 1982

International Airport Project

First of all comrades, today we are very, very happy to have with us in Grenada, by now I believe, about 60 journalists from Latin America and the Caribbean, attending the First Conference of Caribbean journalists, and I want you to give them a very loud and warm round of applause.

THE MILITARY BASE PROPAGANDA

We have among these journalists, comrades, the leaders of the International Organization of Journalists, of the Federation of Latin American Journalists, of the Presa Association of Jamaica, of the Cuban Union of Journalists, and also, at the same time, dozens of other journalists who may not as yet belong to any formal

journalists organization.

And these comrades, being here with us at this time, also help to remind us of the second main reason why today has such significance for us. This important gathering of our people is that it comes exactly 21 years after the people of Cuba would have been involved in defending their country, because all of us would remember that on April 16, 1961, 21 years ago, mercenaries and counter-revolutionaries assisted by United States imperialism landed on Cuban soil, with the intention of trying to roll back and destroy the Cuban revolutionary process. And instead, as we know, what happened to them on that day is that, 21 years ago, the Cuban people, under the leadership of Fidel Castro, inflicted a sound licking on United States imperialism, and today we certainly want once again to recall that fact.

US AMUSEMENT AT AIRPORT'S PRO[SPECT]

The reaction of the US government, right from the beginning was one of amusement. It was obvious that they felt that this project could never get off the ground, it was obvious that they felt that if their assistance was withheld, then there'd be no chance or prospect of getting the airport going.

But they did not take into account the deep determination of our people to have this international airport; they did not realize that in today's world, the United States is no longer the beginning and the end of the world; that there are other governments, that there are other peoples, that there are other friendly forces or other forces out there that will assist countries that are determined to build a new life for their people.

So, in fact, within a few months of making different attempts at getting this project, we went to Cuba for the Non-Aligned Conference in September [1981], and in a discussion with the President of Cuba, the question of the airport was raised. And on that occasion, and I remember that answer very well, Comrade Fidel said to us:

We as you know, do not have any oil. As you know, we do not have any money that we can help your country with. We as you know, are a poor developing country also. But, what we can help you with in the international airport project, is some of our skilled workers, with cement for the project and with stall, because we produce these in Cuba. We cannot help you with the communication equipment, with the night-lights or the navigational aids. We cannot help you with the diesel or the gas, we cannot help you with the dollars. But we can help you with our internationalist workers, some equipment and some of the materials we produce. And if you want that for your country, then Cuba is more than willing to give it.

CUBAN CONTRIBUTION IMPOSSIBLE TO MEASURE

The contribution of our Cuban comrades is almost impossible to measure in mere money of dollar terms, because their contribution - outside of the equipment, outside of the cement, outside of the steel, outside of the architects and engineers, outside of the designers of the terminal buildings, and all sorts of other access roads and other bits of work in this area,

outside of all of that they made one kind of contribution that will always leave a permanent mark in our hearts and memories: they sent their own people to our country and asked their people to give their labour to help to build a Grenadian project. To us, that is true and genuine internationalism.

But in talking about the way in which we have achieved and won out, despite the struggles, comrades, I think it is very important for us never to forget the role of our own people here in Grenada, because that has also been decisive. Outside of the international support, outside of the new balance of forces in the world that did not allow the United States to crush this project, outside of the solidarity received in moral terms from so many countries and governments and people and organisations, what has been most critical of all has been the unity and the determination of our people in seeing the project through.

REVOLUTION STILL IN DANGER

And, comrades, it is also important for us to remember that at this time, for another reason. And that other reason is that at this point in time, our Revolution is still in danger, our Revolution is still being threatened by external forces who want to see our progress rolled back.

There are still people outside there, with the CIA, who are probably right now plotting and planning and scheming and hoping to wreak murder and terrorism, and are hoping and dreaming that they can turn this Revolution back. That is also a fact, and it is important at this time, as we speak of Playa Giron, to remember that on March 13, 1961, 21 years ago, another United States president, John F. Kennedy, made a speech talking about democracy and freedom and prosperity for the region;



offering the region \$20 billion in his Alliance for Progress and he said this \$20 billion would bring freedom and prosperity.

And just one month after Kennedy had made that speech on March 13, on April 16, 1961, he authorised his troops and the CIA and the mercenaries to go into Cuba and to attack Cuban territory. So March 13, 1961 came the promise of money, April 16, 1961, one month later, came the vengeance, came the violence, came the guns and the terror.

LITTLE CARROT, BIG STICK

In exactly the same way, comrades, we have to be conscious today that when Reagan stands up on February 24 [1982], in the United States, in the building of the OAS [in Washington, DC], and says that he is offering \$350 million to countries out here for peace and freedom and democracy and what not, we must never

forget that when Reagan says that on February 24, when he throws out that little carrot, that the big stick is also behind, just like in 1961.

That big stick is also behind. Nothing has changed the United States politics in the last 21 years, in this regard. The left hand has the carrot of a few dollars, and the right hand has the big stick of the VIA, of the guns, of the violence, of the destabilization, of the plans to overthrow democratic and progressive countries.

We have seen the carrot that Reagan has offered, although it's really a joke carrot, you can't even get a bit on it - six cents a day is what that carrot is for each person in this region, six cents a day. Nonetheless, we have seen the carrot. What we have to wait for now, is the stick, and that stick's coming.

THE THREAT IS STILL THERE

The people of Cuba, likewise, understand the nature of the threat that still faces them, 23 years after their own victorious Revolution. But the threat still continues. The Americans still occupy Guantanamo, the Americans are still having their spy flights over Cuba, the Americans are still allowing mercenaries and counter-revolutionaries to be trained in Miami and elsewhere, so as to invade Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada.

Yes, these people are boasting openly on American television that they are training, and they are training to come down to invade Grenada, and also to invade Nicaragua and Cuba. Publicly and openly going on television and saying that, and nothing is being done about that by the United States Government.



So it is very important, comrades, for us today to pledge not only that we will see this airport through, and there is no force on earth that can stop that anyhow, but we must also pledge once more today, that we will continue to be vigilant, to be watchful, to be careful in this period, that we will continue to be in the Militia and take it seriously, that we will continue to increase our vigilance in every possible way, take our military training seriously, take our slogan of the people being the eyes, the ears and the nose of the Revolution seriously.

MLK

Continued From Page 14

of death and evil. Therefore the first hope in our inventory must be the hope that love is going to have the last word."

We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. Life often leaves us standing bare, naked and dejected with a lost opportunity. The "tide in the affairs of men" does not remain at the flood; it ebbs. We may cry out desperately for time to pause in her passage, but time is deaf to every plea and rushes on. Over the bleached bones and jumbled residue of numerous civilizations are written the pathetic words: "Too late." There is an invisible book of life that faithfully records our vigilance or our neglect. "The moving finger writes, and having writ moves on..." We still have a choice today; nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation.

We must move past indecision to action. We must find new ways to speak for peace in Vietnam and justice throughout the developing world -- a world that borders on our doors. If we do not act we shall surely be dragged down the long dark and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight.

Now let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter -- but beautiful -- struggle for a new world. This is the calling of the sons of God, and our brothers wait eagerly for our response. Shall we say the odds are too great? Shall we tell them the struggle is too hard? Will our message be that the forces of American life militate against their arrival as full men, and we send our deepest regrets? Or will there be another message, of longing, of hope, of solidarity with their yearnings, of commitment to their cause, whatever the cost? The choice is ours, and though we might prefer it otherwise we must choose in this crucial moment of human history.

Save Our Trees, Our Environment, Our Lives

Speech by
Thomas Sankara

Thomas Sankara was an anti-imperialist and revolutionary leader who led a Revolution in Burkina Faso in the 1980s, as the people of that West African country struggled to overcome poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and all the ills of underdevelopment and oppression. He came to power as president of Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) in August 1983. He was murdered in a counterrevolutionary coup d'état on October 1987, organized by his former colleague Blaise Compaoré in order to bring back the French imperialist order to the country.

During his presidency, and under his leadership, Burkina Faso became an independent nation. He left an example of revolutionary change in a semi-colonial country through progressing the rights of women, the working class and peasantry, and youth and elderly. Until his last day in office he organized and led popular, grassroots campaigns against poverty, for literacy, and especially against corruption. His ideas and leadership example continue to inspire millions of people in Africa and all around the world to seek an end to the misery and injustice created by capitalism and imperialism.

"As for our relationship with the political community, what relations would you have liked us to have had? We explained face to face, directly with the leaders, the former leaders of the old political parties because, for us, these parties do not exist any more, they were dissolved. And that is very clear. The relationship that we have with them is simply the relationship we have with voltaic citizens, or, if they want it, the relationship between revolutionaries, if they want to become revolutionaries. Apart from that, there remains nothing any more but the relationship between revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries."

"I would like to leave behind me the conviction that if we maintain a certain amount of caution and organization we deserve victory. You cannot carry out fundamental change without a certain amount of madness. In this case, it comes from nonconformity, the courage to turn your back on the old formulas, the courage to invent the future. It took the madmen of yesterday for us to be able to act with extreme clarity today. I want to be one of those madmen. We must dare to invent the future."

Ladies and gentlemen:

I say all this not to shower unrestrained and unending praise on the modest, revolutionary experience of my people with regard to the defense of the forest and the trees, but rather to speak as explicitly as possible about the profound changes occurring in relations between man and tree in Burkina Faso. I would like to depict for you as accurately as possible the deep and sincere love that has been born and is developing between the Burkinabè man and the trees in my country.

In doing this, we believe we are applying our theoretical conceptions concretely to the specific ways and means of the Sahel reality, in the search for solutions to present and future dangers attacking trees the world over. Our efforts and those of all who are gathered here, the experience accumulated by yourselves and by us, will surely guarantee us victory after victory in the struggle to save our trees, our environment, in short, our lives.

Excellencies; Ladies and gentlemen:

I come to you in the hope that you are taking up a battle from which we cannot be absent, since we are under daily attack and believe that the miracle of greenery can rise up out of the courage to say what must be said. I have come to join with you in deploring the harshness of nature. But I have also come to denounce the one whose selfishness is the source of his neighbor's misfortune. Colonialism has pillaged our forests without the



1986



"Pioneers of the Revolution", children's organization in Burkina Faso after the revolution.



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least thought of replenishing them for our tomorrows.

The unpunished destruction of the biosphere by savage and murderous forays on the land and in the air continues. Words will never adequately describe to what extent all these fume-belching vehicles spread death. Those who have the technological means to find the culprits have no interest in doing so, and those who have an interest in doing so lack the necessary technological means. They have only their intuition and their firm conviction.

We are not against progress, but we want progress that is not carried out anarchically and with criminal neglect for other people's rights. We therefore wish to affirm that the battle against the encroachment of the desert is a battle to establish a balance between man, nature, and society. As such, it is a battle that is above all political, one whose outcome is not determined by fate.

The establishment in Burkina of a Ministry of Water, in conjunction with our Ministry of the Environment and Tourism, demonstrates our desire to place our problems clearly on the table so that we can find a way to resolve them. We have to fight to find the financial means to exploit our existing water resources — that is to finance drilling operations, reservoirs, and dams. This is the place to denounce the one-sided contracts and draconian conditions imposed by banks and other financial institutions that preclude our projects in this area. These prohibitive conditions bring on traumatizing indebtedness robbing us of all meaningful freedom of action.

Neither fallacious Malthusian arguments — and I assert that Africa remains an underpopulated continent — nor

those vacation resorts pompously and demagogically called "reforestation operations" provide a solution. We are backed up against the wall in our destitution like bald and mangy dogs whose lamentations and cries disturb the quiet peace of the manufacturers and merchants of misery.

This is why Burkina has proposed and continues to propose that at least 1 percent of the colossal sums of money sacrificed to the search for cohabitation with other planets be used by way of compensation to finance the fight to save our trees and life. While we have not abandoned hope that a dialogue with the Martians could result in the reconquest of Eden, we believe that in the meantime, as earthlings, we also have the right to reject an alternative limited to a simple choice between hell or purgatory.

Explained in this way, our struggle to defend the trees and the forest is first and foremost a democratic struggle that must be waged by the people. The sterile and expensive excitement of a handful of engineers and forestry experts will accomplish nothing! Nor can the tender consciences of a multitude of forums and institutions — sincere and praiseworthy though they may be — make the Sahel green again, when we lack the funds to drill wells for drinking water just a hundred meters deep, and money abounds to drill oil wells three thousand meters deep!

As Karl Marx said, those who live in a palace do not think about the same things, nor in the same way, as those who live in a hut. This struggle to defend the trees and the forest is above all a struggle against imperialism. Imperialism is the pyromaniac setting fire to our forests and savannah.

LA TÁCTICA DE LAS COMPARACIONES

Por Manuel Yepe*

Comparar al proyecto revolucionario cubano con otros procesos sociopolíticos de izquierda se ha convertido en los últimos tiempos, en un pasatiempo nada ingenuo para promover, en el campo de las ideas, la desconfianza y la desunión en fuerzas progresistas a escala continental y mundial.

Como ya el peso de los acontecimientos ha descalificado diatribas tales como la condición satelital de Cuba, el aislamiento de la isla, el incosteable apoyo a otras revoluciones, la muerte del marxismo, la inviabilidad del socialismo y más recientemente la dependencia del proceso político cubano de un caudillo, la reacción ha puesto de moda las comparaciones con otras revoluciones.

El hecho de que una nación socialista, China, haya sido capaz de situarse en un cimero lugar mundial por su sostenido ritmo de desarrollo económico, tecnológico y científico a partir de las concepciones socialistas que lo han hecho posible, parece haber despertado la tendencia a destacar las diferencias de nuestro proceso con el de la gran nación asiática.

El ascenso de China al papel de motor del desarrollo global no deja margen para augurios de triste futuro para el proyecto revolucionario cubano argumentando la similitud de sus objetivos con los de la China socialista, como cuando ésta era vilipendiada por la propaganda del imperio como un país fracasado, de tecnología atrasada, con un pueblo hambreado, descontento y sin esperanzas.

El mérito de haber sacado a China de la trágica condición en que la sumió el capitalismo, corresponde por entero a su pueblo y a la sapiencia de sus dirigentes comunistas que supieron movilizarlo y guiarlo, con más aciertos que errores, en su lucha contra el atraso feudal y las incoherencias del orden burgués, tomando en consideración las peculiaridades históricas, geopolíticas, sociales, culturales, y económicas de ese país, el más poblado del mundo.

En Cuba, tuvieron lugar un proceso cognoscitivo y un accionar político con características similares, pero en escenarios muy diferentes, lo que trajo como consecuencia que ambos sistemas, enrumados por igual al socialismo y encabezados por dirigencias marxistas-leninistas, tengan muchas similitudes y también peculiaridades bien distintas.

Uno y otro procesos se encuadran en un mismo momento de la historia, en el que la humanidad asume el reto de pasar a una etapa nueva de su desarrollo, luego que el capitalismo, habiendo perdido su carácter progresista de los tiempos de las revoluciones industriales, ha llevado al mundo a un caos de asimetrías, injusticias, iniquidades, violencia y destrucción de su hábitat.

Como cada país parte de situaciones diferentes, las soluciones y los medios para el logro de los objetivos tienen que ser distintos, con algunas identidades evidentes en lo que toca al carácter endógeno de los procesos y la prioridad de los objetivos sociales.

China, por ejemplo, ha implantado la "economía de mercado socialista" y se sirve de los resortes del mercado y algunos mecanismos característicos del capitalismo incipiente con mucha mayor amplitud que Cuba, entre muchas otras

razones, porque las peculiaridades del desarrollo de la sociedad burguesa en uno y otro país eran bien diferentes al momento de iniciarse los cambios revolucionarios.

En la isla, la presencia de empresas norteamericanas había introducido elementos de socialización de la producción, el comercio y los servicios propios del capitalismo más avanzado de la época, lo que permitió obviar, no sin dificultades e insuficiencias, etapas del desarrollo de las relaciones de producción



Marcha del primero de mayo. Habana, Cuba.

del capitalismo elemental hacia las pre-socialistas. China, por su gran extensión y y potencialidades, así como por la prioridad que concedió a su desarrollo macroeconómico dado su carácter de gran potencia retrasada tecnológica y

económicamente, hubo de encarar de manera diferente el asunto y optó por el aprovechamiento de las relaciones mercantiles a nivel de la base, de una manera más amplia.

De manera similar, pero también distinta, Vietnam, donde el capitalismo salvaje coexistió brevemente con una sociedad de economía muy primitiva y afectada en su desarrollo por continuas agresiones contra su independencia nacional, debió enfrentar la descomunal tarea de reconstruir su país con su recurso más importante: la laboriosidad de un pueblo extraordinario.

Luego de vencer en cruenta guerra a la potencia más rica, poderosa y agresiva que la humanidad ha conocido, sin recursos financieros propios para cualquier otra opción, Vietnam optó por el máximo aprovechamiento de las relaciones mercantiles en todas sus manifestaciones que le permitieran un desarrollo efectivo hacia sus propósitos socialistas.

La reciente tendencia hacia la izquierda que se advierte en América Latina, ha convertido en regla lo que hace apenas unos años era inimaginable: la llegada al poder mediante elecciones de gobernantes populares que no son impuestos, apoyados o tienen el visto bueno del gobierno de Estados Unidos, y que se oponen

a una política económica del neoliberalismo impuesta por la superpotencia. Este hecho carece de antecedentes en la región.

Obviamente, cada uno de los nuevos

gobernantes electos por sus pueblos tiene su propia agenda, ya que generalmente no han sido promovidos por partidos políticos tradicionales cuyos programas y, sobre todo, los métodos de ejecutarlos, responden a reglas dictadas por los intereses de las oligarquías y el imperio que han construido el andamiaje de los sistemas electorales a su imagen y semejanza.

Las agendas de los nuevos dirigentes populares tienen muchas cosas en común

entre sí. Y también muchas y muy notables diferencias.

Son similares los objetivos de reafirmación de la identidad nacional y la defensa de la soberanía, así como los encaminados a promover la justicia social. Las diferencias

pueden ser pequeñas o infinitas, porque derivan de disímiles factores. Pueden diferir también en cuanto a la capacidad de resistir presiones y tentaciones.

Hace muchos años que las oligarquías latinoamericanas se han valido de la gigantesca campaña de propaganda y mentiras que durante casi medio siglo ha llevado a cabo la superpotencia estadounidense contra la revolución cubana, a escala mundial, para atacar cualquier aspiración popular o cualquier medida patriótica que proponga o ejecute un gobierno de la región, acusándola de ser "idéntica" a las de Cuba.

Ha sido práctica sistemática que, a cualquiera de los proyectos revolucionarios por la independencia y la justicia social que surgen en el continente, los poderosos recursos mediáticos de las oligarquías y el imperio les atribuyan similitudes con el modelo cubano, nutriéndose de los esquemas que durante años esos mismos medios han logrado implantar en algunos segmentos de los sectores sociales de mayores ingresos.

No obstante, el modelo cubano, representado en su mentor, Fidel Castro, lejos de perder simpatías entre las masas humildes del continente, las ha

mantenido y reproducido en las nuevas generaciones latinoamericanas que lo tienen como bandera de lucha por sus reivindicaciones.

El proyecto revolucionario cubano llegó a ser poder por efecto de una revolución popular armada y los nuevos gobernantes populares en América Latina arriban a él como resultado de elecciones, ello determina que los escenarios para ejecutar los cambios revolucionarios sean muy variables.

Comoquiera que los gobiernos populares que ahora están surgiendo a partir de procesos institucionalizados cuentan con programas que van desde bien estructurados proyectos revolucionarios autóctonos hasta plataformas nacionalistas articuladas con empeños de honestidad administrativa, la identificación de los factores conducentes a la unidad ha de transcurrir por un proceso que no puede violentarse.

Pero de eso se sirven las campañas de la reacción para comparar situaciones con el ánimo de confundir.

A Cuba le recomiendan instaurar o extender el uso de elementos de la economía de mercado, incluso la privatización, para solucionar cualquier problema de la economía, a la manera de otros países que viven jóvenes procesos revolucionarios a los que a su vez denigran por aplicar soluciones "a la cubana".

El momento de afirmación de la soberanía de las naciones de nuestra América Latina que hoy vivimos se inserta en un devenir regido por leyes del desarrollo social

pero necesariamente ha de encontrar raíces autóctonas en cada una de nuestras patrias. Será más universal y autentico en la medida en que asuma características propias en cada nación.

Las experiencias de cada uno deben hacerse comunes para impedir errores evitables, mas nunca han de actuar modelos preestablecidos como camisas de fuerza.

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La Habana, febrero de 2007.



Introduction
By Aaron Mercredi

For one year now, the people of Six Nations have stood on their reclaimed land at the entrance to the Douglas Creek Estates. Since February 28th, 2006, when a group of people from the community took back land that was taken from Six Nations and was being developed into a luxury home subdivision, Canada has refused to acknowledge the legal and inherent rights of Six Nations people and the sovereignty of the traditional Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

While Six Nations people and supporters were camped out on the reclamation site, defending their land from being taken for another colonial development and appealing to Canada to deal with the issue, they were met with the guns and pepper spray of the Ontario Provincial Police, who attacked them in the early morning of April 20th. They were met with the criminalization of people who were legitimately defending themselves and their people, like Trevor Miller, who spent months in an Ontario jail before being released and the 32 other people who face charges for their part in the reclamation. They were met with the racism ingrained in Canadian society and the mobilization of Canada's most backward elements against them, which the ruling class media used in their favour. And they were met with the 139-year old official colonial state of Canada that won't deal with Six Nations on a nation-to-nation basis as it is legally bound to do.

Canada, a country that prides itself on its humanitarianism but voted in the UN against the rights of Indigenous people this summer. A first-world country ranked 6th on the UN Human Development Index, but attracts international aid workers who are trying to find ways of helping out the poverty and suicides in Northern Native ghettos. The following document exposes more Canada's illegitimacy in dealing with Indigenous people. It is the most recent statement released by the Women Title Holders of the Six Nations Confederacy, which gives some insight in to who exactly Canada is dealing with and what their grievances are. It is not just some people camped out on a construction site, but people

who are fighting for their nationhood and who know from experience that Canada is not a peaceful country, but a country built on lies. The struggle one year ago is the same struggle today and it is the same struggle that Indigenous people have been fighting colonization began throughout the Americas. It is a struggle for self-determination of Indigenous nations and it is the fundamental issue facing all people living on stolen land in Canada.

DOCUMENT:

WOMEN TITLE HOLDERS OF SIX NATIONS CONFEDERACY CHARGE CANADA FOR VIOLATING TWO ROW WAMPUM, SILVER COVENANT CHAIN AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

THE WOMEN ARE THE TITLE HOLDERS of the land of Turtle Island as recalled by Wampum 44 of the Kaianereh'ko:wa, constitution of the Rotinonhsinni:onwe

TO: THE MISSISSAUGAS OF NEW CREDIT THE CITY OF TORONTO ME. MICHAELLE JEAN, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA gg@gc.ca HON. STEPHEN HARPER, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA PROVINCE OF ONTARIO UNITED NATIONS

RE: PROPOSED FRAUDULENT LAND CLAIM SETTLEMENT OF SIX NATIONS LAND KNOWN AS THE "CITY OF TORONTO" WITH THE MISSISSAUGAS OF NEW CREDIT WE FIND YOU GUILTY OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE FRAUDULENT PURCHASE OF SIX NATIONS LAND KNOWN AS THE "CITY OF TORONTO" BY THE BRITISH COLONIAL GOVERNMENT AND THE SUBSEQUENT LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT IN PROGRESS WITH THE

MISSISSAUGA OF NEW CREDIT WHO DO NOT OWN THE LAND;

2. THE VIOLATIONS OF KAIANEREH'KO:WA, TWO ROW WAMPUM, SILVER COVENANT AND INTERNATIONAL LAWS.

DATE: February 7, 2007

In a Six Nations meeting with the Mississauga on May 22, 1784, Pokquan the Mississauga Speaker told the British that:

"We have considered your request Father. We the Mississauga are not the owners of all that Land laying between the three Lakes, but we have agreed and are willing to transfer our right of Soil & property to the King our Father..."

In 1784 the British were aware that the Mississauga had no interest in the land now known as the "City of Toronto".

"Toronto" is a Mohawk name. "Ontario" is also a Mohawk name. So is "Canada". In 1787 this Purchase of Toronto by the British was found to be fraudulent because it is Six Nations land and the Mississauga admitted to not owning it. The British got the Mississauga to sign a blank agreement and paid them 10 shillings for 392 square miles of Six Nations Land. After the signing the British inserted the dimensions making it larger than agreed upon. Throughout the Mississauga knew they could not sell land that belongs to the Six Nations.

According to the Kaianereh'ko:wa Joseph Brant, who witnessed this theft, had no position with the Iroquois Confederacy. He was appointed as a Pine Tree Chief by the Confederacy to act as a translator. It was a ceremonial position without any power. Joseph Brant was an officer in the British army and a British subject, not a Mohawk of the Confederacy. He signed as a British subject to sell land to his colonial friends. All these alienations by Joseph Brant are illegal. Our lands cannot be alienated. Any transactions of any kind

to do with land have to be sanctioned by all the nations of the Confederacy at a Grand Council meeting. This has always been our law and it is consistent with modern international law as affirmed by International court of Justice in the Western Sahara case.

We have the responsibility to protect our mother and our mother has to be there to take care of our future generations. It is the birthright of every generation to have their mother there to take care of them. It is not ours to sell.



Six Nations Reclamation site.

No nation legitimizes foreigners to sell their land. The British would not themselves nor let Germany put up England for sale on the world market! Neither does France or Japan or China! Whenever a peoples' homeland is threatened by occupation or other means, the Indigenous people of those lands take it as an act of aggression and an act of war. Canada is a colony and does not have title to our land. Evidence of their anxiety is this proposal to illegally "settle" the Toronto land claim.

The Mississauga told the British in 1784, "We don't own anything, but since you want to buy what we own, which is nothing, we are willing to sell it". Today their successors, the colony of Canada and its corporate agents, are attempting

to "correct" their oversight of 1784. They now want the Mississauga to once again fraudulently transfer Six Nations lands to the British successors. Extensive evidence and documents are available to support our position. Canada is trying to make us think that an original wrong can be corrected by a subsequent wrong.

The British and the Mississauga both knew that the Confederacy would never relinquish our rights to any of our land. So they made the fraudulent deal between themselves and Joseph Brant, a British subject, was their witness.

The thief now wants to legitimize the original theft. Stealing is illegal anywhere in the world. There is no statute of limitation on theft. Colonial powers cannot ratify their original theft. The

in front of the Mississauga constitutes coercion, violence and use of force. Canada is a colonial state that must respect the political rights of the Six Nations Confederacy as set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

General Assembly Resolution 1541 (XV) requires the informed consent of a people before they are included in another state [Western Sahara case]. We are not Canadians. We have never surrendered our jurisdiction over ourselves and our lands. Britain and its successor, Canada, are violating our jurisdiction. We must be dealt with on a nation-to-nation basis.

The United Nations Committee for the

Declaration from the Women of Six Nations



Six Nations Reclamation site.

present Mississauga are an incorporated band set up under the illegal Indian Act, which is ultra vires the Constitution. Any dealings between two colonial government agencies is illegal and fraudulent.

Canada, Ontario and Toronto, whose money are you going to use to pay the Mississauga? It will be our money from the land and resources you have stolen from us. You are using stolen money to buy stolen property. You have to sit down with us, the owners of the land, the Six Nations Confederacy, and nobody else.

You cannot deal with the Mississauga. They came under the protective umbrella of the Confederacy and are tenants on our land. The tenant cannot sell the land out from underneath the landlord. Only the true title holders have a right to deal with land issues.

It is fraud. It is theft. Everybody, native and non-native, can see it for what it is.

THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND ITS AGENTS ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE FOLLOWING COVENANTS THAT IT CLAIMS TO UPHOLD:

UN Resolution 1514 affirms the independence of Indigenous people. This fraudulent land claim of the British for the city of Toronto is a colonial act that violates international law. Canada is "squatting" on Turtle Island. UNTS 1021 condemns colonial states that force such policies on us as constituting genocide. [The Mabo case in Australia]; The title of Noongar Aborigines of Australia to Western Australia including the city of Perth were affirmed on September 21, 2006, in *Bennell v. State of Western Australia*. They proved they continue to exist and are still part of the land. The Six Nations Confederacy and our title to what is now known as the city of Toronto and beyond continues to exist.

The UN Charter requires that its members cannot use armed force to resolve international differences. Starving and then waving money

Elimination of Racial Discrimination found on March 6, 2006 that the United States was denying the Western Shoshone people "their rights to own, develop, control and use their land and resources". Canada continues to live in the past and refuses to stop colonialism even though it is illegal.

International law rejects colonial encroachment on our land. Our land cannot be developed without consultation with us and our consent. Our perspectives cannot be ignored. Even the Supreme Court of Canada recognizes that.

WE, THE ROTINONHSONNI:ONWE WOMEN TITLE HOLDERS demand an end to the breach of our rights.

a). Our governance is based on relations of equality and mutual respect as affirmed by the Kaianereh'ko:wa, our Great Law of Peace. Our relationship with the colonists is based on the Guswentah, the Two Row Wampum. We agreed to travel on different paths on the same river without interfering with each other. Canada cannot usurp our vessel.

b). We are the trustees of our land for the future generations of our People. Our land cannot be alienated. Colonial states cannot remove us to exploit our land and resources.

c). Colonial states have failed to stop their encroachment on our land and in our lives. Squatters illegally occupy our land, steal our resources and poison our water and air almost beyond repair. Corporate governments and their entities have imposed their destructive agendas on us.

d). Canada's justice system functions to keep the stolen property, to continue the theft, to undermine us and to continue its genocide.

WE, THE ROTINONHSONNI:ONWE WOMEN TITLE HOLDERS WISH TO PROTECT OUR PHYSICAL INTEGRITY AND OUR LEGAL RIGHTS THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS.

1. That Canada uphold freedom, justice and peace including our inherent right of self-determination.

Continues on Page 20

Over 300 people rally for Leonard Peltier's freedom in Tacoma, WA



Tacoma Rally, Feb 10th, 2007.

By Aaron Mercredi

"We don't know who killed those agents"
-Prosecutor Lynn Crooks, 1985

These words came out of a federal prosecutor's mouth during the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals for Leonard Peltier's case over twenty-two years ago. It was this circuit court that found that the original judge in Peltier's trial in 1976 had made mistakes, that witnesses had been coerced, evidence fabricated, and favourable evidence had been suppressed. But, it was in this same circuit court that denied the request for an appeal for Leonard's case.

This February will make it 31 years that Leonard Peltier has been behind bars for the deaths of two FBI agents; an Indigenous warrior framed up for a crime that he did not commit, and sentenced to twice his natural life in the US prison system. A political prisoner, Leonard was thrown in jail as part of the US government's attempts to kill the rising militant

movement of Indigenous people in 60s and 70s who were fighting for their rights; a movement that had reclaimed Alcatraz Island in 1969, fought off US Marshalls and the US military in the 79-day occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973. It was a movement which radicalized and instilled pride in young and angry Native people all over the continent and brought the realities of American colonialism to front pages and headlines all over the country. Because of this, it was a movement that threatened the American colonial establishment that had consolidated itself over hundreds of years of theft of Native land and resources, and the mass murder of Indigenous populations.

Leonard's extradition to the US from Canada in 1976 based on fabricated evidence, and the guilty verdict that relied on that same fabricated evidence in a North Dakota courtroom was part of the US government's strategy of putting down Indigenous resistance in the US. The most damaging

For 14 years, demonstrations have been taking place in Tacoma, Washington, on the anniversary of Leonard's imprisonment. Organized by the Tacoma Leonard Peltier Support Group, this annual action for Leonard has grown over the years and brings people from all over the US and Canada to show their solidarity with him while he endures his unjust imprisonment. On February 10th, over 300 people marched from Portland Avenue Park to federal courthouse in downtown Tacoma demanding an end to Leonard's incarceration.

The rally began with the Turtle Mountain Drummers, who drove all the way from Leonard's community in North Dakota to honour Leonard's struggle. Rob Robideau, who was a co-defendant and is a relative of Leonard, spoke next. Rob is the co-director

of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and spoke about Leonard's case in the global context of imperialist wars, relating the struggle of Indigenous people in North America to the struggle of Iraqis and Palestinians against occupation. He went on to say:

"People are dying around you because of police brutality, because of the ... hunger for oil by the Bush administration. We have to wake up and we have to teach each other how to communicate to wake others up. This is our responsibility to each other as human beings.

Leonard Peltier represents the injustice this country has done against Native people. And has continued to do. We need to teach each other the reality of these injustices... Leonard Peltier, who has served 31 years in prison for an alleged offense of killing two FBI agents. The United States government has admitted in open court they do not know who killed these agents. That is not the reality of what this is all about. This is about the need for the United States government to cover up their own actions against Native people during that period of time which we call the reign of terror.

[It was a time] when the United



Tacoma Rally, Feb 10th, 2007.

States government, a colonial police force, entered our lands and were responsible for over 60 homicides and 300 assaults. And were responsible again [for] the... taking away of more land. One eighth of the Pine Ridge reservation was handled over to the government during this same time.

We have a right to defend our land. We have a right to defend our freedoms, whatever they may be. Do not allow them [the

United States government] to criminalize your rights."

Indigenous activists and solidarity groups spoke, tying Leonard's struggle against the US colonial justice system to the struggle for immigrant rights, the struggle for worker's rights, the ongoing battle between the ruling class and Indigenous people in Oaxaca, Mexico, and to the anti-war movement. It is proof, indeed, that more people understand the broadness of the attack on Leonard's freedom, and see his fight for justice as their fight also. The annual rallies that take place in Tacoma set an example for people around the US and Canada in that the only way we can make change is by coming out to the streets.

Freedom for Leonard Peltier NOW!



Tacoma Rally, Feb 10th, 2007.

Students Fight Back: Taking Action for their Right to Education

Tens of Thousands Rally across Canada to Support Canadian Federation of Students' Demand to Reduce Tuition

By Kira Koshelanyk

Over 500 students, both high school and post-secondary, took to the streets on a wet Vancouver Wednesday to protest the rising cost of post-secondary education during the Day of Action to Reduce Tuition Fees called by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Chants and signs filled the space outside the Vancouver Art Gallery as students rallied and then marched through the downtown streets. Thousands of students took part in rallies in cities across Canada from Victoria, BC to St. Johns, Newfoundland – joining together in united action for the right to affordable education.

Why are We Marching? Youth in Canada in Crisis over Inaccessible Post-Secondary Education

Since 1990, tuition fees have nearly tripled in most provinces in Canada. In fact, average student debt has more than doubled in the last 10 years, with students graduating with Bachelors degrees sitting on an

average of \$25,000 student loan debts.

Not only are students graduating with more debt than ever, more students are working longer hours for less money, to offset the costs of rising tuition. Hourly wages are not keeping up with rising tuition fees. Financial concerns are now the most common concern reported for failing to pursue (either dropping out or never starting) post-secondary studies. Post-secondary student debt in Canada sits at more than \$12.5Billion and is rising by the second.

Where's the Money for Education?

The \$12.8Billion increase in the federal budget for the Canadian military approved in May 2005

and the additional \$5Billion tacked on in the May 2006 federal budget had to come from somewhere.

The government of Canada is seeking economic and strategic gain through invasion, occupation and exploitation of third world countries. The occupation of Afghanistan along with the federal budget reflects that priority. With only \$8.5Billion in total in federal transfers to the provinces for post-secondary education for 2006/2007, the ability to go study at college or university is now a battle for students in Canada. At the February 7th Day of Action rally in Vancouver, many students made their own signs and chants and called, "Money for Education – Not for War!"

and "Drop Tuition Fees – Not Bombs!" This made the clear connection between the lack of public funding for post-secondary education compared with the ballooning military budget. As the era of war and occupation continues, education in Canada is no longer a right for all, but is fast becoming a privilege for a few. **What We Really Want: Free Education for All... and It Is Possible!**

Like food, shelter, and water - education is a basic human right. In order to reach our full potential as thinking, creative human beings we require more than having our bear physical needs met, we need education. The government of Canada and their treatment of post-secondary costs in Canada would have us believe it is not economically viable to abolish tuition fees or even reduce them.

However, the living example of Cuba's education system exposes this for the lie that it is. Following the triumph of the Cuban revolution in 1959, the government nationalized all private educational institutions

in 1961 and introduced a state-directed education system. There are no tuition fees paid by school or university students and private schools or private universities are not permitted, making education a right that granted and protected for all in Cuba. The Cuban government did not stop there, and as a contribution to the well-being of people in Latin America and the world, Cuba opened the Latin American School of Medicine in 1998. This school provides medical training, free of charge, to students across Latin America, the US, Africa and Europe. The only condition is that the student must then put their medical training in practice and serve as a medical practitioner in a poor or neglected area of their home country.

While still considered a third world country, Cuba currently hosts 3,432 medical students from 23 nations studying in its capital, Havana. This record puts Canada on the spot – if the Cuban government can provide this to its people for the last 46 years – education can be free for all in Canada too. As students struggling for our right to education we must demand: "Drop our debt & drop our fees NOT bombs!" "Abolish Tuition Fees!" "Free Universal Education NOW!"

Lift the US Blockade on Cuba Tour 2007!

Featuring John Waller Coordinator of Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba

By Tamara Hansen

As we come closer and closer to springtime, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) and the Free the Cuban Five Committee – Vancouver are bringing the warmth of Cuba to people across the lower mainland and even over to Vancouver Island! Soon, we will be kicking off the 2nd annual “Lift the US Blockade on Cuba Tour” featuring guest speaker John Waller, coordinator of the Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba.

The tour will run from February 18th to March 1st 2007, and with over 40 endorsing organizations it is sure to be an exciting and successful tour. Events in Vancouver will be taking place at: Capilano College, the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Douglas College, Langara College and the Unitarian Church. Other events will also take place in towns throughout Vancouver Island, including: Courtenay, Victoria, and Qualicum Beach. The tour will wrap up in Vancouver with a cultural night and celebration on Thursday March 1st at El Rancho Restaurant.

This summer in July, the Pastors for Peace Friendshipment

Caravan will travel for the 18th year to Cuba. They will travel in school buses, trucks, and cars on 14 different routes visiting more than 120 US and Canadian cities. They will cross the US border into Mexico and then fly to Cuba with medical and educational supplies for Cubans.

Taking this

humanitarian aid and caravanistas (adventurers who travel on the caravan to Cuba) from the US to Cuba is actually illegal under the blockade and travel ban orchestrated and enforced by the US government against Cuba. Despite this, last summer Pastors for Peace brought over 60 tons of humanitarian aid and over 100 caravanistas to Cuba! This aid is valuable to Cuba as for the last 48 years the US has held an inhumane



blockade against Cuba, which has blocked Cuba's access to proper medical, educational and sports equipment.

Last year VCSC's tour across Vancouver and the lower mainland with John Waller was a huge success with over 150

people coming out to the city-wide event at the Unitarian Church alone. This year the tour is expanding, with six new events on Vancouver Island as well as some additional campuses in Vancouver. VCSC, the Free the Cuban 5

Committee – Vancouver and all endorsing organizations are very excited to be involved in spreading awareness about the cruel and illegal US blockade on Cuba and the gains of the Cuban revolution, further and wider than last year! Please join us!



Get involved in the Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba!

In July 2007 the 18th Friendshipment will travel on 14 different routes to visit more than 120 US and Canadian cities. We will travel in school buses, trucks, and cars to Cuba via Mexico with medical and educational supplies collected from groups across the US and Canada as a collective challenge to the blockade and travel ban. You can join the caravan as a caravan vehicle passes through your community starting July 1st. Many past caravanistas say that the time traveling through the US, meeting and staying with local community activists across the country, is as important a part of the experience as the time in Cuba. But if your time is limited you also have the option of making your own way down to join us in Texas on July 13th.

How you can get involved:

- 1) **Come as a caravanista** - get in touch with us to get an application form
- 2) **Recruit other caravanistas** - get them to request an application form
- 3) **Get involved locally** - host a caravan event in your community – email us to find out your local contact - and if there isn't one you or your organization can take the initiative to host the caravan!
- 4) **Collect material aid** - let us know so we can send you the aid information packet.
- 5) **Help out as a volunteer** in the IFCO office.
- 6) **Make a financial donation.** Checks or money orders should be made out to IFCO and mailed to our New York office. To make a credit card donation

simply click on the donate-now button on this page and follow the instructions, or you can call our office (212-926-5757). **Donations are tax-deductible!**

For further Info Please contact:
IFCO/Pastors for Peace
418 W. 145th St., New York, NY 10031
Ph: 212-926-5757 Fax: 212-926-5842
Email: cucaravan@igc.org
www.pastorsforpeace.org

Pastors for Peace 2007 Caravan Flier!
Get it at: pastorsforpeace.org



Six Nations

Continued From Page 18

Canada cannot “settle” this fraudulent land claim of the Six Nations without our fully informed consent and consensus of the majority of our people.

2. That we be dealt with on a nation-to-nation basis. Colonial states cannot deal through their unlawfully imposed corporate puppets known as the Mississauga band council.

3. The “rule of law” comes from Creation. It encompasses all that is good for humanity, that of being of one mind based on natural righteousness. To create peace we must live in balance with the natural world, according

to our own teachings, direction, language and culture. Foreigners to Turtle Island must respect the Indigenous law of our land. They cannot legislate over or judge us.

4. Colonial states cannot criminalize us for upholding our obligations. We have an inherent right to preserve our land for our coming generations. Our acts have been defensive and peaceful.

WE, THE ROTINONHSONNI:ONWE WOMEN TITLE HOLDERS, insist that in keeping with our right to self-determination, we shall deal with our lands, rights and possessions, including the Six Nations land that the city of Toronto is sitting on.

For 500 years we resisted colonial efforts to do away with us and impose your unnatural institutions on us. The colonizers need to meet with us peacefully according to the principles of the Two Row Wampum agreement. The colonizers must remain on your ship and not steer our canoe. The formula to peace is the Kaianereh'ko:wa.

We, the Women Title Holders, insist on an immediate end to this false initiative to have Canadian government corporations settle a fraudulent claim to our land. Colonization has changed the natural world on Turtle Island, the plants, the animals, and the air we breathe. We can't even drink the water anymore without filtering it. Some people in the colonial society

seem to think that just because the first treaties like the Two Row Wampum and the Silver Covenant Chain are inconvenient for you, you can forget about them. They are still the foundation of our relationships, an irrevocable part of modern life. We must initiate a dialogue to work toward a solution acceptable to the

R o t i n o n h o n n i ' o n w e .
Signed on this day of February 7, 2007.
Katenies /s/ _____
Kahentinetha /s/ _____
Box 991, Kahnawake of Mohawk
Territory (Quebec) J0L 1B0
450-635-9345 katenies20@yahoo.com
kahentinetha20@yahoo.com

Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) Launches New Campaign: **Hands Off Africa! Hands Off Somalia and Sudan!**



By Nicole Burton

"We as Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) reaffirm that Sudan is an independent and sovereign nation...[We] demand an immediate end to the imperialist intervention and threats against Sudan, whether by individual countries or through a United Nations or NATO mandate."

"Alongside diplomatic and political preparation for military intervention in Sudan, the invasion of Somalia is another arm for opening the era of war and occupation into Africa... MAWO stands beside the Somali people's demand against the presence of all foreign troops in Somalia."

-Part of MAWO Resolution against the US-Ethiopia invasion of Somalia, and threat of invasion in Sudan. Jan 13, 2007.

Alongside the ongoing work against the US/UK occupation of Iraq and Canadian/NATO occupation of Afghanistan, Vancouver anti-war coalition Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) has launched its new campaign against imperialist attacks on Africa, demanding "US/UN Troops Hands Off Sudan and Darfur!" and "All Foreign Troops Out of Somalia Now!"



Vancouver Public Library
Petition Stop. Feb 10th.



Rally & March demanding
Hands Off Africa. Jan 27th.

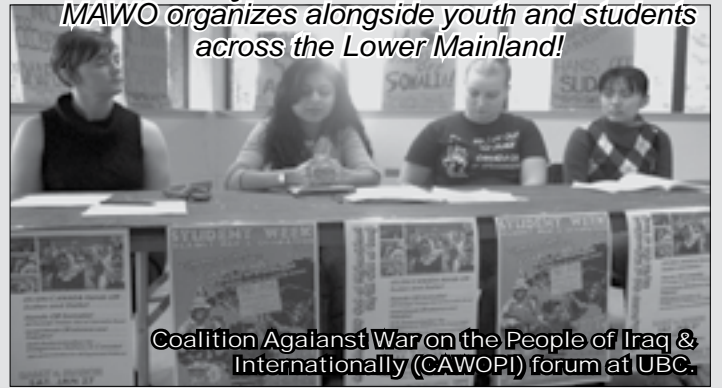
Africa campaign an important opportunity to discuss and analyze the significance of this development as an imperialist advancement towards all of Africa. Presenters at the forums were Saida Osman, Students of Colour Liaison at the Capilano Students' Union, Natasha Shivji, MAWO organizer, Alison Bodine, president of the University of British Columbia anti-war club Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq and Internationally, and Thomas Davies of the Fire This Time Editorial Board. All of them gave explanation and analysis of different aspects of the new imperialist war drive in Africa, particularly focused on Somalia and Sudan.

Rally

In the streets of Vancouver for the first time on January 27th, protesters joined the millions in Sudan chanting "US/UN Hands Off Darfur!" and the millions in Somalia demanding, "All Foreign Troops Out Now!" Two hundred demonstrators rallied at the Vancouver Art Gallery, wrapping up the 6th Student Week Against War and Occupation (SWAWO), which held five days of anti-war events on high school, college, and university campuses. Organized by MAWO under the banner of "US/UN Hands off Africa!", more than 1000 youth participated in the forums and other campus activities, adding their signatures of

Student Week Against War and Occupation - SWAWO #6

MAWO organizes alongside youth and students across the Lower Mainland!



Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq & Internationally (CAWOPI) forum at UBC.

By Alison Bodine

In the last two weeks of January 2007, united student voices against war and occupation were heard once again across the Lower Mainland. These days marked Mobilization Against War and Occupation's 6th Student Week Against War and Occupation (SWAWO). The demands of this year's SWAWO were "US/UN Troops Hands Off Africa!" "US/UK Out of Iraq!" "Canada Out of Afghanistan!" and "Self-determination for all oppressed nations!" With the US-backed Ethiopian invasion of Somalia and US air strikes in Somalia starting late December 2006, and the increased threats of a UN invasion of Sudan, SWAWO happened at a time when imperialist countries like the US and Canada were intensifying the era of war and occupation and expanding it into Africa.

It was with this next bloody step in the downward spiral of the era of war and occupation that students and youth in the Lower Mainland organized and built events about imperialist military intervention in Africa and about the wars and occupations since September 11th, 2001. Working with anti-war clubs and students'

war. In the last four years tuition at some post-secondary institutions has gone up over 200 percent, while the Canadian military budget has been doubled to \$26Billion. The Canadian Forces are recruiting youth and students to go fight and kill poor and working people in Afghanistan more aggressively than ever. In the first three weeks of 2007, the US and UK sunk further into the quagmire in Iraq with the announcement from the US that 21,500 new troops would be sent to Iraq. In Afghanistan, the NATO and Canadian occupation was also increased, with US doubling its military budget for Afghanistan and sending 3,200 more troops, and Canada adding \$10Million to the Afghan police force to suppress the resistance to the occupation.

In the midst of this increasing aggression by occupying forces, the resistance against war and occupation also grew in the new year. Women and youth are in the streets every day in Sudan demanding "No to UN Invasion!" In Somalia, people are fighting against the martial law imposed by the US-backed puppet "transitional government" and still resisting the invasion of the US-

Petitioning

Within 6 weeks, the campaign has taken the form of 10 educational campus and city-wide forums, as well as rallies and marches. But above all, the campaign has taken the form of two petitions which, from campus classrooms to rainy city streets, have now collected more than 2000 signatures against military intervention in Sudan and Somalia. On February 3rd and 10th, MAWO organizers petitioned at Metrotown Skytrain Station and the Downtown Vancouver Public Library, holding literally hundreds of conversations with poor and working people, with immigrants, with women and with young people about the current drive of war and occupation in Africa. At the same time, MAWO student members took the new petition against war in Africa to their campuses and collected hundreds of signatures as well. At the Vancouver Public Library, a young woman signed both petitions and said, "we were fooled twice already on Afghanistan and Iraq. I'm against these killings. This madness has to be stopped."

Forums

In addition to signing the petition, many local residents joined MAWO for a series of three city-wide forums demanding "US/UN Troops Hands Off Sudan and Somalia!" The forums were held on February 5th at the Burnaby Public Library, February 16th at the Britannia Community Centre and February 26th again at the Burnaby Public Library. The series has given those supportive or curious about the Hands off



Hands Off Africa Forum, Britannia
Community Center. Feb 16th.



Metrotown Petition Stop.
Feb 3rd.

support to the campaign.

Get involved with MAWO!

The successful launch of MAWO's new Hands Off Africa campaign came about through important lessons learned from MAWO's first and largest campaign to date - the "Canada Out of Afghanistan!" campaign. Initiated in January of 2004 and carried out through dozens of petition stops, pickets at the Canadian Armed Forces Recruitment Centre, educational forums and anti-war rallies, the "Canada Out" petition

has collected the signatures of more than 12,000 people in the Lower Mainland alone. This is a reflection of strength and diversity in the opposition to war and occupation amongst poor and working people here in Vancouver and across Canada.

As the world approaches the 4th anniversary of the invasion and continued occupation of Iraq, Mobilization Against War and Occupation and the organizers of MAWO's Hands Off Africa campaign have pledged to collect a total of 2,500 signatures before the March 17/18 International Weekend of Action against War. We invite all those opposed to imperialist war and occupation to join us in echoing the demands of the Somali and Sudanese people, and to make those demands grow across Canada:

HANDS OFF SUDAN! HANDS OFF DARFUR!

HANDS OFF SOMALIA! ALL FOREIGN TROOPS OUT OF SOMALIA!

US/UN TROOPS: HANDS OFF AFRICA!!

unions, SWAWO involved Langara College (Langara Students United Against War and Occupation and the Langara Students' Union), Douglas College (Douglas College Students Against War), Capilano College (Capilano Students Against War and the Capilano Students' Union), the University of British Columbia (Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq and Internationally-CAWOPI), Simon Fraser University (MAWO-SFU Club), UVIC Students Against War, and Lower Mainland high schools.

Under the banner of educating, organizing, and mobilizing students to oppose the increased war drive, student organizers held nearly 20 events during SWAWO, which were attended by hundreds of students. Forums about the era of war and occupation opening into Africa, film showings of the MAWO DVD "Canada: Imperialist Abroad, Imperialist at Home" and lunch time discussions such as the one organized at Delta South Secondary were held over the two weeks. Another important part of SWAWO was the launching of two new petitions: "No to UN Invasion of Sudan!" and "All Foreign Troops Out of Somalia!" SWAWO opened the doors to thousands of discussions between students that resulted in 500 signatures on these petitions against US/UN intervention in Africa.

That SWAWO involves united activity between campuses is only one component of the importance of youth organizing against

backed Ethiopian troops and the US bombing of their country. Women in Afghanistan who are still not able to attend school now resist the NATO and Canadian troops threatening them in the streets, and continue organizing and demanding their right to education. The connection of youth and students in Canada to youth and students living under war and occupation all over the world is a concrete reality that cannot be ignored. Youth and students must not stand in the wake of wars and occupations happening all over the world, we must unite to together and fight! Student Week Against War and Occupation #6 was one more step towards the unity of anti-war youth and students in Canada, important in strengthening the anti-war movement fighting for an end to imperialist war at home and abroad.



Langara Students United Against
War & Occupation forum at
Langara College.



Always Onward to Free the Cuban 5!

By Noah Fine

"Free, Free the Cuban 5!" "Extradite Posada to Venezuela Now!" were the demands of over 40 people at a loud and energetic picket action on January 30th at the US Consulate in Vancouver. This protest began a new year of efforts to free the 5 Cuban heroes.

The picket was opened by Phillipa Ryan, an Indigenous elder who welcomed the demonstration to Coast Salish territory and announced: "Like Fidel I will continue to fight!" until the 5 are free. Phillipa was joined by many other

speakers and protesters demanding justice for the Cuban 5. US government-backed terrorism against Cuba has wreaked havoc upon the Cuban people for almost 50 years. 3,500 Cuban people have been killed and 3,000 injured by cold terrorist acts including hotel bombings, poisoning of livestock, contamination of water reserves and the bombing of Air Cubana Flight 455 in 1976 that killed all 73 innocent passengers.

Gerardo Hernandez, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González and René González- known as the 5 Cuban Heroes- were sent to Miami, Florida to infiltrate and stop

right-wing anti-Cuban groups from committing acts of terrorism against Cuba. This Miami terrorist mafia, supported by the US government, has been able to work with impunity in their aim to destroy Cuba. Some of these terrorist gangsters include former CIA operatives like Luis Posada Carriles, who is responsible for the 1976 Air Cubana bombing.

These 5 heroes reported to the US and Cuban authorities, describing in detail plans of terrorism against Cuba. The US government has done nothing to stop the terror against Cuba, and only acted to imprison the 5 heroes in September 1998 – five men who were truly fighting a "war on terror" without weapons or endangering people's lives.

Current Situation: Fighting for Justice in the Devil's Court

After being subjected for three years to illegal periods of solitary confinement and torture, the Cuban 5 were given a trial in 2001. To the protest of their lawyers, Amnesty International, and the UN, the trial of the Cuban 5 was held in Miami, a city where anti-Cuban hostility runs high. In 2005, three judges of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta ruled that now fair trial for the 5 could be held in Miami, and granted the Cuban 5 a re-trial with a new venue. With tremendous sway by US

Attorney General Roberto Gonzales, the decision to hold the re-trial with a change of venue was reversed, leaving the 5 to fight an impossible battle in Miami. After over eight years of imprisonment, the US still refuses to release any evidence of wrongdoing by the 5, and has given them sentences ranging from 15 years to two life sentences.

Support for the Cuban 5 Continues to Grow

"When for a brief moment we come to think that we have done enough, we must think of them."

-Ricardo Alarcon, President of the National Assembly of People's Power in Cuba speaking about the 5 Cuban Heroes.

Around the world, pressure is being built with 290 committees in 97 countries calling for an end to the imprisonment of the Cuban 5. This pressure is accumulating with constant international campaigns and support from even the Russian Duma, which on February 21st passed a resolution urging the US Congress to take action to free the Cuban 5.

How Can You Help?

The Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver has been organizing consistently to bring support for the Cuban 5 from Vancouver

to the international campaign. The committee organizes monthly picket actions and frequent educational forums, and has collected over 5,000 signatures on



Picket line at the US Consulate January 30th.

our petition demanding freedom for the Cuban 5. So get involved! If you don't live in Vancouver, look for one of the many committees worldwide for the Cuban 5 or start your own.

In Vancouver as around the world, we will continue to fight for justice until the 5 are free!

Vancouver:

www.vancubasolidarity.com/freethefivevan.html
604.719.6947
cuban5_van@yahoo.com

Canada:

www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca

US:

www.freethefive.org

International:

www.antiterroristas.cu



Phillipa Ryan addresses the crowd at the January 30th picket.

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Who is VCSC?

Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) is an organization working to build solidarity and support for Cuba in Vancouver, Canada and internationally. To do this, we organize frequent educational events, cultural events, conferences, mobilizations and actions in support of Cuba's sovereignty against Imperialist attacks and in defence of the gains of the Cuban revolution. We also support 3 petition campaigns:

- 1- Against the US Blockade on Cuba
- 2- To Free the Cuban 5 held in US Jails
- 3- To Extradite anti-Cuban Terrorist Luis Posada Carriles to Venezuela

Through petitioning throughout the lower mainland, at events, festivals, high schools and campuses, we engage with thousands of people about Cuba. Our work aims to bring Cuba, as a country making important social gains, to youth, students, women, Latin American people, people of the third world and other working and oppressed people in Canada, as an example of a building a better world.

We welcome new members and encourage everyone to get involved with VCSC to build a larger, stronger Cuba solidarity movement in Canada!

For more information contact:
cubacommunities@yahoo.ca
778-882-5223
www.vancubasolidarity.com

Comunidades de Vancouver en Solidaridad con Cuba (VCSC por sus siglas en ingles) es una organización que trabaja para crear apoyo y solidaridad para Cuba en Vancouver, Canadá e internacionalmente. Para cumplir con esta labor nosotros organizamos frecuentes eventos educativos y culturales, conferencias, movilizaciones y acciones en defensa de la soberanía de Cuba contra los ataques imperialistas y en defensa de las victorias de la Revolución Cubana.

Además apoyamos 3 campañas de peticiones:

- 1- Contra el Bloqueo de los EE.UU. contra Cuba
- 2- Por Libertad de los Cinco Cubanos Encarcelados en los EE.UU.
- 3- Por la Extradición del Terrorista Anticubano Luis Posada Carriles

A través de las campañas de peticiones en toda la lower mainland, en eventos, festivales, secundarias, y universidades,

¿Quiénes son VCSC?

podemos conversar con miles de personas sobre Cuba. El objetivo de este trabajo es llevar a Cuba, un país haciendo importantes avances sociales, a jóvenes, estudiantes, mujeres, personas de América Latina, personas del tercer mundo y a otras personas trabajadoras y oprimidas en Canadá, como un ejemplo de la construcción de un mundo mejor.

Cualquier miembro nuevo es bienvenido y animamos a todos a que se involucren con VCSC para construir un movimiento de solidaridad con Cuba más fuerte y más grande en Canadá.

Para conseguir mas información contacta:
cubacommunities@yahoo.ca
778-882-5223
www.vancubasolidarity.com

Five Heroes Freedom Fund



Since the imprisonment of the 5 Cuban Heroes in 1998, the biggest roadblock for the case has been a complete media blackout. The National Committee to Free the Cuban Five in the U.S. has launched a \$250,000 fund for a mass national media campaign. They are asking all individuals and organizations to do whatever possible in the raising of this urgently needed money.

To make a donation or to find out more about the "Five Heroes Freedom Fund" please check out

www.freethefive.org or
www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca

EVENTS and ACTIONS

Toronto

Canada in Afghanistan
WHAT'S REALLY HAPPENING?
 Conference
 Sat. March 3
 12:00PM
 (registration opens at 11:00am)
 Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)
 252 Bloor Street West - Room 4422
 (TTC: St. George)
 Org'd by: Toronto Coalition to Stop the War
 stopthewar@sympatico.ca | www.nowar.ca

March and Rally Against Police Brutality
 10th Annual International Day Against Police Brutality
 Thurs. March 15th
 4:00PM
 College & Lansdowne
 Org'd by: Ontario Coalition Against Poverty
 ocap@tao.ca | www.ocap.ca

Not In Our Name: Jewish Voices Against Israel's Wars
 Thurs. March 15
 7:30 PM
 Room 2211
 Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)
 252 Bloor Street West (at St. George Subway)
 Org'd by: by NION (Not in Our Name)
 notinournameter@yahoo.ca

Ottawa

END the wars of occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan.
 BRING Canadian and US troops home immediately.



REJECT the Canada-US military partnership.
 Sat. March 17th
 1:00 PM
 Meet at the Spider outside the National Gallery,
 380 Sussex Drive
 Org'd by: NOWAR-PAIX
 www.nowar-paix.ca | info@nowar-paix.ca

Student Action Against the Occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan
 Sat. March 17
 11:30AM
 University of Ottawa Morissette Library
 Org'd by: Student Coalition Against War
 scaw.ottawa@gmail.com

Quebec City

International Day of Action Against War on the 4th Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq
 Sat. March 17
 Time & Location TBA
 Org'd by: Coalition de Québec pour la Paix
 www.coalitionsquebec.org

Edmonton

International Day of Action Against War on the 4th Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq
 Rally and Anti-war Film Showing
 Sat. March 17
 Gather 12:30PM – Corbett Hall, University of Alberta
 March to Arts Barns Foyer
 Rally 2:00PM
 Film Showing: A Letter to the Prime Minister: Jo Wilding's Diary from Iraq
 Org'd by: Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism
 www.ecawar.org

Calgary

International Day of Action Against War on the 4th Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq
 Rally
 Sat. March 17
 1:00PM
 U.S. Consulate – 615 McLeod Trail SE
 For more info: march17calgary@hotmail.com

Nanaimo

International Day of Action Against War on the 4th Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq
 Rally
 Sat. March 17
 12:30PM
 Harbourfront Plaza
 Org'd by: United For Peace and Justice Nanaimo
 For More Info: 250-753-3015

Victoria

International Day of Action Against War on the 4th Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq
 Rally
 Sat. March 17
 12:00PM
 Centennial Square (Douglas & Pandora)
 Org'd by: Canada Out of Afghanistan Campaign
 outofafghanistan@yahoo.ca

Vancouver

International Women's Day: Celebrating Women's Struggles
 Sun. March 4
 6:00PM
 Rhizome Café
 317 E. Broadway- corner Kingsway
 Org'd by: Haiti Solidarity BC & Canada Haiti Action Network

Strengthen Women's Resistance Oppose Imperialism's Intensifying Attacks! Assert Women's Basic Human Rights!

March and Rally
 Thurs. March 8
 5:30 pm
 Chinatown Memorial Square (NE corner of Keefer and Columbia)
 Org'd by: Grassroots Women
 604.682.4451 | grassrootswomen@telus.net

Challenging Israeli Apartheid: Public Forum with Adam Hanieh
 Sun. March 11
 6:30PM
 733 Beatty Street (YWCA)
 Suggested donation: \$5-10
 Org'd by: Palestine Community Centre
 info@palestinecommunitycentre.com

Our History is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution
 Sun. March 11
 2:30PM
 Vancouver Public Library (350 W. Georgia)
 Alice MacKay Room
 For more info: pathfinderpress.com | 604-324-2671

Our History is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution
 Mon. March 12
 12:00PM
 University of British Columbia Asian Centre Auditorium – 1871 West Mall
 For more info: pathfinderpress.com | 604-324-2671

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Mike Chimenti
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 Phone: (604) 518-5009
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Also Available from FIRE THIS TIME



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Vancouver Socialist Education Conference

Friday Evening 7:30 PM
 "The Struggle for Socialism in the 21st Century"
 Featuring speakers on the revolutionary movements in Cuba and Venezuela

Saturday 10 AM
 "Fighting for socialism in Canada"
 Featuring speakers on:
 - Indigenous struggles for self-determination in Canada;
 - Building a fighting labour movement across Canada and Quebec;
 - Building movements against imperialist war today"
 Building a fighting anti-war movement today
 - The Palestinian struggle for rights and a historical context
 - Cuba's place in the world anti-imperialist struggle

March 9th & 10th 2007
SFU Harbour Centre
515 W. Hastings St.
 (Headings and signposts)

A conference organized by socialist activists in Vancouver, with guest speakers from other parts of Canada
 For more information, contact:
 Socialist Voice
 (778) 683-1171 / (778) 684-2718
 www.socialistvoice.ca
 socialistvoice@sympatico.ca

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Canada \$15
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Celebrate International Women's Day
Celebra el Día Internacional de la Mujer

Unite For Women's Rights!
Unidad por los Derechos de las Mujeres

No to Poverty! ¡No a la Pobreza!
No to War! ¡No a la Guerra!

Saturday March 10th
Park Lodge Hall
4474 Rupert St
(Rupert St & 29th Ave)
7pm

Música, Discursos y Comida!
Music, Speeches & Food!
MENU/MENU

Chocoranes \$4
Chocoranes (green & chocolate) \$2
Chocoranes (red) \$2
Chocoranes (red & chocolate) \$2
Agua sin Azúcar (Coca Cola) \$1
Café / Coffee \$1.50

Organized by: **Coalicón 8 de Marzo - The 8th of March Coalition**
A coalition of organizations and individuals, endorsed by:
Asociación Cubana Centre & Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (ACSC)
Site web: www.acsc.ca
el Centro Cultural Asociado y Comunidades de Vecinos en Solidaridad con Cuba (VCSB)
To get involved please contact Rosa: 604-432-2952
Park participatif en cette coalition par favor contactez à Rosa: 604-432-2952

Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution

**Monday
March 12
12 noon**

**Asian Centre
Auditorium
1871 West Mall**

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Perspectives: BC's
First English-Chinese
Student Newspaper

For more information:
Tel: 604-324-2671
pathfinderpress.com

Hear Armando Choy speak at UBC Monday, March 12. Choy, Gustavo Chui and Moisés Sío Wong – three young rebels of Chinese-Cuban ancestry – threw themselves into the 1956–58 Cuban revolution that brought down the Batista dictatorship. They all became generals in Cuba's army, helped lead 375,000 Cuban volunteers in the fight to defeat South African apartheid's invasion of Angola, and play leadership roles in Cuba today. *Our History Is Still Being Written*, published by Pathfinder Press, tells their story.

The three describe how Cuba's Spanish colonial rulers brought over 150,000 Chinese indentured labourers to work as virtual slaves in the sugar industry. They tell the story of the thousands of Chinese-Cubans who participated in the war of independence against Spain and in the 1956–58 revolution. They explain that it was only because of Cuba's socialist revolution that "discrimination—against blacks, against Chinese, against women, against the poor—was ended." Along with millions of other Cubans the three have changed the course of history.



Chinese-Cubans 1960 rally in support of nationalizing U.S. industries.

Hear Armando Choy:
Chinese-Cuban leader and author

Other speakers:

- Alejandra Bronfman**: Associate Professor, Latin American Studies, UBC
- Allan Cho**: Editor-in-chief, *Perspectives*
- Mary-Alice Waters**: Editor, *Our History*; President, Pathfinder Press
- Henry Yu**: Associate Professor: History, UBC; Asian American Studies, UCLA
- Eleanor Yuen**: Head, Asian Library UBC

Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution

**Sunday
March 11
2:30 PM**

Hear Armando Choy at the Vancouver Library March 11. Choy, Gustavo Chui and Moisés Sío Wong – three young rebels of Chinese-Cuban ancestry – threw themselves into the 1956–58 Cuban revolution that brought down the Batista dictatorship. They all became generals in Cuba's army, helped lead 375,000 Cuban volunteers in the fight to defeat South African apartheid's invasion of Angola, and play leadership roles in Cuba today. *Our History Is Still Being Written*, published by Pathfinder Press, tells their story.

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Chinese-Cubans 1960 rally in support of nationalizing U.S. industries.

Hear Armando Choy:
Chinese-Cuban leader and author

Other speakers include:

- Karin Lee**: film-maker, *Canadian Steel*, *Chinese Grit*; *Comrade Dad*
- Grace Schenkeveld**: co-chair Head Tax Families Society of Canada
- Sid Tan**: Chairperson, Chinese Canadian National Council
- Mary-Alice Waters**: editor, *Our History*; president, Pathfinder Press

**Alice MacKay Room
Lower Level
350 W Georgia St.**

Sponsored by:

- ~ ACCESS: Association of Chinese Canadians for Equality and Solidarity Society
- ~ Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association
- ~ Pathfinder Books
- ~ Vancouver and District Labour Council
- ~ Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba
- ~ Vancouver Public Library

For more information:
Tel: 604-324-2671
pathfinderpress.com

International Weekend of Action*

US/UK OUT OF IRAQ! | CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN!
ALL FOREIGN TROOPS OUT OF SOMALIA! | US/UK TROOPS HANDS OFF SUDAN!
ISRAEL HANDS OFF LEBANON AND PALESTINE | SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS!

Saturday March 17th

Gather 12:30 pm	March 1:00 pm	Rally 2:00 pm
English Bay Denman @ Davie	→	Van Art Gallery Georgia @ Hornby

**Antiwar + Anti-Occupation
FREE ALL DAY CONFERENCE**
**The Struggle Against
Imperialist Terrorism:
Confronting the Wars &
Occupations After 9/11**

Sunday March 18th

11am-6pm | Registration: 10:30am
Britannia Community Center
1661 Napier Street @ Commerical Drive

Workshops on:

- 1 Expansion of the Era of War and Occupation in Africa
- 2 War and Occupation in the Middle East: Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Iran. Where are we going from here?
- 3 Building an Effective Antiwar Movement: Past, Present, and Future.

Mobilization Against War + Occupation MAWO
www.mawovancouver.org
604.322.1764 | info@mawovancouver.org

