U.S. Targets Afghanistan and...

A Time to Resist
A Time to Stop the War

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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? While there are many things to be learned, three main points stand out:

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 can come about until this system is overturned.

2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against this system, and those 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.

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

This Party has the vision, the program, the leadership, and the organizational principles 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 revolutionary struggle—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 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 a solid basis and a real chance of winning.

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This issue contains the complete text of the new Draft Programme of the RCP, USA. Available from rnor.org in both HTML and PDF formats including the complete appendices of Part 2.

1. The Party and the Masses
2. Revolution Means Waging People’s War
3. Create Public Opinion, Seize Power: Prepare Minds and Organize Forces
4. The United Front Under the Leadership of the Proletariat Part 1: Why and How the Proletariat Leads and Unites the United Front
6. The Party Under Socialism, and the Transition to Communism
7. Consolidating the New Proletarian Power, Developing Radically New Institutions
8. Proletarian Dictatorship, Democracy and the Rights of the People
9. Internationalism and International Relations
10. Uprooting National Oppression and White Supremacy
11. Ending Discrimination Against Immigrants
12. The Proletarian Revolution and the Emanicipation of Women
16. Peronist Morality—A Radical Rupture With Tradition's Chains

MUCH MONEY IS NEEDED NOW TO STEP UP RW COVERAGE, DISTRIBUTION AND THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

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"As the dust clears from our eyes, the people in the most powerful country in the world find ourselves held hostage to the inevitable repercussions of the actions of this U.S. power structure and their bloody military machine....

"And now they call on the people to support their retribution. They speak of war and justice. No.

"Through the shock we seek the truth: Global exploiters and mass murderers have no right to retribution and they can only bring more destruction and injustice....

"As people mourn lost loved ones, as we put our arms around each other, all who seriously want justice need to reach out to the people of the world—to stand together against the crimes of the system, to strengthen our resistance against every act of war and repression."

From a statement by the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA, September 14, 2001

It is...

a Time to Resist

a Time to Stop the War
Young boys digging bomb shelters in the dusty hills of Afghanistan. Tens of thousands of Afghan refugees poured into the border of Pakistan, desparate to leave before U.S. bombs fall on their country.

What will happen to the people of Afghanistan who have lived in war and poverty for so long? It is a terrible thing that the U.S. power structure is moving its forces halfway around the world—that the U.S. is putting the people of Afghanistan, once again, in the crosshairs of war.

Our heart-felt solidarity goes out to our sisters and brothers there—to the revolutionary people struggling under such difficult conditions in the vast refugee camps of Pakistan and the war-torn villages of Afghanistan itself. We are inspired by the heroic women daring to defy the Taliban and start schools, and the courageous Mujahideen comrades working underground among the masses, struggling about how to launch and win a genuine revolution.

They are walking the only road that offers hope to the people of Afghanistan. It is the people alone who can create a bright and liberated future through revolutionary struggle against imperialism and domestic reactionaries.

Within hours after hijacked airliners crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the U.S. government claimed that planes had been "appropriated" by the al-Qaeda organization and its leader, Osama bin Laden.

Within days, the U.S. president was threatening war on Afghanistan—accusing the Madjahadeen regrouping in the mountains of that country, the Taliban, of "horrors" the networks that attacked the U.S. as we go to press. U.S. authorities have offered very little evidence to back their public claims.

Who are these forces around Osama bin Laden that the U.S. government has adopted? Where did they come from? Who trained and organized them?

The answer to all these questions lead back to the CIA—back to major crimes, campaigns, and global rivalries of U.S. imperialism.

Osama bin Laden first appeared on the stage in 1986 as a major sponsor of U.S.-backed armed forces who were fighting the Soviet army in Afghanistan.

**War Comes to Afghanistan**

Afghanistan is a rich treasury of many different peoples living mostly isolated, deep in the highlands of Central Asia. In the 1970s, the U.S. power structure considered Afghanistan as a "buffer state" between the Soviet Union to the north and the strategically important U.S.-backed states of Iran and Pakistan to the south.

The overwhelming majority of the population of 18 million lived as impoverished farmers in the extremely backward countryside—dominated by large landowners and the heads of feudal clan. But then, at the end of the 1970s, the intensifying global rivalry between the U.S. and USSR brought bitter warfare to Afghanistan.

In 1978, bureaucratic-capitalists allied with the Soviet imperialists staged a coup and took over Afghanistan's weak central government in Kabul. Resistance to the Kabul regime developed among a wide variety of peoples, including the CIA in alliance with each other—from Marxists, who opposed Soviet domination; to traditional patriarchal feudal societies; to many women groups; and to boys and girls going to school. And in 1979, the Soviet army invaded to prop up their local allies.

M. N. Cham, a World To Win magazine writer, gives a portrait of the Soviet imperialists as "communists" and hence the anti-imperialist struggle of the Afghan people as "communist" and "the soldiers of Allah" helped strengthen backward religious feeling amongst the masses and propped up the authority of the feudal and clergy. This was done with the full backing of the Western imperialists, who funded religious propaganda and armed the Mujahedeen as a weapon in their rivalry with the Soviet social-imperialists.

**Jimmy Carter's Jihad**

"It is a deliberate effort by a powerful autocratic government to subjugate an independent Islamic people." Jimmy Carter denounced the 1979 Soviet invasion "Portraying the Soviet imperialists as 'communists' and hence the anti-imperialist struggle of the Afghan people as 'communist' and the 'soldiers of Allah' helped strengthen backward religious feeling amongst the masses and propped up the authority of the feudal and clergy. This was done with the full backing of the Western imperialists, who funded religious propaganda and armed the Mujahedeen as a weapon in their rivalry with the Soviet social-imperialists.

M. N. Cham, A World To Win magazine

**For the masses of Afghan women**

The Soviet invasion was an intolerable at direct foreign domination. Revolutionary and progressive forces, including the country's Marxist organizations, threw themselves into the fight against the invaders. However, as M. N. Cham writes, in the absence of a revolutionary party capable of uniting the people into a people's war against imperialism and feudalism, the resistance of the masses was in the main organized under the leadership of various feudal and bourgeois forces.

The U.S. ruling class threw its resources behind some of the most reactionary forces in Afghan society—who came to be called the Afghan Mujahadeen. Their program for Afghanistan was the all-round defense of traditional feudal society—including the protection of big estates from land reform and the violent defense of traditional practices oppressing women. They were organized under the banner of jihad—holy war—to drive foreign troops from the Muslim world. But the truth is that this modern jihad was controlled from the White House and conducted to serve the interests of U.S. imperialism.

These U.S. interests were completely opposed to those of the masses of people. The U.S. wanted to bog down their Soviet imperialist rivals. The U.S. was looking to fund and arm forces who would fight the Soviet Union, while precisely not opposing imperialism and traditional Afghan feudalism in any fundamental way.

Brzezinski and Carter dreamed that an anti-Soviet jihad in Afghanistan could be spread across the border among the Muslim peoples of the USSR's Central Asian republics.

**Bin Laden comes to Afghanistan**

This U.S. takeover of the Afghan resistance was done with great secrecy. Millions of dollars were funneled through the intensely conservative monarchy of Saudi Arabia. The training of the Afghan Mujahadeen was carried out largely from bases along the Pakistan-Afghan border by the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate (ISI)—under the close supervision of the CIA's "covert war" experts. The weapons they provided in the beginning were Soviet- and Chinese-made—to the U.S. backing would not be obvious.

Osama bin Laden came to this region in 1980 as a "Chetnik Mudjahadener." He spent two years bringing funds from the Saudi ruling class to reactionary forces within the Afghan resistance. He is the son of a construction capitalist whose estates to the Saudi monarchy made him a billionaire.

When the CIA and Pakistan's ISI decided to train tens of thousands of Muslims from around the world to fight in Afghanistan, Osama bin Laden was one of the key organizers of the effort.

Ahmed Rashid, author of Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia, estimates that after 1982 more than 100,000 Muslims from dozens of countries received political or military training in the CIA-backed camps of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

According to Ahmed Rashid, Osama bin Laden helped build the Khosh tunnel complex, a major arms storage depot, training facility and medical center built with CIA funds. Nearby, Bin Laden established a military camp for about 9,000 followers of Wahhabism, the Islamic creed promulgated by the Saudi monarchy and Afghanistan's dominant Pushtun nationalism. This Khosh camp became the headquarters for al-Qaeda [which means "military base"] and in 1998 was a target of Bill Clinton's cruise missile attack on Afghanistan.

**The CIA's Ugly Army**

Through the 1980s, a well-hardened army, with a quarter million fighters, took shape in Afghanistan under CIA guidance. It has been widely reported how some of these forces burned down schools and stifled the threats of schoolteachers for teaching girls and boys together in mixed classes. M. N. Cham recounts that in the desperate camps of refugees where they recruited fighters, the Mujahedeen severely punished and even killed anyone who questioned the dogma and reac
The CIA and Osama bin Laden

The CIA and Osama bin Laden (September 20) said, “When the joined the struggle, and it was not long
“The Taliban [which means “students of social decay of the Taliban, but without the fact that they are notoriously illiberal ranking Pakistani delegation to might bring stability to the region despite the roots in the pro-U.S. Muslim fundamen
1996, the US state welcomed the develop
Soviet Union’s troops left Afghanistan in
1980 to over $600 million per year after the Persian Gulf war. A key turning point was when the U.S. brought 540,000
ments—and with larger U.S. interests—into rural Afghanistan—supposedly tar
Dr. Hassan Ai Turabi, Chairman of
As we go to press, the former “freedom
Ahmed Rashid, Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia, Yale University Press, 2000
“Behind the Terror: Understanding the Enemy,” Discovery Channel special with Chalmers Johnson, Blowback—The Costs and Consequences of American Empire
Alfred McCoy, “Drug fallout; the CIA’s Forty
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Review of Communist Party USA, “The
George W. Bush. And others who are a Muslim now, who generate thousands of Bin Ladens.”
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Review of Communist Party USA, “The
A Message to Troops, Would-be Troops, and Other Youth

by Jeff Paterson

The RW received the following message from Gulf war resister Jeff Paterson.

Know anyone in the military, or thinking about signing up soon? Pass this along to them. They may appreciate it, or not, but they deserve a heads up.

In August 1990 I was an active duty U.S. Marine Corps Corporal. I was ordered to the Middle East—the Gulf War was about to come. Four years prior—thinking I had nothing better to do with my life—I had walked into the Salinas, California recruiting station and told them to "put me where I was most needed."

"What me do to go with my life?"—I had always been a huge question for youth, and today, in the wake of the horror and tragedy of September 11th, this question has increased importance for millions of young people.

No one who has seen the images will ever forget. In a scene as unreal as the Matrix, a conflict reached into American reality in an unthinkable way. Copy clerks to administration assistants, restaurant workers to firefighters—thousands of lives ripped away from friends and family. Now the television shouts, "revenge," "infinite justice," and "something must be done!"

And, I might be like the youth who are given to the recruiters now, if I hadn't spent those four years in the Marine Corps. Most of the time my unit trained to fight a war against peasants who dared to struggle against "American interests" in their homelands—specifically Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. 

I saw dire poverty in the Philippines. U.S. government-sanctioned prison camps to service the U.S. military. I saw the "normal rules no longer apply" (translation: now is the time to set the streets to oppose this war.)

Every time the U.S. war machine is kicked into high gear, acknowledgements are made about past "mistakes": Gulf War sickness, Agent Orange and napalm in Viet Nam, massacres of refugees in Korea, U.S. troops used as nuclear test guinea pigs after World War II, concentration camps for Japanese-Americans during World War II. And always, "Trust us, this time it will be different." But it never is.

One need not be a pacifist, a communist, a Quaker or a humanist to oppose the Pentagon. However, it certainly helps to be an internationalist—realizing that our collective future is bound up with the majority of humanity, and not with those who are taking this horrific opportunity to threaten war. For those woman and men now in uniform, you have a choice to make. Silence is what your "superiors" expect of you, but the interests of humanity require more. Think, speak out. And if you make the choice to resist, there are hundreds of thousands who will support you—many of whom have already taken to the streets to oppose this war.

Like his father before him, Bush Jr. has drawn a line in the sand: "Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists." Simply put, the rulers of the U.S. see much unfinished business for their "New World Order." While we grieve, they announce that "the normal rules no longer apply" (translation now is the time to set the streets to oppose this war."

September 22, 2001

On August 30, 1990 23-year-old Marine Corporal Jeff Paterson refused to board a military plane in Hawaii heading to Saudi Arabia. He was the first active-duty military resister in the U.S.-led attack on Iraq. The photo of Jeff Paterson refusing to board military plane in Hawaii heading to Saudi Arabia, August 7, 1990.
Reporter's Notebook from New York

Resistance at Ground Zero

by Debbie Lang

September 11. We watched horrified from the city streets or on TV as two planes crashed into the World Trade Center and the building started to sink to the ground. In an instant thousands of friends, lovers and co-workers were gone. And downtown, Manhattan suddenly looked like Baghdad, Belgrade or the West Bank.

We all wondered if anyone knew what we were inside. Frantic friends and relatives tried desperately to reach their loved ones, but circuits were busy or phone lines were dead. For days thousands of people of different nationalities and from many countries walked the streets with pictures of their family members—desperately hoping they would be found alive. Over 6,500 people lost their lives. Thousands more were suddenly without jobs because dozens of buildings in the area were damaged. People who lived near the site were forced to leave their homes. Electricity and phone service went out.

Millions of people have been shocked and jolted by all this. Events have forced people to ask big questions about what's happening in the world and why.

The following Reporter's Notebook is based on beginning investigation—interviews and stories gathered in the days after September 11 from some different areas of New York City.

Anti-War Resistance

People gathered at public parks and squares to erect memorials for the dead and to grieve together. The government announced plans to retaliate—possibly bombing whole countries—and called on people to pick up their flag "in honor of the victims" and as a "show of unity." Suddenly American flags popped up all over the place—and attacks against immigrants spread like a wildfire. A new and dangerous situation developed. And progressive forces mobilized in opposition to U.S. war preparations and racist attacks.

Hundreds of people met nearly every day to protest—the majority of them middle class people in their 20s and 30s. Teach-ins were held at colleges, universities and meeting centers. People came to learn about the history of U.S. involvement in the Middle East and the information they are getting from the government and the media. On September 21, 5,000 people from different nationalities marched from Union Square to Times Square to oppose war.

If you look downtown from the west side of Union Square you can see the gap between buildings where the World Trade Center used to stand. Thousands of people who fled the downtown area when the towers fell came to this park. Since then it has become a center of activity where tens of thousands of people have come to grieve with others—and to debate the problem and the solution. Huge memorials cover almost every surface with pictures of the victims covered by thousands of candles, flowers and signs of every color, shape and size.

The Square is in a progressive middle-class area of the city. Revolution Books is a few streets away. An RCP supporter told me they come here to find others who opposed the mindless patriotism being pumped out by the media. One Asian youth described the scene: "I was really excited when I got there and saw all these signs...I mean we've seen two lynchings [racist murders] so far and hundreds of hate crimes reported. It's been really heavy. It's not only that the racist are attacking people, it's that the media and higher powers are testing the loyalty of Arab-Americans now. And there was a similar dynamite during WWII with Japanese-Americans—who were then put in internment camps."

People are angry that the media is downplaying the extent and severity of attacks. Immigrants of many nationalities have organized to defend themselves and set up hotlines to report racist attacks. There has been a tremendous outpouring of support and help from people of different nationalities reaching out to hundreds of people. I've spoken with many people who have made a point to check and make sure.

The rulers have created a siege mentality in the city and across the country. Their calls for blind patriotism and national unity have been made. The message that "foreigners" are the enemy and they are here "illegally" must be heard. Law enforcement officials have drawn up lists of "suspects" and arrested hundreds of people. Arab and Muslim people have become the object of intense racial profiling. Taking a cue from all this, racists have launched an unprecedented wave of attacks. Anybody who isn't white has become a potential target. Several Arab people have been murdered. A Creek woman in Tulsa was run over by a car full of white men who told her, "go back to your own country."

New York City and the surrounding area is home to millions of immigrants from all over the world who now find themselves a target in "America's new war."

The Arab-American Family Support Center in New York said: "We are kids scared to go to school, mothers scared to leave their homes to buy food for their families. People are being attacked. Arab children have reported this afternoon teachers who attacked them verbally.... People are angry that the media is turning a blind eye toward the severity of the attacks. Immigrants of many nationalities have organized to defend themselves and set up hotlines to report racist attacks. There has been a tremendous outpouring of support and help from people of different nationalities reaching out to hundreds of people. I've spoken with many people who have made a point to check and make sure.

Continued on page 14

Memorial at Union Square

March from Union Square to Times Square, September 21.
Panama City neighborhood destroyed during the U.S. invasion, 1989.

A rescue worker at the ruins of the World Trade Center.

People in Iraq under attack from U.S. bombs, February 1991.

Washington Square, New York City, September 13.

Palestinian girl at a tent near her family's destroyed home in a refugee camp in Gaza Strip, June 2001.

Survivors fleeing the firestorm after the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima, August 6, 1945.

U.S. troops using gas to force villagers out of their air raid shelter during the Vietnam war.
The Horrors That Come From This Horrible System


A brown-skinned woman stands at the Red Cross line holding a picture of her missing husband. Her eyes scan the scene as if looking hard will bring him back. A young blue-eyed man waits nervously for news of his lover. Hope turns to the realization that partners, friends and colleagues are gone. Snatched away by a conflict that has brutally intruded into daily life from the heavens.

In an instant New York City reminds us of Baghdad, Belgrade, Sudan, the West Bank, Vietnam, Panama, Indonesia, Hiroshima, Vieques. The images flood our minds. Mothers running through the streets of Baghdad with their children as U.S. bombs fall like rain. Iraqi women watching their children die because U.S. bombs and sanctions have deliberately poisoned the water they need to live. Families carrying the coffins of sons taken out by made-in-U.S.A. rockets on the West Bank. Workers at a medicine factory picking through the rubble in Sudan left by U.S. cruise missiles. Screaming for cover in Belgrade as U.S. bombs strike from the air. Looking through the stadium in Chile where thousands of former lovers, sons, and daughters lay—stilled forever by a coup made in Washington. Gaping with horror as the firing squads of the Indonesian army, with CIA lists of political opponents in their pockets, massacre hundreds of thousands, filling the rivers with the dead.

Hiroshima, Vietnam, Baghdad. The war has come home. Even if the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were symbols of the financial and military power of U.S. imperialism, the reality is that many innocent people were killed as a result. And who is responsible? Who has put the masses in the U.S. in harm's way?

The U.S. power structure points the finger to the Middle East. But the answer lies on U.S. soil. These imperialists—who have perpetrated countless crimes and ruined havoc on the people of the world through their relentless global domination and their military actions—have created a situation where millions of people all around the world hate the government of the United States.

As the dust clears from our eyes, the people in the most powerful country in the world find themselves hostages to the inevitable repercussions of the actions of this U.S. power structure and their bloody military machine. Now, besides the horrors that they have perpetrated against the people around the world—horrors that multiply the tears shed in NY and Washington a thousand times—these cold-hearted imperialists have called forth the same kind of devastation in the belly of their own beast.

And now they call on the people to support their retribution. They speak of war and justice. No.

These hegemonic dominators do not have the right to continue on their warpath. They are the source of so much pain and suffering around the world. And their constant moves to war and military actions—against named and unnamed countries and targets—must be actively opposed.

Through the shock we seek the truth. Global exploiters and mass murderers have the right to retribution and they can only bring more destruction and injustice. To join forces with them, to seek their protection, will only encourage them to commit more crimes against the people of our planet.

They show us pictures of Arab youth cheering in the streets of occupied territories and ask us to be horrified and seek revenge. But we need to ask why are people in the Middle East and other parts of the world celebrating the events of September 11; not because innocent lives were lost, but because an arrogant power that has been getting away with murder and boasting of its invincibility has been shown to be vulnerable.

The rulers capitalize on our pain and ask the people to pray with them. But, as the people remember our dead, what is the power structure doing? Unleashing more war and police-state repression. Preying on the people of the world.

They talk of protecting the people but all the while they are drawing up lists of names, carrying out raids, and putting vast new Big Brother measures into place.

They talk of ending terror, through war, and ready their armed forces to bring about great horrors. They want us to unite with them and wave their flag. No.

In the tension of the present, we remember the lessons of history. While they talk of another Pearl Harbor, we are reminded of how the U.S. government played on the people's fear for their own safety to rally support for rounding up the Japanese-Americans, confiscating their property and putting them in concentration camps. We remember how they tried to paint anyone who opposed this as giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

And remembering these crimes strengthens our resolve to prevent such things from happening again. We cannot be intimidated by the official and unofficial pressure to line up behind their war moves and their flag. We can see the logic of exploitation and self-interest in the ugly threats and beatings coming down on Arab people.

As people mourn lost loved ones, all who seriously want justice need to reach out to the people of the world—to stand together against the crimes of this system, to strengthen our resistance against every act of war and repression. And, as we build our resistance, we need to be crystal clear on the nature of those opponents who are biding towards a new war: these arrogant lying creatures do not rule in the interests of the people of this country or the world. As long as they continue in power the horrors that come from their system will continue to rain from the sky.

Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

September 14, 2001
Eyewitness Report

What the U.S. Bombs Have

by Larry Everest

"I'm a member of the civil defense guard, and I was at the shelter the next day after the bombing. There was flesh all over the place, and you could hear children screaming in the rubble, but you couldn't get to them. I remember one woman with tears coming down her face, but making no sound, looking for her children. She found seven of them, but hadn't found her two-year-old. There were only charred bodies that she couldn't recognize. She was saying 'maybe it's him, maybe it isn't.' I'll never forget it. When I'm thinking or relaxing it plays over and over in my mind."

Dr. Ameed Hamid, Director, Basra's Teaching Hospital

In February 1991, 500 Iraqis were incinerated when an American cruise missile struck a civilian bomb shelter in the Amiriya neighborhood in northwest Baghdad. In mid-July of that year, when I drove through this quiet upper middle class area with its wide streets, comfortable two-story homes, and well-kept gardens behind brick walls, it was hard to imagine that anything so horrible could ever have happened there. And from the outside, even the massive half-block-square, two-story cement shelter looked relatively untouched.

"Was I should go to the roof," my taxi driver said, and up we went. At first glance, things looked okay, but then I could see a small protrusion of twisted steel rods jutting into the air near the middle of the building.

We walked over to those twisted rods, and I got the chills. I stood at the edge of a hole, maybe six feet across, blasted through four or five feet of concrete and stone. I looked down into a darkly lit, blackened cavern. The odor of burnt flesh still hung faintly in the air, and you could visualize, how, in a single moment, one bomb turned a place of safety into an inferno of death for hundreds of men, women and children—an inferno with flesh still hanging faintly in the air, and you could imagine how, in a single moment, one bomb turned a place of safety into an inferno of death for hundreds of men, women and children—literally into a sea of blood.

Before the Persian Gulf War, George Bush said, "We never aimed for the people there." Now George H tells the camera, "The United States respects the people of Afghanistan, but we condemn the Taliban regime.... The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends. It is not our many Arab friends...."

But no country has been responsible for the deaths of more innocent civilians than U.S. imperialism. And my travels in Iraq in 1991, several months after the official end of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, were an eye-opening journey into how the people are experiencing U.S. freedom and democracy.

SMART BOMBS AND DUMB BOMBS

"We are in the intensive care unit of Basra Teaching Hospital and you can see that Basra has been severely damaged and almost destroyed by the air raid which occurred on the 26th of January."

Dr. Hamid, Basra's Teaching Hospital

During the Gulf War U.S. media coverage focused on high-tech "smart" bombs—guided missiles and bombs which supposedly never missed their military targets and minimized "collateral damage." The Pentagon claimed that few civilians were harmed, thanks to "careful targeting and expert use of technology." In reality, such weapons made up only 7% of the more than 88,500 tons of bombs dropped on Iraq. The rest were old-fashioned gravity bombs which missed their targets three times out of four.

In Baghdad, I visited some workers living in a building on a small side street in the downtown area. A bomb or missile had hit their neighborhood, totally destroying a half dozen nearby apartment buildings, collapsing one section of their roof and damaging a nearby church.

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I drove by food warehouses that had been destroyed and a Pepsi warehouse that had been attacked. I later learned that 14 people were killed, 46 wounded, and 128 homes damaged or destroyed in the Pepsi bombing.

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Peasants in the village of Al Kuds (Jerusalem) just outside of the southern city of Amara told me that all of their children had been killed and that hundreds of bomb fragments had fallen on them. In Amarah alone, doctors at Saddam General Hospital recorded 82 deaths and 800 wounded during the Gulf war—80 to 90% civilians.

Dr. Ameed Hamid, Director, Basra's Teaching Hospital

The people of Iraq endured 43 nights of continuous bombing by U.S.-led forces in 1991. Dr. Fazl Arbab, of Children's Welfare Hospital in Baghdad, described what he experienced:

"I have a son 5 years old. During the air raid he was shaking, shivering, saying 'Bush is coming, Bush is coming.' After the cease-fire American airplanes were flying over Baghdad, crossing the sound barrier, making that very loud noise, frightening the children."

Dr. Arif Hamid, Director, Basra's Children's Welfare Hospital

"The raid took place at about half past 7, and it was probably meant to destroy a civilian bridge across the river, which was used to get to the other side of Basra. One of the bombs was actually dropped on the hospital grounds and you can see the crater of the bomb there. As a result of the explosion and blast, the structure of the building was damaged and there are many holes; the windows broke and many window frames buckled from their places. Three patients died in this raid as a result of the air raid and the central oxygen supply was destroyed and the ceiling fell on them."

Dr. Arif Hamid, Director, Basra's Teaching Hospital

The wreckage of the civilian bomb shelter in the Amiriya neighborhood in Baghdad where 500 Iraqis were incinerated when the U.S. cruise missile struck in February 1991.

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The destruction on the road from Basra to Baghdad, Iraq, where U.S. warplanes dropped incendiary bombs.
in this tunnel, which is a couple of hun-
dred meters long. We slept like horses, stand-
ing up. Finally after about 20 days we
went up to the other floors to use the
bathroom, to wash and to look around.
We went to a wounded soldier who had been
in the hospital and what we could bring from
home.

"A lot of women died during the war
because they couldn't get to the hospital to
deliver their children. I heard of three
pregnant women who died at home
because their cars were out of gas and they
couldn't get to the hospital. Even if they
got to the hospital, they may not have
survived. It's very difficult to deliv-
er babies without electricity or steril-
ization by firing into a crowd of 350 disarmed
prisoners.

The DESTRUCTION OF IRAQ'S CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE

"Since the war Iraqi children have been
exposed to biological warfare, massive
biologicai warfare. When you destroy
the infrastructure of a country, sewage
wells in Iraq's water will flow into the
street: your body. From reaching the children you give them
malnutrition; you prevent medicines from
reaching the country. So it's an excellent
environment for death and disease."

Iraqi relief official

During the Iraq war, U.S.-led forces
totally destroyed 11 of Iraq's 20 power
generating stations, and damaged another
city. While the war was raging, U.S. offi-
cials claimed that this massive destruction
was aimed at shortening the war and sav-
ing American lives. But in the July 8-14,
1991 issue of the Washington Post Weekly,
Col. John A. Warden II, deputy director of
strategy, doctrine and plans for the Air
Force, admitted the strategy was designed
to tighten the U.S. stranglehold over Iraq.
"Saddam Hussein cannot restore his own
electricity. He needs help. If you are
exposing to biological warfare, massive
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\text{James Ricci, Editor Free Press}

\text{The Hidden Story of the Gulf War}

\text{narrated by Larry Everest}

\text{VHS video cassette (total running time 29 minutes)}

This powerful video documents the effects of the U.S. military assault in the Gulf.

\text{ARMY'S 24TH MECHANIZED INFANTRY DIVISION KILLED 1,000 IRAQIS INCUBATING OUTBREAKS OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASE}

\text{without proof of any Iraqi involvement in the September 11 events. It is hard to imagine how such an attack would be
carried out—less industry and less expensive.
It is wrong to begin with the assumption that
Iraq will be a better place because of the
theater is less powerful and less expensive.
It is wrong to begin with the assumption that
Iraq will be a better place because of the
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Music Censors

On September 19, the New York Times reported that, "Clear Channel Communications, the Texas-based company that owns about 1,700 stations nationwide, has circulated a list of 150 songs and asked its stations to avoid playing them because of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon."

The no-play list is supposedly voluntary. But DJs have informed the RW that many stations are following the guidelines of Clear Channel. The list is wide-ranging—including "Imagine" by John Lennon, "Bridge Over Troubled Water," by Paul Simon, and "Peace Train" by Cat Stevens.

"Every song ever done by Rage Against the Machine is on this list. And if ever there were a time when the people needed to hear the music of Rage, this is it," Tom Morella, lead guitarist for Rage, told The Times. "If our songs are 'questionable' in any way, they are only doing so to question the kind of ignorance that breeds intolerance—tolerance that can lead to the kind of violence we witnessed last week."

Boots Riley and his Oakland-based rap group The Coup are under attack. Overnight the cover art on their new album "Party Music," which featured a computer-generated image of Boots with a detonator in front the World Trade Center—became all too real, and Boots found himself under threat of arrest.

On the "Hard Knock Radio" show hosted by Davey D., Boots, explained: "I wanna say that off that bat, that last Tuesday's tragic act is not something The Coup endorses. When we originally made that picture, it was in May and June. It was supposed to be a metaphor to symbolize in destroying capitalism. What The Coup talks about is what I think it takes to make a revolution... My way in which I think this is going to happen is through hundreds of thousands and perhaps millions of people moving, organizing and making something happen. I do think in the end it will be a violent revolution, but I don't think it's something that will happen by the act of a few people."
Sproul Plaza, UC Berkeley, September 20.

The following are brief reports on protests and other developments in the wake of the attacks of September 11.

DC Protests Are Still On

The movement against imperialist globalization has been organizing for many months to protest the September 29-30 meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in Washington, D.C. Following the events of September 11, the IMF and World Bank, in consultation with U.S. authorities, canceled their meeting. Unfortunately, one of the main coalitions involved in organizing the protests called off their plans for demonstrations. But others are continuing their mobilization in D.C.—with a new and urgent focus on opposing the U.S. moves toward war.

Two main protests are planned for Saturday, September 29. The latest call to action from the Anti-Capitalist Convergence states: "We are calling for a march against the growing capitalist war on Saturday morning September 29 and invite all those interested in creating a world free from terror, hate, racism, poverty and war to demonstrate our unity and vision for a better world. There is no justice to be found in retribution, war, racism, corporate globalization or capitalism itself. We condemn any and all retaliation and religious persecution of Arab, Arab American and Muslim people and we oppose any attack on our constitutional rights."

The International Action Center and others in the International ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and Racism) coalition are calling for a national protest at the White House on September 20 as well as protests on the West Coast and around the country. Their call states: "Unless we stop President Bush and NATO from carrying out a new, wider war in the Middle East, the number of innocent victims will grow from the thousands and possibly more. A new, wider U.S. and NATO war in the Middle East can only lead us on an escalating cycle of violence. War is not the answer. We must act against racism."

Other protests and forums include the following: The People’s Page—organized by DC Horizons Not Info—is organizing for protests from Sept. 21 to 24 focusing on homelessness, gentrification, and urban squatterism. The Washington DC Peace Center, American Friends Service Committee and others are holding a peace event on Sept. 10. The National Multicultural Coalition will be holding educational events on Sept. 27-28. On Sept 27-29, 20 Years To Essential, Essential. Action. Global Change and the World Bank Bonds Boycott are holding teach-ins on "Reimagining Globalization." On the 28th the Kensington Welfare Rights Union and others are sponsoring a Poor People’s Forum highlighting the "inexorably urgent need for the poor to come together for peace and economic justice.

Anti-War Marches and Rallies

In response to the loud drumbeats of war from the U.S. government and military, thousands around the country have been in the streets to oppose war, including thousands gathered at Sproul Plaza yesterday. "We have over 400 people show up to the anti-war demonstration yesterday (9/10). I was really pleased with the turnout (one of the biggest demonstrations in Fresno of the last 10 years) and with the clarity of the message—UNITY with the Muslim and Arab community and NO WAR. I was hesitant at first to go because I thought it could be just 10 or 20 of us on the march. I was really excited to see the HUGE crowd and clear anti-war message. A correspondent from Los Angeles, where 300 rallied downtown on September 20, wrote: "A college student had hand-painted leaflet with a beautiful globe and the warning: ‘Don’t touch Afghanistan. Rosarnore El Salvador, Vietnam, Chile, Iraq, Crotcia, Panama, Cuba, Liberia, Nicaragua, and a dozen more countries. This is our war. This is our war."

Thurday in Hayward, where over 3,500 gathered at Sproul Plaza.

Families of Those Who Died

Speak Out Against War

The power structure is trying to silence the voices of those who have family members who were in the September 11 attacks to mobilize people into supporting U.S. war moves. But some family members have spoken out against U.S. military action. At Playfair and Orlando Rodriguez’s son Greg was one of the thousands who died at the World Trade Center. Greg was an activist against U.S. intervention in El Salvador. A statement from Greg’s parents has been circulating on the Internet which says in part: "We see our hurt and anger reflected among everybody we meet. We cannot pay attention to the daily flow of news about this disaster. But we read enough of the news to sense that our government is heading in the direction of violent revenge, with the prospect of sons, daughters, parents, friends, distant lands dying, suffering, and nursing further grievances against us. We cannot sit by and let this injustice be perpetrated on our son’s death. Not in our son’s name.

From the Refuse & Resist! Artists Network: "The power structure is trying to seize on the grief of those who lost family members in the September 11 attacks to mobilize people into supporting U.S. military action. We see our hurt and anger reflected among everybody we meet. We cannot pay attention to the daily flow of news about this disaster. But we read enough of the news to sense that our government is heading in the direction of violent revenge, with the prospect of sons, daughters, parents, friends, distant lands dying, suffering, and nursing further grievances against us. We cannot sit by and let this injustice be perpetrated on our son’s death. Not in our son’s name.

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Our Grief Is Not a Cry for War"

From the Refuse & Resist! Artists Network: "At noon Saturday, September 22, over 100 artists all wearing black flak jackets gather to protest at the Wall Street in New York City where many people have gathered for the last 10 days to protest and try to make sense of what happened on September 11. A huge crowd on the Wall Street Plaza and simultaneous events took place in a dozen cities in a semi-circle. For one hour they stood in silence wearing face masks and signs that read "OUR GRIEF IS NOT A CRY FOR WAR. The response to this performance was electric, focusing people coming up to take stickers, find out who these people were, and thank them. Some sites report: "Hundreds of photographs were taken of this performance by people who saw it, including two by an AP photographer, which landed on the Yahoo.com home page. At 5:30 Saturday morning within an hour one of the pictures became the ‘most popular’ photo on the site, having been sent to other people over 400 times. "The group who organized the performances—most of them video artists, writers, painters, art, dance, spoken word. They do not want their grief to be used as a justification for war against Arabs and Muslims, and new repressive laws or corruption of art, dance, and performance are being planned. For more information, go to artistsnetwork.org."

Attacks on Arab and Other—People and Resistance

The ugly wave of racist attacks on Arab and Muslim people—and other people of color—continues. In every part of the U.S., there have been numerous incidents of threats, harassment, and physical assaults against Arab people, businesses, mosques and organizations. Racists are also targeting people they think they are Muslims—like Sikh men from India who were beaten.

A number of people have been killed in racist attacks in recent days, including a 12-year-old Sikh, Sandh, an immigrant from Yemen, was gunned down at his gas station in Mesa, Arizona. The main attack site, the Art Institute of Chicago, was also fired at a Lehighs cafeteria at another gas station and a home of an Afghan family. All Almanacco, from Yemen, who worked as a cook in the Detroit area, was another victim of a racist killing following September 11. Several other killings are suspected to be of racists, including Warre Hassan, a Pakistani man shot to death in his grocery store in Dallas, and Kimberly Loring, a 2-year-old Algonac Creek woman in Tulsa, Oklahoma, killed by white men who reportedly yelled at her. "Go back to your country."

This racist offensive has been met with outrage, protest, and expressions of solidarity with the people under attack. One such solidarity action took place in Chicago on September 20, where crowds of environmentalists waving banners and Confederate flags have been threatening a local mosque. A correspondent reported: "In response to a call by the Southside Organizing Project, people came from both the neighborhood and from around the city and suburbs to make a clear statement that the racist attacks on Muslim and Arab people going on across the country and internationally will be fought. Those present included a Palestinian activist, a Latina woman from the community, and a link to the American nuns and priests to the local parishes, and local individuals opposed to Israeli aggression."

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Continued from page 7

...sure their Arab neighbors and friends are okay. A Dominican worker said she goes to the store for Muslim women in her building who are terrified to leave their homes. Hundreds marched through Brooklyn's Arab community in an action called by Arab and Islamic groups. Over half who came were white—including a number of Jewish people. They carried signs with slogans like "Mourn the Victims—Stand for Peace" and "Islam is Not the Enemy—War Is Not the Answer." As they passed by, Arab store owners came out of their shops to thank them for their support. The march ended with a prayer service for the victims in Arab and Hebrew.

At a press conference in Union Square, South Asian and Afghan women's groups joined with Imam Taiib Abd-Rashid from a mosque in Harlem, as well as Jews Against the Occupation, the Palestinian Right to Return Coalition, and Jews for Racial and Economic Justice to denounce racist attacks against immigrants.

A member of the Refuse & Resist! Youth Network read a statement at the press conference that said in part: "This anti-Arab sentiment has been unleashed by the holy war that Republicans and Democrats alike want to run down the Midwest and is fueled by radio jocks like Howard Stem and other right-wing media. All attacks on Arab and Muslim people must be opposed.... We need to oppose new repressive powers and laws. All of this we pledge to refuse and resist. With great love and commitment for those who have suffered personal losses, we call on all people to act and accept responsibility for building a different future."

The October 22nd Coalition Against Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation issued a statement, which said in part, "Howard Stem is profiling, revoking of immigrant rights, increasing legislation (being passed at an alarming rate) that rob us of our civil rights—we must not allow the powers-that-be to exploit our emotions to legitimize the growing repression measures."

Entering the Debate

"As people measure last fried ones, as we put our arms around each other, all who sincerely want justice need to reach out to the people of the world—to stand together against the crimes of this system and to act against every act of war and repression."

"And, as we build our resistance, we cannot be ignorant of the nature of these expressions who are hurting themselves in wars that they represent. Long existences do not rule in the interests of the people of this country or the world. As long as they continue to power the horrors that come from their system will continue to rain from the sky."

From the RCP Statement, "The Horrible System Comes From the Horrible System" (see centerfold)

A staff member of Revolutionary Books spoke with two men from a rural area in upstate New York who said they were opposed to war but had an American flag on their truck. "One guy said: 'It's just our way of saying we are grieving for what's going on.' It's a statement that everybody is together and we are sad about what happened and that's the symbol for that.' I talked to them about what that flag really does symbolize. That's the flag that was on the plane that crashed bombs on the people of Iraq. That's the flag of the country that manufactured the weapons that are terrorizing the people of Palestine. That's the flag under which they are mobilizing people to support their moves towards war—which is going to bring even more terrible suffering for the people here and in other countries. As we were talking they took the flag down."

RCP supporters went among the people with the Party's statement. An RW seller told me about two white tourists in their 30's who met at Union Square: "They had flags around their waists, flags on their head. On their back it said 'Ohio Cares, Support America.' They stood there and read the entire leaflet [with the RCP statement]."

The guy's first comment was: "Wow, if what this leaflet says is true, then the government is really lying to us a lot."

The woman was really concerned about racism and the attacks that are going on. The leaflet shook them up.

I interviewed some people with American flags or wearing red, white and blue ribbons. Most said they wanted the U.S. to retaliate but are opposed to a war in which innocent people are killed—and they didn't believe the government would do this—or said they hoped and prayed they wouldn't. When I asked them what they would do if that did happen most stood in stunned silence. Some said they would find ways to protest such a war. Most took the party's statement to read.

A 45-year-old white guy read the statement all the way through, folded it very carefully end gave it in his pocket and said: "I've been listening to the media. I can't find out why this happens. There's nothing coming across the screen that is explaining to me why they did this down at the World Trade Center. I'm going to take this leaflet and I'm going to investigate what's being said in here because I need to learn more about it."

I'm finding nothing is telling me why this happened to thousands of people."

I'm going to take this leaflet and I'm going to make sure their Arab neighbors and friends are okay. A Dominican worker said she goes to the store for Muslim women in her building who are terrified to leave their homes. Hundreds marched through Brooklyn's Arab community in an action called by Arab and Islamic groups. Over half who came were white—including a number of Jewish people. They carried signs with slogans like "Mourn the Victims—Stand for Peace" and "Islam is Not the Enemy—War Is Not the Answer." As they passed by, Arab store owners came out of their shops to thank them for their support. The march ended with a prayer service for the victims in Arab and Hebrew.

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The woman was really concerned about racism and the attacks that are going on. The leaflet shook them up.

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A 45-year-old white guy read the statement all the way through, folded it very carefully end gave it in his pocket and said: "I've been listening to the media. I can't find out why this happens. There's nothing coming across the screen that is explaining to me why they did this down at the World Trade Center. I'm going to take this leaflet and I'm going to investigate what's being said in here because I need to learn more about it."

I'm finding nothing is telling me why this happened to thousands of people."

A Latino prophet who has been a revolutionary since the 60's said, "My daughter the other day told me, she was thinking of getting an American flag and putting it up. My daughter! And I told her for a while. She said the reason for the flag is because we have some freedom here. I told my coworkers and I told my daughter, we live relatively good here because people all over the world are exploited and dying. This is a global econo-

m. It's imperialism. By its definition and by its necessity it's a global thing. She's not going to put up the American flag. She wants to study more history now."
CALL FOR October 22nd, 2001!

The 6th National Day of Protest to STOP POLICE BRUTALITY, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation

On October 22, 2001, people of all races and many different backgrounds will take to the streets across the country to say one loud voice: STOP POLICE BRUTALITY.

On September 18th conference involving many October 22nd local area representatives, we discussed the recent events at the World Trade Center and what impact it would have on the October 22nd protest. As a result, we unanimously affirmed that there was even greater need than ever to hold the October 22nd National Day of Protest. Police brutality has not stopped or disappeared. Repression has already been on the rise in the wake of these events, with stepped up checkpoints, legal restrictions, racial profiling, and the surveillance of anyone who looks "suspicious". We have seen about to criminalize "suspicious" behavior to justify their stepped up repression. For all these reasons and more, we ask you to endorse this Call for October 22nd, help distribute it, help build and come out to the October 22nd events in your area.

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This planet does NOT need another unjust war...

El planeta NO necesita otra guerra injusta...