Blood on the Border

Southwest vigilantes hunt Mexican immigrants
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The Yankee War Machine in Puerto Rico

Election Madness in Peru

Educators Demand New Trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal
7 Years, 234 Days

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

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

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

Three Main Points
by Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP, USA

What do we in the Revolutionary Communist Party want people to learn from all that is exposed and revealed in this newspaper? Mainly, three things:
1) The whole system we now live under is based on exploitation—here and all over the world. It is completely worthless and no change for the better can come about until this system is overthrown.
2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against things this system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with nothing to lose but their chains who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow this system and create a new system that will put an end to exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.
3) Such a revolutionary struggle is possible. There is a political Party that can lead such a struggle, a political Party that speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains. The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

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

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Election Madness in Peru

Last month's presidential election in Peru featured a U.S.-backed dictator and a U.S.-sponsored challenger. By the final vote on May 28, the challenge—Alejandro Toledo defeated former military ruler Alberto Fujimori to become Peru's first civilian president in 20 years. But the election was marred by a series of irregularities that have brought Peru to the brink of chaos. It is the latest example of how the U.S. military and political establishment is using elections as a tool of imperialism.

Fujimori, who had been in power for 12 years, was running for a third term despite the decision of three constitutional judges in 1997 that he could not run because of a military "self-coup" he had led in 1990. His campaign was fueled by a wave of electoral fraud and manipulation by his government and its allies in the U.S. and other imperialist countries.

The leader of the opposition, Alejandro Toledo, was a former labor leader who had given up the leadership of Peru's largest union to run for president. He promised to tackle Peru's deep economic problems and to make the country more democratic.

In the end, Toledo won with about 48 percent of the vote, while Fujimori came second with about 35 percent. But the election was marred by widespread irregularities, including the disappearance of voting materials and the manipulation of results.

The election was a victory for the people of Peru, who have long been frustrated with the corruption and violence that have characterized their country. But it was also a victory for the U.S. and other imperialist powers, who have used elections as a tool of imperialism.

The election was a key moment in the ongoing struggle for democracy in Peru. The people of Peru have been fighting for a more democratic and just society for decades, and the election was a key step in that struggle.
Blood on the Border

Southwest vigilantes hunt Mexican immigrants

Racist vigilantes in southern Arizona and Texas have declared open season on immigrants.

On May 12, two Arizona ranchers on horseback, armed with high power hunting rifles, shot and critically wounded 20-year-old Miguel Angel Pérez, an undocumented Mexican worker who was trying to cross the border near Sasabe, Arizona. Four other men who were with Miguel remain missing and could be dead.

Miguel told the Snaboe, Sonora authorities that his group was suddenly ambushed by two vigilantes. Miguel was able to get a good look at the shooters before a high impact bullet tore through his neck and exited through his ear. He said he remembers seeing his companions fall after also being shot. But so far, no bodies have been recovered.

When Miguel regained consciousness, he was on the ground bleeding profusely. He was able to drag himself to the border crossing station at Sasabe where he was given medical attention and taken to a hospital in Caborca, Sonora. At this point, it is still unclear if the four men with Miguel survived the attack.

Deadly Agenda

On May 13, a group of Arizona vigilante ranchers were joined by white supremacist groups from California for a meeting at Sierra Vista, Arizona. The explicit purpose of the gathering was to organize some form of action to deal with what the ranchers call “a Mexican invasion” by undocumented workers.

While supremacist Glenn Spencer led a contingent of California anti-Mexican racist to the meeting, Spencer, who leads Voices of Citizens Together and a militia called American Patrol, has a long history of racist activity aimed at Mexican immigrants. Through the Internet, radio and other propaganda, Spencer warns against Mexican immigrants trying to take over the United States. Vigilante ranchers Roger Barnett and his brother Don have also attended the meeting joined by the Arizona Rangers. For Barnett and dozens of other ranchers, the Sunday sport of choice has been to shoot undocumented immigrants as they attempt to cross the border. Barnett boasts that his record “in 86” is 86 in one morning. And he claims that he has killed more than 174 Mexicans in just one weekend and thousands over a two-year period.

Out of 25 recent attacks on immigrants, Roger Barnett and his brother Don have been involved in at least 14. Like Roger, Don Barnett lets his cold, racist heart speak freely. He told one reporter, “The bottom line is if some Mexican is squatting behind my barbed wire fence, he gets what’s coming to him.”

These vigilante ranchers recently sent out a flyer inviting militia type groups and other racists from throughout the U.S. to come down to Cochise County to “hunt” for undocumented Mexican immigrants on their ranches. They offered free board on their land to any “hunting” wanting to have “some fun in the sun.”

The flyer proclaims: “This vacation is not for the faint hearted. To help an American Rancher keep his land protected while enjoying the great southwestern desert at the same time. Just the great outdoors and good ole western individualism spirit of private property.”

According to the ranchers, the property equipment for the trip RVs, infra-red scopes and trip-wire flare launchers to “locate and expose the invaders.”

Blood on the Border

The Mexican government recently filed an emergency “complaint” with the U.S. Department of Justice through its embassy in Washington D.C. and the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Rosario Marin, has announced that the government of Mexico will file suit in U.S. Federal Court against the Arizona vigilantes who shot Miguel Angel Pelayo Aguiar.

In a press conference held in Mexico City, Secretary Green stated that since January 24, 1999 through May 15, 2000 there have been 32 incidents of violence against Mexican undocumented immigrants by U.S. citizens. Twenty-seven of the incidents occurred in Arizona. Ten happened in 1999—and the real have occurred this year. Of the 27 cases in Arizona the vigilante ranchers Roger Barnett and his brother Don Barnett were involved in 15. Another rancher by the name of Andreas Muller was involved in 1 case.

The 32 cases involved a total of 451 immigrants. Seven of these immigrants have been physically injured and two have been murdered.

In the past five years, nearly 3,000 Mexican immigrants, unprepared for the stark conditions of the desert, have died from exposure trying to cross the border. And for those immigrants who manage to survive the dangerous desert conditions—they must face the threat of armed vigilantes.

A report on KOLD TV station in Tucson, Arizona, showed a ranch hand dashing five men, apparently undocumented immigrants. The ranch worker was shown...
Patrol arrived.
The temperature on May 14 was over 100

Some distance away and walking in the open

until the U.S. Border

Pushing one of the men from a seated position onto his stomach and the men were

held at gunpoint until the U.S. Border Patrol arrived.

As ranching has become less profitable in this area, many old-time ranchers have

started dividing up their land into small parcels and selling it to hunters and retirees.

Many of these new land owners have been involved in attacks on immigrants.

According to a District Attorney near Del Rio, virtually all of the shootings in the

area have occurred when the person was some distance away and walking in the opposite direction. In other words, the victims have been shot, close-blooded, in the back.

The most recent incidents happened within a month of each other. On May 13, 23-year-old Eusebio de Haro Espinosa, from the central state of Guanajuato made the fatal mistake of stopping near Rancbo Leona, in Texas, to ask for water and food as the result of a 20-mile hike along the border near Piedras Negras in Mexico. The temperature on May 14 was over 100 degrees. By 4 p.m., Eusebio and his companion met with two other men when they encountered Mr. Brown. Brown held the men at gunpoint, marched them off his property, and then shot Gonzales in the back. He then walked the men, including the wounded Gonzales, at gunpoint for two miles to a neighboring rancher's house.

Gonzalez was hit in the buttocks and might have been injured much more seriously if the bullet had not hit a can of beans that was in his backpack.

Some of the immigrants shot in the past year in the Del Rio sector of the U.S. Border Patrol which covers 41 counties and more than 59,000 square miles:

- May 13 near Brackettville. Eusebio de Haro, 23, of Guanajuato, Mexico, bled to death after being shot in the leg by Samuel Blackwood. De Haro was looking for water.
- April 10 near Rocksprings in Edwards County. Juan Maurice Gonzalez was shot in the buttocks by Coy Brown, a military retiree. Brown shot the wounded Gonzalez and two other immigrants two miles to a ranch house where he calls the Border Patrol.
- Nov. 1, 1999, Vega Verde community near Del Rio. 16-year-old Luis Armando Chavez Vasquez, of Ciudad Acuna, Mexico, was shot in the back on the head on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. His body was found in the river 11 days later. Patrick Glenn Bordelon, already out on bond for an earlier charge of aggravated assault, was arrested and later indicted for this murder.
- June 6, 1999, Vega Verde community. 16-year-old Ivan Mendez-Sepulveda, was shot with a shotgun twice in the chest and once in the ankle on the U.S. side near the border.

Welcome to America: Shot on Sight

Some politicians are now trying to use these vigilante incidents to bolster their arguments for further militarization of the border. U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes, an El Paso Democrat and former Border Patrol chief, argues that the recent shootings by vigilantes in Texas and Arizona are caused by the "frustration of local residents in areas that are underserved by the Border Patrol." And he goes on to complain that the immigration and Naturalization Service has not been able to comply with a directive by Congress to hire 1,000 new agents each year.

"Now these racist Rambo types are adding their deadly force to the combined resources of the Border Patrol, U.S. military, and various other police agencies which are carrying out the official U.S. government policy of 'deterrence.' They are turning the U.S./Mexican border into a war zone where the Border Patrol hunts down unauthorized immigrants.

Recent anti-immigrant laws as well as politicians' calls for protecting America's "findings borders" have emboldened these vigilantes.
The Yankee War

Puerto Rican Veterans Denounce U.S. Military

May 29, 2000—U.S. veterans from the Puerto Rican island of Vieques denounced the U.S. military occupation of their island. About 30 vets packed their ribbons and discharge papers in a wooden box during a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in San Juan, Puerto Rico's capital city. The veterans plan to return their honors to President Clinton in protest—with a letter demanding that the U.S. Navy stop bombing runs and other military exercises on Vieques.

A Vietnam veteran, Jose Boto, who spent 20 years in the U.S. Navy, turned in 10 medals. He said, "The moment I heard of them using depleted-uranium shells, that's when I stopped feeling pride for having served."
Machine in Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico was taken over by the U.S. Navy during World War 2, and since that time it has been a target range for training bombs and naval artillery. Two islands of Vieques is now a Navy base. On the western part of the island is one of the Navy’s largest ammunition dumps. The eastern part of the island has been systematically poisioned and polluted as the Navy’s bombing range. The North Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility there is one of the largest weapons training grounds in the world.

There have been years of interest and struggle by the Puerto Rican people of Vieques against the Yankee occupation of their land. Thousands of people have been killed and injured by the Navy’s violent use of solid fuel and the casino’s large naval reserves on the eastern part of the island. War games and bombardment have destroyed much of the fishing in surrounding waters, taking away the livelihood of many people remaining there. The Navy itself only employs 99 civilians on the island and an employment is about 50 people. Many residents blame the unusually high cancer rate and the U.S. military’s use of weapons training as the cause. Cancer rates rose in the Vieques population in the late 1970s—more than double that of Puerto Rico itself.

The people of Vieques have fought against this occupation of their island and the U.S. military domination. Repeated mass struggles have confronted the U.S. authorities, exposed their crimes in Vieques, and rallied support across Puerto Rico. In the 1970s, the chief of staff at Roosevelt Roads said the U.S. Navy had spent $1.5 billion on the military infrastructure of Puerto Rico, making it a “land super carrier” for the U.S. Navy. When the U.S. military base debates its plans for the future, it “is hoped the U.S. Navy will withdraw from Vieques.”

Despite the overwhelming opposition of the Puerto Rican people, the U.S. Navy refused to withdraw from Vieques and continued to occupy Puerto Rico and Vieques. In Puerto Rico, over 80,000 marched to demand the end of the U.S. military presence.

U.S. Out of Vieques!

Revolutionary Communist Party, USA, New York Branch

With U.S. warships lacking them up, masked FBI agents moved in on the people occupying a U.S. Navy bombing range on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico. In a pre-dawn raid on May 4, they handcuffed and arrested hundreds of demonstrators who have camped out on the island since a civilian security guard was killed by a U.S. bomb dropped from a plane in a nearby canyon.

Puerto Rico has been held as a colony since its occupation in 1898. In addition to its military use, Puerto Rico has been systematically poisioned and polluted as the Navy’s bombing range. The North Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility there is one of the largest weapon training grounds in the world. There have been years of interest and struggle by the Puerto Rican people of Vieques against the Yankee occupation of their land. Thousands of people have been killed and injured by the Navy’s violent use of solid fuel and the casino’s large naval reserves on the eastern part of the island. War games and bombardment have destroyed much of the fishing in surrounding waters, taking away the livelihood of many people remaining there. The Navy itself only employs 99 civilians on the island and an employment is about 50 people. Many residents blame the unusually high cancer rate and the U.S. military’s use of weapons training as the cause. Cancer rates rose in the Vieques population in the late 1970s—more than double that of Puerto Rico itself.

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U.S. Out of Vieques!

Revolutionary Communist Party, USA, New York Branch
WE EDUCATORS DEMAND A NEW TRIAL FOR MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

TONI MORRISON

JONATHAN KOZOL

SONIA SANCHEZ

CORNEL WEST

ANDELYA DAVIS

FRANCES FOX PIVEN

HOWARD ZINN

RUDOLPH ANAYA

LESLIE MARMON SILKO

PATRICIA J. WILLIAMS

MANNING MARABLE

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL is an African-American writer and journalist who has spent the last 18 years on Pennsylvania's death row. His demand for justice and a new trial is supported by heads of state from France to South Africa, by Nobel Laureates, the European Parliament, city governments from Detroit to San Francisco, scholars, religious leaders, artists, scientists, the Congressional Black Caucus and other members of U.S. Congress, and by countless thousands who cherish democratic and human rights the world over.

Working people have expressed their support for Jamal through their leading regional, national and international trade union bodies. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union closed down West coast ports for the day of April 24, 1999 to support Mumia's bid for a new trial.

Ariz.: Karen J. Leong, Ariz. State U.; CALIFORNIA: AFT, Local 1961, San Diego Com.; Colleges: Stephen Kay, CA Coll. of Arts & Letters, Cal State of Northridge; Alix E. Ershaghl, UC Berkeley; Cross, Redwood City Tchrs. Assoc.; Carlos Davidson, Univ. of CA San Diego; Dorothy E. McCollan, University of Pittsburg; Thelma Shenkman, Alum. of Cal. State U.; Ercilia V. Mochtingar, NC Tchrs. for MJU; Linda L. Goff, Portland St. Schls.; Jan Flanagan, Mankato State U.; Robert J. Roach, Long Island U.; Nina Reading, Barnard Coll.; MARYLAND: Patricia P. Thompson, Howard U.; RLA'S 309K (Brooklyn); Frank Bateagle, Col. of Staten Island; Abraash, Rensselaer Poly. Inst.; Johannes Chrlstoph Arnold, Biuderhol; Rudolfo Anaya, Univ. of NM (Emef); NEW YORK: Merle C. Ooreflck, Rutgers Unvr. (NB); Nancy Hofrnsbom, Rutgers Unvr. (NB); Richard Fenn, Princeton Theol. Sem.; Howard D. H. Merk, Pembroke College (Cambridge); Shelley Vennells, Goddard Coll.; Jeanette J. Maland, Comm. Coll.; Debby DeHart, Univ. of the Sciences (Plih.); TENNESSEE: Scott Betes, Univ. of the Sciences (Plih.); VIRGINIA: Yoko Abe, Morganstown; WISCONSIN: Marilyn Vogt-Dowrtey, City-As-Schd H.S; NYU; V. Irene L. Bergstrom, Rotzert M. Buchanan, Steven J. Klartr,
FOR MORE INFORMATION and affirm that he MUST have a new trial!
and should be freed now, and others who have no
opinion about his Innocence, we are all united In
While there are those who believe Mumia Is Innocent
physical vulnerability, that vital evidence pointing to his innocence
Jamal’s attorneys have presented compelling evidence that
and to Amnesty International which issued a special report in
incurable "racial profiling" are epidemic in the United States, alive
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began in 2000, claiming that "justice would best be served
and recanted critical court testimony used against Jamal.
Jamal, often referred to as the "voice of the voiceless,"
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WE EDUCATORS UNITE IN SAYING NO TO JAMAL’S
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Leonard Peltier Must Be Free
June parole hearing for Peltier

"I know what I am. I am an Indian—Indian who dared to stand up to defend his people. I am an innocent man who never murdered anyone nor wanted to. And yet, I am a Sun Dancer. That, too, is my identity. I am to suffer as a symbol of my people, then I suffer proudly." Leonard Peltier, Prison Writings, My Life in My Sun Dance

As the June 12 date for Leonard Peltier's next parole hearing approached, people around the world are demanding that he be freed. The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (LPDC) reports that letters demanding his release are pouring in from around the world.

A representative from Amnesty International will attend Peltier's federal parole hearing to argue on Leonard's behalf, as will members of the National Council of Churches, the National Congress of American Indians, the Assembly of First Nations and Leonard's family.

For the next review for the year 2008—Must Be Free

The U.S. Parole Commission wrote, "The system responded with an FBI disinformation campaign against Leonard. Newspaper, radio ads and a new website full of lies has been created. On February 28, Senator Orrin Hatch introduced a bill that would make it more difficult for U.S. presidents to grant executive clemency. Plans are already being laid to carry this struggle into the fall with a march in Washington DC on October 27. Despite ongoing government attempts to intimidate Peltier supporters, Indeed Information sponsored a press conference in Washington, D.C. on May 17, at which survivors of the Pine Ridge Reign of Terror, Nobel Peace Laureate Rigoberta Menchu, author Peter Mathieson and Ernest Stevens of the National Congress of American Indians urged the U.S. government to grant Leonard Peltier parole or clemency. Peltier has now served 24 long years in prison. This is a gross injustice and we demand freedom for this important figure.

For more information: Visit the FW Online at www.fw.org or contact the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, P.O. Box 181, Lawrence, Kansas 66044, www.freepeltier.org

From Behind Bars

Leonard Peltier has continued the struggle from behind bars—with his words, his paintings and his organizing efforts. Leonard is respected around the world as a voice for Native people and an inspiring political prisoner who refuses to be broken.

There has also been intense activity among Peltier supporters, including a thorough investigation of FBI misconduct in the case. The FBI has been accused of falsifying evidence in the case, and Leonard's defense attorneys have filed a motion to have the trial reopened.

In the past six months the battle to free Leonard Peltier has intensified. Thousands of people traveled to Washington, D.C. for Leonard Peltier Freedom Month in November.
Life and Freedom for Shaka Sankofa (Gary Graham)

by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Shaka Sankofa has spent more than half of his 36 years on death row. At age 17, Shaka (then known as Gary Graham) was wrongfully convicted for the murder of a white man in Houston. On May 1, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear his case and Shaka now faces a June 22 execution date.

Supporters are urgently fighting to save Shako's life. On May 26, Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. and Rubin "Hurricane" Carter—who was unjustly framed up and imprisoned for 19 years—spoke on the Capitol steps in Washington DC to demand a new trial for Shaka Sankofa. Amnesty International USA has released an "emergency bulletin" on Sankofa's case, which talks about evidence pointing to Shaka's innocence and states that Shaka's death sentence "is illegal under international law which bans the death penalty for crimes committed by under-18-year-old." The International Action Center is organizing for "Emergency Days of Resistance" from June 16-19 and there are plans to protest at the June 15-17 Texas State Republic Convention in Houston.

Shaka's lawyers are filing for clemency and The Gary Graham/Shaka Sankofa Coalition for Justice is calling on people to food Texas Governor George W. Bush and the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles with e-mails, phone calls, letters, and faxes demanding clemency. Information about this and other protest actions for Shaka Sankofa can be found online at http://members.xoom.com/ccadp/garygraham.htm.

The following statement about Shaka Sankofa was written by political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal:

****

At the tender age of seventeen a youth named Gary Graham was faced with a terrifying reality. The state of Texas and Harris County district attorney picked him as another expendable black life form; a black youth to feed to the death machine. In a case of murder, where neither fingerprints nor ballistics nor any credible evidence points to any notion of guilt, Gary Graham faces a legal murder.

Over half his life spent in hellish and harsh Texas death cells, Gary Graham has grown into the man now known as Shaka Sankofa, a young man who is deeply conscious of his individual and collective self and of his place in history.

If there is a crime for which Bloody Texas seeks his death it is this: it is a crime in a racist nation for a black youth to be conscious and thinking in political and collective terms. For Shaka Sankofa, innocence is not enough. The state and federal judiciary have, it is true, provided oceans of process, but not an iota of justice. His life, and the life of thousands of young men and women like him were expendable at birth not just at trial. Why should it be otherwise before the lofty and wealthy appeals court?

Shaka's case presents a challenge to all of us, not just those of us who steadfastly oppose the death penalty, but for those of us who say we believe in fundamental fairness and basic human rights. Under the terms of international human rights pacts (to which the United States is a party), the execution of a person who is a juvenile when the alleged crime occurred is a violation of international law. But the American Empire leaves no international law.

It is necessary to mobilize unapologetic protests and stiff resistance to the death machine to bring about what should be our obvious goal: the life and freedom of Shaka Sankofa.
by Bob Avakian

It is conventional wisdom in countries like the U.S. that democracy and dictatorship are the complete opposite of each other: where there is democracy there is not a dictatorship and where there is a dictatorship there is of course no democracy. But in fact democracy is a form of dictatorship. In any state where democracy is the form of political rule, democracy is really only practiced among the ranks of the ruling class, while dictatorship is exercised over the oppressed class (or classes). In the present-day so-called “democratic countries” this is the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie over the proletariat (and other oppressed strata and groups).

L. D. Trotsky wrote, "The state, then, has not existed from all eternity. There have been societies that did without it, that had no idea of the state and state power. At a certain stage of economic development, which was necessarily bound up with the split of society into classes, the state became a necessity owing to this split." The state here means something very precise—it is not the same thing as government in the most general sense. A state, wherever it exists and whatever the form of government, is "essentially a machine for keeping down the oppressed, exploited class." The essential parts of this machine are not legislatures and other similar vehicles of public discussion and nominal decision-making, but the state's monopoly of force by the ruling class, with the courts and in particular the armed forces. These armed forces are the concentration of the power of one class over another: they represent a monopoly of force by the ruling class, and their purpose is to forcefully guarantee its interests (both within the country and, especially in this era of imperialism, anywhere else in the world whose interests are contested).

All these things—the armed forces, the courts and laws, the executive and the bureaucracy (and the legislatures and so on, where they exist), the political institutions in general—belong to the superstructure, which in any society rests upon and reinforces the economic base. "In the social production of their existence," Marx wrote, "men enter into definite, necessary relations, which are independent of their will, namely, relations of production corresponding to a determinate stage of development of their material forces of production. The totality of these relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society, the real foundation on which there arises a legal and political superstructure and to which there correspond definite forms of social consciousness." In a society whose basis is capitalist relations of production, with its fun-
motional class antagonism between the bourgeoisie—the capitalist exploiters—and the exploited class of propertyless wage-workers (the proletariat), the legal and political superstructure (and the dominant forms of social consciousness) serve to maintain the rule of the bourgeoisie over the proletariat and to prescribe the concrete meaning: policies and actions which work against or undermine that economic system will in fact cause disruption, disorder, chaos, breakdowns in the more or less order functioning of things—and unless you are prepared to see the entire order overturned, with all that implies, you can only view such disruption, disorder, and chaos as something to be avoided or kept to the minimum where it cannot be avoided. But if you are prepared to see—and work for—the overthrow of the existing order and if you say so openly, you will never be allowed to hold any real position of power; or, on the other hand, you have this perspective but hide it as an attempt to "get in the power structure and work from within," you will be slammed with the label of "radical." This process not only reduces people to mere passivity—as each person, in his/her own way, is more or less "spontaneously" put to a severe test or finds oneself in front of the same viewpoint—and to a great degree seems to be reading from the same prepared text—strange to the ruling class in general in putting over their point of view and discrediting or outright stamping out any thoughts opposed to it—in molding people’s minds and exercising dictatorship in the realm of ideas as part of its overall dictatorship. But it remains a fact that on any really significant issues (and, for that matter, most not very significant ones) the men (and the few women) of the media put forward an official line that on any really significant issue is more or less "spontaneously" true; that is, these people—especially those who have climbed up the ladder to any position of real influence—can overwhelmingly be counted on to know what the basic interests of the ruling class are and how to present them as effectively as possible. But on any given day where the system and its rulers are put to a severe test or find their interests threatened, then there is a marked "pulling together" around an orchestrated official line which is often all the more insidious because it is done without the acknowledgment that it is an official line—and generally with the denial that such an official line even exists.

...
OAS: Tool of U.S. Imperialism

As we go to press, protests are planned at the June 4-6 meeting of the Organization of American States in Windsor, Ontario in Canada. The following excerpt is from a leaflet put out by the Revolutionary Communist Party, Detroit Branch:

The corporate empire-builders expected to quietly fly into Windsor for the meeting of the Organization of American States. They thought they would be hidden while they make their decisions that will change the lives of thousands and tens of thousands of the oppressed in this hemisphere. They hoped to insinuate the US as the leader of the movement against the people over an agenda that aims to make the Americas an even stronger base area for US capitalist/imperialism.

The decisions they make will mean the hand of more peasants is opened up for sale to corporate agribusiness, while those peasants become part of the dispossessed finding any way they can to survive in the shantytowns outside the major cities like Mexico City and Buenos Aires. They will mean more extreme lopsided development, where a few in the countries benefit while the poorest are made much worse off. They will mean more wars against popular uprisings in the name of the War on Drugs.

The OAS has served well in helping the US plunder the Americas, backed by Yankee troops and death-squad dictators. The OAS has one purpose—to safeguard the Americans for the interests of the US. The OAS serves to impose its rule, including the Dominican Republic (with backing from an OAS resolution) which stated that no one besides the US could colonize Latin and Central America. The OAS has served well in helping the US impose its rule, including the Dominican Republic (with backing from an OAS resolution) which stated that no one besides the US could colonize Latin and Central America. The OAS has served well in helping the US plunder the Americas, backed by Yankee troops and death-squad dictators.

The OAS is chartered to “promote democracy in the Americas.” Just a few examples of what this has meant for the people of the Americas:

- In the 50 years of OAS existence, the US has invaded country after country to impose its will—most recently the Dominican Republic (with backing from an OAS “peacekeeping force”), Haiti, Grenada, and an attempt to invade Cuba. It has imposed dictator after dictator, including the butcher Somozas in Nicaragua, born-again Christian fascist General Rios Montt who presided over the genocide of the Indian people of Guatemala, killing over 150,000. Papa Doc and Baby Doc in Haiti...

- The OAS is creating the Free Trade Area of the Americas—FTAA. This is a plan to eliminate trade and investment barriers in the Western Hemisphere for the capitalists, to be liberalized and implemented by 2005. The FTAA is closely linked with World Trade Organization and IMF policies that have already turned peasant farmers who used to support families with their crops into workers on cash crops for the US markets, and have driven many of them off the land.

The FTAA aims to:

- Pry open the economies of Central and Latin America for the US (and Canadian) capitalists to buy and reorganize any way they want. It will tremendously intensify the exploitation and suffering of the people in these countries. It will be accompanied by incredible destruction of the environment, including the rainforests;

- Maximize the freedom of action of imperialist capital—so that investments can be moved quickly from one location to another to maximize profits, sending even more people into ruin and desperation;

- And manage disputes and competition among the imperialist countries.

The FTAA is not about “free trade.” It is about creating a US-dominated regional trade bloc.

RCP Chairman Bob Avakian has said: “If you can conceive of a world without America—without everything America stands for and everything it does in the world—then you’ve already taken great strides and begun to get at least a glimpse of a whole new world. If you can envision a world without any imperialism, exploitation, oppression—and the whole philosophy that rationalizes it—a world without division into classes or even different nations, and all the narrow-minded, selfish, outdated ideas that uphold this; if you can envision all this, then you have the basis for proletarian internationalism. And once you have raised your sights to all this, how could you not feel compelled to take an active part in the world historic struggle to realize it? How would you want to lower your sights to anything less?”

Protesters burn the US flag in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, where officials from various North and South American countries met to discuss setting up a “Free Trade Area of the Americas.” May 1997.

Victims of a banana plantation in Costa Rica.
Chicago: Angry Protest Confronts Police Board

On May 18, about 80 people filled the auditorium of the downtown police headquarters for the monthly public meeting of the police board. At least 30 people couldn't get into the room—unfortunately many of these turned away were the families of people murdered by the police.

Practically everybody wore a plastic cord—the alleged "weapon" police claim forced them to kill Arthur Earl Hutchinson.

In the weeks leading up to this meeting, there was a string of four shootings by the Chicago cops, two of them deadly. Joseph Zagar was murdered for holding a battery pack on his own front porch. And Michael Taylor was executed on the street because he was known as Pancho Gonzalez.

Pancho Gonzalez sounded like a hundred Pancho Gonzalezs in the midst of the police scandal, has said that cops try to pressure vendors to tell what they know about drug dealers and others. According to Perez, if the vendors insist they don't know anything, the cops plant evidence if they can.

The police version of the death of Pancho Gonzalez sounds like a hundred other stories told by the police to cover up their cold-blinded killings. Amaya said he felt threatened—even though Pancho wasn't armed. He claimed Pancho reached "for his walkman" and that he "had a shiny object." According to Pancho's friends, a bottle was found in his pocket. The L.A. County Sheriff's Department, which parlays Pancho into a "investigating" the shooting, and only that there was "something that could have been used as a weapon." Even this thinly official story quickly fell apart. An official from the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles conducted numerous interviews with witnesses who agreed that Pancho Gonzalez had nothing in his hands when he was shot. The Consulate also got a lawyer who helped Pancho's family file a claim against the City of L.A.

Other evidence has come to light that shows that police had evidence that he felt threatened by Pancho. But reporter Bobbi Murray, writing in the Los Angeles Weekly, revealed that tapes of 911 calls showed that Amaya called only after shooting. The only time his voice is heard on the tapes is when he's saying and repeating, "I just shot him."

After 45 minutes of bureaucratic procedures at the police board meeting it was finally time for a long line of people to get to speak. The police board knew there was a lot of outrage in the room and they made it clear that they intended to adjourn the meeting if things got "out of hand."

Gwen Hogan, whose husband, Isaiah Hogan was murdered by an off-duty corrections officer last year, said, "They put on bullet-proof vests to come into our neighborhoods and kill our youth ... but they're intimidated by a battery pack or a fork. Why do we have to talk to the streets and express our anger to get any attention? I have to explain to my son how his father was murdered and nothing has been done."

Many more people wanted to speak out against police brutality and murder. But while the authorities try to do damage control, with talk about investigating and getting out of corrupt cops—the epidemic of police murder in Los Angeles hasn't slowed down one bit.
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