New Supreme Court Outrage vs. Women

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L.A.'s Channel Zero: The Christopher Commission

Rebels of Mt. Pleasant

Part 2
To the People of Bangladesh

On behalf of the entire Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, we send our heartfelt sympathy to the masses of people in Bangladesh in this hour of untold human suffering.

Cyclones are a massive natural force which mankind has not yet been able to harness. But the massive death toll and destruction from this cyclone is not mainly a result of the natural forces but from the fact that a reactionary social system is in place in Bangladesh and that the world is dominated by the ruling classes of a handful of imperialist states.

In the imperialist countries, also, natural disasters strike. But these countries have grown wealthy, largely through squeezing the life out of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the casualties in such disasters are usually low.

First these imperialist powers who were so quick to dispatch hundreds of thousands of soldiers, thousands of airplanes and helicopters and billions of dollars of weaponry to massacre the Iraqi people found their pockets empty in the face of the Bangladeshi disaster. Then the U.S. imperialists decided to divert thousands of troops from the Gulf, blood still dripping from their hands, to Bangladesh. This was done to reinforce their self-proclaimed "right" to intervene anywhere at will and to give a "human face" to their man-eating "new China and, under the leadership of Mao Tsetung and relying on their own efforts, were able to

This was proven in practice when the workers and peasants held power in revolutionary China and, under the leadership of Mao Tsetung and relying on their own efforts, were able to combat natural disasters and tame rivers which earlier had periodically wreaked havoc on the country. The hundred million people of Bangladesh are its greatest treasure, an inexhaustible power of cyclones and floods, it is first necessary for the people to conquer political power. The Revolutionary Internationalist Movement stands with you, not only in the painful days of today, but in the revolutionary struggle that will surely pave the way for the bright red Bangladesh of tomorrow.

Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement
New Supreme Court Outrage vs. Women

On Thursday, May 23 the U.S. Supreme Court launched a major attack against women's right to abortion. The court upheld federal regulations that require all employees of federally financed family planning clinics from having ANY discussion with their patients about abortion. This vicious move by the government will affect millions of women. It will lead to serious setbacks at clinics throughout the country that provide low-cost health care. All clinics that receive federal funds for family planning are now being given 30 days to inform the government that they will comply with the new regulations. If they do not comply their federal funds will be cut off. Clinics that do agree to the new regulations will have to put these anti-abortion rules into effect within the next 30 days.

The 5-4 ruling came down in the New York case, Rust v. Sullivan. Planned Parenthood and the City and State of New York had filed lawsuits arguing that these federal regulations violated the free speech rights of clinic employees as well as the constitutional rights of women to choose whether or not they wanted to get an abortion. The law already prohibits clinics from using federal funds for abortions. But these clinics have been allowed to give women counseling and information about abortion. Now these clinics will not even be allowed to mention the "A" word.

What will this mean? And who will be most affected?

In 1970, Congress voted to fund family planning clinics for low-income women through a program known as Title 10 of the Public Health Service Act. The purpose of this was to provide poor women with medical care, as well as information about family planning. Congress later passed legislation that made it illegal for these Title 10 funds to be used to provide abortions. But physicians in federally funded clinics were free to discuss abortion and to refer their patients to abortion providers. The clinics could even offer abortion services, as long as Title 10 funds were not used for this. Today, Title 10 has an annual budget of around $200 million a year. Some 4,500 clinics around the country receive these funds and provide services for nearly 4 million women a year. This is the single largest source of federal funds for family planning in the United States. And the women who benefit from these funds are many poor women and women of color. One-third of the women who use these family planning services are teenagers. And the communities that Title 10 clinics serve suffer disproportionately high rates of infant mortality, teenage pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases. Title 10 funding prevents more than three million unwanted pregnancies each year. In many of these communities, the clinics receiving Title 10 funds are the only source of family planning services and information, or even of general health care.

The Supreme Court did not use the Roe v. Wade case to overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision which gave women the right to abortion. But in fact, this ruling has in practical terms taken away the right to abortion for millions of poor women who cannot afford a private doctor but rely on federally funded clinics.

The court argued explicitly that these regulations were legal, even though they target poor women. The ruling stated: "The regulations do not violate a woman's Fifth Amendment right to choose whether to terminate her pregnancy... The fact that most Title 10 clients are low income affects the constitutionality of the regulations. In other words, the clinic's right to make regulations about abortion is not violated by requiring the clinics to provide information about abortion as an option. They will do more than just deny women information about abortion. They will impose a waiting period. The new regulations also require clinics to choose between going under and implementing the new regulations that they feel are wrong and against their commitment to provide women with good health care and the right to choose. A number of clinics have already announced that they will rather stop getting federal funds than allow themselves to be gagged by this new regulation. But this may mean that these clinics will be forced to cut back on low-cost services they provide, including prenatal care. The new regulations also require Title 10-funded clinics to separate their Title 10 programs physically as well as financially from any program--funded with non-Title 10 sources—that provides abortion counseling, referral, or services. But many clinics will not be able to afford to establish separate facilities with separate staffs. And so they will be forced to either eliminate programs that offer abortion counseling or lose federal funding altogether.

Amerikan Precedents

The court's ruling in Rust v. Sullivan is clearly meant to pave the way for even more sweeping attacks on abortion. First of all, the new federal regulations will do more than just deny women information about abortion as an option. They also instruct clinic employees to discourage women from choosing abortion. If a woman asks about abortion the regulations require that the clinic inform her that they "do not consider abortion an appropriate method of family planning." In other words, the government is not only dictating that clinic employees cannot mention the "A" word—but they must also counsel against abortion.

Women Must Have the Right to Choose! No Forced Reproduction! No Forced Sterilization! Women Are NOT Incubators! Fetuses Are NOT Children! Abortion Is NOT Murder!
San Francisco: Crashing the War Party

"This is supposed to be a happy day, and we have people acting unpatriotic," Tom Dempsey, a retired police captain, complained to the San Francisco Examiner. "It's sad to think that in a city like San Francisco you have to hide a parade here on the extreme edge of San Francisco. You can't have it all your way, we resist our paranoia." "We're just thankful to have a parade," Dorothy Dempsey added.

"When you look at the condition of African Americans, and you see this parade the streets like they had some kind of victory—I'm opposed to that. America don't have a conscience, we're here speaking out against this imperialism that's taking place," a young Black man told the RW.

SAN FRANCISCO. Suddenly four people vaulted the barricades and entered the parade route with a banner: "Stop the U.S. War Machine." As police chased them, a crowd went up from the war protest. Jeff Patterson—the first Marine in the Gulf—scalped the side of the two-ton army truck. Reaching the top of the truck he ripped off his sweatshirt, revealing a Stop the War Network T-shirt. For half a block as the truck rumbled down the street Jeff stood up and yells before police were able to climb up to arrest and arrest him. Protesters in the Presidio with the truck let up his banner, "Support GI Resisters!"
The parade was halted. Flagwavers booed, anti-war protesters were jumping up and down. "Awesome!" said a student. "Jeff stopped the parade. That was awesome!"

San Francisco's big welcome home parade on Armed Forces Day, May 18, turned out to be a bad day for warmongers. Things did not come off at all as the authorities had hoped. Attendance was poor. Even official police estimates put the crowd at 15 to 20,000. The actual number was much lower, probably half that at most. The Oakland Tribune called the half-hearted turnout for the parade "dismal."

Then, to make matters far worse, there were the protesters. Newspaper headlines read: "Parade for Military Draws Cheers, Jests and 'Troops March Home to Mixed Reception.'" What was going on? Parader balloons and black flags which could be seen casting a shadow over pockets of red, white and blue. Larger-than-life images of jubilant people started down at the uniformed float riders who started back with frozen smiles. Black and red streamers were hurled from the sides and loadeed, dropped across jeeps mounted with guns. Banners and signs denouncing the war and this celebration of mass murder lined the sides of the parade for a three-block stretch.

I'm here because I oppose the celebration of slaughter," a San Francisco man told the Examiner. "And a protester from Kingston told the Guardian. "There's a war on. We've got to say something. I do not support these troops. I support the ones who resisted."

A black woman student told the RW: "I am here today because I feel it's very important that people come out and protest this 'victory.' We all know that it was definitely a slaughter. People need to be out here because we have a voice. You have the mainstream media putting out this propaganda that the people who support the war are gonna outnumber the war protesters. But you see that there are not a lot of war supporters out here. We all have a voice and we can all make a difference. Even though I have finals, hey, it was important for me to come here to have my voice in with everybody else's." An activist in an organization called the Anarchist Anti-Apartheid Network planned the RW about their activities to oppose the war. "We're just thankful to have a parade," a young Black man told the RW.

A priest active in an organization called the SF Slate, mobilized their networks. Reli strians from schools and children riding on the floats. The event had a sentimental Nazi flair.

Neither Wilson nor any of the top military brass present for the ceremony seemed to venture beyond the gates of the compound. But even inside the military, protesters were jumping up and down. From the Presidio onto the parade route they were confronted on both sides by people forming a contingent of United Bay Area Veterans Against War, who had permission to march in the parade, whipped out a banner with an anti-war slogan—"Support the troops. Bring the troops home now. Blood for Oil. Support GI resistance"—as they passed in front of the reviewing stand. Four of the vets were detained by MPs and not released until the parade was over. Meanwhile, right under the noses of the military brass, WVAI leaflets to the troops were distributed, and many found their way into the hands of active-duty soldiers forced to participate in the parade.

As soon as the first paraders emerged from the Presidio onto the parade route they were confronted on both sides by people condemning celebration of this war of shame. Many wore black and carried black balloons and black flags which could be seen casting a shadow over pockets of red, white and blue. Larger-than-life images of jubilant people started down at the uniformed float riders who started back with frozen smiles. Black and red streamers were hurled from the sides and loaded, dropped across jeeps mounted with guns. Banners and signs denouncing the war and this celebration of mass murder lined the sides of the parade for a three-block stretch.
Before It Kills Again!

"No. War, No KKK, No Fascist USA," and
Stand With the Iraqi People! We stand with
the GI resistors! Stop the U.S. War Machine
arrested when they blocked a tank. The
peace activist, and a supporter of the
 cops were surrounded by people chanting,
said, "We cannot let fear paralyze us. We
anyone opposed to the celebration. At one
of the march police maintained a high
profile, intimidating and threatening
Stan of the parade. One Catholic activist
came out for the parade and other local
demonstrations put the crowd along the
route at about 100,000.

 companions glued broadcast that the San Fran-
cisco parade had not only flopped but was
ruined for them. TV anchors promised
General Westmoreland, would "get the
people arrested with serious felonies
assault with a deadly weapon."

"Mourn for Peace." Others were anarchists
and RCYB members, along with people
were grabbed in the militafy base after the
protest exceeded their expectations
some of the protesters are summing up
that the protest exceeded their expectations
but that it could have gone even further
than it did. One Latino student talked to the
parade, and when protesters went to the jail
out, that there was going to be 500,000
people there and that we were going to be a
tiny minority there and get killed. Not by
the cops but by other people. But it
turned out that they were definitely wrong,
and we had a strong number, where I think
if we had set our minds to actually stop the
parade we could have. We had the numbers
and we had the people that were willing to
do it, but since we went in with that fear, it
just goes to show that a moral lesson that
we should always be prepared to do the
very most...

Up Against the Hollywood Hype

The night before the Hollywood Wel-
come Home Parade, Los Angeles news-
casters glued broadcast that the San Fran-
cisco parade had not only flopped but was
ruined for them. TV anchors promised
General Westmoreland, would "get the
people arrested with serious felonies
assault with a deadly weapon."

"Babykiller" rang out from a crowd of
youth and Vietnam vets protesting the
parade, as Westmoreland’s car went by, the chant of
"Babylon" rang out from a crowd of
youth and Vietnam vets protesting the
celebration, there were about 150 pro-
testers in this section. Some were organized
by artists, who formed a group called
"Mourn for Peace." Others were anarchists
and RCYB members, along with people
who had come down looking for protest
because they couldn’t let this disputing
celebration go down unopposed. As Stealth
bombers made low-altitude passes over-
head, the youth mocked them with die-ins.

One white student summed up some of
his thinking about the day and what lies
ahead:
"I think it would be a farce if the American people so cel-
brate this war under the guise of supporting
the troops when it is clearly an unjust war
causing the slaughter of hundreds of thou-
sands of people.

"We’re so glad this protest is happening.
"We’re going to see a lot more oppon-
tion as the economic conditions in this
country deteriorate. We’ll see an increasing
number of people protesting against the
government, not just against a specific war
or for any specific cause but against the
government. A lot of people are coming to
terms with the fact that there is to be funda-
mental changes in our society, we can’t take a sin-
gle-issue, reformist approach anymore."

A short way down the parade route, as
Westmoreland’s car went by, the chant of
"Babylon" rang out from a crowd of
youth and Vietnam vets protesting the
celebration, there were about 150 pro-
testers in this section. Some were organized
by artists, who formed a group called
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celebration go down unopposed. As Stealth
bombers made low-altitude passes over-
head, the youth mocked them with die-ins.

There were reports of other groups of
protesters along the way. And in nearby
Pasadena, SCO held an opposition teach-in
sponsored by the War Resisters League.
L.A.'s Channel Zero: The Christopher Commission

In the highly charged political atmosphere that has shaken Los Angeles since the Rodney King beating, there are lots of official channels being offered. There are investigations, hearings, court cases and meetings—and the people are being told to put their faith in these channels if they want to deal with police brutality.

There are trials for four of the pigs who nearly killed King—but they aren't even charged with attempted murder. And all their colleagues who helped out aren't charged with anything (see last week's \textit{JWO}.

But at this point, the number one official channel is the so-called "Independent Commission on the Los Angeles Police Department"—a special "blue-ribbon" commission made up of bigtime lawyers, businessmen and academics appointed by Mayor Tom Bradley after the King beating. The Christopher Commission, as called because its chairman is former Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, is conducting its own investigation into the LAPD—a "top-to-bottom study." It is not going to focus on the King case, but rather look at the whole practice and philosophy of the police, according to Christopher and other city officials. It's promising to study everything—including the role of Gates and the Police Commission, the way cops are trained, whether or not they are disciplined and for what, how complaints are dealt with, how they are investigated and whether or not the District Attorney has prosecuted cops when he should have. To go over all that stuff, the Christopher Commission is holding secret, closed-door sessions and talking to cops, cop experts, prosecutors and other official types. The people are definitely not invited to these discussions.

But people are being urged to come out to the public hearings the Christopher Commission has held in oppressed communities like South Central and East L.A.—where top-level officials rarely show their faces. The city fathers were so unhappy when only a few people showed up to the Commission's first hearing downtown that they began a big media-hype with regular announcements about times and locations of future public forums in the communities. The staff of the Christopher Commission also made a big show of getting the opinions and expertise of lawyers who file police brutality lawsuits and of inviting activists to testify in the

Coverup Commissions

Warren Christopher cut his political teeth on coverup commissions. He was the vice-chairman of the McCone Commission set up by the California governor after the 1965 Watts Rebellion. Headed by the former director of the CIA and including top businessmen, judges and academics, the McCone Commission was supposed to discover what caused the rebellion and what should be done about it. But while it made some general noises about discrimination, the McCone Commission refused to even criticize any of the major institutions of the society. Even such a moderate group as the California State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights called its report "elementary, superficial, unorganized and unimaginative," adding that it showed "a marked and startling lack of understanding of the civil rights movement."

Most importantly in light of the current situation, the McCone Commission refused to even mildly criticize LAPD and its Chief at the time, William Parker. Parker, who was Gates's boss and idol and who the current Los Angeles Police Department's "top-to-bottom study" is currently examining, has been described as the model police department for the early-day elite robocops armed with little knowledge that there was any truth in people's complaints about the police, just that more need to be done to convince people that their complaints were being investigated. Shortly after his work on the McCone Commission, Warren Christopher was promoted to his post as Deputy Attorney General.

Because the memory of the McCone Commission's coverup is still vivid in the minds of many older people in the Black community and elsewhere, Christopher isn't talking much about it these days. Instead, what he and other city powers refer to as the model for the current operation is the Knapp Commission, formed in 1970 to investigate the notorious corruption, bribe-taking, graft and theft rampant in the New York Police Department. It was well known that just about every cop on the force was on the take, but this had been going on for years. It was especially sharp in Harlem, where the pigs were making big bucks from drug deals. And most of the system was of keeping Black and Puerto Rican people down.

But by 1970, everyone realized that the Watts Rebellion had been the only beginning of a wave of urban rebellions that shook this country to its foundations. The powers needed the police to be able to sup-
public hearings about their knowledge of L.A.'s uniformed gangsters. But for the people, this official channel is really Channel Zero. The L.A. Times said the Commission must "restore confidence in a proud department." But, as many people know, what the department is proud of is racist brutality, repression and outright murder against the oppressed people. That is its mission in a society based on exploitation and inequality. The Christopher Commission is assigned to COVER UP that fact and WHITEWASH the very nature of the LAPD at a time when the global spotlight is shining on its crimes.

Yes, the Christopher Commission wants to hear people's complaints about the police so that some will believe it is "cleaning up" the LAPD. The powers want the Christopher Commission to convince some of these people that it is changing things, that the whole matter should be left up to them, that people don't need to step up their struggle against police repression. They want the Christopher Commission to "restore confidence" in the LAPD so that some of those who now fight against police repression will drop out.

But more important than his positions is the role that Warren Christopher played in carrying out U.S. imperialism's suppression of the people. He is most famous for negotiating with Iran when he was a Deputy Secretary of State under Jimmy Carter. His mission was to get the U.S. spies and diplomats released after Iranian students had taken them hostage at the U.S. embassy. This was after the Shah of Iran, a brutal U.S.-supported dictator, had been overthrown by the Iranian people and the U.S. embassy was being used to try and engineer a return to power for his followers. Christopher had actively supported that effort, and he had previously been responsible for helping to supply the Shah with the U.S. weapons used against the Iranian people. As Deputy Secretary of State, Christopher had been responsible for deciding that the Shah was "human rights" record was well within the acceptable standards for receiving U.S. military aid.

Christopher has also played a role in suppressing the people within the U.S. He was a Deputy Attorney-General under Lyndon Johnson in the late '60s. Among other things, he recommended that the Michigan National Guard be called up to try and put down the Black people's rebellion in Detroit in the summer of 1967.

While none of the other members of the Commission have Warren Christopher's unique credentials, most of them are reliable servants of the powers-that-be. For example, the vice-chairman is a right-wing former California Supreme Court justice who was chosen by Dan Gates to head up a LAPD-sponsored Commission, which ended up merging into Christopher's group. Among his many court decisions was one permitting the police department, even in the face of police department opposition, the Knapp Commission helped to "restore confidence" (in some circles) in the NYFD, and this made it more possible for the cops to get support for their mission—suppressing the people, especially the Black and Puerto Rican people—under the guise of "law and order."
One of the things the Mount Pleasant rebellion really brought to life is just how fast things can change.

Almost overnight Mount Pleasant has gone from an outwardly calm little neighborhood—where thousands of Latino immigrants and other oppressed nationalities lived desperate lives of quiet hell and seething anger—into a stronghold of defiance and struggle against oppression. In many ways Mt. Pleasant and some of the surrounding communities have become enemy territory for the police and other agents of the brutal system they serve.

Despite efforts by the authorities to bury the rebellion, the signs of it are everywhere. The fried chicken outlet that was trashed during the rebellion is boarded up now and the boards have been decorated with the slogan “We Don’t Want No Police State At All!” The red brick wall of the local 7-11, a popular hangout for the police and the place where police sought refuge in the face of the rebellion, has been spraypainted with “Fuck the Police!” in foot high letters. Revolutionary graffiti decorates some of the vacant apartment buildings in the neighborhoods—including one building where dozens of immigrant families were evicted by the city shortly after many of them had lost their entire life savings in a sleazy investment scam that took advantage of the shadow existence of undocumented immigrants.

But the clearest signs of the rebellion, and the biggest change in the community, is among the people themselves. The two-day rebellion—sparked when police shot Daniel Gomez after attempting to arrest him for drinking a beer in public—gave the people a taste of themselves. The two-day rebellion—sparked when police shot Daniel Gomez after attempting to arrest him for drinking a beer in public—gave the people a taste of themselves. The two-day rebellion—sparked when police shot Daniel Gomez after attempting to arrest him for drinking a beer in public—gave the people a taste of themselves. The two-day rebellion—sparked when police shot Daniel Gomez after attempting to arrest him for drinking a beer in public—gave the people a taste of themselves. The two-day rebellion—sparked when police shot Daniel Gomez after attempting to arrest him for drinking a beer in public—gave the people a taste of themselves.

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Maria, a 34-year-old Guatemalan woman with two young children, stopped on her way home from grocery shopping and began to talk. "I am from Guatemala and in my country I worked in an airport. I took care of a shop in an airport. It was hard in my country, but here it is a little more hard. Life is more complicated here. To the police, to the army. All of the time we see these soldiers walking with their guns and they come to push us around and threaten us. They say they are going to take us and they just do that. I come here and see the same thing with the police. They say they shot that guy for drinking a beer. Why? They think they could just tell him to pour the beer out but instead they shoot him. That is why I left Salvador to come here. And here I find the same. I see what happens to Rodney King. They tell us that if you do not fast the police arrest you and give you a pink ticket. If you get a second then no more driving. But with Rodney King they just threw him on the ground and beat him with bat sticks. It is the same thing in my country...it’s the same thing and the same people.

"I Do Not Come To Be in Jail"

Forrest stood joking with his friends about twenty yards from where Dimicli Gomez was shot. It was hot, and his friends were having some beer in the late afternoon sun. They didn’t want to talk, Jorge explained. They were worried about attracting attention but that he would have to leave from them and tell his story. "I don’t know if you see the movie El Norte. I come from Guatemala and I think it’s a beautiful movie. And the problems in my country. We try to get out of my country to make things better for us and for our families. So many of us try to do that, but we cannot because we do not have papers and there is too much discrimination to the Hispanic people. They have white people discriminate Hispanic and black people. And then they try to have the Black people discriminate to the Hispanic people. Example, the boss is a white man and he put four Black people on a job and tell them to do it in one day. That is hard. But then they might put two Hispanic people on the same job and say to do it in four hours, five hours. I see the white people, the boss, he don’t think too much of the Black people. But the white boss, he think less about the Hispanic people. We work hard but they just push more. I don’t know what they think. I know they discriminate Black people too. I see this all the time.

"My job is removal of asbestos. I know that it is a hard and dangerous job. But in this country we must do something. In this country we don’t have houses and not even an apartment because it is too expensive. I must look for another job now because the money I make is not so much. I must get another job for the nighttime. Sometimes if I pay the rent then sometimes I don’t have the food."

"You know my boss, he push too hard. He always yell and push at me. I fight with him all the time. I tell him I cannot do just to come. I come to work and work hard but I not come to be in jail."

"When I come for this country I cross to Mexico. First thing, some guys with guns come to me and take me to a truck and tell me to give them my money. I say to them that I don’t have money but they say to me to give them my money or I go to the jail. So I give them my money and they left me in the middle of Mexico with so little. For two days and one half I eat only hot water. But I think that when I come to this country it will be beautiful. In my country when I see one movie about America I see the beautiful house, the white people, cars. But when I come to this country I see only the Hispanic people and how bad we have to live. I see the truth. I cross under the fence to come to the beautiful place I see in movies like “Miami Vice,” but then I see what this country is.

24-Hour Maids

The main bus stop in Mt. Pleasant was crowded with people. Buses left every five minutes or so and they were always full. It was the evening rush hour, but these buses were taking people downtown, not bringing them home from a day’s work. And the vast majority of the passengers on the buses were working in the city. Most of them were on their way to work, washing dishes at the hotels or doing janitorial work in office buildings. For many of these women it was a trip to their second job, having already put in a long day as babysitters, housekeepers, hotel maids or store clerks. Many of the women had come home between jobs so that they could take care of their own families and their own homes. Days and nights of domestic servitude.

Maria, a 34-year-old Guatemalan woman with two young children, stopped on her way home from grocery shopping and began to talk. "I am from Guatemala and in my country I worked in an airport. I took care of a shop in an airport. It was hard in my country, but here it is a little more hard. Life is more complicated here. To the police, to the army. All of the time we see these soldiers walking with their guns and they come to push us around and threaten us. They say they are going to take us and they just do that. I come here and see the same thing with the police. They say they shot that guy for drinking a beer. Why? They think they could just tell him to pour the beer out but instead they shoot him. That is why I left Salvador to come here. And here I find the same. I see what happens to Rodney King. They tell us that if you do not fast the police arrest you and give you a pink ticket. If you get a second then no more driving. But with Rodney King they just threw him on the ground and beat him with bat sticks. It is the same thing in my country...it’s the same thing and the same people."
Five-dollar stress pensions. So did the two Long Beach cops who were videotaped shoving Don Jackson's head through a window received stress pensions. So did the Stanton (Orange County, south of L.A.) cop who shot a toddler to death in his apartment and kick ass; that's why they have these police brutality cases—L.A. pays out $9 million a year in claims—say it's rare to find people who do that.

No, when community policing experts talk about "quality of life" they aren't talking about any of these things. Instead, they are referring to "loud radios, graffiti and aggressive panhandling" (Time magazine). Or, as one of the Christopher Commission expert advisers wrote in the Atlantic Monthly in 1991, "Ol' shuffling-critics who are afraid to go out onto streets filled with graffiti, wino and loitering youths yield control of these streets to people who are not frightened by these signs of urban decay... (When) disorderly behavior—say, rude remarks by loitering youths—is left unchallenged, the signal given is that no one cares. The disorder escalates, possibly to serious crime."

What the system does have the means to do is make war on the oppressed people. Does the fact that a guard knows he can get away with killing someone make him treat the prisoners better? No, of course not—just the opposite. Christopher has already said he is not a Band-Aid, and his Commission's report will be recommending that there be more "community policing" in L.A. And, as Newweek wrote last year in commenting on the initial temporary version of the LAPD's Nazi-style ghetto plan, "With few municipalities have gone as far as Los Angeles, Operation Cal-de-Sac is a variation on the community policing efforts now underway in other California inner cities."

"Community policing" is a scheme that the U.S. top police theoreticians, some of whom are advisory in the Christopher Commission, have come up with to help police departments "do their job" and win public cooperation in a total crackdown on the communities of the oppressed, and get some of the residents to help them in doing it. The goal is to get them to cooperate and kick ass; that's why they have these police brutality cases—L.A. pays out $9 million a year in claims—say it's rare to find people who do that.

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New Lockdowns Hit Chicago Projects

We received this letter about new lockdowns in the Chicago projects.

Dear RW:
Here at Henry Hornet Homes in Chicago's West Side, the powers-that-be just finished locking down the 50th Chicago Housing Authority highrise. Now tens of thousands of poor Black people are locked up like caged animals in their own homes. They keep telling us these lockdowns are good for us. "It is to protect you!" But this is bullshit! They're cramming hospitals, and schools in our community, they're getting set to cut out General Assistance, and they give up more for our youth—no hope and no jobs, except a hustle that puts many of them in jail. And they say they're trying to protect us! Yes, this is bullshit! These lockdowns are part of their new world order. They're moving to clamp down on basic people here in the U.S. because they know that we're a pot getting ready to boil over.

They were so concerned about "preventing" us that they waited until right before the Chicago Bulls playoff games to lock down the two buildings at Henry Hornet Homes. (Hornet Homes is across the street from the Chicago Stadium where the Bulls play.) Wherever they have their hockey or basketball games at the Chicago Stadium the pigs are out in droves like they're at war with our youth. Now they've announced plans to build a new stadium in our community. With the playoffs all these fans from mayonnaise land will be pouring into the stadium, and they want to be sure all the "criminals" are locked up in their rat cages. We don't earn enough money to go to the playoff anyway.

In April they pulled the same shit at Stateway Gardens. Across the expressway, from White Sox (Comiskey) Park. They locked down three buildings of days before opening day at their new baseball stadium. Hundreds of poor Black people were driven out of their homes to make way for this new Comiskey Park, which now has the highest priced baseball tickets in the country. The powers tried to justify their police-state sweeps at Stateway Gardens with stories in the Chicago papers about snipers shooting into the new stadium. They find a couple of bullet holes, and they paint all the Black people within one as "criminals," bust into their homes, search them for weapons and put ID tags around their necks! (We heard an angry joke recently: Why did they find bullet holes in the White Sox scoreboard? Because the people didn't have bazookas!)

The powers-that-be have convinced some of our people that these lockdowns are for "their own good." They got some people believing that this is the best we can do under this foul setup. We got other ideas. The only way we're gonna deal with the problems this system creates—the crime, the drugs and violence—is to start fighting against this system and pulling ourselves together in the process. The punk has overstepped his boundary. We refuse to be his "boy." We're getting ready to be his gravedigger.

Child has to go through metal detector to go home at CHA project.

To revolutionary Workers in Chicago's West Side

Henry Hornet Homes

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Two comrades from Chicago's West Side
On May 19 a young Palestinian man named Adnan Abed Ali was brought into a military court in Kuwait. He was one of a dozen defendants in court that day accused of collaborating with the Iraqi occupation forces. Ali and others did not have lawyers and were given no chance to challenge witnesses or evidence. The case against Ali was that he had worn a T-shirt with a picture of Saddam Hussein. With this as the only “evidence,” the court convicted Ali and sentenced him to 15 years in prison, after which he will be deported out of the country! Also convicted were two brothers who were given 12-year prison terms. The only evidence presented against them was that they had made chains with bullets as ornaments.

This is the kind of injustice that is going on in what the United States declares is “liberated Kuwait.”

Hundreds of people, mostly Palestinians, are being held in Kuwaiti jails for supposedly collaborating with the Iraqi forces after Iraq invaded and occupied Kuwait. Adnan Abed Ali and others brought into court on May 19 were the first to be put on trial. They are held without bail and unable to talk to lawyers. Some could be sentenced to death by hanging.

According to Amnesty International, many Palestinians have been tortured and unknown numbers killed by Kuwaiti security forces and so-called “resistance groups,” which are paramilitary groups acting as vigilantes. A recent Amnesty report documents in detail the use of electric shocks, cigarette burn, and other tortures by the Kuwaitis. One case cited in the report was that of a 24-year-old Palestinian: “He said uniformed personnel identified themselves as members of Kuwait’s military intelligence had beaten him for hours, stomped on his body, thrown acid over him, and subjected him to electric shock torture. Severe injuries covered most of his back and shoulders, parts of his thighs were raw with skin peeling off, and his knees could not bend for a month due to the pain.”

The U.S. government claims they have “liberated” Kuwait and “restored” the legitimate government of Kuwait. But what the U.S. did in the Gulf had nothing to do with liberation. Before the war two million people lived in Kuwait. But only a minority were considered “citizens”—a privileged elite that grew tremendously wealthy off the labor of others. The entire population of the people in Kuwait, 60 percent, were not allowed to become “citizens” even if they had lived in the country for many years or even decades. They were immigrants from Palestine, Egypt, India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and elsewhere around the world who did the work that the rich Kuwaitis wouldn’t touch. These “guest workers” had no political rights—they could not publish newspapers, participate in the government, hold demonstrations, or organize themselves. Many were Palestinians. Kuwait, in short, was an apartheid country on the Gulf.

If the U.S. was really out to “liberate” the people of Kuwait, they would have gotten rid of the al-Sabah regime and given power to the people on the bottom. But all that the U.S. government did was bring the al-Sabah family back to power and restore the oppressive regime that existed before the Iraqi invasion.

Many Palestinians have been arrested or killed by the Kuwaitis or kicked out of the country. But other “guest workers” are being brought in once again to replace them. Apartheid is returning to Kuwait, backed by U.S. troops.
An assassin’s bomb blew up India’s former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi last week, and his death left a big hole in the political scene in one of the ruling classes in India. Big-time politicians in the world’s capitals reacted in dismay. Rajiv Gandhi was one of their kind. But this top representative of the oppressors in India deserves no tears from the people in India and around the world.

Gandhi was killed in the middle of a national election. Gandhi headed the Congress Party, which has been the main representative of the big bourgeoisie in India. He was making a political comeback and was expected to become the prime minister once again. It seemed that the Gandhi “dynasty” might take power again. Rajiv Gandhi’s grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, was India’s first prime minister from the country’s founding in 1947 to 1964. His mother, Indira Gandhi, led the Congress Party from 1966 to 1984. And Rajiv Gandhi himself had the top government position from 1984 to 1989.

In a bizarre move immediately after the assassination, the Congress Party leaders picked Rajiv’s wife Sonia, an Italian with little experience in Indian politics, as the successor to the dead candidate. She declared to take the position, but there is talk that Gandhi’s son, daughter or cousin might fill in his shoes. These desperate attempts to continue the “dynasty” point to a crisis among the Indian ruling class. These “candidates” for the dead prime minister’s position can put up in the hopes of containing the people’s anger at the rotten system.

Government leaders around the world described the assassination as a “tragedy” for India. George Bush praised Gandhi for his “leadership and dedication to democracy.” But Bush added, “I just don’t know what the world is coming to.... When people resort in a democratic country—or anywhere—to violence, it’s just appalling.” This is the commander-in-chief of the U.S. military which just devastated Iraq with massive bombing and killed many tens of thousands of Iraqis. For mass murder like Bush, the kind of violence they used against the people of Iraq is perfectly “just.” But the assassination of someone class enemy is “appalling.”

The U.S. and other world powers are worried that Gandhi’s explosive death will intensify the crisis that is already violently shaking India. They fear that India is on the road to breaking up at a single country. India is home to over 800 million people—one out of six human beings on this planet. They live in a complex intermingling of different nations and religions within the borders of southern India when he was killed. But especially since the 1960s the imperialists have introduced important elements of capitalist production into the rural areas and the country overall. The result of these changes is similar to what has hap pened in many of the oppressed nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America. While large companies and agricultural workers continue to live in extreme poverty, the large cities of India have become swollen with huge numbers of people, able to squeeze out a living in the command economy.

Imperialist domination has brought some “development” in India agriculture and industry, and Rajiv Gandhi pushed for opening India up even further to such changes. But this “development” has been so unevenly distributed it serves the needs of the foreign powers who squeeze superprofits out of the Indian people. One sign of this is that India owes tens of billions of dollars in debt to foreign banks and international financial institutions.

There is increasing political and social ferment among the people at the bottom of Indian society. Some of the bourgeois rivals of the Congress Party have tried to use this discontent for their own ends—while also trying to channel people’s anger into reformist ends. Other parties are exploiting the “right” of the Hindu religion. In some ways like those in the United States, the Bush administration sent troops to help the government of Sri Lanka, a country to the southwest of India, put down an insurgency among the Tamil people. Gandhi was in the Tamil area of southern India when he was killed.

The run in militancy of the different national movements are giving the world powers nightmares about the “disintegration of India.” But the people have no interest in preserving the forced and unequal unity of India. And this “unity” appears doomed one way or another.

The Reality Behind India’s “Democracy” and “Socialism”

The Western powers praise India for being a “democracy” — sometimes it’s called “the world’s largest democracy.” They like the fact that India’s political system is modeled after the West—from the parliamentary force to the vicious national oppression and exploitation of the poor under a “democratic” cover.

But the West also criticizes India for what they call aspects of “socialism” that exist in the country. What they are referring to is the large “public sector” of the Indian economy—government owned or controlled industries and businesses. Especially during the 1960s to the early 1980s the revisionists of the Soviet Union built a strong position in this “public sector” through large loans and preferential trade agreements. The Soviets called this “non-capitalist development” or even a “step toward socialism.” But in reality it was nothing more than typical imperialist penetration and “development” in a Third World country.

The U.S. and other Western imperialists have always dominated the “private sector” of the Indian economy. Now, they want to take advantage of the Soviet Union’s economic difficulties and shifts in foreign policy to dig their claws deeper into India. This is the real motive behind their calls for India to “move away from socialism.”

“Too Many People”?

Whenever the imperialists talk about India, they say that one of the main problems with the country is that there are “too many people.” They praise a few leaders like Rajiv Gandhi, while they have nothing but contempt for masses of people. In their view, the “growth” and suffering of the people is the fault of the people themselves, and that is just the “way things are” and the way things will stay. But there is a deep anger building up among the people in India which is breaking into the surface. The “way things are” will surely go through tremendous upheaval. And one of this could arise a revolutionary storm that would really turn things upside down and overthrow the old system of exploitation and oppression. When the hundreds of millions in India rise up, it will shake the whole world.
New Supreme Court Outrage vs. Woman

Continued from page 3

abortion. Employees in federally funded clinics must now respond in this way to a woman's questions about abortion—even if the patient is 14 years old, and even if the patient has a condition such as AIDS, heart disease, or diabetes, which would be aggravated by a continued pregnancy.

A fact sheet issued last year by the American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood pointed out that "By deliberately misleading women into thinking that abortion is unsafe, unmentionable, or illegal, the new regulations prevent women from making a decision based on knowledge of all the options—including that doctors are ethically required to provide. The regulations seek to foster ignorance about abortion, and thereby coerce women into choosing childbirth over abortion.

Secondly, it is significant that the court ruling explicitly refers to fetuses as "unborn children." The decision argues that the new regulations are "justified by client experience under the prior policy, and in accord with a shift in attitude against the 'elimination of unborn children by abortion.'" Also the new regulations stipulate that if a pregnant patient in a Title 10 clinic asks for an abortion referral, the clinic personnel must decline—and instead, they may include facilities that perform abortion. Employees in federally funded services and businesses must report any political beliefs they have. The regulations prevent women from making a decision based on knowledge of all the options—including that doctors are ethically required to provide.

Women's Lives Come First! Beat Back the Court's Attack!

This latest ruling by the Supreme Court is part of an ongoing campaign, led by the highest offices of government, to take away women's right to abortion. The day before this ruling came down the House of Representatives narrowly voted to allow abortions to be performed at U.S. military hospitals overseas. And immediately, Bush promised he would veto this decision.

There is outrage and anger at the court's decision. And there have been immediate responses of defiance from the clinics that are affected by the new regulations. Planned Parenthood clinics in this country receive $37 million of the $200 million annual Title 10 funds. If it does not comply with the new federally mandated regulations it will not receive these funds. Officials at the New York City health clinic which filed the lawsuit against the government regulations have announced it will not withhold information about abortion. Planned Parenthood in Chicago has already announced that it would give up the $400,000 it receives in federal funds before it would stop making abortion referrals. And many other health facilities around the country have also said they will continue to provide women with abortion information even though this will mean they'll lose all federal funds.

The anger, outrage and defiance must also find expression in the streets. We have seen what this system has to offer women—the daily terror of rape, the humiliation of wife beating and the stifling, mind-numbing degradations of being treated as sexual playing, maid or incubator. We can't rely on ANY part of this system to stop making abortion referrals. And many other health facilities around the country have also said they will continue to provide women with abortion information even though this will mean they'll lose all federal funds.

A Broader Implication

As many opponents of these new regulations have pointed out, this Supreme Court ruling sets a very fascist-like precedent. The highest court in the land has now ruled that the government has the right to regulate the very speech of people—just because they are employees of a federally funded agency or organization. All kinds of services and businesses are federally funded in this country. The Rau vs. Sullivan precedent could now be used in a court of law to argue that all kinds of federally funded services and businesses must respect this new activity, censor the speech of employees, and even require that they advocate certain political policies of the government that they may disagree with.

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New World Order
Has Spoken Again

The day after the Roe v. Sullivan Supreme Court decision a speakout was held in New York city to protest this new attack on women's right to abortion. About 50 to 75 participated, including people from NOW-NYC, NARAL, WHAM (Women's Health Action and Mobilization), Refuse & Resist, ACT UP, and the Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention to the Middle East.

The following excerpts are from a statement given at this speakout by Mary Lou Greenberg, spokesperson for the Revolutionary Communist Party, NY Branch, and reproductive rights activist who was arrested in the first civil disobedience action protesting the 1989 anti-abortion Supreme Court Webster decision.

The "new world order" has spoken again. Soon to join the 100,000 Iraqis slaughtered from on high will be thousands of women, mostly poor, many women of color. They, too, will be slaughtered from on high—but instead of missiles launched from planes it will be a decision by the highest court in the land that kills them.

The Supreme Court has ruled that federally funded women's health clinics cannot discuss or counsel women on abortion—cannot even say the word "abortion" or distribute a piece of paper that has this banned word. And why? Are they concerned about life, these men who speak for a system that coldly calculates—and then tries to cover up—"collateral damage" from bombing runs? It was George Bush himself who declared January 22 "Sanctuary of Human Life Day"—the anniversary of Roe v. Wade—only days after he ordered the launching of the massive air attacks on Iraq.

These lives mean nothing to the powers. Just as the lives of women mean nothing to them. Make no mistake, women will die from this decision. Women who can't get counseling on abortion will take their own counsel—or a friend's—and they will find a way to try to control their childbearing. Just like 17-year-old Becky Bell tried to do when she couldn't get a legal abortion because of parental consent laws where she lived in Indiana. And just like Becky Bell, they will die of illegal abortions—and many more will be maimed for life, physically and psychologically.

This is a profoundly racist decision, as well. Some five million low-income women depend on 4,000 Title X-funded clinics nationwide. Many of them are Black, Puerto Rican, Native American, and other nationalities. These are the same women who suffer most from lack of prenatal care, and decent medical facilities and hospitals for themselves and their existing children. This decision means many of the Title X clinics may have to close because of losing federal funds—or go along with the ban on the "A" word. Either way, women lose.

Abortion has become a banned word not because the rulers of this country love life but because they must control women as an essential part of their new world order—which is only a high-tech version of the same old imperialist oppression, repression and suppression of people all over the world. And which will never let up until this system is overthrown.

We cannot let these assaults on our and our sisters' lives continue. I know women's anger is great. But anger isn't enough. This decision shows that it is deadly to think that abortion rights can be defended state by state or by appealing to Congress. We must build massive resistance to their assaults on reproductive freedom. There must be an outpouring of women's rage in the streets. And we must seize the opportunity of the upcoming parade of shame in New York to mobilize massive numbers of women to protest everything their new world order represents. There must be an end to attacks on women and oppressed people around the world. We must stop this new world order!
We received this statement from the Stop the U.S. War Machine Action Network

An Urgent Message To All Who Cannot Celebrate A Massacre

"By donning the red and black ribbons we show that we have not ‘fallen in line,’ we mourn the murder of the Iraq peoples, we support CI resistance, and this was a war for oil!"

Jeff Passman, ex-Marine, first GI to refuse orders for the Gulf

A deadly disease is being spread throughout the media, schools, and other public and private institutions. Mr. Bush and his warmongers have called for a blitz of parades, flags and yellow ribbons, to draft in a grand Fourth of July. It is not enough that high-tech weapons, fired from a safe distance, slaughtered more than 100,000 of our Arab sisters and brothers to show that the U.S. imperatives will stop at nothing. Now we, in this country are to officially honor and celebrate this horror as an act of “national redemption” and burial of the Vietnam Syndrome. All of this is most critical to pave the road for their New World Order. We are sure that you do not want to allow these means to exhilarate their massacre in the Gulf by smothering the feelings and actions of millions in this country who opposed the war and who are outraged at what is happening now that the war is “over.” Under cover of “welcoming home” the troops, a massive effort is underway to render a pseudo “victory” verified in order to manufacture support for more such actions by the U.S. war machine, and to keep the home front in line in the midst of deepening crisis and polarization. We are at a decisive point right now, and what people do—and do not do—is going to have a profound effect on the future of this country and the world.

The Action Network is calling for individuals and groups of all kinds to visibly oppose the yellow ribbon (fear with wearing red and black ribbons or armbands. Just imagine—if 100,000 people across the country boldly wear these red and black colors in the face of the “victory” hype, it will give heart and strength to millions more!

A question has been raised: Will this red and black campaign and other controversial efforts simply polarize and alienate people further? Isn’t it too confrontational?

The U.S. war machine raised death and destruction on countless people in the Middle East—children, women and men, whose lives are no less precious than our own. Some in this country appear of that many innocents are sickened by it. In whose interest is it to incite and deny such polarization and demand national unity? The “support the troops”/yellow ribbon campaign was explicitly aimed at achieving the opposite in this critical period about the war (see N.Y. Times, Feb. 6, 1991: “Blankets of Policy Sage Indicate in the Streets”)

Their own polls first reported that 78% opposed going to war for oil. But the sea of yellow became visible “evidence” for later polls saying 40% favored the war. Consider this: Were the anti-war ranks and their message stronger in the days just before and after the bombing began—when all kinds of protests hit the streets, with lots of polarization—or in the weeks that followed, when the “support the troops”/yellow ribbon “unity” campaign hit full force? Now, more than ever, we need to get “our side” out there, contesting for hearts and minds, clarifying what is at stake, and challenging people to step forward and render a people’s verdict on the Gulf war.

And what is “too confrontational”? Think back to the civil rights and anti-war struggles of the 60s. Don’t we betray those efforts, and deny the lessons and gains, to say that they were “too confrontational”? Should we be pondering to The N.Y. Times and those now-again, ex-movement “experts” who claim that actions such as burning draft cards and files, and words like “imperialism,” were “too radical”? Was the ongoing opposition to U.S. actions in Central America, South Africa, and the Middle East “too confrontational” during the 1980s?

And think about this: In the 1930s, were the German people “too radical,” in resisting the glorious “victories” of the Nazi war machine heralding “national redemption” and a “New European Order”? What, exactly, should the German people who opposed that have done?

These are hard questions, and many of us are searching for answers as well as effective ways to resist. Within the anti-war ranks there are many different views of both the fundamental causes of war and the solutions. Right now, to help people oppose the pre-war “victory” and the New World Order, we need to oppose the symbols being used to blind people and alienate others. Millions in this country feel that the yellow ribbon is covered with blood. By proudly wearing and promoting the red and black, we state loud and clear, “We did not support the war, we do not celebrate their victory, and we will not salute their New World Order!”

Your voice is needed, urgently, now.

from the Stop the U.S. War Machine Action Network P.O. Box 2139, New York, N.Y. 10108 (212) 642-5228

We Can Kick the Yellow Ribbon Syndrome—WEAR RED AND BLACK!

(This statement was initiated in May 1991 by the Stop the U.S. War Machine Action Network.
It will be published and circulated throughout the country over the coming months.)

We call on everyone who cannot celebrate a massacre to wear red and black ribbons or armbands—not yellow.

We wear these colors:
• to symbolize blood spilled for oil;
• to mourn the death of tens of thousands of our Arab sisters and brothers;
• to show our support for the GIs and others who now face court-martial, trials and jail sentences for resisting the war;
• to show our support for the GIs and others who now face court-martial, trials and jail sentences for resisting the war.

We wear red and black to oppose the “victory/welcome home” events and parades now being staged on the homes and blood of the war victims.

We urge you to join us in wearing and popularizing the red and black campaign, to proclaim loud and clear “We did not support the war, we do not celebrate their victory, and we will not salute their New World Order!”

If you or your organization would like to be a leader to this call, please fill this out and send it to the address below:

Print Name: 
Signature:
Organization/ Affiliation (for identification purposes only): 
Address: 
Phone:

Please reproduce and distribute this statement.
Send signed copies to: Stop the U.S. War Machine Action Network, P.O. Box 2139, New York, N.Y. 10108 / Tel. (212) 642-5228

To help this red and black campaign, send contributions (checks payable to “Action Network”). Thank you.