AMERIKKKA'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS EXPOSED!

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

From a piece that extends only to an expensive essay, he draws the reader into invigorating debate. Addressing the need for people to learn from all that is exposed and revealing in this newspaper? Mainly, three things:

1) The whole system we now live under is based on exploitation—here and all over the world. It is completely worthless and has no basic change for the better. Can come about until this system is overthrown.

2) Many different groups will protest and rebels against this system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those who are willing to lose but their chains, who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow this system and create a new system that will put an end to exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.

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

This party has the vision, the program, the leadership, and the organizational principles to unite those who would like a world where they would no longer enslave, oppress, and degrade people. Maybe they would turn away from mass slaughter in wars and instead devote their technology to eliminating human suffering throughout the world. Maybe they would stop treating people as things to be used so long as money can be made off them and to be thrown onto the garbage heap when there is no money to be made from them.

Let's be reasonable. Let's give them not just a few months or a few years. Let's give them a long time—say, maybe 200 or 300 years. . .Okay. . .TIME'S UP!
May 1st Rebels Confront the Terrordome

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

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

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

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

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

Los Angeles: Confrontation Behind the Barricades

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

Salvadorean youth from Pico-Union, Los Angeles

On May First in Los Angeles, a big hole was blown in the attempts of the government to pen in, lock up, and kill off our people, and the spirit of rebellion and liberation was established on the streets of Little Central America (La Centroamericana). Hundreds of revolutionary immigrants and youth of many nationalities united to boldly shut down a secret concentration camp for immigrants. This camp is inside a "barricade zone"—one of L.A.'s six gestapo ghettos set up by the LAPD to lock down oppressed Black and Latino people. On the outside it looks like an old motel, but up to 250 prisoners, including families and children, are imprisoned behind its iron bars and gates. As a reporter for Channel 7 local ABC-TV news said: "Until two hours ago, nobody knew this was a detention center." But everybody knows now! They know because the revolutionary people of L.A. went straight up against the clampdown/lockup plans of the rulers with the spirit of a very different future. While hundreds of people gathered in the area of the INS Detention Center, blowing whistles and chanting revolutionary slogans, the iron gates of this concentration camp were chained from the outside and a big banner saying "Revolution, The Only Solution" was stretched across the front. Rubber tires blocked all the entrances. On the roof, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade, Rojo, proclaimed the goal of all the way Maoist revolution and shouted, "Free My People!" For a short time, the concentration camp was... Continued on page 8
New York:
No Peace 4 Racists on May 1

May 1—CUNY students march in Manhattan.

Into these battles.

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

Red Flags in Downtown Brooklyn

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

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

When the march gets to the courthouse, people bolt for the steps, shouting "Justice for Yusuf!" This is the courthouse where the trial of those who murdered Yusuf Hawkins has been a platform for racists to spew their filthy garbage. This is where the Bensonhurst trial has been used to punish a young woman, Gina Feliciano, for daring to have Black and Latin friends and for defying the racist men who think they own her. This is the courthouse that most of Yusuf's murderers have never seen—because they've never been arrested. And this is the courthouse where killer cops, like those who murdered Juan Rodriguez, get set free. Now the people fill the steps of this courthouse with banners declaring: "Racists, Rambo's, Rulers of Amerikkka—It's All Going To Fall on You!" When the pigs start to shove people off the steps the march takes off again, only to take over the steps at the back of the courthouse. More cops come running and push people out into the street. The police are furious when they look back and see May 1st Manifestos up on the courthouse. They charge after the protesters, flinging people to the ground, beating them in full view of rush hour traffic on the entrance road to the Brooklyn Bridge. In all, thirteen people—ten women and three men—are arrested and charged with criminal mischief, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

CUNY Students:
"This Is Our March"

On May 1st, 500 students from the City University of New York (CUNY) hit the streets of lower Manhattan. The protest was called to commemorate last year's city-wide student strike that defeated the authorities' plan to raise tuition and protest current efforts to increase tuition. Black students, students from the Caribbean, Latinx, Palestinians, and others from different CUNY campuses defiantly marched down Broadway. Students sang in Caribbean style, "No, no, no Caomonomo." Some marched with katanas wrapped around their heads. Others wore bright African prints, joining in with the Kid 'N Play-styled youth. The pigs ringed the march on both sides with motorcycle cops, confusing it to one

"Free South Africa! Free the South Bronx!"

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

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

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

In less than fifteen minutes the two people arrested were freed! The group marched back to the site of the arrest, where someone from the RCP and the Latino man who had been arrested climbed up on a phone booth and spoke to the crowd. After the demonstration ended, behind on the sidewalk, someone had spraypainted, "Fight the Power, Devastate Apartheid, Free South Africa/South Bronx, F*ck Police."
The March went down Wall Street and then occupied the steps of Federal Hall. At this point some students bought American flags from a street vendor and promptly torched them. One student started up the chant, "The whole system got to go!"

The March then went to the World Trade Center where Governor Cuomo’s office was situated. One black student threw a stone to the middle of the street. Pigs in and out of uniform charged in, viciously grabbing people and arresting nine people. Throughout the day RCP May 1st Manifestos got out broadly in the crowd. One student told the RW when asked the pig on May Day, "Revolution outrage. That’s right. That’s just what it’s supposed to be. And that’s just why we doing it today."

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

No Peace for Racists at Long Island University

Students at CUNY are predominantly proletarian and lower middle class. A continued on page 6

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

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

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

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

An illegal network of workers called for a national strike to mark May Day. Authorities responded by saying that Levin had a right to "free speech." But this ugly fest was overshadowed by all such strikes are illegal and that organizers would be arrested. Ignoring this Ignited a surge of workers from getting inside the meeting room where Levin was speaking. A table blocked the way to the main door were covered with English and Spanish slogans stenciled in bright yellow paint: "Support the People's War in Peru!" and "Down with U.S. Intervention in Peru!" Ten feet of sidewalk graffiti spelled out in red: "U.S. Out of Peru!" and "Viva la CGT!" Meanwhile, at New York's office of the Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA agents are stationed at the Viet Nam War-style Santa Lucia firebase in Peru.

New York

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South Korea

In the days leading up to May First, various revisionist, social democrat, and other such reactionary forces fought riot police with rocks and molotov cocktails. More than 8,000 students from twenty-two universities gathered in Seoul, the capital, for a rally that turned into widespread street fighting with riot police. About 1,000 provosting students at Seoul National University adopted a resolution vowing to "stage struggles against the government party in alliance with Hyundals who are standing up against cruel suppression to push their nose." A leaflet distributed at a demonstration by students of Pocha Women's University called for "crushing the government party" in a "sea of fire with a general strike by students and workers" on May 9. CNN TV news has shown young women playing a front-rank role in the street fighting—squares of female students are seen hurling firebombs as they charge riot police.

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

West Berlin

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

But this ugly fest was overshadowed by powerful actions centered in Kreuzberg, an inner-city ghetto of Berlin with a reputation for revolutionary energy. About 13,000 people participated in a revolutionally. In Kreuzberg which brought together both immigrant Turkish and native German residents, we read: "We are all a bit nervous," said West Berlin's city spokesman. "We just hope the rioting doesn't spread to other city districts." At the end of the new "East-West cooperation" between the two Germanies, East Berlin deployed 3,000 of its police on May Day. According to the Berlin government, the police were supposed to press any May First uprising that their West German brother-pigs couldn't contain.

The column of protesters waved its way for two miles through Kreuzberg as the watchful eye of police in full riot gear. Marchers chanted refreshing anticolonial slogans against the German, imperialist reunification. Banners read "No to one Germany" and "Smash the U.S. imperialists!"

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

Peru

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

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

At New York's Peruvian consulate, two large pillars on both sides of the entrance were covered with English and Spanish slogans stenciled in bright yellow paint: "Support the People's War in Peru!" and "Down with U.S. Intervention in Peru!" Ten feet of sidewalk graffiti spelled out in red: "U.S. Out of Peru!" and "Viva la CGT!" Meanwhile, at New York's office of the Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA agents are stationed at the Viet Nam War-style Santa Lucia firebase in Peru.

The scripts read, "Communism is dead. Capitalism is victorious. So May First must be dead too." TV news on May Day was full of pictures of Soviet leader Gorbachev being booted in Moscow and of people in Eastern Europe having no political parties. Just like Labor Day in the U.S. The U.S. propaganda machine is trying to fake international agreement that the fact the worker communism of the Soviet bloc has collapsed. That phony communism claimed to be a "society without class" but it was really just a different form of capitalism—full of corruption, oppression, crisis, and suffering just like the U.S.

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

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

Turkey

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

Turkish news agencies reported that the police used extreme means to try to stop the demonstrations. Serious fights between police and demonstrators broke out at marches in Istanbul. More than 300 people were arrested. Seven demonstrators were seriously injured, including two with gunshot wounds. One young woman student was shot twice in the back. At least seven police were also injured.

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

Mexico

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

Philippines

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

Panama

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

_inside the room where Levin was speaking told the RW that when the chanting outside grew to a roar, a terrified Levin stood up with such force he knocked over his chair and his papers went flying. People outside grew to a roar, a terrified Levin stood up with such force he knocked over his chair and his papers went flying. Levin was quickly escorted out via the basement and the conference was canceled. More cops flooded the lobby, billy clubs flying, forcing students out into the courtyard. But all this brutality did the clubs flying, forcing students out into the courtyard. But all this brutality did the...

students had gotten May Day Manifestos and revolutionaries from the Brooklyn May Day march had been invited to join the protest against Levin. At a rally held after Levin was shut down, Carl Dix, spokesperson for the RCP, and Mary Lou Greenberg, spokesperson for the RCP New York Branch, addressed the crowd of students who gave them an enthusiastic response. They're a war coming down—a war that would have Black people locked down and subjegated. But on May Day the oppressor didn't have things their way as the people made sure there was "No Peace for Racists!"

"People out here notice that this march is made up of people of all different nationalities, all different colors. And that's the way it's gotta be if we're gonna go after the enemy and really bring him down... When we unite it's gotta be firmly against the enemy and really go after the enemy and really... We're not gonna tolerate this shit no more... Don't be intimidated by this sea of blue, for this sea of blue will soon be through!"

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

May 1—United Nations Assembly Building, New York.
Miami, Sunday, April 29. The Krome Detention Center—in INS concentration camp where almost 400 Haitian immigrants are imprisoned. Vysi-Vyi, a mass organization of progressive and revolutionary Haitians has called for a demonstration and 5,000 people have gathered to demand: "We want our people freed! Shut Down the Camp!"

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

The angry crowd is overwhelmingly Haitian, but there are also people of other nationalities, including progressive white attorneys, Black and Puerto Rican youth, revolutionary communists and Iranian revolutionaries. Angry signs are everywhere: "Never again—How can this happen?" "Haiti-Fort Dimanche = INS-Krome" (Fort Dimanche is an infamous Duvalier political prison and torture chamber in Haiti) "Touch of Hitlerism!" "Apartheid is the INS!" Father Gerard Jean-Juste tells the crowd, "We want freedom and justice for the Haitian refugees and all the immigrants are in this group, and they kill some, but not all. We should go in!"

A Latino commentator for the L.A. Times had to admit that the revolutionaries had "updated the "Barrio". Policemen, like tiger sharks, are less than discriminating when it comes to a fight for freedom. They jumped on anything young and noisy, sometimes six of them wresting one skinny kid to the ground in a display of witless overreaction. "You can't kill the revolution." Altogether, the pigs arrested eighteen people and held them for a total ransom of $8,000 bail.

Continued from page 3

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

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

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

continued from page 3
One Haitian man, dead serious, calmly points to the guards and says, “We’re gonna get you.”

One Haitian youth, repeated...

The very next day, while all those arrested and brutalized by theellen...
La Resistencia: "Liberar todos"

Houston, Texas. Early morning, May 4. Stormtroopers begin a coordinated assault against immigrants and Black people living in the Gulfton district, an area which has the largest concentration of Central Americans in Texas. On a de facto labor camp, where men from El Salvador and Mexico gather to find work, a patrol from the INS and the police coordinate this whole effort. An article in the Houston Post revealed that "two individuals at the police command post in the Gulfton area acknowledged they represented the INS but refused to comment."

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

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

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

The press conference/rally showed that the depth of feeling about shutting down America's concentration camps and the breadth of forces that are beginning to turn this into a national movement. Speakers included Florov Samod from the Krome Liberation Front struggle; Rojo from the RCVB; Dick Laird from the Los Angeles chapter of La Resistencia; Roberto, a revolutionary youth from the area who was arrested on charges of burning a bank; and spokespeople for Libres Revolucion and the May Day Committee. Statements were read from Father Gerard Jean-Franc, from Via Crucis of Project Lifeline in N.Y. and from Peter Sched, executive director of the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law in Los Angeles.

In America, concentration camps are legal, but protest against them is met with police violence. The rally was met with massive repression from the start. Armed INS agents on the roof with flashlights and videocameras, Phalanx of riot police on either end of the picket line, blocking the sidewalk: Many more riot police, vans and buses in a staging area just a half block away. It was a police clampdown.

Suddenly, banners appeared right on the street in front of the concentration camp, and the iron gate that appeared to be slowly battered fell open. The pigs decided to declare the picket line officially illegal and began a massive assault with about sixty riot police moving on the demonstration. Heavily uniformed and carrying guns, they formed a cordon to guard the entrance of the camp and further north on Alvardo Street. A couple of hundred people followed along as the police drove the demonstrators back into the street.

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Los detenidos

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

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

News Flash #2 from La Resistencia, Los Angeles

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

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

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

The efforts to SHUT DOWN the Pico-Union concentration camp is also part of a campaign initiated by La Resistencia during October 1988 aimed at bringing down the barricades from areas of Los Angeles made up of mainly immigrants, other Latinos and Blacks. The barricades and concentration camp in the Pico-Union area has as its primary purpose the roundup of Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees by joint Los Angeles police/INS forces, resulting in the deportation of the refugees to their death at the hands of U.S.-sponsored death squads in their home countries.

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

Join the Campaign to Shut Down America's Concentration Camp! For more information, contact:
La Resistencia
1833 W. 8th St, #100 - 163
Los Angeles, CA 90057
(213) 265-3071.

For Campaign expenses or to help cover the cost for bail for those arrested this week, checks can be made out to "La Resistencia."
Rojo: “A bold stand with cold revolutionary politics in command”

A correspondent for the RW in Los Angeles talked with Rojo, a member of the M1981 who took part in the May 1st action against the INS concentration camp in the Pico-Union area of Los Angeles on May 1st. This is one of the areas in Los Angeles which the police have barricaded using the so-called ‘War on Drugs’ as an excuse.

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

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

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

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

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

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

RW: People in the area, the masses in the area. I was talking with yesterday, people themselves who got brutalized just for being there, who weren’t part of this demonstration—they had kids very much like your own on their bodies just for being there. But they were all very supportive and wanting to know what happened to you. What do you want to say to these people?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RW: What brought you to become a revolutionary?

Rojo: First of all I had a consciousness, knowing that all this injustice and suffering that is being brought on by this U.S. capitalist system is indeed affecting the whole world, and is indeed affecting the peoples of the world. Not only does it exist within our own borders, but it grapples just about every continent on the face of this world. Not only is it a system that oppresses the people nationwide, but worldwide. What brought my revolutionary consciousness was when I asked myself what was I going to do about it. Was I going to stand on the sidelines and let this go on and not say anything, like a good German? Or say I didn’t know, or say it was just a job. It’s not about that, it’s about liberating our people and bringing this struggle on a much higher basis. That’s what brought me about to where I am today.
May Day in Chicago was marked by a militant action in the Chicago Housing Authority projects called by Fight the Power. The tables were turned when FTP carried out a brief takeover of a CHA office that erupted into a wild fight with the security guards and Chicago pigs. As we go to press, the enemy has viciously counterattacked and the struggle is escalating.

The stage was set for this bold action two days earlier as Black public housing residents and homeless people from Fight the Power joined Latino brothers and sisters and radical white youth in an internationalist contingent within the traditional May Day march. The vibrant contingent of 30 to 35 people, the largest in the demonstration, was charged up and ready to get it on. Chants of “More, more than ever!” and “Support the people’s war in Peru” blazed out as the march of 100 people went through the Spanish-speaking Pilsen community.

The American flag was righteously torched and Black proletarians, and revolutionary artist Dread Scott dashed to the front of the march waving the burning rag and stomping on it. A spokeswoman from Fight the Power received a strong response from the crowd as she linked the apartheid-style CHA lockdowns and ID cards for Black people with green cards and the oppression of immigrants. Black, brown and white people joined the contingent concluded with a determined and united singing of the “Internationale.”

That evening Fight the Power issued its proclamation for the coming action at May Day party. It condemned the CHA lockdowns which have already turned 36 high-rise buildings into jails and called on the masses to “break the chains that bind us. We proclaim this right as free human beings in a world that now chains us down and locks us up... We have been threatened with evictions, fines and harassed by managers and guards.” In the spirit of internationalism the proclamation continued, “We as residents of the CHA see and can identify ourselves with the South Africans and apartheid, with the Jewish community because of their permanent ID numbers tattooed on them, the Hispanics, because they were issued green cards, and the dogs in the kennels who must also wear tags.”

A mood of anticipation was in the air as May 1st dawned in the Harold Ickes housing project. Oversight May Day manifestos and graffiti reading “CHA = Apartheid” had appeared on the walls of the buildings. At 3 p.m., a contingent of “people’s guards” from FTP entered the CHA office while a dozen radical youth and FTP supporters posted themselves outside. The Chicago Tribune reported that the protesters “wood 2-4 tammers and a metal gate to barricade eight CHA employees and three residents inside the office.” Within minutes, two burning tires were sending black smoke into the air, drawing a crowd and more security guards. A banner read “Lock down the real criminals—the CHA” was hung on the building and a dispenser was moved to block a fire lane. The guards were quickly surrounded, and in the resulting melee a barrage of paint-filled balloons splattered red paint on the buildings and the guards. They backed off as protesters refused to be grabbed and dragged off.

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

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

The CHA office closed down for the rest of the day—no business as usual for the enforcers of the clampdown—and Shepard returned to receive her belongings under police escort. Shepard and the pigs and guards on the front of the Illinois Building were quickly surrounded, and as the people were surrounded, a banner read “end the war the buildings were burning.” A banner read “End the CHA Lockdowns” was hoisted in the air, drawing a crowd and more security guards. As the clampdown was driven home within days as the enemy counterattacked viciously and the struggle began escalating. According to residents, Shepard called a meeting of a CHA Advisory, a mass meeting to complain that she’s been harassed and policed with garbage and bottles. Then she delivered outrageous threats of massive retaliation for the violence of people’s direct action. Shepard told the Local Advisory Council (LAC) that everyone in the crowd at the FTP action will be evicted, and the called on the LAC to act as her snitch network to identify those on the scene.

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

“During the struggle in revolutionary China, the masses had a saying that ‘The people cannot light a candle, but the emperor can burn down whole villages,’” said Jean Marie from the Campaign to End the CHA Lockdowns. “In the housing projects, the authorities have carried out an offensive against the people—the lockdowns, pig patrols, evictions, repressive rules and regulations—and constructed a whole setup that the enemy counterattacked viciously. For example, on May 2nd, 1990, we wrote the letter to the Chicago Sun Times newspaper, we made the people of the CHA to mobilize its masses and take on these attacks in a real battle that can explode right in the faces of the CHA, the pigs, the school authorities, and the whole imperialist system they front for.”

The leaflet that appeared from revolutionaries in the Ickes on May 2nd, 1990, read: “We lost the initiative once. Let’s not lose it again. Let’s heighten the struggle, make them think twice about coming down with more oppression... Let’s turn the Ickes into another Soweto or Peru. If we can drive the enforcers out of the Ickes project, this will be a success of the future revolutionary people’s war when we can defeat them and run all of society.”
On the weekend of April 7, we drove up Interstate 87 in New York not knowing quite what to expect. We knew that state police and the FBI were threatening to invade Ganienkeh Territory where the Ganienkehaga (Ganienkehaga is Mohawk for “the People of the Land of the Flint”) on March 30 in Vermont National Guard helicopter on a medical flight had been shot down near a Mohawk community. Authorities claimed the shots came from Ganienkeh. The Indians claimed that the shots came from near Akwesasne Reservation, about fifty miles away. One thing was clear: the authorities used this as an excuse to bring out their armed forces to prepare to invade Ganienkeh Territory. Ganienkeh Territory is in northern New York state, just south of the Canadian border. It is a beautiful country, full of snow-capped mountains, streams and lakes. Before Europeans colonized the United States and stole the land from the Indian people, almost 9 million acres of land in what is now New York, Vermont and Canada was the land of the Mohawk Nation. In 1774 Joseph Grant, a British citizen who was half Mohawk, sold the land for $1,000. The Mohawks explain that he was not a chief and had no authority to do this. The Indians did not believe in European concepts of property, they did not believe that the land could be owned or sold. This "sale" has been and is still being used to rob the Mohawks of their land and their right to exist as a sovereign nation.

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

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

Shortly after the helicopter was shot down, authorities demanded access to Ganienkeh to conduct an "investigation." They were told that Ganienkeh was a sovereign nation and that they would conduct the investigation themselves. As soon as they were denied access to Ganienkeh Territory, the government mobilized its armed forces in preparation for an invasion. They did this despite the fact that they didn't have any real evidence that the shots came from Ganienkeh. The people of Ganienkeh did conduct their own investigation and found that no residents of the territory were responsible.

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

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

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

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

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

Taking Back Ganienkeh

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

White residents in the area frequently
Invasion at Akwesasne

As we go to press, the United States and Canadian governments have sent State Police and Mounted Police into the Akwesasne Indian Reservation. The Natives, Congress, the people, and the government are enraged. And remains on alert. And the press is creating, printing, and distributing opinion for a major military invasion.

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Last year the people won a major victory when the Supreme Court was forced to rule in favor of Joey Johnson and declare the Texas anti-

terrorism and flag-worship. President Bush started campaigning for a con-

servative Constituption, protecting freedom of speech, and the U.S. Congress passed a law criminalizing desecration of the American flag. Within days, people across the country protested the flag-burning ban. Four flag-burners were arrested in Seattle, Washington, and four were arrested in the state Capitol in Washington, D.C. Joey Johnson was one of those arrested, but the government refused to indict him for this flag-burning.

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

On May 2 the Emergency Committee held a press conference in New York. Speakers were:

Edward Kasnir, Emergency Committee To Stop the Flag Amendment, art historian for the American Way, Vice President of Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts and
testimony, who helped organize People's Flag Show

Mark Edelman, attorney who prepared the main amicus brief

Joey Johnson, Revolutionary Communist Youth, president of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade, the defendant in the original flag-burning case heard by the Supreme Court

Sharon Eichler, artist member of Refuse & Resist, Supreme Court defendant for D.C. flag-burning

A statement was read from the PEN Writers' Committee:

More than three dozen professional, religious, artistic, legal and political orga-
nizations, as well as scores of individual artists, have joined together to challenge the Flag Protection Act of 1989 which is now pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. Six separate amicus curiae briefs are being sub-

mitted in support of the seven flag-burning defendants. Separate amicus curiae briefs will also be submitted on behalf of:

American Bar Association
American Civil Liberties Union
National Association for the Advancement of
colored People
People for the American Way, who have been
the rulers of this country can't live with flag-burning. It's like the sight of a wooden stake to Dracula—it

speaks to their system. You hear it across the whole political spectrum, from Judge Bork to Governor Cuomo: "America is such a diverse and pluralist society that we need the flag to bind the country together."

But the new law hasn't stopped people. It's been opposed broadly...and defiantly. Talk about a thousand points of

light. At pro-choice demonstrations, at marches against U.S. intervention in Central America and against Bush, in art galleries and museums, on college campuses—the flag has been righteously dissed and torched. A thousand

threads connect these moves towards mandatory patriotism with the downpressing reality that is confronting people on all sides. And more and more people are making the connections between the flag and the pain this system rains down on people here and throughout the world. This is something the powers-that-be can't tolerate. You even get people from what they call the "heartland" getting alienated over this enforced patriotism. I've said before and I'll say it again: "This is a sick and dying empire desperately clutching at its symbols."

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

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Come to Washington, D.C.
on May 14

A Call to Action Against
Mandatory Patriotism

from

Joey Johnson

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

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

This is strange behavior for people who are always proclaiming how healthy and secure their democracy is, how the

American people are so totally with them, how acts of flag-burning involve only a tiny, isolated handful of "punks" and "hotheads." "If it were true, why the handcuffs and jail, why all the demagoguery and legal contortions? The fact

is the people that run this country can't live with flag-burning. It's like the sight of a wooden stake to Dracula—it

speaks to their system. You hear it across the whole political spectrum, from Judge Bork to Governor Cuomo: "America is such a diverse and pluralist society that we need the flag to bind the country together."

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There must be a powerful political statement made in Washington, D.C. on May 14. This political repression will not

go down. This must be a festival of internationalism. Immigrants who have experienced first hand the domination and brutality of U.S. imperialism must be there and send statements of support. Veterans who have seen the death and destruction delivered in the name of the "red, white and blue" must be there. The youth who are offered death at an early age by this system must be there. I know the RCYB will be there to take a bold stand with revolutionary politics and to demand that the government end its occupation in Panama. This is the flag flying over the fire bases the U.S. has set up in Peru.

DOWN WITH ENFORCED PATRIOTISM!