October 22, 2000—5th National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality

In the Streets for Justice

Thousands protest in more than 60 cities

November 7, 2000: National Pick Your Oppressor Day

The Realism of Revolution and the Fantasy of Elections

NDP 2000: The Voices and Faces of Resistance

Palestine: Occupation and Resistance
Three Main Points
by Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP, USA

What do we in the Revolutionary Communist Party want people to learn from all that is exposed and revealed in this newspaper? Mainly three things:

1) The whole system we now live under is based on exploitation—here and all over the world. It is completely worthless and no basic change for the better is possible 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 totally 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. The Party has the vision, the program, the leadership and the organizational capacities to unite those who must be united and enable them to do what must be done. There is a challenge for all those who would like to see such a revolution, those with a burning desire to see a drastic change for the better: all those who dare to dream and be and act to bring about a complete new and better world. Support this Party, join this Party, spread its message and its organized strength, and prepare the ground for a revolutionary rising that has no set limits and a real chance of winning.

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The Realism of Revolution

The Fantasy of Elections

It's the closing days of this election. The media is trying to sweep people up in the "excitement of a political horse race." And, of course, they always suggest that your vote (and the turnout of people like you) could well decide who rules the empire.

But really, the main outcome was decided long ago. On November 7, 2000, one of the two representatives of this system will be chosen as the next president. These men were hand-picked and tested over years by the ruling class itself—they are trained, trusted and totally loyal.

Two months after the election, there will be a ritual transfer from one imperialist president to the next. And all the core instruments of power, all the inequality and exploitation of capitalism will remain in place.

Elections are not the time when people influence the policies of this system. It is the opposite: it is a time when the masses of people get indoctrinated in the policies this system intends to adopt.

The media magnifies the microscopic political differences between the candidates. But who can miss that the range of official political debate has narrowed so much, and shifted so far to the right, that it is clear these current presidential candidates practically breathe in unison.

Bush is covered with the blood of prisoners he has executed in Texas, while Al Gore is cut and dry about his support for capital punishment. To make things clear, the Clinton-Gore administration once scheduled the first federal execution in 35 years. Bush runs with the backing of the religious right, while Gore has his sidekick "Holy Joe" Lieberman preach on the importance of conservative religious values and censorship.

Both candidates support Star Wars. Both speak of the dangers of global restructuring of production, NAFTA and the cruel policies of institutions like the World Bank and the IMF. And so on.

Why are these differences in the ruling class? Sometimes they even kill each other over these differences. Kennedy was assassinated, Nixon was driven from office, Clinton was impeached. But presidential elections were not decided by elections. They are fundamentally dealt with behind closed doors and often aren't even mentioned as the elections approach.

Those differences that are allowed into the campaign are used to prepare the population for possible changes in policy—like how much to privatize social security and public schools, over which global military strategies to adopt, over how much to restrict abortion, over how to implement more discrimination in society and in schools, over how to handle health care costs, and so on.

Lessons of the Past

How do things actually change?

Take the example of Jim Crow segregation in the South. Before the 1950s, Black people were kept entirely segregated in the Deep South—with separate, grossly inferior schools and separate bathrooms in official buildings. Black and white were forbidden to date or marry. Black people had to address all white people as "Sir" or "Ma'am." Black people couldn't sit on juries or ride on buses alongside whites. These hateful inequities were enforced by theynchings of the Klan and the chain gangs of Southern sheriffs.

Jim Crow wasn't abolished at the ballot box—it was never voted on, or offered to the people to vote. Jim Crow was destroyed because changes in the economy and the world situation weakened the system of oppression—and because Black people organized to fight back against the system that oppressed them and their allies fought to destroy it.

As Southern agriculture mechanized in the '40s and '50s, millions of Black farm laborers moved to the Northern cities. Meanwhile, the European colonial systems broke down in Africa, and the U.S. imperialists wanted to expand their empires. Jim Crow became an international embarrassment—making it hard to portray the U.S. as "the friend of de-colonialization." As Southern agriculture mechanized in the '40s and '50s, millions of Black farm laborers moved to the Northern cities. Meanwhile, the European colonial systems broke down in Africa, and the U.S. imperialists wanted to expand their empires. Jim Crow became an international embarrassment—making it hard to portray the U.S. as "the friend of de-colonialization."

Jim Crow was destroyed when, in the '50s and '60s, Black people rose up in revolt—staging sit-ins and boycotts at segregated lunch counters and bus stations, demanding an end to special "poll taxes" and rigged "literacy tests" that denied Black people equal political rights. Southern states were filled and major cities started to burn.

The U.S. system was forced to grant major concessions by intense struggle of the people. The people wanted liberation—and at the same time the oppressors for their own purposes found it necessary to move toward new ways of controlling Black people—new ways that were not so easily based on Jim Crow segregation's open and legally enforced inequalities.

The change was forced through by struggle, not by voting.

Another example: Women did not win the right to abortion through elections. There was no wave of congressional or presidential candidates who swept into office declaring support for abortion rights. The legal-ization of abortion was forced from a reluctant Supreme Court at a time when millions of women were.
LAPD Answer to Protests Against Police Brutality: Rubber Bullets and Concussion Grenades

"We are here today to offer further proof that the LAPD deserves its reputation as this nation’s most brutal police force," James Lafferty, Executive Director of the L.A. chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and a member of the national coordinating committee of the October 22nd Coalition, opened a Los Angeles press conference jointly hosted by the National Lawyers Guild and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Called to expose and decry the LAPD attack on the Los Angeles demonstration for the 5th National Day of Protest, the press conference was also a stirring salute to the brave protesters.

Los Angeles police claimed they were provoked when they fired rubber bullets and concussion grenades at the more than 2000 protesters who had marched to LAPD headquarters. But videotape and eyewitness testimony at the press conference told a story of unprovoked police brutality. The police even fired on the rally stage where families of police murder victims were gathered to speak. And, through it all, the protesters held their ground.

As a video clip taken during the police attack was shown, Lafferty described, "...it clearly shows that the protesters at this past Sunday's anti-police brutality demonstration were not engaged in any violence or illegal acts prior to the brutal assault by the police."

He also submitted a copy of a letter from the board of police commissioners that proved that the organizers of the October 22nd demonstration— as I indeed told the police at the time—had a legal, valid permit to march, and that the police, therefore, had no right — no right — to close off those streets as they did." He also offered proof that many protesters were injured, some of them seriously, "as a result of the wanton assaults by these totally out-of-control officers on the scene. These injuries resulted from the unauthorized and criminal use of rubber bullets and other weapons, as well as the brutal use of billy [bulldozer] clubs."

Demanding that the police who were involved in these attacks be prosecuted as criminals, charged with assault and battery and assault with a deadly weapon, Lafferty exposed the reality behind what the authorities euphemistically call "less-than-lethal weapons" by displaying a rubber bullet casing recovered from the scene of Sunday's police riot. Prominently featured on it are written instructions warning that the bullets are not to be used on human beings or directed at human beings because they can cause serious injury or death.

One of the most seriously injured during the police attack on Sunday was Yochiell Estrada, a UCLA student who suffered serious damage to her eye. "What I saw in the march is a little bit different from the video. I saw a little bit more beating from the police. I was out there with my bullhorn, shouting 'Stop police brutality!' Stop police brutality! And I looked and I saw an officer on a horse aiming at me and he shot. When I was trying to get medical attention, no one would help me. A police officer was laughing at me when he showed me my eye."

Civil rights attorney Carol Sobel talked about the lawsuits the ACLU is planning on filing against the police for this attack, and the damage lawsuits they are going to file for those who were injured. Further, the ACLU will seek an order from the federal judiciary enjoining the entire LAPD from using rubber bullets and police on horses from using horses.

"In the past 10 years in this city, we’ve had five or six major lawsuits against the LAPD for abuse of demonstrators engaged in lawful demonstration," Sobel pointed out. "If you think about it, we’ve gone through shockholos, hog tying, beatings to the head, dog bites, and now we’re on to rubber bullets... After the DNC, the press announced that people had breathed a sigh of relief because the LAPD hadn’t killed anyone. We have to ask ourselves what is wrong in this city when our standards of whether the LAPD is doing its job is whether they killed somebody that day."

Reverend Richard Mont Ka Ra Byrd, who was MC at the rally when the police attacked, spoke on behalf of the October 22nd Coalition. "I’m here today especially to speak to the courage and to the commitment that was demonstrated by all of the members of the Coalition, by all of the people who answered the call to come and present themselves to this city and to the world on behalf of the October 22nd Coalition to fight against police brutality."

"I want to commend all of the people, all of the warriors and the soldiers for democracy and for freedom, for standing their ground, for refusing to be cowed, for sitting down in front of the horses and sitting down in front of the hot police, and refusing to be broken into a mass of tugging confusion so that we could all be attacked. It was an act of extreme courage, and I’m proud to have been there and to have stood with them, and to know that they, the people of this city will be invigorated—not fearful, but invigorated—because they’ll see even more clearly today the struggle that we’re involved in against the police brutality, the repression and criminalization of a generation."

John Gordon was a young man when he was murdered a little more than a year ago by Long Beach police. His father, Greg was on stage Sunday holding John’s six-month-old babe when the LAPD opened fire on the crowd. Greg was shot three times. He read this statement at the press conference: "My name is Greg Jordan. I’m speaking for some of the family members that were there on October 22nd. We are the families that came to October 22nd to march and to live off our loved ones. We have suffered their violent deaths at the hands of the police, and know in our hearts that we need to bring these deaths to the attention of the public so that no more will die needlessly as they did.

"We came and we brought our family members to march in a demonstration that was sanctioned and authorized by the proper government bodies, to show up to have our say as concerned people. We came with our spouses, our children, our babies, and our friends."

"Soon after we got to Parker Center, we were fired upon by the police on horseback. We did nothing to provoke this... It was as though we were the targets."

"If this was done to keep us from returning, they’re wrong. The brutality that we were united in protest was clearly demonstrated this year on October 22nd by the L.A. police department."

"I speak for the family of Sofia Saldana, the mother of Juan Saldana, shot to death by an LAPD Rampart CRASH officer; Gloria Santos, mother of 16-year-old Julio Castillo, shot to death by the Los Angeles sheriffs department; and Greg and Judy Jordan, family of John Jordan, shot to death by the Long Beach police department."

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In the Streets for Justice

Thousands protest in more than 60 cities

The low wall of a conch shell pierced the afternoon skies and drum beats rolled down Broadway as 50 Aztecs dancers led the way for the 5th National Day of Protest Against Police Brutality. Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation brought home the reality of the epidemic of police murder and brutality in this country—and the growing and determined resistance to STOP it. Thousands participated: 2,500 marched in Los Angeles, 1,500 in New York, 900 in San Francisco, 400 in Chicago, and significant actions were held in Detroit, Cleveland, Columbus, Ohio, Seattle, Philadelphia, Portland, Oregon; Atlanta, Georgia; Houston, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Austin, Texas; Cherokee, NC; Hendersonville, NC; Denver, Louisville, Kentucky; Phoenix, Arizona; Providence, RI; Minneapolis/St. Paul, San Diego. And as we go to press, more reports are coming in from other areas.

In New York City, more than 30 family members, including Saikou Amadou Diafo, the father of Amadou Diafo, joined a young and militant crowd, dressed in Black, to march and rally—in the face of several attempts by the police to intimidate and detain organizers.

Since his 13-year-old son was murdered by a housing cop in 1999, Nicholas Heyward, Sr. has become an outspoken organizer against police brutality. On October 22, 2000, as Nicholas was preparing to MC the police arrested him at his home at 6 a.m., charging him with failure to pay a ticket for not having his dog on a leash! Lawyers and activists immediately located Nicholas, demanding his release, and escorted him to the rally to speak.

Three days before, six members of the Revolutionary Community Youth Brigade and five people from the South Bronx were arrested when police broke into an apartment—in a blatant attempt to intimidate people making plans for the protest. This happened in the same building where Malcolm Ferguson was murdered by police in 1999—and at a few blocks from where Amadou Diafo was gunned down in a hail of 41 bullets. In a show of defiance at the October 22nd protest, members of the RCYB and youth from the neighborhood joined together with a banner made and signed by dozens of people in the neighborhood that read: “Amado, Malcolm, PRESENTE! South Bronx Against Police Brutality.”

Continued on page 15
From the CoRiM

Seize the New Opportunities to Break the Isolation of Chairman Gonzalo

For eight long years now Chairman Gonzalo, leader of the Communist Party of Peru, has been held in the dungeons of the enemy. During this time he has been held in extreme isolation and even denied visits by his lawyers and six distinguished international delegations. His last public statement was on 24 September 1992, when he called on the Party and the revolutionary people in Peru to continue on the revolutionary road. Since then there has been no verifiable communications from Chairman Gonzalo.

This intolerable situation is a direct result of the Peruvian regime's effort to use psychological warfare to undermine the people's revolutionary struggle. While the imperialists and reactionaries of all countries talk louder and louder about "democratic and human rights," the conditions of Chairman Gonzalo's confinement show the barbaric features behind this mask.

Recent events have focused world attention on the reactionary Peruvian regime. In Peru itself, new waves of popular discontent are growing and the People's War led by the PCP continues to be waged heroically. Now is the time to forcefully raise the demand that Chairman Gonzalo's isolation be broken, that he be allowed to express himself in a live television broadcast and that he be able to receive visits from journalists, lawyers and others from Peru and around the world. He must be given the treatment that is internationally guaranteed to all imprisoned combatants. Similarly, we must raise our voices in defence of Comrade Feliciano and demand that he be guaranteed these same elementary rights.

The Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement calls upon the parties and organisations of RIM as well as all other progressive forces and individuals to take up this fight. We must call upon the revolutionary masses of all countries to defend the life of Chairman Gonzalo because he is an outstanding revolutionary communist leader who developed the line for making proletarian revolution in Peru and led the Party in initiating and developing an heroic People's War and has made important contributions to RIM and the whole international communist movement.

Following the capture of Chairman Gonzalo, the struggle in Peru experienced a "bend in the road." Nevertheless, under the leadership of Comrade Feliciano, the Party carried the People's War forward, rebuffing the Right Opportunist Line that called for abandoning the revolutionary struggle. Although Comrade Feliciano himself was captured in 1999, the Party Central Committee has continued to march forward and defend the line developed by Chairman Gonzalo.

Redoubling our efforts to defend the life and break the isolation of Chairman Gonzalo is an important way the revolutionary masses in different countries can express their support for and aid the People's War in Peru.

Defend the Life of Chairman Gonzalo, Break the Isolation!

24 September 2000—Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement

Guerrilla fighters of the Communist Party of Peru.

As of October 25, 2000 Chairman Gonzalo (Abimael Guzman) has been held in isolation for

8 Years, 16 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 regime 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 neutral visitors from outside the prison in a way that meets the basic international standards for treatment of political prisoners and prisoners of war? It is vitally important for people in Peru and around the world to have some idea what Chairman Gonzalo's views are and why Chairman Gonzalo himself—directly and unimpeded. This heightens the urgency of the fight to create an international political climate which compels the Peruvian government to grant access to Comrade Gonzalo by his legal representatives and other friends who can meet and talk directly with him.

Support the People's War in Peru! Support the Communist Party of Peru! Defend the Life of Chairman Gonzalo, Fight to Break the Isolation!
It's Right to Rebel Against Police Brutality

The Voices and Faces of Resistance

It was 22 months ago that they killed my son Julio, who was only 16 years old. My son was murdered by the racist, corrupt, and rotten Sheriff, I still have pain in my heart. So I say to them, "You evil bastards." Without feelings, I call them bastards. That night when they killed my son, I begged them not to kill him, to stop shooting him. I asked them for their mothers, for their fathers, for their children. But they didn't listen to a word. They shoved me around like I was garbage. They shoved me and rouged me up and screamed at me like I was some kind of animal... I demand justice for my son Julio. I demand justice for our loved ones who have been killed with no pity, with no remorse. I demand the maximum punishment and that their soul rot in the thousands of hells. Cowards! Assassins! Murderers!

Gloria Santos, mother of Julio Castillo

I saw Tyisha Miller's body. I saw my niece's bullet-ridden body and it sickened me. I see she had been shot through her throat and she had been shot in her back. All the bullets came through her back. And I said that day two years ago that I would dedicate the rest of my life to trying to get some justice. That's why I had Sunday school on Broadway. Today is Sunday. I told the church that I'm going to Sunday school, but it won't be in Riverside, it'll be in Los Angeles down Broadway.

Burnel Butler, uncle of Tyisha Miller and spokesperson for her family

We are sick and tired and we're no longer allowing you to carry out your terrorizing, death squad activities against the youth of our community and always get off free and continue to go unpunished. We the parents are dedicated to a better future for our children, while you the police are dedicated to stealing the future from the youth, killing them and locking them up on fabricated charges... We the people of Pico-Union and all those who are under the boot of Rampart, will start to raise our voices so that these crimes cannot be forgotten. We, the Pico-Union community, where so many lives have been stolen and ruined—we will never forget, and we will never forgive.

From a statement from the Pico-Union Community, the immigrant bank occupied by cops from the LAPD Rampart Division

Once, when I was 17, we were just kickin' back on the corner, and there were riot cops. They just happened to be assigned there for whatever reason. There was me and four other guys, one that was in a wheelchair. As soon as they came out of the car, they didn't say nothing to us. They came out with their guns pointed right at us. I put my hands up in the air. They hit the guy in the wheelchair. They dragged me on my knees. I thought I was gonna get shot. This is my second October 22nd. The first time, I ran into it accidentally and I joined it. This time I'm here and I brought my friends. I think this is beautiful! It's powerful! It's the people. It's not just one race but a lot of people together with one voice. People hearing what the cops do here, and it's not right, especially what happened in Rampart. But this is beautiful. This is powerful.

22-year-old youth at the LA NDP

These are our brothers and sisters here and we're gonna back them up. The police is trying to separate us, but we ain't gonna be run off. These are the pigs who bring the Migrants, they attack these sisters and brothers and deport them back to Mexico. But they ain't leavin' and we ain't leavin'. We're gonna get shot. This is my second October 22nd. The first time, I ran into it accidentally and I joined it. This time I'm here and I brought my friends. I think this is beautiful! It's powerful! It's the people. It's not just one race but a lot of people together with one voice. People hearing what the cops do here, and it's not right, especially what happened in Rampart. But this is beautiful. This is powerful.

Black woman from LA after the police attacked the crowd

I used to live in Pico-Union, and I've seen brutality, how they treat the youth. I've seen them handcuff them and beat them, and that's what they did to us for protesting and...
Continued from previous page

demanding our rights. We were also beaten.
I've been arrested for protesting, for civil

disobedience, I wasn't beaten, but other
comrades were, and the way that they

grabbed me and put on the handcuffs — to me

that was brutality. I'm a janitor, and in 1990 I

was in Century City when they beat our

companeros and what's more one companero
died from the beating and another companera,
Ana Velez, had a miscarriage because of the

beating they gave her. They didn't beat me,
but they beat my companeros, and we say that

an injury to one is an injury to all.

Woman with Justice for Janitors

I would like to begin this statement by
expressing my deepest condolences to the

heredner families gathered here today who have lost

loved ones as a result of police violence. I

know the pain of losing a loved one and having

that pain worsen when the loss goes
unrecognized and the injustice of that loss goes
without reparations. I send you my love, my

strength and my support. Sometimes the only

way to deal with this pain is to replace it with

the will to change what caused it in the first

place. I want to encourage you to continue

your efforts to stop police violence because

your voices are critical to this struggle. Your

stories have the ability to teach and to touch

all kinds of people. Your stories reach far

beyond barriers of class, race and political

ideologies. You have the power to unite

society in an effort to end police abuse and

violence... I want to thank the October 22nd

Coalition for their work on this important issue.

I support you and your efforts and applaud

your dedication to creating a society where our

people do not have to live in fear and where

justice is a reality for all communities.

From a statement by Leonard Peltier to NDP

This police brutality that's going on here
today has also gone on across this country and

it takes people like ourselves to mobilize in

order to stop it. A lot of people call on the

federal government. I was doing that at one

time also. But the federal government has
closed many cases back at the end of '99,

including my own. I'm not calling on the

federal government or federal monitoring of

the police officers. I'm calling on the people

out here. I'm calling on you people to do this.

This is up to us. We need to fight. We need to

produce. We need to continue on rallying and

organizing.

Nicholas Heyward, Sr., father of Nicholas Heyward, Jr.
who was killed by a housing cop for having a toy gun

Recently the federal government issued a
statement based on a study and investigation
that the New York City Police Department does
engage in the practice of racial profiling. This
report was not new to us. We have long
realized that to be the fact. The facts and

circumstances surrounding my son's death is an
indicator of racial profiling—the same issue as

with beating and torturing the other victims

and killing Patrick Dorismond and the others... I

wish and I pray that one day the death of

Amadou will be remembered as a symbol of

peace, unity, justice for all people.

Saikou Amadou Diailo, father of Amadou Diailo
shot 41 times and killed by the NYPD

We have to let Citizen know that when he
said that these are isolated incidents, that

when they murdered my son, it was isolated.
We took and we made research and we came
up with the Stolen Lives and look how many
names, how many isolated incidents there are.
Iris Baez, mother of Anthony Baez, murdered by the NYPD

In 1993, I regret to say that I voted for
Rudolph Giuliani when he was running for
mayor. I believed that he was going to make
the city safer, that he was going to clean the
drugs out of our neighborhoods. Having three
boys, I was concerned about the drugs around
our neighborhood. A year later, on January 12,
1995, my son Anthony Rosario and my nephew
Mon Vega were killed in cold blood by Patrick
Brosnan and James Crowe from the 46th
Precinct in the Bronx, also bodyguards to
Mayor Giuliani... They shot my son 14 times in
the back and my nephew eight times in the
back. It makes me angry that these two
detectives can live their lives with their families
without paying for the crime of killing my son
and nephew.

Margaret Rosario, mother of Anthony Rosario,
murdered by the NYPD

This will happen and it will continue to
happen if we don't continue to fight and
scream and kid and whatever it takes to make
them stop beating our children, murdering our
children.

Lilly Turul, mother of Jovan Gonzalez,
beaten by a racist gang with ties to the police
I ain’t going with none of that bull about he was going for a gun ‘cause there was no gun found. These pigs will fabricate anything just to keep themselves a job. Meanwhile, we grieve. Every single female and male up here grieves. I’m hurt. I’m tired of just not being able to see my brother on the corner, not being able to see him come home, not being able to see him watch TV, not being able to see him in a chair with me, not being able to see him hang out with me. I kiss my flesh and blood. To the younger generation, join me ‘cause it’s gonna be on and poppin’ real soon.

James Ferguson, brother of Malcolm Ferguson who was killed by NYPD.

This cop shot my brother in the back of the head at close range. He was only 16 years old. But the Brooklyn D.A. did nothing to prosecute the officer. He’s still working as a cop today. He’s still out there. We must remember that many young people are not here today because they were killed by the police officers. We are building a movement against police brutality. I’m five years fighting for justice. We haven’t got anything yet. But we are not going to give up until we get justice for all the people who have been killed by the police officers.

Quêshy Nyack, sister of Yong Xin Huang who was killed by NYPD while playing with a toy gun.

This was clearly an attack and a tactic to divide the people from the revolutionaries and we’re not going to take that shit. We’re not going to be scared of their shit. Our Chairman, Bob Avakian, says fear nothing, be down for the whole 10. And that’s what we’ve all about.

Sonya, from the RCYB, speaking about the police raid in the South Bronx three days before 10/22.

In which six RCYB members and five people from the neighborhood were arrested.

This cop, he was trigger happy. He killed my son. He didn’t have a chance. My son had his hands in the air and, he was giving himself up. He took off his T-shirt to show them that he didn’t have no weapons. And the cops and the newspapers they changed the story around. They said that my son had a knife. How can my son have a knife when he took off his T-shirt? He didn’t have nothing. He was surrendering himself. For what? He didn’t do no crime. My son was sick, and he needed help. That’s why we called the 911. The police has to pay for the crime he did. And all of us, my daughter, my son, and my nephew, we’re going to get justice for my son.

Henry Garcia, mother of Danny Garcia, killed by San Jose police.

The way in which they took Alberto from us was the most cowardly of acts and they call it an accident. Please continue on with your protest. We unfortunately cannot be with you today because they still will not let my husband leave the county. I hope at the next protest we can be with you. We need to raise all of our voices together so that the police will stop hurting and killing our children in their own homes. Our family, the Sepulveda family, we appreciate your support and please keep moving forward. Don’t be afraid. They are the crazy ones not us.

Letter from the Sepulveda family, read at SF NOP. On September 17, the police raided the Sepulveda home and shot 11-year-old Alberto in the back, killing him.

Anywhere one looks across the country, it’s not hard to find communities ravaged by the epidemic of police brutality and killings. Broken bones, devastated families whose loved ones have been stolen from them by law enforcement. Innocent youth lined up, spread-eagle, and incapacitated. And time after time this system refuses to punish these brutal enforcers. The pain in these broken hearts give rise to the anger so deep! That if not contained will surely burst out and drive the people to rise to the anger so deep! That if not contained will surely burst out and drive the people to

Anita Garza, brother of Mark Garcia who was murdered by SFPD.

How does it stop? You have to roll out of bed every morning and say “I’m not going to give up.” And if times get hard, and you want to just lay your head under the covers, just come out and come out fighting. My mother told me, she said, “You know what, you fight till your last dying breath.” And she said, “When you’re on the ground and with your last dying breath you look up in their face and you spit in it.”

Glenn Hull, whose son was shot in the back by Oakland police in 1993.

My niece, Sheila Detey, was killed by the police a couple years ago. She touched many lives, and we’re all still in pain and feel the loss of Sheila Detey. It’s difficult...
Continued from previous page

for me to speak here, there's pain involved, and I just want to thank all of you. The IL WU is here backing up Stolen Lives, and against police brutality. Sheila Detoy's father was a longshoreman, as well as myself. And we been championing human rights from the beginning.

Bob Karcey, uncle of Shelia Detoy

The Oakland police department managed to destroy one-third of my family in 20 minutes. All over a dog. They claim that my son refused to surrender his dog... He failed the "attitude test." A lot of our family members fail the "attitude test" put out by the police. What that really means is that you have dignity, that you have rights. That's failing the attitude test. That will get you hurt, and that will get you killed. As long as this system remains the way it is.

Rashidah Grinage

The police on our little reservation murdered our tribal member Acorn Peters. Sonumber one: I'm here out of honor and in memory of Acorn. Second, I'm sick of police abuse. The police treat Indian people like we are not human so how ever you treat a dog is the treatment that the Indian people receive. I know first hand.

Cora Lee Simmons, Round Valley Indians for Justice

it's not just a couple of bad apples or some cops who took things too far. They ain't got nothing against locking people up. You can get life in Ms jail for stealing a piece of pizza. And they keep murdering our people. So why is it that time after time these pigs get off? It's because these capitalists couldn't last a day without their brutalizing enforcers to hold them up. Police brutality is part of the lifeblood of this system. It's how they enforce their class dictatorship over the people. So if we want to get rid of these brutal murdering police and every other social injustice we got to get rid of this capitalist, imperialist system. And it's going to take proletarian revolution to do it.

Richard, from the RCYB speaking at the SF NDP

We're skateboarders, we're hip-hop, we're students, we're people of color. All of us are affected. Police have brutalized us many a time. Illegal searches, DWI, malicious acts like that. We've been accused of many things from robbing banks to vandalism. It feels good to be out here but also to know that it's a national day not just here but that people all over the country are taking action today so hopefully it will have some effect.

Black student from UC Berkley

I hope our voices will be heard. That the police in the city could see that the citizens of the city and the youth and everybody's just fed up with their bullshit—all there cop's fucking corruption, fucking beating people, racial profiling. That all the movements that are against police have joined together to march and let their voices be heard by the city and by the police. They could know that we're out there and we're resisting.

17-year-old youth at NDP in Chicago

He was talking to his friend, with my son. I came to pick him up to come and eat dinner when the police approached us and started chasing him. The cops told him to stop. When he put his hands up in the air and he turned around the cops shot him three feet away. The police said that he had a gun in his hand—and all he had was a lighter.

Nancy Figueroa, wife of John Figueroa who was gunned down by Chicago police 11 years ago

I am a professor of African American history and in particular, African American resistance; so I deal with evidence, and I can tell you, this book is EVIDENCE.

Ella Forbes, whose son Erin was murdered by the Lower Merion, PA police on January 10, 2000, talking about the Stolen Lives book

We have a system in place where people are trained to kill, people are trained to maim. And that's what they do. And there's a whole system behind them, a judicial system that protects these people when they do that.

Raul Miranda, uncle of Robert Wayne Guy Jr.—killed in 1997 by King County Jail guards in Seattle

If I die fighting for what is right, I don't care. I will die fighting for what I think is right. I believe people are dying today. It is wrong, and every time I open my mouth I'm going to say what it is and I'm going to tell the truth about it.

Opalca Ealy, mother of Michael Ealy—murdered by Seattle police in 1990
tenant in the Middle East—a region that the U.S. must domi-
nate in order to st
tie the top imperialist

The U.S. Master and
the Israeli Attack Dog

The elections have
been won by the
Israelis, and the
Palestinians are
losing.

Since the end of the
Cold War and the
collapse of the
Soviet Union, the
U.S. has moved
more direct presence
of U.S. military
forces in the Middle
East, and particularly
in the region of
Palestine.

The U.S. has
continued to
support the
Palestinian
Authority and its
Israeli attack dog,

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Laura Morales was sick. She suffered excruciating pain from migraines, headaches. Every 30 years, was also on welfare in New York City. And, as a result, she was forced to participate in the Work Experience Program (WEP), working in the basement kitchen of a church shelter. The heat was oppressive. She felt too ill to work, but was forced to do so and was threatened with being cut off welfare and thrown into the depths of impoverishment. In Wisconsin, which is seen as a national model in welfare cuts, the figures are even more extreme. In the mid-1980s, 98,000 people received assistance in Wisconsin, today just over 7,000 do.

THE CUT

As welfare was cut, there was a huge official campaign about "moving people from a culture of dependency to a culture of work." This propaganda hid the fact that most women on welfare have, in huge numbers, gotten themselves jobs over the years. Before the 1996 welfare cuts, the overwhelming majority of women on welfare found jobs within two years. At the same time, many women who left welfare for work often could not care for their families on the minimum wage jobs that were available, and so were forced back on welfare by the harsh realities in the bottom section of the working class.

The wage level in the bottom of the working class averages $2 an hour less than it did 20 years ago—and it's simply too little to pay enough to raise a child. Of course, certainly not enough to pay for private child care. Families with dependent children (in many cases) would be perishing were it not for government assistance. Meanwhile, in the country as a whole, more and more wealth has been moved into the bank accounts of the upper 1 percent. Since 1999 and 1997, the wealth of the 400 richest families increased by an average of $940 million each.

"WELFARE TO WORK—THE WISCONSIN STORY"

In September 1997, the Wisconsin state government instituted a program that claimed to "move people from welfare to work." The state legislature created Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and the Wisconsin Works Program (WEP). WEP is a program to force people to make desperate poverty and the illegal economy.

Since 1996, the number of people receiving welfare, help has been cut almost in half. From 12.2 million in 1996 to 6.6 million in 1999. From Los Angeles to New York people are variably being cut off welfare and thrown into the depths of impoverishment. In Wisconsin, which is seen as a national model in welfare cuts, the figures are even more extreme. In the mid-1980s, 98,000 people received assistance in Wisconsin, today just over 7,000 do.

Federal guidelines pressured state governments to drive people off welfare. States no longer get a set percentage of the money they spend on welfare, instead they get a fixed amount of money (a "block grant"). If they don't spend it on welfare, the government does not "help them out". It is a fait accompli.

Since 1999, 45 states and the District of Columbia had stockpiled $7 billion in federal funds (according to a study by the National Campaign for Jobs and Income, money that had accumulated by denying it to poor people. In some states like Wisconsin those funds were used to finance tax cuts for property owners, a transfer of money from those with nothing to lose to those with something. Meanwhile, in the country as a whole, more and more wealth has been moved into the bank accounts of the upper 1 percent. Since 1999 and 1997, the wealth of the 400 richest families increased by an average of $940 million each.

Since the mid-'90s, the number of people receiving help, the number of people forced off welfare has increased. In 1995, nearly 40 percent reported being unable to pay for food or utilities. Thirty-nine percent said they were in need of clothing. Thirty-five percent said they were in need of medical care. Thirty percent said they needed help with transportation. The result: 3.5 million people lived in poverty and four of every ten children—have been driven off public assistance.

The core of the new program, Wisconsin Works, Sanitation, and in the very welfare offices responsible for cutting benefits. In Wisconsin, which was once famous for its liberal welfare system, has become ground zero for the drive to inject desperation into the lives of the poor. The heart of the New York program is to make welfare checks and food stamps to difficult to obtain and to make working simply pay less.

Women forced off welfare—some have no record of "means of support." They now have to work in a community service job, cleaning restrooms in the city's parks.

People are outraged. Demonstrations have been held in Laura's name. New York Mayor Guiliani argued it wasn't the city's fault that she went to work rather than to receive public assistance. "Just one less person on welfare."
Welfare Cuts

WEP's most immediate effects have been to drive people off welfare, exerting harsh control over those that remain. Even before getting into WEP (or to get any kind of benefits) a person has to get through intensive police-state scrutiny. The city has its 1,500 "fraud investigators" who screen every applicant twice, first in a Brooklyn office and then in a home visit. Along with that are finger and video imaging—electronically taking people's fingerprints and pictures.

Once in WEP, people are thrown off the rolls for the most minor work infraction—missing a single hour of work can result in being "sanctioned"—meaning you are denied benefits.

In 1997 fully 69 percent of the home relief (single adults) in the program were "sanctioned" off the rolls. The threat of sanctions means putting up with the worst conditions for pitifully small benefits, as in the case Anderson Carter Carter, 49, with heart trouble, diabetes and high blood pressure, was working a WEP job in 100 degree weather last July when he suffered a stroke on the job and died eight days later.

One New York study showed that six months after leaving welfare, 1997, nearly half of the people had not found steady, permanent work and nearly a third had not found any work at all.

WEP has not been the only way people have been kept from getting assistance. In 1997 Jason Turner was brought to New York from Wisconsin to head up the City's welfare agency, the Human Resources Administration. In line with the "Wisconsin model," welfare offices were renamed "Job Centers."

In December 1998 a class action suit was filed against the city because of the systematic denial of benefits going on in these centers. In the complaint filed in court, similar stories are told over and over again. People—desperate, without food, whose children are sick—told of electronic taking people's fingerprints and pictures.

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WHEN THE BOOM ENDS

The impact of welfare cuts would have been even more cruel and intense if significant numbers of former welfare recipients had not been able to at least find some temporary low-paying jobs. The dismantling of the welfare system is happening in an economy where the overall number of low-paying jobs is increasing, and where the capitalists in some areas report a relative "labor shortage."

However, this also means that the real impact of these cuts will not fully hit until the economy hits a recession—when unemployment rises and the number of jobs shrinks. Under those conditions, millions of the poorest working women will be thrown out of their jobs—and will not find new work. And for the first time in decades, they and their children will not be guaranteed emergency benefits.

The national welfare cuts have driven millions of people deeper into poverty. This has enriched the capitalists by expanding the pool of the lowest paid workers. It has worked to drag down the wages of the working class as a whole. And it has injected even more insecurity, fear and desperation into the lives of poor women and their children. Much of this has been hidden in the reports on welfare cuts—and it is certainly hidden in the presidential election campaign of 2000 where the politicians of both parties congratulate themselves for their role in the attack on the poor. But, there is an even more intense impact to come: when the economy falters, when millions of people will need that "safety net," when more and

Sources:

- "Ten Island to Milwaukee," Angela Engel, in wheelchair, who was forced to work at Goodwill in Milwaukee in order to receive welfare benefits.
The Realism of Revolution and the Fantasy of Elections

Continued from page 3

entering the workforce—and rebelling against the system. And only after the system legalized abortion did a section of the system's politicians openly declare their support for this right.

This is worth remembering now—because the right to choose abortion is one of the areas where the major parties and candidates have clear differences. Some people argue that this alone is reason to support Al Gore.

However, for the last eight years, those Democrats have been in power and presided over the restriction of abortion rights. They have called for "keeping abortion legal, and making it rare." They have supported parental consent laws and opposed federal funding to make abortions available to poor women. Gore's running mate, Senator Lieberman, even sponsored a bill to ban abortions completely in the last months of pregnancy.

During this same period, this policy of supporting the Democratic administration worked to demonize the struggle of women in support of abortion rights.

A Trap

The electoral system—it's parties and campaigns—is a terrible place to try to organize the people for struggle and change. It is a place completely and totally controlled by the system—by its laws, institutions, and media.

When the people get drawn in, there their struggle gets tame. It is an arena where people get trained to accept the limits and framework of capitalism as "realistic." They are schooled in the political methods most useful (and least challenging) to their oppressors. Their organizations get tied to the structures, institutions, personalities and politics of this system and its chosen representatives. It is quicksand.

And that's why the system loves to see new voters brought in. All the better to eat you with, my dear. And only after the system legalized abortion did a section of the system's politicians openly declare their support for this right.

Will Nader inject "new ideas into the process," as some people hope? Here too you can see the system in full effect. In 1992, Ross Perot was allowed to "inject new ideas"—because the ruling class needed someone to argue for major social cuts, in a campaign where neither major candidate could be the first to bring it up. But in Nader's case in 2000, the same ruling class is not interested to give a national platform for his proposals for universal health care or pre-NAFTA laws or opposition to NAFTA and similar agreements—and so they simply don't allow his voice to be heard much in the official channels. They have kept him out of the debates, and (for the most part) out of the media. And so his "new ideas" (which are really old, old ideas lifted from European and Canadian social democracy) are kept outside the allowed spectrum of policy debate.

At the same time, the ruling class, the media, and the electoral apparatus has allowed Nader to recruit, and has allowed him (with some conflict) on the ballot in 44 states. The prominent Texas populist John Hightower argued for the Nader campaign on the evening news saying, "There are tons of people who are angry and fed up, and if they don't have this candidacy, they may start some real revolt." This is an honest statement to the ruling class—and it's true.

Prominent forces within Nader's own campaign openly say that their intentions are not to draw people away from the Democratic Party—but to play "hard to get" this year, in hopes of getting more respect in future years. And, if the history of electoral third parties is any indication, many of the forces "energized" by Nader will end up voting for Gore and Democratic congressional candidates when this year's November 7 actually comes.

There are no "good old days." U.S. electoral democracy never served and represented oppressed people. This electoral system was invented, designed and refined by capitalist merchants and slave owners from the beginning. And it has served the ruling class well—by elevating reliable political figures to serve their class, by playing sections of the people into their state structure and political machines, and by enabling them to disguise a capitalist dictatorship as "democratic rule of the people."

Is it really possible to remove "corporate control of government" by building an electoral third party and putting some campaign finance reform laws? If you could really do that, they'd make voting illegal.

What will happen to the forces who follow Nader on his crusade to the ballot box? Nader talks about turning the Green Party into a serious national contender for the election of 2004. This is highly unlikely. Not because there aren't millions of people who want a new kind of politics. But because this system was designed to absorb and demonize the forces who try this. The whole history of electoral third parties in this century shows that.

And that's why the system loves to see new voters brought in. All the better to eat you with, my dear.

The whole strategy of the Nader campaign is based on an elaborate electoral fantasy. And despite the best intentions of many people involved, it will overall have negative effects on the struggle for social change. At every campaign stop and in practically every interview, Nader explains that he intends to pull official politics open, and make it harder for his voice in the official channels. They have kept him out of the debates, and (for the most part) out of the media. And so his "new ideas" (which are really old, old ideas lifted from European and Canadian social democracy) are kept outside the allowed spectrum of policy debate.

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Many people have taken important steps away from the traditional "liberal-conservative" policies of this system. They have seen through the lies and rhetoric of the two major parties. But instead of supporting a real revolution, they have settled for the disgusting, reactionary "lesser of two evils" they are offered.

To those people we say: Step all the way out of this system's political circuit. Hook up with the revolution and help humanity get free.

Getting Real

"People say what is your alternative? What are you offering instead? To me that is like somebody who has been out in the desert for ten days and their throat is parched and dry and they're desperate for water. And he says. You want a cup of water? They say. 'I'll take it.' And he says, 'Don't drink out of that water hole, that one is poison too.' And they say. 'But, that looks better, I don't know how to tell a good water hole from a bad one.' And he says. 'And yet there is an old fellow there, who's been around a long time. He's not drinking out of the one that appears to be a little bit cleaner. He's down on his knees and doors, digging down in the dirt, and he says, 'Don't drink out of that water hole, that one is poison too. It looks better but it's poison.'"

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In the Streets for Justice

Continued from page 5

Organizers from the October 22nd Coalition report that protests this year were marked by intense participation of families who have lost their loved ones. In Detroit, Araminta Grable, who is on the executive board of the coalition, indicated that the local and federal authorities in the murder of her son and her father of Earl Hutchinson—killed for the publication of the Spanish translation of the Stolen Lives book—sentimentalized the loss of their children and the scenes of police terror in their neighborhoods.

In Cleveland, people took their anger right to the doors of the police stations. In Philadelphia, women whose children had been murdered and railroaded to death row after years of exposing police brutality—was a major theme of the protests.

On this 5th annual day of protest, plans for the publication of the Spanish translation of the Stolen Lives book, documenting more than 2000 cases of police murder, signalized a deeper connection with international spirit into the protests. And, in many cities, immigrants took part in the national day of protest.

We’re up against a determined foe that ain’t gonna give up easy. So what is that we gotta do? My answer to that is on two levels. One level is we gotta build even more mass and massive resistance. If you’re somebody who thinks police brutality is a joke and needs to be stopped, then get down with the October 22nd Coalition. Join in the fight for justice for all victims of these brutal murdering cops. Take the Stolen Lives and with it help break through the lies of Giuliani and the others, that police brutality is isolated incidents. Join the fight to stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Get down and fight for justice, sisters and brothers. That’s what we’ve gotta do to put brutal murdering cops in check.

But we’ve gotta go beyond putting police brutality in check. We’ve gotta go to getting rid of the system that spawns police brutality because police brutality is built into the fabric of this rotten capitalist system. That means we need a revolution—millions of people from the bottom of society gathering many other allies to their side, rising up. It means getting rid of this system through revolution, going on to build a whole new world on the ashes of this fucked-up one. That’s what it’s going to take to get rid of police brutality once and for all. And the resistance we’re building today has everything to do with being ready and in position to be able to rise up and make revolution when the time is right.

So if you’re somebody who hates this shit as much as I do and wants to see it end, then get down with the Revolutionary Communist Party and its youth arm, the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade. Run with us, together with us make trouble for these bloodsuckers that rule over us. Get a hold of a Revolutionary Worker and use it to expose the nature of the system. Build the areas where you live and where you work into strongholds of revolutionary resistance, areas where the enemy knows that if he comes in and attacks, he’s going to pay a price. Get down on this fight, sisters and brothers. If revolution is too much for you, fight for justice in the hardest way you can. But I think revolution is the solution.

Carl Dix, National Spokesperson, Revolutionary Communist Party, at NY NOP 2000
As the new millennium begins, the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement is uniting Marxist-Leninist-Maoist parties that are waging or preparing people's war. RIM's Millennium Statement expresses its determination to make the new century one that will go down in history as the turning point in the battle to put an end to the millennia-old exploitation of class society and hasten the dawn of communist society. An interview with a member of the RIM Committee explores the situation of the world proletarian revolution today and RIM's role in advancing it.

**Pages from the History of Class Struggle**
A photo essay giving voice in verse and image to the rebels of yesterday and today, from slaves like Spartacus, who dreamed and fought for a different life before such dreams could become real, to the wage-slaves of today, who dream and fight for a world revolution that is now very much on history's agenda.

**The International Communist Movement: What Path?**
The RIM Committee comments on resolutions from a recent conference of Marxist-Leninist parties, emphasizing how the key to advancing proletarian revolution is the understanding that Marxism-Leninism-Maoism is a new, third and higher stage of Marxism-Leninism.

**On the Strategy for People's War in India**
How should the Maoist strategy of people's war be applied to the second most populous country on earth? A provocative article dissects some erroneous views put forward there and offers some basic guidelines for the future.

**Also in this issue:**
- Peru: Encirclement and Counter-Encirclement
- Free Trade: Engine of Growth or Plunder?
- Art and Politics: Reviews of the novels The God of Small Things and Poisonwood Bible
- Resolutions of the 4th Regional Conference of RIM South Asian Parties and Organizations
- On the Founding of the Maoist Communist Party in Italy
- And more!