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**Fire  
This  
Time**



### Bombing in Kabul.



# Canada's Quagmire in Afghanistan

## Balance Sheet of a Disastrous Policy

By Nita Palmer

October 7, 2006 marks the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan. In October of 2001, the trumpets calling to war declared that Afghanistan would soon be free of the "evil terrorists" that were controlling the country. They promised that the people of Afghanistan would live in freedom and democracy, with the aid of countries like Canada rebuilding Afghanistan.

#### Afghanistan Five Years On: The Sum Total of Criminal Occupation

Five years have passed since the invasion, and the occupying militaries, including Canada's, are now facing a quagmire in Afghanistan. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) cut all funding to its programs in Southern Afghanistan in April of this year, noting that it is "too dangerous for aid workers to operate in the area around Kandahar" (CBC News, April 16) as fighting between Canadian-led NATO troops and an anti-occupation resistance grows. The only "reconstruction

weapons and become farmers" (Sept 25, 2006). More truthfully, it is ordinary farmers and peasants in Afghanistan picking up weapons and becoming "Taliban"—the label given by Western media to anyone fighting against the occupation.

#### Crisis of Legitimacy: Canada's War Drive Fails on the Home Front

"My fear is that Afghanistan is beginning to look like Iraq"

-Richard N. Haass, president of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations

Afghanistan looks more like a war zone every day. September saw yet another increase in the Canadian war drive there, with the addition of 450 more combat troops and 15 Leopard tanks to bolster Canada's occupation forces in Afghanistan.

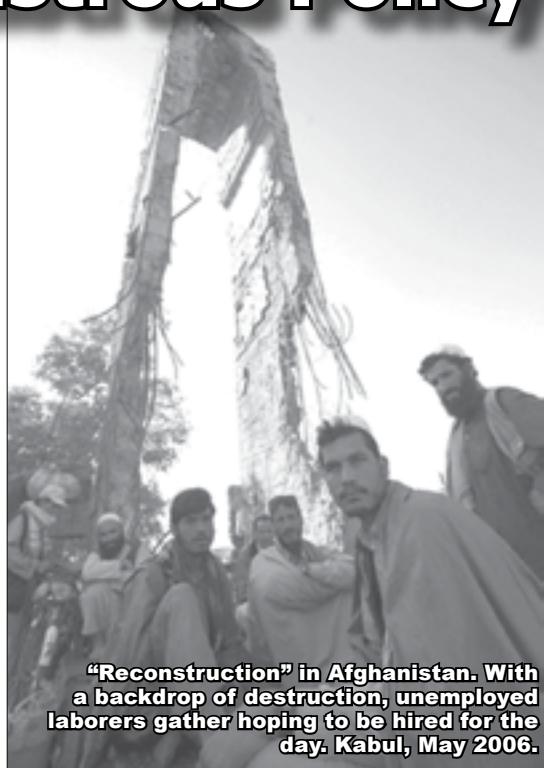
now roll down their streets, to the killing of many innocent civilians at checkpoints, on the roads, and in their homes. In a report by McCatchy Newspapers, a U.S. soldier noted "They [the Taliban] just hide their

people, but to defend the interests of business investment. As we enter an era where imperialist competition for resources and strategic trade locations becomes increasingly intense, Afghanistan is directly in the sights of the Canadian ruling class' bid for a piece of these interests.

#### Public Support of War is Fading

Canada's ruling class is scrambling to bolster public support for their government. They are scrambling

pushed through again and again without public consultation or debate. The sudden announcement that 2,300 more troops would be sent to Afghanistan last summer, the extension of the mission in Kandahar until 2009, the doubling of the Canadian military budget, and the September budget decision to spend \$2 billion on new fighter jets while cutting \$2 billion in service programs are just a few examples of military decisions made without public input. Given these factors, it is necessary for people in Canada to take the call for Canada Out of Afghanistan into our own hands. One step on this road is a call for an Independent



**"Reconstruction" in Afghanistan. With a backdrop of destruction, unemployed laborers gather hoping to be hired for the day. Kabul, May 2006.**

work" that occurs there now the is building of military infrastructure. Afghanistan continues to top the charts for having the "worst education system in the world", according to the U.N., and 20% of all children die before age five. Since the 2001 invasion, tens of thousands of Afghans have been killed by the occupying militaries. In the first two weeks of September alone, over 1,500 Afghans were killed during the Canadian-led "OPERATION MEDUSA" in southern Afghanistan. Recent months have marked some of the bloodiest since the invasion.

In addition to the suffering inflicted on the people of Afghanistan, the occupation has brought the deaths of 36 Canadian soldiers in some of the biggest direct combat operations Canada has been involved in since World War II. Recent statistics show that a Canadian soldier serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan is *six times* more likely to die there than a U.S. soldier serving in Iraq.

The increasingly bloody battles between the government of Canada's occupying forces and ordinary people of Afghanistan are the best proof that the occupation is not the humanitarian mission that the government of Canada began trumpeting five years ago. Afghan people are responding to the tanks that

As more people in Afghanistan lose their lives, and more Canadian soldiers come home in coffins, the aggressive combat mission faces an increasing opposition among people in Canada. It is clear that the Canadian military hasn't achieved any of its stated goals in Afghanistan; rather, the situation for people there is becoming more desperate each day. As a result, people in Canada are demanding to know WHY the Canadian military continues to occupy Afghanistan.

The answer to this question of WHY lies in the ruling class of Canada's goals in occupying Afghanistan. The Afghanistan Investment Support Agency lauds Afghanistan as a "transit link" and "trade hub" which will be an essential area in the world market in the next 10 years. This perspective on Afghanistan is what the Government of Canada has in mind when they repeatedly refer to "defending Canada's national interests" and "ensuring Canadian leadership in world affairs" ([www.canada-afghanistan.gc.ca](http://www.canada-afghanistan.gc.ca)). The government of Canada is currently engaged in the occupation of Afghanistan not to defend the interests of Afghan

Liberal foreign affairs critic Keith Martin criticized the Conservative government for "not looking at the conflict in Afghanistan as a regional problem... unless the insurgency is dealt with from Pakistan and other countries then this will be war without end." The "progressive" NDP has responded to pressure from working people in Canada to end the mission in

Public Inquiry into the war drive in Afghanistan, important at a time when millions of people are demanding to know WHY Canada is in Afghanistan. An independent public inquiry is an opportunity for us to discuss what the roots of Canada's occupation of Afghanistan are, and why decisions to up the ante in an already vicious war drive have been passed through Parliament without public consultation. The opportunity to discuss these things is critical to developing the antiwar consciousness of all poor and working people in Canada.

#### Canada's War Drive Five Years on: What Next for Us Against Them

As the fifth anniversary of the criminal invasion of Afghanistan draws nearer, the final balance for the Canadian ruling class is quagmire. They are trapped in a military offensive in a country that is rapidly catching up to Iraq as the centre of struggle of oppressed people versus imperialism. They have failed to win hearts and minds in Afghanistan, and have failed to convince people in Canada that the occupation is doing any good. Afghan

people have taken on their struggle for self-determination by any means they have, and will not let the government of Canada win in its war on their sovereignty. The government of Canada is not going to give up its war drive quickly or easily, however. The stakes of competition between imperialist countries necessitate more and more of an expansion of imperialist aggression in competition for economic resources and as much as possible domination over other imperialist rivals. As we approach the fifth anniversary of this occupation, it's time to confront this war-drive head on. Canada's growing anti-war movement is a call for all poor and working people in Canada to build a leadership of regular people in building an effective anti-war movement to demand an end to this vicious war drive.

**Stop the War Drive in Afghanistan!**

**Canada Out of Afghanistan!**

**Bring All Troops Home Now!**



TWO covers of Newsweek on Sept 27, 2006:  
Left - USA Edition  
Right - Europe, Latin America and Asia Edition

By Thomas Davies

"Yes, they call us extremists, we who demand complete freedom in the world, equality among peoples and respect for national sovereignty. We are rising up against the Empire, against the model of domination."

-Venezuela President Hugo Chavez, speaking to UN General Assembly

An often-repeated criticism of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez

is that he "doesn't speak like a head of state." The insinuation is that the man, who at the United Nations recently referred to U.S. President George Bush as a devil reeking of sulphur, is both unstable and unable to properly perform as President of Venezuela. Well, it might be that Chavez doesn't speak like a capitalist head of state because he speaks like an oppressed person fighting for change. Of course he is talking like a revolutionary. Most

opposition. No one doubts that he will win a majority once again, but this not enough. Chavez has launched "Operation Miranda", a grassroots re-election organizing drive. It takes the process even further to challenge people to become integrated organizers as part of a movement. In a September 9<sup>th</sup> swearing in ceremony for 300,000 members of the campaign, Chavez reminded them that the goal was more political than electoral, saying, "Don't forget

down the necks of every Latin American country to sign on to the "Free Trade Agreement of the Americas" (FTAA), Venezuela was there with Cuba to provide Bolivia with a strong alternative which didn't include renouncing its sovereignty

market exchange, and common social and political projects.

As the social and political change in Bolivia deepens, the help from Venezuela in creating the space for this process to occur without being suffocated from outside pressure and

Venezuela which is of most concern to imperialists today, however, is with Cuba. President Bush's top Latin-American aide during his first term, Otto Reich, had this to say about it:

"With the combination of Castro's

# Venezuela & Chavez: The Nightmare of the Imperialist Ruling Class

that this Miranda battle is truly confronting,

once again, North American imperialism. That is our true contender and on December 3<sup>rd</sup> [the election date – Editor] of this year we are going to deliver a new defeat to North American imperialism."

He is also confronting head-on the



Mass demonstration in Caracas, Venezuela.



to U.S. corporations. This was crucial, as newly elected indigenous President Evo Morales faced massive pressure in the beginning stages of important new changes, such as the process of nationalization of natural gas, in favour of the majority of poor and working Bolivians.

On April 29, 2006 Bolivia became the third member of ALBA, which means "dawn" in Spanish and is the acronym for "Bolivian Alternative for the Americans." The international agreement emphasizes a fraternal relationship between countries through trade in kind rather than

intervention has proven invaluable.

Another important example is Uruguay, which has been under huge US pressure to sign a bilateral free trade agreement. Venezuela has offered economic cooperation instead, and pledged 500 million to help build a new oil refinery. This would be essential in breaking the cycle of exporting crude oil to refined and sold back at a much higher price by First World corporations.

## The Strengthening of the Battle of Ideas

The relationship cultivated by

evil genius, experience in political warfare, and economic desperation, and Chavez' unlimited money and recklessness, the peace of this region is in peril... The emerging axis of subversion forming between Cuba and Venezuela must be confronted before it can undermine democracy in Colombia, Nicaragua, Bolivia, or another vulnerable neighbour."

He was too late with Bolivia... and has reason to be afraid for the rest of Latin America being gripped in the new wave of solidarity put forward by Cuba and Venezuela. It's not as simple as Venezuela being oil-



Venezuelan soldier takes part in a military parade celebrating the adoption of Venezuela's new flag, March 6, 2006.

rich enough to stabilize the Cuban economy, it's that Venezuela is now politically rich enough to push forward the Cuban "Battle of Ideas" against imperialism. The cooperation between the two countries provides an important example for all countries.

The list of feats would be endless:

- 14,000 Cuban doctors currently give free medical treatment in Venezuela
- 3,000 Venezuelan students are currently studying medicine for free in Cuba. Three classes have already graduated since the Latin American School of Medicine's (ELAM) founding in 1998
- -13,000 Venezuelans have received free sight-recovering eye surgery in Cuba, through "Operation Miracle"
- Under the ALBA, Cuba, Venezuela and Bolivia, plan to train 200,000 Latin American and Caribbean doctors over the next ten years.

Both countries are also doing crucial work together to revive the Non-Aligned Movement, an organization of 118 mostly third world countries. Cuban President Fidel Castro has been named President of the movement, which released a 92 page document asserting the right to self-determination and resistance against occupation, and sighted the two countries specifically for their contribution of asserting the right of all countries to determine their own form of government. In Chavez' speech to the delegates, he summarized the Venezuelan-Cuban position, "Let us join forces to push the sun in this new dawn... because

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# The Anatomy of a Deadlocked Occupation of Iraq

By Shannon Bundock

Statement after statement by US government leaders claim "progress" in Iraq. Time and time again, US President George Bush has claimed that Iraq is at a positive "turning point". Yet, the facts speak differently; even those facts coming from the US Government itself.

"But progress has been steady. Iraqis have ratified a progressive, democratic constitution." - Dick Cheney, August 2006

"...attacks against the coalition and its Iraqi partners reached an all time high during July 2006. ... In July 2006, the State Department reported that the recent upturn in violence has hindered efforts to engage with Iraqi partners."

- US Government Accounting Office, September 2006

The US launched themselves into a massive invasion and war against the people of Iraq in March 2003. First they claimed to be searching for Weapons of Mass Destruction – which never materialized. Then the US-led mission claimed to be "liberating" Iraq and installing "democracy". These alleged and altruistic objectives never materialized either. Of course at the heart of the matter we cannot forget the US holy war against "Terrorism", which the occupation of Iraq would



supposedly weaken or even wipe out. Even by their own account, there are more "Terrorists" in the world than before invasion of Iraq. The US has failed in every branch of human knowledge to prove their case against Iraq and Saddam Hussein.

The failure to meet these "objectives" of the invasion, war and occupation could have easily been predicted before the imperialist project began, based on a simple piece of logic: they were never the objectives in the first place.

Under the paper thin layer of "benevolent peacemaker" lies the reality of US foreign policy. This is a policy of taking over, of gaining hegemony in the most strategic and critical regions of the world. A

policy to secure the US's position in the Middle East for plundering resources – of course oil, but not all about it – and achieving political and military control of the region.

Achieving these objectives are critical for the US ruling class because a secure and successful occupation of Iraq is part of the strategy for slowing their economic crisis of overproduction, rising unemployment, and the falling average rate of profit. It also means securing a much-needed edge over their imperialist competitors on the world stage – UK, Germany, Japan, France, etc.

The past 3 ½ years have shown that the US is willing to spill as much Iraqi blood as necessary to meet their goals of securing Iraq in the favor of US imperialist interests.

## 3 ½ Years of Bloodshed and Brutality

"After nearly four years of violent occupation and collective punishment enforced by U.S. forces and their collaborators, Iraqis still have no electricity, no drinking water and no fuel. The living conditions for all Iraqis have deteriorated. No modern nation can function without electricity and drinking water. The only construction project in Iraq ... is the largest CIA station (aka U.S. Embassy)."

- Ghali Hassan, Sept 2006 – countercurrents.org

Iraqi unemployment rates still sit at over 70%, with no hope of change. Average income in Iraq fell from \$3,600 per person in 1980 to \$450 by the end of 2003 according to the UN and World Bank.

In addition to the crisis of infrastructure there have been countless massacres and atrocities at the hands of occupation forces since the invasion of 2003 (See: FTT Vol.3 Is.4 – "Occupation is a Daily Crime: US Atrocities in Iraq").

According to a report, which was released in August 2006 by the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI),

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THE  
SPLIT  
ZON  
OF

## Venezuela & Chavez

continued

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I believe that it is possible for us now to create a world where no one country rules, nor one world gendarme, nor war nor cannons nor bayonets, but in which a world of love, peace and solidarity reigns.

Their relationship is concrete proof of a "new dawn" and is especially important in the context of the dramatic increase of suffering and misery caused by the economic policies and wars and occupations waged by imperialist countries against the third world.

### We Are Not Afraid – Directly Confronting the U.S. Government

Venezuela even continues to chip away at the U.S. government on its home court as part of its efforts to isolate U.S. policy through example. As the racism and neglect of the U.S. government was plain for all to see during the Hurricane Katrina catastrophe, the head of Citgo, the U.S. subsidiary of Venezuela's state owned oil company, set up disaster relief centres in Louisiana and Texas. In Houston alone, volunteers from Citgo headquarters provided assistance to 40,000 victims.

Venezuela has also provided hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil in energy assistance to the United States and announced that it would soon begin to ship heating and diesel oil at rock bottom prices to schools, nursing homes, hospitals and poor American communities.

As the U.S. struggles to win the "hearts and minds" of



President Hugo Chavez is met by supporters in Austria. May 2006.

government. Imagine being an American coming to the realization that a country thousands of miles to the south is doing more for your well-being than your rich and powerful "home" government!

The U.S. has yet to thank Venezuela for the help given to its citizens, and also continues to ignore the simple and consistent advice of Chavez of, "Yankee go home!" Instead, have recently created a new CIA position specifically for dealing with Venezuela and Cuba and allude to direct interventions. Michael Waller from the Center for Security Policy — an organization with direct links to the Bush administration, has already written that "the remaining hope on the calendar for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing threat is the Venezuelan presidential election of 2006 ... Time is running out ..."

### Creating a Broad, International, Anti-Imperialist Unity

Meanwhile, Venezuela continues on unfazed, taking on the U.S. in other important arenas. They've already begun

to call the Venezuelan president "Chavez of Arabia," and Venezuelan flags are now hoisted with the Palestinian in rallies in Damascus and Beirut. Chavez's removal of the Venezuelan charge d'affaires in Tel Aviv during the recent Israeli invasion of Lebanon was a crucial public lesson to all other world leaders in how to properly respond to the Israeli massacres. It was also another blow against the United States in the site of its most desperate and crucial interventions: the Middle East.

Chavez has also continued to work against the U.S. strategy of isolating Iran to make space for an eventual invasion. Venezuela recently signed over 20 cooperation agreements in the areas of oil & gas, iron & steel, and infrastructure with Iran, and the leaders of both countries have recently visited each other's home countries.

People across the Middle East are now buying Chavez posters for their homes, and a new bond of international solidarity is being created in defense of the right to self-determination for oppressed nations, and outright resistance to imperialism. Chavez meets with the leaders, but he speaks to the people.

You can't help but notice how bold it all is. How audacious Chavez is to take on the world's largest imperialist superpower at every turn and in every corner. Taking his direction from Cuba, his denunciations of capitalism are translated and eagerly read by millions who have been searching for a leadership brave enough to take on what they've all been dreaming of. Chavez's confidence comes from the support he knows he has from the millions of Venezuelans working just as hard in their everyday lives. This confidence, and the actions to match it, will only increase as the support for Venezuela's fight against imperialism internationalizes with every ticking second on the clock counting down to a just and dignified world.



Protest against the US in Venezuela.

Continued From Page 4

"... human rights violations, particularly against the right to life and personal integrity, continued to occur at an alarming daily rate [in Iraq]. During the reporting period the number of civilians killed was a reported total of 6,599 (3,590 in July and 3,009 in August)."

Currently, the top story on Iraq is of the quarter-million Iraqis who have fled their homes and cities in an attempt to find refuge in new places inside and outside of Iraq.

"There is no income what so ever except for government officials and the rest of us can not get a bite for our children," explained 35 year old car trader Yassir Fadhil commenting on why so many Iraqis are fleeing.

#### Crisis of Iraq's Military and Police

Despite protests by the US Administration that things are getting better (or at least they *will* get better!), the occupation forces have been met with a deadlock. Strategy after strategy of securing Iraq in the interest of the imperialist occupation has come up short.

On September 2006 an article was published in the Washington Post entitled "Heralded Iraq Police Academy a 'Disaster'".

The article opens stating: "A \$75 million project to build the largest police academy in Iraq has been so grossly mismanaged that the campus now poses health risks to recruits and might need to be partially demolished, U.S. investigators have found."

It continues on to state that the academy was "so poorly constructed that feces and urine rained from the ceilings in student barracks. Floors heaved inches off the ground and cracked apart. Water dripped so

On September 2006 the Washington Post published an article entitled "American Commanders Question Political Will Of Iraqi Prime Minister"

The article focuses on the frustration of US military leaders at the unwillingness or inability of the Iraqi government to follow the US strategy, specifically in dealing with the ever-increasing Iraqi resistance. Lt. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, the second-ranking U.S. military official in Baghdad stated: "We are now at a time when we have a little bit of influence [in Iraq] .. There is going to come a time when I would argue we are going to have to force this issue . . . We have to, wherever we can, use what pressure, what influence we have..."

Another example of the failure of the US-controlled government in Iraq is the economic crisis faced by the country. According to a report on the US National Public Radio on September 12<sup>th</sup> 2006, speaking to the state of Iraq's economy, "The country's central bank recently warned of massive unemployment, faltering growth and inflation of nearly 70 percent."

#### Internal Crisis for the US

According to the New York Times "President Bush's newest effort to rebuild eroding support for the war in Iraq features a distinct shift in approach: Rather than stressing the benefits of eventual victory, he and his top aides are beginning to lay out the grim consequences of failure."

The article goes on to explain how the Bush administration is becoming quite defensive in their approach. Bush's speech in Salt Lake city on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2006 was rife with foreboding, "We can allow the Middle East to continue on its course — on the course it was headed before September the 11th, and a generation from now, our children will face a region dominated by

# US/UK OUT OF IRAQ!

*Continued*

Iraqis protest US/UK occupation. Baghdad, Iraq.



profusely in one room that it was dubbed "the rain forest."

"This is the most essential civil security project in the country -- and it's a failure," said Stuart W. Bowen Jr., the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, an independent office created by Congress. "The Baghdad police academy is a disaster."

Despite the disaster of this latest project, the US and UK occupation forces face a bigger and more critical crisis in their attempt to train a pro-occupation Iraqi police force and military. This is a tough mission in a country where the overwhelming majority sentiment is vehemently against occupation.

In an article by Patrick Linsey of the Stamford Times, the occupation forces have been stonewalled in their efforts to recruit Iraqis who will be loyal to the imperialist project. "(I) suggest we fire these (Iraqis) and get them out of the way," said an exasperated U.S. Army sergeant, after military supplies were stolen from under the noses of Iraqi soldiers. "They've been doing this all week. They're working against us."

#### Crisis of Iraq's "Government"

The move to set up a puppet-government in Iraq has proven to be a big, and very problematic, task for the occupation forces. After running tightly controlled so-called elections in Iraq, after buying off Iraqi political leaders and after sculpting the 'new constitution' down to its finest details, the goal of raising a loyal lap-dog of imperialism has been a failure.

terrorist states and radical dictators armed with nuclear weapons."

As the New York Times article pointed out, this approach smacks of the defensive warnings of a previous generation, dealing with a previous US military crisis: Vietnam.

But this new scare-tactic-strategy by Bush is not being met with cheers of unanimous support from the US ruling class. According to the same New York Times article: "To some of Mr. Bush's allies, [his approach] is a mistake. "Look, the public understands the consequences of not winning," said David Frum, a former speechwriter for Mr. Bush. "What they really want to hear is a plan, and a plan that addresses the new problem, the sectarian violence," he said in an interview. "It doesn't help to talk about the consequences of failure unless the public thinks some measure of success is possible."

While the political battle rages at home, the US army in Iraq is devastated. Retired General Barry McCaffrey recently spoke to NBC News about the state of the US military, "I think, arguably, it's the worst readiness condition the US Army has faced since the end of Vietnam. ... This isn't a big surprise when we consider the facts that many soldiers are already into their third combat tour, frequent deployments have cut training time at home in half, and two thirds of all Army combat units are rated not ready for combat."

Attempting to deal with recruitment shortfalls the US has (for the second time since August) extended the combat tours of thousands of soldiers beyond their promised 12-month tours. Since 2003, nearly 3,000 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq, and over 30,000 wounded.

On top of all of this the US administration is faced with criticism, opposition and outrage from people living in the US. In a New York

Times/CBS Poll released on Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> 2006, in response to the question "How would you say things are going for the U.S. in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq?", 62% of respondents said "Somewhat Badly" or "Very Badly".

#### Resistance to Occupation, At Home and Abroad

The fact remains that the occupation has failed to bring any stability, security or progress to the people of Iraq. The alternative to occupation, which Iraqi people have been calling for since the US forces first stepped foot into the borders of Iraq, is for self-determination.

The level and scope of Iraqi resistance to the occupation forces has shown that Iraqis are unwilling to compromise their sovereignty. The resistance has also sent the clear message that Iraqis are not going to buy the farce of "self-determination under occupation".

The task for all peace-loving people in the world is to take a stance alongside the resistance in Iraq. We must bolster this resistance through echoing the calls for an immediate end to the brutal, criminal occupation of Iraq.

While the occupation forces face deadlock and crisis in Iraq, we have the ability to stick another thorn in the side of this imperialist project. In the US, in the UK, in Canada and in every country that is supporting or participating in this occupation, we must unite behind the demands of the Iraqi people and take action to expand the front at home in the fight for dignity, for humanity and for self-determination for all oppressed nations.

End the Occupation of Iraq!  
Bring All Troops Home Now!  
OUT NOW!



Destruction in Iraq. Sept 28, 2006.



Iraqis protest killings by occupation forces. Sadr City, Sept 29, 2006.

Due to the enormous effort made to visit the Argentine city of Córdoba, participate in the MERCOSUR meeting, in the closing session of the Summit of the Peoples in the historical University of Córdoba and the visit to Altgracia, the city where Che lived as a child, and in addition to immediately attending the commemoration of the 53rd anniversary of the assault on the Moncada and Carlos Manuel de Céspedes garrisons on July 26, 1953 in the provinces of Granma and Holguín, compounded by days and nights of continuous work with barely any sleep have all resulted in my health, which has stood up to every test, being subjected to extreme stress and breaking down. This provoked an acute intestinal crisis with sustained bleeding which obliged me to undergo a complicated surgical operation. All the details of this health accident are confirmed by X-rays, endoscopies and filmed material. The operation has obliged me to take various weeks of rest, at a remove from my responsibilities and duties.

Given that our country is threatened

in circumstances like this by the government of the United States, I have taken the following decision:

- 1) I provisionally delegate my functions as first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba to the second secretary, comrade Raúl Castro Ruz.
- 2) I provisionally delegate my functions as Commander in Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces to the abovementioned comrade, General of the Army Raúl Castro Ruz.
- 3) I provisionally delegate my functions as president of the Council of State and the government of the Republic of Cuba to the first vice president, comrade Raúl Castro Ruz.
- 4) I provisionally delegate my functions as the principal instigator of the National and International Public Health Program to member of the Political Bureau and Minister of Public Health, comrade José Ramón Balaguer Cabrera.
- 5) I provisionally delegate my functions as the principal instigator



of the National and International Education Program to comrades José Ramón Machado Ventura and Esteban Lazo Hernández, members of the Political Bureau.

6) I provisionally delegate my functions as the principal instigator of the National Program of the Energy Revolution in Cuba and cooperation with other countries in this sphere to comrade Carlos Lage Dávila, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers.

The funds corresponding to these three programs: Health, Education and Energy, should continue being managed and prioritized, as I have been doing personally, by comrades Carlos Lage Dávila, secretary of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers; Francisco Soberón Valdés, minister president of the Central Bank of Cuba; and Felipe Pérez Roque, minister of foreign affairs, who have accompanied me in these matters and who should constitute a committee for that objective.

Our glorious Communist Party, supported by the mass organizations and all the people, has the mission of assuming the task entrusted in this announcement.

The Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, scheduled for September 11-16, should receive the greatest attention of the Cuban state and nation to take place with the maximum brilliance on the agreed date. I would ask everyone to postpone the anniversary of my 80th birthday, which thousands of personalities so generously agreed to celebrate on August 13, to December 2 of this year, the

## **Announcement of the President to the Cuban people**

*Our revolution will fight until the last drop of blood*



50th anniversary of the Granma Landing.

*¡Viva la Patria!*

*¡Viva la Revolución!*

*¡Viva el Socialismo!*

*¡Hasta la Victoria Siempre!*  
Fidel Castro Ruz

Commander in Chief

First Secretary of the Party and President of the Councils of State and Minister of the Republic of Cuba.

July 31, 2006, 6:22 p.m.

## **Proclama del Comandante en Jefe al pueblo de Cuba:**

**Nuestra revolución lucharán hasta la última gota de sangre”**

Con motivo del enorme esfuerzo realizado para visitar la ciudad argentina de Córdoba, participar en la Reunión del MERCOSUR, en la clausura de la Cumbre de los Pueblos en la histórica Universidad de Córdoba y en la visita a Altgracia, la ciudad donde vivió el Che en su infancia y unido a esto asistir de inmediato a la conmemoración del 53 aniversario del asalto a los cuarteles Moncada y Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, el 26 de julio de 1953, en las provincias de Granma y Holguín, días y noches de trabajo continuo sin apenas dormir dieron lugar a que mi salud, que ha resistido todas las pruebas, se sometiera a un estrés extremo y se quebrantara. Esto me provocó una crisis intestinal aguda con sangrado sostenido que me obligó a enfrentar una complicada operación quirúrgica. Todos los detalles de este accidente de salud constan en las radiografías, endoscopías y materiales filmados. La operación me obliga a permanecer varias semanas de reposo, alejado de mis responsabilidades y cargos.

Como nuestro país se encuentra amenazado en circunstancias como esta por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, he tomado la siguiente decisión:

- 1) Delego con carácter provisional mis funciones como Primer Secretario del Comité Central del Partido Comunista de Cuba en el Segundo Secretario, comandante Raúl Castro Ruz.
- 2) Delego con carácter provisional mis funciones como Comandante en Jefe de las heroicas Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias en el mencionado comandante, General de Ejército Raúl Castro Ruz.
- 3) Delego con carácter provisional mis funciones como Presidente del Consejo

de Estado y del Gobierno de la República de Cuba en el Primer Vicepresidente, compañero Raúl Castro Ruz.

4) Delego con carácter provisional mis funciones como impulsor principal del Programa Nacional e Internacional de Salud Pública en el Miembro del Buró Político y Ministro de Salud Pública, compañero José Ramón Balaguer Cabrera.

5) Delego con carácter provisional mis funciones como impulsor principal del Programa Nacional e Internacional de Educación en los compañeros José Ramón Machado Ventura y Esteban Lazo Hernández, Miembros del Buró Político.

6) Delego con carácter provisional mis funciones como impulsor principal del Programa Nacional de la Revolución Energética en Cuba y de colaboración con otros países en este ámbito en el compañero Carlos Lage Dávila, Miembro del Buró Político y Secretario del Comité Ejecutivo del Consejo de Ministros.

Los fondos correspondientes para estos tres programas, Salud, Educación y Energético, deberán seguir siendo gestionados y priorizados, como he venido haciéndolo personalmente, por los compañeros Carlos Lage Dávila, Secretario del Comité Ejecutivo del Consejo de Ministros, Francisco Soberón Valdés, Ministro Presidente del Banco Central de Cuba, y Felipe Pérez Roque, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, quienes me acompañaron en estas gestiones y deberán constituir una comisión para ese objetivo.

Nuestro glorioso Partido Comunista, apoyado por las organizaciones de masas y todo el pueblo, tiene la misión de asumir la tarea encomendada en esta Proclama.

La reunión Cumbre del Movimiento de Países No Alineados, a realizarse entre los días 11 y 16 de septiembre, deberá recibir la mayor atención del Estado y la Nación cubana para celebrarse con el máximo de brillantez en la fecha acordada.

El 80 aniversario de mi cumpleaños, que tan generosamente miles de personalidades acordaron celebrar el próximo 13 de agosto, les ruego a todos posponerlo para el 2 de diciembre del presente año, 50 aniversario del Desembarco del Granma.

Pido al Comité Central del Partido y a la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular el apoyo más firme a esta Proclama.

No albergo la menor duda de que nuestro pueblo y nuestra Revolución lucharán hasta la última gota de sangre para defender estas y otras ideas y medidas que sean necesarias para salvaguardar este proceso histórico.

El imperialismo jamás podrá aplastar a Cuba.

La Batalla de Ideas seguirá adelante.

*¡Viva la Patria!*  
*¡Viva la Revolución!*  
*¡Viva el Socialismo!*  
*¡Hasta la Victoria Siempre!*

Fidel Castro Ruz  
Comandante en Jefe  
Presidente del Comité Central del Partido Comunista de Cuba  
Presidente del Consejo de Estado y de Ministros  
Julio 31 del 2006

# The Long March of Justice

By Ricardo Alarcon\*

Since September 12, 1998 the U.S. government has held Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labanino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando Gonzalez and Rene Gonzalez in arbitrary and illegal imprisonment.

These are eight years of injustice and shame, and cynical complicity with terrorism. Washington always admitted that its proposition in acting against the Five was to protect and shelter the anti-Cuban terrorist groups that are operating freely from U.S. territory. Our compatriots fought heroically against those groups. For that reason, just for that reason alone, they are being punished with infamous cruelty.

They have also been eight years of blameworthy silence on the part of the main media that has diligently followed the order to conceal the truth. They have done so without blinking knowing that in this way they will facilitate the cruel and unjustifiable treatment of five innocent men and the impunity of the assassins and their sponsors.

During this long period the U.S. public has only been allowed to know minor details of this issue, and information available to those living in other allegedly democratic societies has been equally scant. In the words of U.S. historian Howard Zinn: "You



**ESTA PEQUEÑA ISLA NO RENUNCIARÁ JAMÁS A SU INDEPENDENCIA, POR ELLOS Y POR NUESTRO FUTURO:  
Seguimos en Combate.**

Mr. Bush and his sect never flagged in their incessant and lying sermons against terrorism. They demanded that the Miami Court, in addition to disproportionate sentences, should impose specific measures on the Five in order to ensure that, never again, once their prison terms were served, could they attempt anything to the detriment of the criminals. That was repeated time and time again, as the trial minutes show, and which acceded to the petition with this shameful sentence: "As a further special condition of supervised release the defendant is prohibited from associating with or visiting specific places where individuals or groups such as terrorists, members

some of their criminal plots and contributed to avoiding them. For that they are and always will be deserving of the eternal gratitude of our people and are gaining an ever-growing solidarity throughout the world.

They will also receive the acknowledgement of the U.S. people who, one day, will succeed in defeating the immoral regime that is currently oppressing and deceiving them.

Our compatriots fulfilled a thousand-fold heroic mission by sacrificing their personal and family happiness and undertaking extremely dangerous tasks in the face of unscrupulous thugs backed by

the abominable act and has protected its masterminds, Luis Posada Carriles and Orlando Bosch. Official documents declassified in 2005 clearly prove that that government knew of the sinister plot several months in advance, that it knew the identity and whereabouts of the perpetrators and then, over 30 years, it proceeded to prevent any action by the courts of justice.

In the summer of that same year, the terrorist group calling itself CORU placed various explosive devices in airport facilities in the Caribbean region with the intention of sabotaging flights to Cuba. In a public meeting in Caracas that September Orlando Bosch

before or afterwards, to arrest the culprits. None of that was news, according to the big-business media, not last year when those reports were made public, and not now, when they are constantly talking about other hypothetical plans. The Barbados crime continues to go unpunished, covered by 30 years of silence and complicity.

Mr. Bosch has tried to justify that in the most cynical way. He has done so every time he felt like it on TV, radio and the print media of the mafia in Miami. He has just reiterated it, moreover, in an interview with La Vanguardia of Barcelona. Nobody has protested, however, in the United States or Europe.

that the monstrous crime occurred in broad daylight in the country's capital, and that a young woman from the United States, Ronnie Moffit, also died there, blown apart?

Posada Carriles has published his autobiography in which he gives a thorough account of his crimes up until the early 1990s; subsequently, on July 12 and 13 of 1998, he gave a front-page interview to The New York Times taking full responsibility for the bomb attacks in Havana the year before, including the one that killed the young Italian Fabio Di Celmo (something for which he did not repent; on the contrary, he said that it didn't stop him from "sleeping like a baby"); and he has acknowledged in other interviews the many lives that he has cut short and the backing that he has received to do so from Washington and Miami.

Posada has now been in the United States for a year and a half, in a country that he supposedly entered without complying with immigration formalities. That and nothing more has been thrown in his face by the authorities that are keeping him in comfortable custody. During that same period of time, tens of thousands of undocumented immigrants have been jailed and deported without any consideration, and thousands more have lost their lives in the desert or at the hands of immigrant-hunters.

Posada enjoys absolutely unique privileges. He has lawyers to defend him and newspapers and radio and TV stations in Miami that not only



Cuban delegation at the 2006 World Social Forum in Venezuela.

know, the five Cubans that have been imprisoned in the United States is something that is secret from the people of the United States." For his part, Ignacio Ramonet describes the situation in respect of Europe: "The European media is applying a generalized boycott; neither the papers, radio or television are covering this story. We are facing a deed that is totally censored."

The explicit recognition on the part of the U.S. authorities that their objective was to defend terrorist gangs should have been outstanding news from the initial charges and throughout one of the most prolonged legal proceedings in history. They even proclaimed it shortly after the events of September 11, 2001, when

of organizations advocating violence, and organized crime figures are known to be and frequent."

The fraudulent legal proceedings against the Five are, among other things, an affront to all the victims of terrorism, and a particular insult to all the U.S. citizens who died on that September 11. Hence the complicit silence of the main media. Hence the order to conceal the truth.

Unarmed, without causing any damage to anybody, without ever using force, but exclusively availing themselves of their will, talent and an unlimited disposition to personal sacrifice, our valiant brothers, risking everything, penetrated the worst enclaves of Miami, succeeded in discovering

a government as guilty as the malefactors.

They were carrying out an indispensable, peaceful and noble mission. Defending their homeland and people from systematic aggression, including acts of terrorism, that have caused the loss of thousands of lives and substantial material damage. The evidence is overwhelming. Ignoring it is infamous.

Those who planned, directed and even celebrated the destruction in full flight off Barbados of a civilian Cuban aircraft and the horrific death of its 73 occupants on October 6, 1976 are to be found right now in U.S. territory, protected by the federal authorities.

For 30 years the U.S. government has covered up

publicly acknowledged his responsibility for the assassination of the former Chilean foreign minister, Orlando Letelier, that took place on the 21st of that month in Washington DC and announced that, based on that "success," he was planning an act of great magnitude. In the same meeting Posada stated that this would consist of the destruction of a Cuban aircraft.

All of the abovementioned is recorded in confidential CIA and State Department reports. The Reagan-Bush government did absolutely nothing to prevent those actions from being carried out; it did not lift a finger to warn the victims or make any effort whatsoever,

Because Bosch has enjoyed the protection of the Bush clan for many years.

Wasn't he there on television on that shameless Miami platform, with the man who went there to express his thanks for the fraud that enabled him to take over the White House in 2001? Didn't he pass through the streets of that city in February 2003, leading the march he had organized, the only one on the planet supporting the war, with that slogan of "Iraq now, Cuba later"? Has the FBI or the U.S. media ever gone to interrogate him, even once, after more than eight years since the publication of official documents indicating that he, Bosch, participated in the plot to assassinate Orlando Letelier? Have they forgotten

support him, but praise him as a hero and pay tribute to his perverse career.

Posada claims that he has a right to U.S. citizenship, and is using as his main argument precisely his unspeakable crimes, which, according to him, were committed at the service of the United States government, with its backing and patronage.

Attacking a civilian airliner was qualified, a long time ago, as an unpardonable act that all nations are obliged to prevent, and when the case occurs, to punish severely. The Montreal Convention was signed in 1971 to ensure that. The international community was able to overcome the contradictions of that

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"With at least the tacit backing of U.S. Central Intelligence Agency officials, operatives linked to anti-Castro terrorists introduced African swine fever virus into Cuba in 1971. Six weeks later an outbreak of the disease forced the slaughter of 500,000 pigs to prevent a nationwide animal epidemic..." - San Francisco Chronicle, January 10, 1977

Por Ricardo Alarcón\*

Desde el 12 de septiembre de 1998 el gobierno de Estados Unidos mantiene en arbitrario e ilegal cautiverio a Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González y René González.

Son ocho años de injusticia y desvergonzada, cínica

inicial y a todo lo largo de uno de los procesos judiciales más prolongados de la historia, por parte de las autoridades norteamericanas de que su objetivo era defender a bandas terroristas. Lo proclamaron incluso poco después de los sucesos del 11 de septiembre del 2001 cuando el señor Bush y sus corifeos no descansaban en su incansante y mentiroso sermoneo

y realizar tareas de sumo riesgo frente a inescrupulosos matarifes respaldados por un gobierno tan culpable como los malhechores.

Llevaba n  
a cabo una  
m i s i ó n

terrorista que se hacía llamar CORU colocó varias bombas en instalaciones aeroportuarias del área del Caribe con la intención de sabotear vuelos dirigidos

a Cuba. En septiembre en una reunión pública en Caracas, Orlando Bosch reconoció abiertamente su responsabilidad en el asesinato del ex canciller chileno Orlando Letelier ocurrido el 21 de ese mes en Washington D.C y anunció que a partir de ese "éxito" planeaban realizar una acción de gran envergadura. En la misma reunión Posada precisó que esta consistiría en la destrucción de un avión cubano.

Todo lo anterior consta en informes confidenciales de la CIA y el Departamento de Estado. El gobierno de Reagan-Bush no hizo

absolutamente nada para evitar la realización de esos hechos, no movió un dedo para alertar a sus víctimas ni llevó a cabo esfuerzo alguno, ni antes ni después, para detener a los culpables. Para los grandes medios nada de eso se convirtió en noticia entonces, ni cuando hace un año se conocieron esos informes, ni ahora cuando no se cansan de hablar de otros hipotéticos planes. El crimen de Barbados sigue impune,

las calles de esa ciudad en febrero del 2003, encabezando la marcha convocada por él, la única que se efectuó en el planeta a favor de la guerra, con aquel lema de "Irak ahora, Cuba después"? ¿Ha ido el FBI o la prensa norteamericana a interrogarlo alguna vez, aunque sea una vez, después que ha pasado más de un año desde la publicación de documentos oficiales que indican que él, Bosch, participó en el plan para asesinar a Orlando Letelier? ¿No recuerdan ya que el monstruoso crimen ocurrió a plena luz del día en la capital de su país y que allí murió también, despedazada, Ronnie Moffit, una joven norteamericana?

Posada Carriles publicó su autobiografía en la que da cuenta minuciosa de sus fechorías hasta comienzos de la última década del pasado siglo; posteriormente, el 12 y 13 de julio de 1998 concedió una entrevista de primera plana al diario The New York Times donde reconoció su plena responsabilidad por los atentados con bombas ocurridos en La Habana el año anterior incluyendo el que causó la muerte al joven italiano Fabio Di Celmo (algo que no lamentó, por lo contrario, aseveró, no le impedía "dormir como un niño"); y ha reconocido en otras entrevistas las numerosas vidas que ha segado y el respaldo que para ello ha recibido de Washington y Miami.

Hace ya año y medio que Posada permanece en Estados Unidos, país al que supuestamente ingresó sin cumplir las formalidades migratorias. Eso y nada más le han echado en cara

complicidad con el terrorismo. Washington admitió siempre que su propósito al actuar contra los Cinco era proteger y amparar a los grupos

contra el terrorismo. Exigieron al tribunal de Miami que, además de las desmesuradas condenas, les fueran impuestas a los Cinco medidas específicas, para asegurar que nunca más, una vez cumplidas sus penas carcelarias, pudieran intentar algo en perjuicio de los delincuentes. Asilorepitieron una y otra vez como consta en las actas del tribunal, el cual accedió a la petición con esta desvergonzada

indispensable, pacífica y noble. Defender a su Patria y a su pueblo frente a una agresión sistemática que incluye acciones terroristas que han ocasionado la pérdida de miles de vidas y cuantiosos daños materiales. Sobran las pruebas. Ignorarlas es infame.

En el territorio norteamericano se encuentran ahora mismo, protegidos por las autoridades federales, quienes planearon, dirigieron y hasta celebraron la

terroristas anticubanos que operan libremente desde el territorio norteamericano. Nuestros compatriotas lucharon heroicamente contra esos grupos. Por eso, sólo por eso, se les castiga con infame ensañamiento.

Son también ocho años de silencio culpable de los grandes medios que disciplinadamente han acatado la orden de ocultar la verdad. Lo han hecho sin parpadear sabiendo que así facilitan el trato cruel e injustificable a cinco inocentes y la impunidad de los asesinos y sus patrocinadores.

Durante este largo período es muy poco, casi nada, lo que se ha permitido conocer de este tema al público norteamericano, y muy escasa asimismo la información que al respecto han recibido quienes viven en otras sociedades supuestamente democráticas. En palabras del historiador norteamericano Howard Zinn: "El caso de los Cinco cubanos presos en Estados Unidos es algo que permanece en secreto para el pueblo norteamericano". Por su parte Ignacio Ramonet describe así la situación respecto al Viejo Continente: "Por parte de los medios de comunicación europeos se está aplicando un boicot generalizado, ni en los periódicos, ni por radio, ni por televisión se habla de esta historia. Nos encontramos frente a un hecho totalmente censurado".

Debió haber sido noticia destacada el reconocimiento explícito, desde la acusación

sentencia: "Como una condición especial adicional para la libertad supervisada se le prohíbe al acusado acercarse a, o visitar lugares específicos donde se sabe que están o frecuentan individuos o grupos tales como terroristas, personas que promueven la violencia o figuras del crimen organizado."

El fraude proceso judicial contra los Cinco es, entre otras cosas, una afrenta a todas las víctimas del terrorismo, un insulto especialmente para los norteamericanos muertos aquel 11 de septiembre. Por eso el silencio cómplice de los grandes medios. De ahí la orden de ocultar la verdad.

Desarmados, sin causar daño alguno a nadie, sin emplear jamás la fuerza, valiéndose exclusivamente de su voluntad, su talento y una ilimitada disposición al sacrificio personal, nuestros valerosos hermanos, arriesgándolo todo, penetraron los peores enclaves de Miami, lograron descubrir algunos de sus planes criminales y contribuyeron a evitarlos. Por ello son y serán siempre acreedores de la eterna gratitud de nuestro pueblo y cuentan con una solidaridad siempre creciente en todo el mundo.

Recibirán también el reconocimiento del pueblo norteamericano que algún día logrará derrotar al régimen inmoral que hoy lo opprime y engaña.

Nuestros compatriotas cumplieron una misión mil veces heroica al sacrificar su felicidad personal y familiar

destrucción en pleno vuelo cerca de Barbados, el 6 de octubre de 1976, de un avión civil cubano y la horrible muerte de sus 73 ocupantes.

Durante 30 años el gobierno de Estados Unidos ha encubierto el abominable hecho y ha amparado a sus autores, Luis Posada Carriles y Orlando Bosch. Documentos oficiales

cubierto por treinta años de silencio y complicidad.

El señor Bosch ha tratado de justificarlo del modo más cínico. Lo ha hecho cada vez que ha querido en los medios televisivos, radiales e impresos de la mafia de Miami. Acaba de reiterarlo, además, en una entrevista a La Vanguardia, de Barcelona. Nadie ha protestado,

las autoridades que lo mantienen en cómoda custodia. En el mismo lapso de tiempo decenas de miles de indocumentados han sido encarcelados y expulsados sin grandes miramientos y otros miles han perdido la vida en el desierto o a manos de los cazadores de inmigrantes.

Posada goza de privilegios absolutamente únicos. Cuenta



Los cubanos protestan el secuestro de un transbordador. Tinaja, Abril de 2003.

desclasificados en el 2005 prueban claramente que ese gobierno conoció con varios meses de anticipación del siniestro plan, sabía quiénes eran y dónde estaban los asesinos y desde entonces, a lo largo de tres décadas se ha empeñado en impedir la acción de los tribunales de justicia. En el verano de aquella año el grupo

sin embargo, en Norteamérica ni en Europa. Porque Bosch disfruta desde hace muchos años de la protección del clan Bush.

¿No lo vieron en televisión en aquella desvergonzada tribuna miamense junto a quien hasta allá fue a agradecer el fraude que le permitió apoderarse de la Casa Blanca en el 2001? ¿No recorrió

con abogados que lo defienden y diarios, emisoras de radio y de televisión de Miami que además de apoyarlo lo elogian como a un héroe y encomian su perversa trayectoria. Posada reclama su derecho a la ciudadanía norteamericana y emplea como principal

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# La Larga Marcha de la Justicia

Continuado

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argumento precisamente sus innombrables crímenes que, asegura él, fueron cometidos al servicio del gobierno de Estados Unidos, con su respaldo y patrocinio.

Los atentados contra la aviación civil fueron calificados, hace ya mucho tiempo, como acciones imperdonables que todos los estados están obligados a impedir y llegado el caso a sancionar severamente. Para asegurar lo fuese suscrita la Convención de Montreal en 1971. La comunidad internacional fue capaz de superar las contradicciones de aquellos tiempos de "guerra fría" y arribó a un consenso alrededor de ciertos principios que fueron exigidos con energía por las empresas transportadoras y los sindicatos de empleados de esa industria. En ninguna circunstancia, cualesquiera que fueran los móviles de sus autores o las consideraciones políticas o de otro orden, se toleraría que ese tipo de acto evadiera la justicia. El artículo 7 de esa Convención no puede ser más claro y categórico. El Estado en cuyo territorio esté alguien acusado de haber atentado contra la aviación civil solo tiene dos opciones: o lo extradita al país que lo solicite o "estará obligado, sin ninguna excepción" a encausarlo y juzgarlo él.

Hace ya año y medio, sin embargo, que Posada está en Estados Unidos, disfrutando la protección de Bush, el pequeño, como antes hizo con Bosch, el Bush padre. Ni lo han extraditado a Venezuela ni le han iniciado juicio en Estados Unidos por la destrucción en pleno vuelo de un avión civil.

Peor aún. Reconocen que han hecho gestiones con al menos seis países, tratando de encontrarle refugio. Andan

a la búsqueda de un cómplice que se preste a evitar que Posada sea juzgado y sancionado como terrorista.

En Estados Unidos sigue disfrutando de la protección oficial los culpables de muchos otros hechos que han provocado muertes y sufrimiento a nuestro pueblo. Pero la impunidad se extiende también a la jurisdicción norteamericana. Aun siguen sin castigo los asesinatos de Santiago Mari Pesquera y de Carlos Muñiz Varela realizados por el CORU en Puerto Rico.

Estas verdades irrefutables prueban hasta la saciedad la inocencia de Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, Fernando y René. Cuba ha tenido y tiene la necesidad de defenderse frente al terrorismo de Washington. Nuestros Cinco compatriotas no cometieron delito alguno. Lo que hicieron fue una proeza que no merecía sanción sino homenaje. Ellos sin embargo siguen en prisión y sometidos a un turbio proceso judicial plagado de arbitrariedades en el que se han violado las normas y procedimientos del sistema norteamericano. Cualquiera de esas violaciones habría sido suficiente para anular todo el proceso desde su inicio.

El confinamiento solitario que se les impuso durante 17 meses a partir de su detención; las extremas dificultades para comunicarse con sus abogados defensores; el haberles negado a unos y otros el acceso a las supuestas pruebas de los acusadores; la realización del "juicio" en Miami bajo las presiones y la histeria anticubana allí exacerbadas durante el secuestro de Elián que coincidió con el encausamiento de nuestros compañeros; la intensa campaña que contra los Cinco



desataron los medios de prensa locales en la que ocuparon lugar prominente varios autotitulados periodistas que, como acaba de revelarse el pasado viernes, eran en realidad empleados a salarios altos del aparato de propaganda anticubana del gobierno de Estados Unidos.

Cualquiera de esos elementos bastaría para declarar nulo y sin valor alguno todo el proceso seguido contra ellos.

Pero continúan en prisión injustamente y se extiende su sacrificio y el de sus familiares.

Independientemente de los resultados en la batalla legal que seguirán librando frente a las maniobras de un gobierno tan tránsito como el de Bush, hay que redoblar y ampliar la solidaridad internacional y no descansar en el esfuerzo para que la verdad sea conocida.

La solidaridad de los pueblos, solo ella, traerá la justicia. Hoy se manifiesta

en todo el mundo en una Jornada Internacional para exigir la liberación de nuestros Cinco abnegados compañeros y para demandar que se haga justicia a todas las víctimas del terrorismo. La Jornada se extenderá hasta el 6 de octubre, aniversario del abominable crimen de Barbados. Y no se detendrá ese día.

La solidaridad crecerá: Hasta que los héroes sean liberados. Hasta que los terroristas sean castigados.

\*RICARDO ALARCÓN Miembro del Buró Político del Partido

## The Long March of Justice

Continued

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Cold War era and reached a consensus regarding certain principles that were being vigorously demanded by transport companies and trade unions of that industry's

least six countries trying to find him refuge. They are looking for an accomplice who will help prevent Posada from being tried and sentenced as a terrorist.

The culprits of many other acts that have caused death and suffering to our people continue to enjoy government protection in the United States. But that impunity has also been extended to other territories under U.S. jurisdiction.

The murders of Santiago Mari Pesquera and Carlos Muñiz Varela carried out by the CORU in Puerto Rico continue to go unpunished.

These irrefutable truths are more than enough proof of the innocence of Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, Fernando and René. Cuba has had to and has to defend itself from Washington's terrorism. Our five compatriots did not commit any crime. What they did was a heroic deed that deserved praise, not punishment.

However, they remain in prison and subjected to a shady legal proceedings plagued with arbitrary acts and in which the regulations and procedures of the U.S. system have been violated. Any of those violations would have been sufficient to overturn the entire process from the start.

The solitary confinement imposed on them for 17 months after they were arrested; the extreme difficulties they had in communicating with their defense lawyers; the fact that both lawyers and defendants were denied access to the supposed prosecution evidence; the holding of the "trial" in Miami under the pressure and anti-Cuban hysteria exacerbated

there during the kidnapping of Elián, which coincided with the charges being brought against our compañeros; the intense campaign that was unleashed against the Five by the local media that prominently featured several self-described

journalists who, as revealed just last Friday, were actually paid employees of the anti-Cuban propaganda apparatus of the United States government.

Any of those elements would be sufficient to declare the entire proceedings against them null and void.

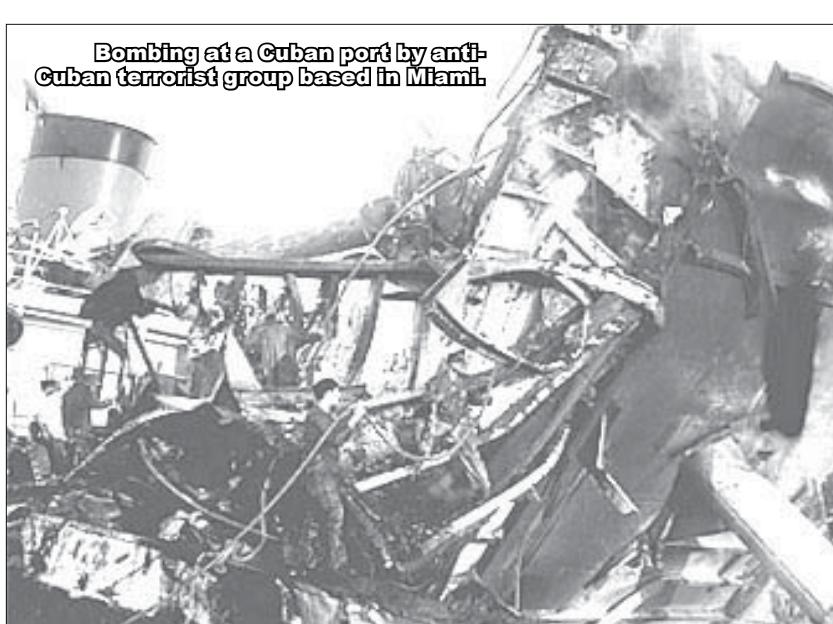
But they continue to be unjustly imprisoned, and their sacrifice and that of their families is being prolonged.

Independently of the results in the legal battle that they will continue to wage against the maneuvers of a government as deceptive as Bush's, it is necessary to redouble and broaden out international solidarity and to not rest in efforts to make the truth known.

The solidarity of the peoples is the only means of bringing them justice. Today, throughout the world, a series of international are taking place to demand freedom for our five selfless compañeros and to demand justice for all victims of terrorism. The events will continue until October 6, the anniversary of that abominable Barbados crime. And they will not end on that day.

Solidarity will grow: until the heroes are liberated. Until the terrorists are punished.

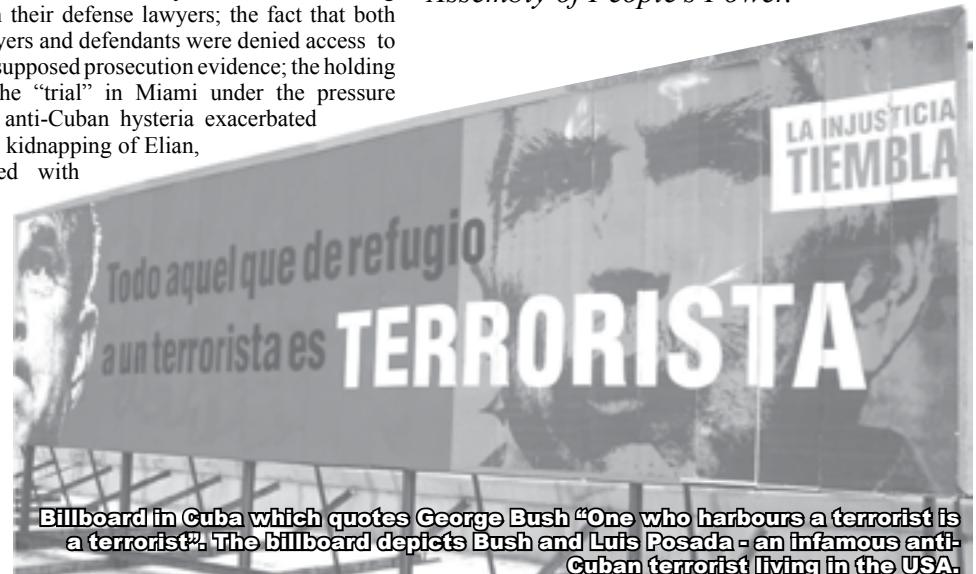
\* Ricardo Alarcón is a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba and President of the National Assembly of People's Power.



workers. Under no circumstances, whatever the motives of those responsible or political or any other considerations, would allow that type of act to evade justice. Article 7 of that Convention cannot be more clear or categorical. The State in whose territory someone is accused of having attacked civil aviation has only two options: either the individual is extradited to the country that has applied for it, or "it shall be obliged, with no exceptions" to charge and try that individual.

It has now been a year and a half, nevertheless, that Posada has been in the United States, enjoying the protection of Bush Jr. just as was done before for Bosch by Bush Sr. They have not extradited him to Venezuela, and they have not initiated a trial in the United States for the destruction of a civilian airliner in mid-flight.

Even worse. They admit that they have approached at



Billboard in Cuba which quotes George Bush "One who harbours a terrorist is a terrorist". The billboard depicts Bush and Luis Posada - an infamous anti-Cuban terrorist living in the USA.

# PLAN BUSH:

## What is the US government planning for Cuba?

By Tamara Hansen

*“...All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: the United States will not ignore your oppression, or excuse your oppressors. When you stand for your liberty...America sees you for who you are: the future leaders of your free country.”*

- US President George W. Bush, Plan for Assistance to a Free Cuba

*“After having divulged everything that they [The United States] have divulged – tens of millions of dollars more for their mercenaries, new economic restrictions and illegal actions against international trade and the sovereignty of Cuba and other nations, additional punishments for Cubans and for citizens of other countries*

*– and having made public more than two years ago their Plan that describes to the finest detail their intention to re-colonize Cuba; after all that, what is there at this height to conceal with maximum secrecy?...In the case of Bush and his buddies anything is possible.”*

- President of the Cuban National Assembly of People's Power Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada responding to US government's Plan for Assistance to a Free Cuba

In July 2006, the so-called “Plan for Assistance to

Cuba, not simply waiting for a change.”

Somewhat like the idea of ‘pre-emptive’ strike in Iraq, this report says that the United States will not wait it will act. But unlike threats of ‘weapons of mass destruction’ the US administration has not been able to label the government of Cuba a ‘terrorist’ or even aggressive with any substantiated evidence. Instead it has tried to discredit the internal policies of the Cuban government accusing Castro of suppressing the population of Cuba or claiming that there are no elections and charging Cuba as a “state sponsor of terrorism” because of its relationship with Iran.

We will examine these allegations more coming up, and why the US is targeting Cuba specifically. For now, we need to understand



Hundreds of thousands march outside the US interests Section in Havana Cuba, Jan 24, 2006.

to completing post-secondary) and health care.

The US blockade has not been an effective deterrent, and Cuba has stood strong, even inspiring two new countries to follow on a similar path - Venezuela and Bolivia. Today these countries are working together. Cuba and Venezuela are working on Operation Miracle, where they have provided free eye surgery for cataracts to over 350,000 people from different parts of Latin America. Cuba, Bolivia and Venezuela have also recently signed the Bolivarian Alternative for the people of Latin America (ALBA) agreement, which promised Cuban doctors for Venezuelans and Bolivians and cheaper



Could it be a plot to overthrow the government of Cuba? Seeing as sections of their report have titles like, “Hastening the end of the Castro dictatorship: transition, not succession,” it seems unlikely that this goal is much of a secret. More likely contained in these secret pages are the strategies and plans of how they are going to hasten the end... thus their “effective implementation” is at risk if they are made public.

### What democracy can the US bring anyways?

What kind of democracy does the US have to offer Cuba when it is well documented that Bush stole both of his elections through fraud and manipulation?

What kind of democracy is it when you need millions of dollars to run a campaign that has even a small chance of winning?

When the US promises “assistance” to Cuba what does it mean? Will they receive the same assistance to ‘free’ them of their ‘tyrannical regime’ as Iraq did? Because in July 2006 the United Nations reported that there were 100 civilians dying a day in Iraq, and this does not sound like the kind of “assistance” Cuba needs.

When presenting this report, Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez promised, “emergency food, water, fuel and medical equipment.” If the US is so concerned about the availability of water, why doesn't it provide these things while “assisting” the people of Iraq? Or more recently, even for the US' own troops?

According to Reuters in January 2006, “A Halliburton Co. subsidiary provided water to

a Free Cuba” was released by the US state department’s “Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba”. Promising to free the people of Cuba from so-called “tyranny and hopelessness” this report- signed by US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice and US secretary of trade Carlos Gutiérrez -was seen by many as just another step forward in the aggressive and inhuman policies of the US administration towards Cuba.

### What is the report?

As explained directly from a communiqué signed by George W. Bush, “This example that we are actively working for a change in

a bit about the history of US-Cuba relations in order to figure out where exactly this report comes from.

### US/Cuba History

In a special article written by Manuel E. Yepe in the last issue of Fire This Time (Vol.3 Is.4), US plots to annex Cuba were well documented. They began in 1783 when US president John Adams stated that the annexation of Cuba was absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the US, and have continued since. Attacks included everything from the US suppression of the Cuban independence army after the Spanish colonizers left, to the ‘permanent treaty’ of 1903 granting the US the unlimited lease of Guantanamo Bay, to US military interventions in Cuba in 1906, 1909 and 1912, to the series of US backed dictators including Batista, who held power in Cuba until the revolution won in 1959.

The Cuban revolution, lead by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, fought for justice, independence, nationalization of land, jobs, healthcare and education.

Once Cuba began nationalizing US properties and US owned companies, the US implemented an immediate blockade against Cuba in order to deny or limit Cubans access to medicine, food, sports equipment, school texts, and basically any goods needed for life. This policy was made official in 1961 and continues today. The goal is to impoverish Cuba to a point where people become fed up and revolt against their government.

Looking at the facts, Cuba currently has the lowest infant mortality rate in Latin America, has the highest number of doctors per capita of any country in the world, and has universally accessible education (up

oil and gas for Cubans, among many other things.

### What does Plan Bush establish?

The so-called “Plan for Assistance to a Free Cuba” contains seven chapters titled a variety of menacing things from Chapter 1: “Hastening the end of the Castro dictatorship: transition, not succession,” to Chapter 4: “Helping Cubans create market-based economic opportunities,” to Chapter 7, “Preparing now to support the transition”.

The details, according to AIN, a Cuban news agency, “include the return of properties which belonged to the rich prior to the revolution, the destruction of the island's social security programs (from which millions of Cubans benefit), the privatization of schools and hospitals, as well as the trying and prosecution of members of political and grass roots organizations on the island”.

Within all this, the US “plan” states that once it does have control it will, “encourage assistance from other countries, associations and private companies; and discourage third parties from intervening to obstruct the will of the Cuban people”. It will achieve this by privatizing all of the companies that were nationalized after the revolution, and then destroying Cuba's hard-earned highly rated and celebrated education and health systems by privatizing them both as well.

The document allocates \$80 million in US taxpayers' money over the next two years towards these projects.

The report issued by the US state department also contains a classified chapter. The introduction to the report reads: “THIS is a NON-classified report: for reasons of security and EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION, some of the recommendations are contained in a separate appendix.” But as Ricardo Alarcon the President of the National Assembly of People's Power in Cuba said, “After having divulged everything that they have divulged...what is there at this height to conceal with maximum secrecy?”

US troops at a camp in Iraq that was twice as contaminated as water from the Euphrates River..Kellogg Brown and Root [a subsidiary of Halliburton], also blocked employees' attempts to inform the US military at Camp Junction City in Ramadi that the water was foul...[Halliburton] was once headed by US Vice President Dick Cheney and has huge



**“We will never surrender!” reads a sign held at a rally in defence of the Cuban revolution. 1980.**

contracts to provide services to the U.S. military in Iraq”.

How can we believe the US will bring water to Cuba if it is even willing to give its own troops dirty water?

As for Iraqis, Dr Muhammad Khalid, a pediatrician at the Children's Teaching Hospital, reported to IRIN news that since last December, at least one child a day in Baghdad had contracted some form of water-borne disease.

Continues on Page 11

# Army Off Our Campuses! Free Education for All

By Nita Palmer

As the government of Canada finds itself increasingly scrambling to carry out its war drive in Afghanistan, students, young people, along with poor and working people are increasingly targeted to sign up to serve the Canadian ruling class's war drive. In the 2005 budget, the military recruiting budget was increased to \$47 million, in order to fulfill their recently-increased goal of

adding 23,000 new troops to the Canadian Forces. Campuses have become a target of this new recruitment drive.

## Poverty hits the students in Canada

At a time when the average undergraduate finishes school with \$25,000 dollars of debt, students are under pressure to find a way to pay for their education. According to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), tuition fees have risen by over 200% since 1990. On top of the rapidly inflating cost of post-secondary education, decent jobs remain difficult to impossible for young workers and students to obtain. Two-thirds of minimum wage workers are between the ages of 15 and 24, and over half of them are students (Statistics Canada, 2005). These factors, which add up to many students being forced to find a job – any job – that will help them pay for their education, are taken advantage of by the Canadian military in targeting students as new recruits.

For many students, the prospect of joining the Canadian military is a financial necessity rather than a choice.

The daily news is now filled with reports about the war in Afghanistan. Thirty-six dead Canadian soldiers, countless thousands of dead Afghan civilians, and an ongoing unsuccessful battle against a resistance that is growing every day, has turned the majority of people in Canada against Canada's occupation of Afghanistan. But even as support for Canada's occupation of Afghanistan spirals downwards, the Canadian military needs recruits to fight their war in Afghanistan more than ever. Students, along with other poor, working, and oppressed people, are targets for military recruitment because of their financial position. Increasing tuition fees does not only allow the Government of Canada to put more money into the military budget, which has been more than doubled in the past two years. It also places heavy financial burden on students, making the prospect of joining the Canadian military seem more necessary each day.

## Army vs. Students

The government of Canada claims that its occupation of Afghanistan is necessary to maintain so-called "Canadian interests". But these interests are certainly not those of students in Canada, when our tuition fees skyrocket to fund this war drive. They are not the interests of poor, working, and oppressed people, whose social programs

are whittled away every day to fund this war drive. They are the interests of Canada's ultra-rich business owners, who control wealth in Canada through corporations and financial institutions. They are the interests of a group whose intentions in Afghanistan are to control the important military and trade hub of Afghanistan.

For students in Canada, education should be a right, not a privilege. For people in Afghanistan, living without a brutal foreign occupation should be a right. These are things that we as students in Canada must fight for. But we also have examples to look to.

## Cuba a heaven for Students

In Cuba, free education from kindergarten to post-graduate school is a right. Books, food, and housing are all paid for, and students are even given a monthly stipend to study. Seats are even reserved in the government for the Federation of University Students. How is it that Cuba – a third world country – manages all these gains for its young population? The government of Canada recruits students to the Canadian Forces to kill people in Afghanistan, claiming they are defending "our national interests". Cuba defends the rights of students and people in Cuba while sending 7,000 doctors around the world on humanitarian missions. Cuba shows that organizing wealth in

the hands of all, rather than a few, is critical to defending basic rights like education.

The better world that Cuba shows is a world we have to fight for. Our responsibility as students is to tell the government of Canada that we will not tolerate their exploitation of us, and that military recruiters are not welcome on our campuses.

## End the occupation, Free the Education

Growing millions of people in Canada are demanding an end to Canada's brutal occupation of Afghanistan – reflected in the fact that Vancouver-based anti-war coalition Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) has collected over 12,000 signatures on their Canada Out of Afghanistan petition since 2004. Among these people, students and youth are some of the first to become active in leading a fledgling anti-war movement. Student Week Against War and Occupation 2006 is coming soon, where we will have a chance to discuss what Canada's occupation of Afghanistan, and military recruitment on campus mean for students. To get more information about Student Week Against War and Occupation, or to find out about upcoming anti-war events in Vancouver, visit Mobilization Against War and Occupation's website at

[www.mawovancouver.org](http://www.mawovancouver.org)



## Plan Bush continued

Continued From Page 10

He said that since June 2005, "We've observed a 30 percent increase in cases of waterborne diseases, especially cholera."

Plan Bush also promises the immediate immunization of all children under five in Cuba. However, Gramma International explains that interestingly, "To propose such tasks would seem cynical in [the United States] where the reserve of vaccinations for its own children has been almost completely drained and, as The Washington Post has reported, there are no immediate prospects of replenishing it." Also, an example of this hypocrisy is exposed in UNESCO's Human Development Indicators from 2005, which show that 93% of 1-year-olds in the US are fully immunized against the measles, while Cuba sits at 99%.

How exactly is the US planning to "assist" Cuba again?

### Fidel's health

Only a month after Plan Bush started gearing up to hasten "the end of the Castro dictatorship," Fidel Castro announced that he was ill and underwent surgery leaving his responsibilities to Raul Castro.

In the immediate days following the Miami Herald reported that, the US assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere Affairs, "likened the Cuban government to a helicopter – a 'single fail-point mechanism.'" The US Secretary said, "When a rotor comes off a helicopter it crashes... When a supreme leader disappears from an authoritarian regime, the authoritarian regime flounders. It doesn't have the direction that it requires. I think that's what we're seeing at this moment."

What were we "seeing at this moment"?

It just so happens that I was in Cuba with the Che Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade at the time Fidel's illness was announced and we saw

exactly what happened in Granma province in the weeks following the announcement. Based on our experience, what we saw at that moment was a group of veterans who fought alongside Fidel and Che during the revolution discussing their continued dedication to defending their country should the United States try to intervene. We met a group of 15-18 year olds studying to become instructors of art who all expressed that they were concerned about the health of Fidel; and we saw a cultural performance at a local theatre where the performers dedicated their show to the health of "el Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro".

The most moving thing I heard about Fidel's health while in Cuba came from one of the students named Leidis who, when asked why people in Cuba are so happy with so little material goods, explained that there are three reasons. 1) Because they have a great commander in chief - Fidel Castro, 2) The social programs in Cuba such as healthcare and education, 3) the fact that Cuba is an island with over 11 million people who live together with one heart.

This made it clear to all of us on the brigade that Cuba needs no "assistance", only support and solidarity to push their revolution further and increase the gains it can make.

### Plan Bush: Why now?

After 45 years of blockade against Cuba, the United States is getting frustrated that the revolutionary government of Fidel Castro is still a leading example for people fighting for access to education, jobs, healthcare and other fundamental human rights.

Because the Cuban people and their revolution have not succumbed to the pressure of the blockade, the United States has developed

various slanderous campaigns against Cuba in order to justify its cruel and inhuman policies and this new \$80 million "plan" is no different.

Recently, however, Cuba has been striding forward and making many allies and friends on the world stage. First, Cuba was elected, by a wide majority (135 votes) to the United Nations new Council on Human Rights – despite the fact that the United States (along with Canada) have a long standing campaign trying to discredit Cuba's exemplary human rights standards.

Recently, Cuba was host to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Havana, an organization of which Fidel is currently the chairman. US media, like CNN, tried to paint this summit as a meeting of America's enemies only 90 miles off their shores. Conversely, according to Mark Weisbrod, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington D.C., the US ignoring or slandering the NAM shows that they are "refusing to acknowledge the changes that are taking place in Latin America... That's why they are losing influence so rapidly."

From here Cuba is continuing its 47-year-old struggle against the US' attempt at hegemony and annexation. Because of its firm position against US intervention in any country, as well as Cuba's willingness to make friends and send professionals and doctors for free around the world, Cuba is making friends quickly with other world leaders. Because of Cuba's firm stance in the fight for social justice, as well as its universal health and education systems Cuba is making friends



Then  
&  
Now



with regular working and oppressed people from around the world from Venezuela and Bolivia to China and Pakistan, from South Africa to Harlem in US, from Iran and Palestine to Brazil and Angola. Cuba has proved that internationalism based on international solidarity is the way of liberating countries from the yoke of imperialism.

As a show of support for Cuba after the announcement of Plan Bush, Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez made the bold recommendation that Washington not develop a transition for others but for its own political system.

**STOP PLAN BUSH!**

**LIFT THE BLOCKADE AGAINST CUBA!**

**STOP U.S. AGGRESSION AGAINST CUBA!**

# Evo Morales & the Continental Revolution in Latin America

By Ivan Drury

"Yet in Latin America, as this government has often noted, the differences among the left-wing governments are more important than the similarities. Broadly speaking, one camp is made up of moderate social democrats, of the sort in office in Chile, Uruguay and Brazil. The other camp is the radical populists, led by Mr. Chavez, who appears to have gained a disciple in Evo Morales, Bolivia's new president."

"The Battle for Latin America's Soul," the Economist Magazine, May 20<sup>th</sup> 2006

## History in motion

The nine months since the election of Evo Morales to presidency of the poorest country in South America has passed the term of a birth witnessed painfully by both US and European imperialism and friends (and so-called friends) of Bolivia in Latin America. In these nine months, Evo Morales has dealt a direct blow to US and European imperialism and the "Brazilian interests" section of the Brazilian ruling class with the nationalization of gas in Bolivia. He has struck out at the capitalist class of Bolivia and the legacy of corruption in the Bolivian government itself, with attacks against the bureaucracy through the re-organization of national industries and the disorganization of bureaucratic privileges, beginning with

accomplishment has been the political continuity and development of this movement's strength, confidence, and breadth beyond the borders of Bolivia, and the entry of the Bolivian workers, peasants, and Indigenous movement as a force to be reckoned with against imperialism and capitalism. All of the concrete gains won in the first nine months of Evo's presidential term are significant only as viewed through this lens of the development of revolutionary struggle in Bolivia... because the revolution has not won, it has only begun. These motions, and the deep contradictions and complications that

nation incorporating the national majorities. That way we will reverse Bolivia's original sin: having been founded excluding ninety percent of its population."

- Evo Morales interview with

top priority for the new government. In his first presidential statement, Morales stated that a new constitution was necessary because "Indians were not invited" to the drafting of the first one. The racist division of wealth and



his own salary. He has circled bulldozers around the monuments to colonialism in Bolivia with the launching of a constituent assembly and begun the re-drafting of a new Bolivian constitution that will re-define Bolivia as an Indigenous nation in pursuit of its full political and economic self-determination. In these nine months, Evo Morales has made international alliances in the interests of the Bolivian people – and of oppressed people all around the world. Within

are wound up within them, are most visible in the two most important concrete developments of the Bolivian revolution: the struggle for

Pablo Stefanoni on July 3 2006  
Bolivia, a nation of Indigenous nations that has been colonized, dominated and controlled by colonizing and imperialist powers since its founding in 1825, when it won its political "independence" from Spain.

Evo Morales is the nation's first Indigenous president in all of Bolivia's history – a fact that gains more significance when you consider that there have been more than 190 governments in 182 years of "independence" and that Indigenous people make up nearly the entire working class, peasantry, and poor population in

power in Bolivia has not dissolved at the sight of an Indigenous president. In August, elections were held for a constituent assembly to re-draft Bolivia's constitution. The launching of the constituent assembly was a breakthrough for the movement in Bolivia, and it was met immediately with sabotage by the ruling class opposition forces.

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, the assembly decided to make decisions by a simple majority vote rather than the two-thirds majority demanded by the minority oppositionists in the assembly. The opposition walked out of the assembly, paralyzing its operation. The question of Indigenous self-determination in Bolivia, like in Canada, is central to the question of justice. It was on this critical question – framed in the re-drafting of the constitution – that the reactionary opposition has opened its campaign of sabotage. In the constituent assembly, the Bolivian bourgeoisie opened its fall offensive against the forward motion of the Bolivian revolution – an offensive



A march in Argentina celebrates the gas nationalization in Bolivia. June 20, 2006.

days of his election, and before doing anything else, he visited Fidel in Havana, and Chavez in Caracas to draft new trade agreements based on solidarity and human need. Within months, he signed on Chavez's "Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas" (ALBA) and helped to craft the formation he called "The Axis of Hope" – Cuba, Venezuela, and Bolivia.

Evo's election victory was a sign that the movement of oppressed people had drawn a higher card than the reactionary forces of capitalism and imperialism in Bolivia. Evo's historical job then, as president, was – and is – to continue to build on the strength of this movement and drive ahead. His main

Indigenous self determination through the constituent assembly, and the struggle against imperialism through the nationalization of gas and the redistribution of land. The Bolivian revolutionary process is being defined by these struggles and by the capitalist and imperialist reaction against them.

## Constituent Assembly: Indigenous re-definition of Bolivia

"The constituent assembly is not only to have an indigenous president, but to peacefully change the structure of the State, it's to recover the territory and natural resources, incorporate communitarian justice – currently justice is corrupt – and re-found our

this poor country in South America. Between 60% and 80% of the population of Bolivia, depending on who you ask, is Indigenous, but the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shows that the poorest 40 percent of Bolivians hold only 10 percent of the wealth, while the richest 10 percent have 41 percent. Wealth, and development, is concentrated in the Santa Cruz region, where – not so coincidentally – non-Indigenous people are also concentrated. Against this backdrop, Morales declared the drafting of a new constitution, what the writer Eduardo Galeano called "The Second Founding of Bolivia," as

Continues on Page 13

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# BOLIVIA

*Continued*



Fidel Castro and Evo Morales.

*Continued From Page 12*

that continued two weeks later with an attack on the other most central question of the Bolivian revolutionary process at this point, the nationalization of gas.

#### The Nationalization of Gas

On May 1, Morales announced the nationalization of all gas reserves in Bolivia, saying that within six months all gas and gas production in Bolivia would be taken over by the Bolivian state oil company, YPFB. Predictably, the British, French, and Spanish oil companies and governments came out against this move

came from Brazil, a neighbour and so-called "friend" of Bolivia. In September, the sabotage maneuvers of the Bolivian opposition combined with the efforts of Lula's government in Brazil to preserve "Brazil's interests" and froze the nationalization process in Bolivia. When Lula heard, in mid-September, of the plan of the Bolivian minister of energy to bring a motion before parliament to immediately limit all production and distribution of Bolivia's gas to YPFB, the Brazilian government panicked. In defense of Brazilian state oil company Petrobras's holdings of 48

Morales's own party, acted and reiterated its August demand for the resignation of the Bolivian minister of energy and for the stopping of the bill. On September 12<sup>th</sup>, the bill was frozen, and the minister of energy resigned. But Evo's vice-president statement was aimed directly at Brazil, he said, "The nationalization proceeds, it doesn't stop. What we are seeing are the times for application in consensus and accord with the companies." And in response to the threat by Brazil to take Bolivia to international court for violation of Petrobras's "right" to harvest Bolivia's gas he added, "Rather than give way on the

in an outrage, with the British alone standing to lose "investments" in stealing the Bolivian people's wealth to the tune of more than \$800 million. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) joined the chorus against Morales in their August report calling Bolivia's "energy policies" [...] "erroneous" and saying that they will frighten away "investment".

But the most damaging of blows

trillion cubic feet of Bolivia's natural gas, Brazilian energy minister Silas Rondeau said, "If relations don't improve, it will not be the fault of Brazil, which has its limits and is going to defend them." And president Lula added, "[if Bolivia] takes unilateral measures, we will think about taking harsher measures".

Sensing a weak point, the Bolivian ruling class, including its agents in

principles, we prefer to go to arbitration".

#### Bolivian Revolution: A Promise and a Threat

"There are social democrats and others who are marching more in the direction of equality, whether you call them socialists or communists. But at least Latin America no longer has racist or fascist presidents like it did in the past. Capitalism has only hurt Latin America."

- Evo Morales in an interview with Der Spiegel, Aug 28, 06

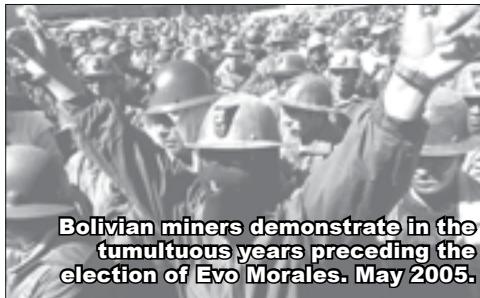
The news of these stumbles and setbacks in the Bolivian revolutionary process has been trumpeted by imperialist media, like the New York Times' article "Bolivian Leaders Find Their Promises Are Hard to Keep" and "left-opponents" of Morales alike. Both are equally eager to dismiss Morales as a failure, and both miss completely the significance of the pressures of the fall offensive against Morales and the Bolivian revolution. First, the stumbles that the revolutionary process has suffered so early in its development in Bolivia is, in part, because of the weakness of Morales and his party, the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS). The weakness is the result of a combination of the brutality of the struggle in Bolivia and the lack of a clearheaded and focused revolutionary leadership like Fidel in Cuba, or even like

Chavez in Venezuela. Morales was given the lead of the revolutionary process in Bolivia because of necessity, not because he was completely equipped for the job. These first nine months have held a sharp and punishing learning curve for him. Part of this problem of leadership has been the lack of a revolutionary team in Bolivia. Morales's party is divided on how to carry out this struggle, and even how far it must go. Second, the conflict with Brazil and Petrobras has revealed the superficial unity that still exists within the overall development of the continental revolution in Latin America. Bolivia itself is a critical point in defining which direction this revolution is going to take. The

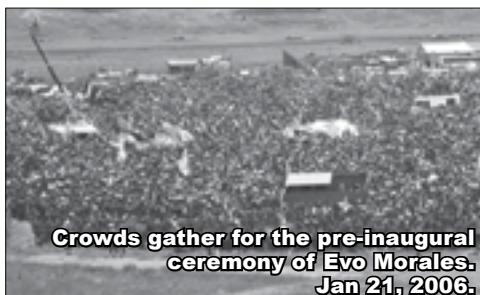
their worth to imperialism. But Brazil's moves against the Bolivian nationalization of gas speaks differently than his words of solidarity at official events. With these maneuvers, Lula has given a clear message to Morales, Chavez, and Fidel. He is saying, do what you want with your 'revolutions' but we will "defend the interests of Brazil." Not surprisingly, the interests of the capitalists in Brazil are consistent with the interests of the capitalists in the US, France, UK, and Spain. And they have nothing in common with the interests of working people in Brazil, Bolivia, Venezuela, or anywhere. Finally, the reactionary fall offensive against the revolutionary movement in

Bolivia shows that, although Morales and the movement in Bolivia have a big job ahead of them, they are still moving, still fighting, and still are on the path to revolutionary change.

In order to survive this period – this first big challenge to the revolutionary process – Morales must get closer to his real allies in Venezuela and Cuba. The struggle in Bolivia is important because

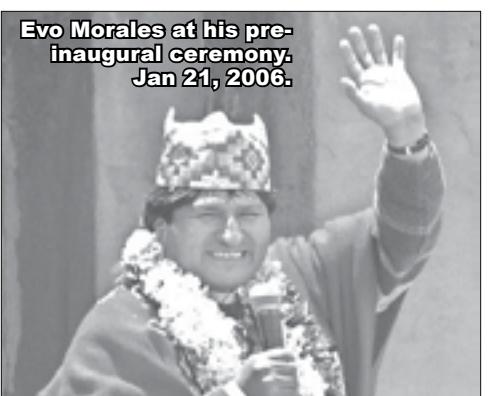


Bolivian miners demonstrate in the tumultuous years preceding the election of Evo Morales. May 2005.



Crowds gather for the pre-inaugural ceremony of Evo Morales. Jan 21, 2006.

Evo Morales at his pre-inaugural ceremony. Jan 21, 2006.



Women coca growers participate in an adult literacy class as part of the "I can do it" literacy campaign. June 12, 2006.

Bolivia is the staging ground for a heavy weight round of the international class struggle, and this is both a blessing and a curse. Its curse is the intense pressure that is being brought against the fighters there by imperialists and their local representatives. Its blessing is that Bolivia is not alone – working, poor, and oppressed people in every country of the world must take up the defense of the Bolivian revolutionary process as our own struggle. Bolivia represents a threat to imperialism, and a promise to all oppressed people in the world.



A child's drawing celebrates the nationalization of gas in Bolivia.

By Aaron Mercredi

*It is a fact that today in Canada today, Indigenous people are survivors of genocide and live in defiance of Canada's attempts to extinguish us. This, however, has not changed Canada's approach to its 'Indigenous problem', and because of this, Indigenous people suffer at the hands of the Canadian institution disproportionately to non-Indigenous people in this country.*

*Today, we are the largest prisoner population in the country. According to the One-Day Snapshot of Aboriginal Youth in Custody, which was put together by the Department of Justice of Canada in 2004, while Aboriginal youth comprised approximately 5% of the Canadian population, 33% of youth in custody were Aboriginal. This is no coincidence if you look at the long history of abuse against Indigenous people and the systemic racism in the colonial justice system that exists in Canada.*

*Historically, the police agencies of Canada are not known for their fair treatment of Indigenous people. Their very creation was as a tool of suppressing and spreading terror throughout Native communities whose land and resources their bosses, the colonial government of Canada, was after.*

*Today, there are too many examples that prove that nothing has changed. The police are still used against Indigenous people who assert their rights and stand up against land grabs by the provincial and federal governments. And Indigenous people remain targets for harassment, beatings, and murders. In Saskatchewan, there is the memory of Neil Stonechild, who was beaten by the Saskatoon Police Department and left to freeze to death outside of the city which led to the discovery of many similar cases. In Vancouver, there is the case of Frank Paul, who was left by the*

*VPD to freeze to death in a Downtown Eastside alley, or of Gerald Chenery, who died of multiple gunshot wounds from the VPD in yet another East side alley.*

*This last June, four young Native women were singing traditional songs in an East Vancouver park. A police officer pulled up and began harassing them, chased them and threatened them. This incident is not isolated; the police routinely target Indigenous people, people of colour, and poor people. What makes this story different is that these women took this attempt to rob them of their dignity and pride by standing even prouder, with a whole community to back them up. On September 7<sup>th</sup>, they organized a reclamation of Commercial Drive and mobilized the Native community and allies against this abuse. Over a hundred people came together at the intersection of Broadway and Commercial Drive and marched to the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre to show unity in the face of abuse and harassment by the police. Energy filled the streets. We had the opportunity to talk with Jerrilyn Webster, who was one of the organizers of the event about what happened and their work in the community.*

# COLONIAL CONDUCT, POLICE BRUTALITY & ABORIGINAL YOUTH



## Harassment and Abuse at the Hands of the VPD: An Interview with Jerrilyn Webster, a community activist

By Aaron Mercredi

**FTT:** Can you tell us who you are, where you're from and what you do?

JW: My name is Jerrilyn Webster. My Indian name is Aquashems. Also, I'm a hip hop artist. My MC name is JB The First Lady. Who I am? Who do I represent? I'm also from the Nuxalk Nation, the Cayuga Nation and Mohawk Nation. What do I do? I'm a youth advocate. I advocate for youth voice. I advocate for youth to express themselves through creative ways such as music, art, visual art, performance art. Any kind of art. I currently work at Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association (KAYA) as the Street Team Outreach Coordinator. So, with all that said, I'm a director, I'm a producer of theatre, performance, music and hip hop artists. Yeah, that's about it.

**FTT:** This summer, you were the victim of police harassment and abuse. Could you explain what happened?

JW: This isn't an isolated incident. This is not the only incident that has happened to myself or my peers who were involved. Just to start off with that. Because this happens on a regular basis every single day. So since that incident of harassment by police, we filed a complaint. The complaint is under investigation now. It has been at least three months since we've been empowering ourselves. And we've heard about a few more instances after that where young people have been beaten up, harassed, or racially profiled. You know, I can think of at least four incidents off the top of my head, because I am an outreach worker, that young people have been beaten up because they were at the wrong place at

the wrong time, because they're Native, right?

**FTT:** How do you think this relates to the history of discrimination and racial profiling against Native people and what exists today all over Canada? The situation where Native people are totally targeted systemically by the police and the justice system?

JW: Well, I think that everything is a learnt behaviour. The cops, or the new recruits, they have this stereotype in their head already, this assumption that Native people are a certain way. And where does that come from? That comes from the media. It comes from the racism that still exists against Native people, especially here in Canada. You know, on a regular basis. I can really feel it when I'm on a bus or on a street. You know, Johns follow me, thinking that I'm a

sex trade worker. Police follow me if I'm hanging out near a park, just like what happened that night. Or in grocery stores or in stores. I get followed on a regular basis. And that is a daily struggle. No one has to say anything, you can just feel it.

But as far as the cops, they've been taught that. Because they don't know any better. I have compassion for them, as much as they hurt myself, and my peers, and my family. Even killed one of my family members because they beat them up so much. And I have compassion because they haven't been taught the right way. There are no teachings for them. And cops live in this subculture work environment and life where they are basically forced to think that way. And that is screwed up because they are



**Jerrilyn Webster leading chants at a Vancouver rally in support of the Six Nations Reclamation.**

*Continues on Page 15*

peer-pressed, like a gang, and have to show their street cred. So, how do you get street cred? By racial profiling, to get those high numbers, the quota, you know? And I think that's where it comes from.

**FTT: What did you guys do to respond to the incident?**

JW: Well, right after, we said that we wanted to (laughs) give thanks to that cop for showing us those lessons and showing the relationship between Native people and the police and where our society sits with Native people in respecting or acknowledging Native people. They don't. They don't even realize that this is Coast Salish territory, or what territory they are on. Or what the language is, or what the dances are.

The community has heard about it because we filed a formal complaint with the Police Department. And they are doing an internal investigation, and we are just waiting to hear back about it. Also, through that, the community heard about it, and a bunch of different community members—people from UNYA, Justice for Girls, KAYA, said that we do need to raise awareness about police brutality and racial profiling. So, we decided to raise awareness by a reclamation of Commercial



and hard for my children's children. And it's not like I'm a criminal or trying to get in trouble with the police. But this happened. But this is the last time, I said. People need to be aware about what happens to me and what happens to my peers. Because there's

comes together. The only way we can make change is with the people. The people! It is not just one person. It's not just one politician. It is not just one police officer to be a liaison between the VPD and the Native community. No, it goes

## Police Brutality

### ~ An Interview with an Indigenous activist ~

*Continued*



Vancouver demonstration against police brutality against Indigenous people. Sept, 2006.

Drive. 'Take back our streets! Take back our voices!' And how did we do that? We did that through our drums and through our songs. We had our elders there. And also we had a very pivotal point for healing by having a brush off ceremony at the site. So elders came and supported me and my other sisters in the brushing off ceremony and it really helped. And we reclaimed the song too. After that, we had the march, the reclamation. And we showed the Native community and the commercial drive community, or society, that our community as the Native community, we are not going to stand for brutality, abuse, racial profiling, harassment or police brutality, you know? And we're going to empower ourselves through coming together and celebrating that, that we do have voices, that these are our streets. And it was so powerful. There were over 100 people there. People on the march started telling stories that had happened. And mind you, this is not the first time that I was harassed or racially profiled. This is about the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> time that I can count of the many incidents that I've encountered. And I'm working hard for my community, hard for my peers

about 98% don't get out there: young kids getting beat up, because those kids don't know their rights. And it doesn't just happen to Native people. It happens to other communities: The Indo community, the Asian community, getting profiled because of their race, because of the colour of their skin. It's other communities, and maybe just youth in general.

**FTT: When things like this happen, why do you think it is important to bring people**

to the people. That is the only way we can make change. And that's why it is so important that we support our young people. And there are organizations out there, but the stories need to be told. And the stories aren't being told because when you make a complaint, it's not user friendly, it's not people friendly. The process is too slow and there is no justice to it. There is absolutely no justice to making a complaint, I think. So, we decided that we needed to take other actions. So, is it through

truth through their music. That is what is so important and so amazing. I don't have to follow the system, you know? I am going around and I'm going to come through the back door with it, you know? And it's through the arts, through music, through my own expression. It is about healing. There needs to be accountability. I think that is what is most important, especially against young Native women. There is no accountability for the 500 missing women. There is no accountability for the cleansing of the Downtown Eastside for 2010. There is no accountability for that. There is no accountability for young people getting racially profiled on the streets. There is no accountability for the 50,000 missing kids at residential schools. That is learnt behaviour through the federal, through the provincial, through the city, right? Through the Chief of Police down to the new recruit. No accountability. Once there is, once they heal, and once they deal, then there can be some change. But we need to do it ourselves as Native people. And I think we are through marches. Take back our streets, take back our voices.

**for justice?**

JW:

The only way to heal

Is to deal

Accountability is real

And that's what I give to everyone in their own lives cuz that's the only way we can create change is if we change ourselves. And others will see that in ourselves and maybe they will follow by example. We all want to make change. We all want to make the world a safe place. It's not like we do that on purpose. Also, I want the police to be more sensitive. I want the government to be more sensitive to what has happened to the Native people: the genocide. The ongoing genocide through addictions, through alcoholism, through abuse, through the police. I want them to be aware because they are being ignorant right now. I have to educate them. The youth have to educate them. They have to educate themselves, that's what I want to say to the police. Educate yourself 'cause you're not educated right now.

**FTT: Thanks a lot for the interview.**



**together, and mobilize to defend our rights?**

JW: Well, I think it is so important that the community

music, through art? After the march, we had a feast, a celebration—salmon—and a hip hop show. So we had young people come out and speak

**FTT: What next in this fight**

# HOMELESSNESS:

## a “Crack in the Foundation” of Canada

By Ivan Drury

According to the Greater Vancouver housing price index, property values have increased by 90% in the last five years. Every working and poor person in Vancouver knows this well. Since 1994, rent has skyrocketed along with the super-inflated housing market in all of Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. Welfare cheques have increased 0% in that same time.

### PIVOT Report: Statistics of Human Misery

The condition of living indoors for poor people in Vancouver is even more bleak. From 1970 to 2006, the number of available Single Resident Occupancy rooms (SROs) have decreased from 13,300 to 6,079. As the price of buying, and therefore renting, property continue to climb, the numbers of SROs continue to fall – despite the development of 99 new housing units between 2003 and 2005, Vancouver lost 415 housing units for low income singles in that same time period. As rent in traditional working class neighbourhoods like East Vancouver blow up along with the housing market bubble, and more people are pushed into the miserable conditions of SRO-living, the SROs themselves have ceased to be affordable to poor people in Vancouver.

A new report on housing and homelessness published in September 2006 by the Pivot Legal Society, called ‘Cracks in the Foundation’ examines this problem and demands action. The report says, “Over one quarter of the buildings surveyed [by Pivot] that provided rental rates listed as ‘affordable housing’ in the City’s Low Income Housing Survey had rents of \$380 or over, making them unaffordable to people on social assistance” who receive rent

cheques of only \$325 a month. Canvassing the entire list of 118 buildings listed by the City of Vancouver as “affordable housing,” the Pivot report reveals that only two rooms in the entire city have rents of \$325.

“Cracks in the Foundation” blames the combinations of increased rent and declining or stagnating wages for increased poverty, and

increased poverty for increased homelessness.

It finds that since 2002, the number of homeless people on the streets of Vancouver on any given night has more than doubled from city estimates of 628 to 1,300 today. And it concludes that this number will more than triple to 3,200 people by 2010.

This finding has sent waves of panic throughout the ruling class Vancouver and across Canada, ashamed of the open wounds of their capitalist system and how unattractive these wounds could make their markets for investors and shoppers.

Even the right wing mayor of Vancouver,

Sam Sullivan responded to its release with defensive apology, “I agree almost everything in the report. I think some of the living conditions of our most vulnerable people, is a civic, provincial and national shame.” Surrey City Councilor Judy Villeneuve agreed, “Our numbers are going to look just like that,” she said.

While the “Cracks in the Foundation” report reveals nothing new about the crisis of poverty and homelessness in Vancouver, the extreme levels of poverty that Pivot has exposed with this new report should have deep repercussions – and at very least should serve as ammunition for trade unions and every organization committed to the working class movement to fight for the rights, conditions and lives of poor people, and all working people in the midst of a global capitalist crisis.

### Homelessness – causes and solutions

The “Cracks in the Foundation” report is based on legal affidavits collected from people who are homeless, or the so-called “transitional-homeless” who live in Single Resident Occupancy (SRO) hotel rooms without access to their own bathrooms or kitchens and can be evicted to the streets at any time. The report was produced by the Pivot Legal society, a mostly volunteer group of lawyers with the stated mandate of “advancing the interests and improving the lives of marginalized persons through law reform, legal education, and strategic legal action.”

Pivot mostly contains its work to the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver (DTES) – but has avoided the worst traps that groups that focus on the DTES usually fall prey to. Because the strategy of the Pivot Legal society is to focus on legalistic channels for reform of the conditions that poor people live under in the DTES, they do not get their fingers stuck in the dam of endless suffering that has not ceased to flow in the thirty years that

tacking Canadian colonialism and fighting for self-determination for Indigenous nations in Canada, the problem of poverty in the DTES overall must also be tackled outside of the DTES.

The housing crisis and the crisis of homelessness will not be solved only by building social housing in the DTES at the levels suggested by the City of Vancouver in its 2005 Low Income Housing Survey. This is the same survey that lists as “affordable housing” SROs that are completely unaffordable to the majority of people who live in them. And with the average rent for a one bedroom in Vancouver sitting at more than \$837 (according to the CMHC), the amount of households in “need” of social housing has certainly grown since 2001, when the City charted the number of households at risk of homelessness at 56,000. This calculation was based on the estimated number of households paying more than 50% of their income to rent. To build enough social housing to serve all the people in need would mean replacing practically all rental housing in Vancouver, and a good portion of the housing being paid off on mortgage, with social housing – something clearly incompatible with the “housing market.”

### Social Housing Now!

The current housing market crisis in the US should serve as a warning of the days to come in Vancouver. Like in Vancouver, the US has just come through a long period of a “bubble” in the housing market. Like in Vancouver, this has meant a dramatic rise of homelessness and an estimated 3.5 million homeless people on the streets of the US at any given time. But rather than the end of the housing market “bubble” meaning an end to housing crises, it means the threat of a deep recession in the US that will increase poverty, and therefore homelessness, even more.



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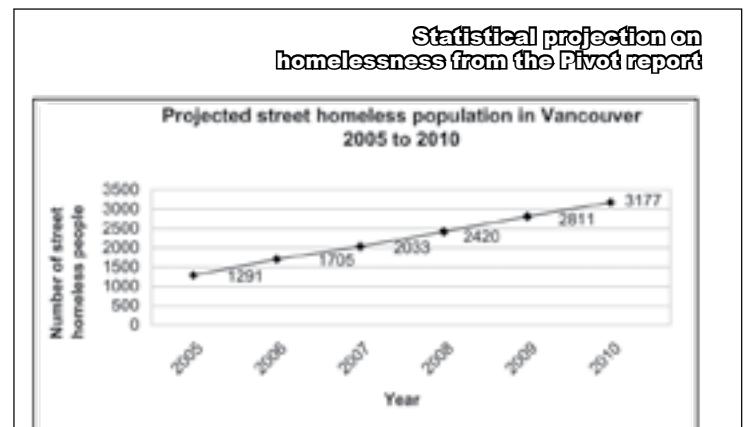
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advocates and service providers have stationed themselves in the DTES. The political focus of Pivot is actually outside of the DTES – and therefore they get successfully much closer to approaching the sources of the problems of

Pivot’s work has been effective because they have succeeded in opening the issues of poverty and homelessness for discussion and debate amongst people outside the DTES, and revealing the impact of capitalist crisis



*This chart is based on the current rate of 400 SRO units lost per year in Vancouver. The rate is 1.2 made homeless per lost SRO unit and takes into account planned new building construction for low-income singles by the City of Vancouver.*

poverty in the DTES.

The problems of the DTES are the property of the entire capitalist system in Canada. The desperately poor people who mostly inhabit the DTES migrate there from across Canada due, in the most part, to necessity. They are chased out of apartments in Surrey by over-inflated rents and then out of Surrey itself by the infamous harassment of the RCMP there, and move downtown – where the ruling class attempts to contain these “problem” people. They are chased off Indigenous reservations by joblessness and poverty and into the DTES by the anti-Native racism of landlords, bosses and the social worker system, and by police brutality and harassment. And just as the problem of the DTES as an Indigenous ghetto (with the highest concentration of off-reserve Indigenous people of anywhere in Canada) must be solved by

on working and poor people in Canada. They have exposed the ugliness of poverty and homelessness to the government and capitalist class that causes it, and they have held it up to working and oppressed people who must fight against it.

It is the job of all working, poor and oppressed people to fight against poverty, against cruel and unlivable welfare rates, against thieving landlords and bosses, and against the government that protects the interests of these criminals. In order to carry out this fight, we have to first identify the problems, and organize beyond any divisions of race, gender, level of poverty, DTES / non-DTES... in short, we have to unite. The Pivot report on housing is an important contribution to this struggle at a time of crisis that will affect us all.

# THE ONGOING BATTLE TO FREE THE 5 CUBAN HEROES GAINS STRENGTH IN VANCOUVER

By Noah Fine\*

On Monday July 24, thirty supporters of the Five Cuban Heroes and many people interested in learning more about the case of the Five displayed their true anger towards the government of the US for their continued imprisonment of the Cuban Five at the US consulate in Vancouver. However, this was an especially interesting protest at an interesting time for the Cuba solidarity movement in Vancouver. Organizers Sophie Ziner, Nicole Burton and Alison Bodine, all of whom had just returned from their experience in Cuba with Pastors for Peace talked about the great battle being waged in Cuba to combat the US terrorism that the Cuban Five were attempting to stop, as well as

the fight to free their five brothers from prison. Organizer with the Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver, Jane Ivanova, thanked the Pastors for

Peace travelers to Cuba for their inspirational talks on the struggle in Cuba and declared that they would bring their message of solidarity to Cuba with them to share with the Cuban people.

The demonstration ended with loud shouting towards the US consulate of "Freedom for the Five Now!"

On August 14, the Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver took to the streets in front of the US Consulate again, this time with an urgent message to

the US government.

If you keep informed with the updates



Cuban 5 Supporters outside US Consulate. July 24th, 2006.



Members of the Free the Cuban 5 Committee Vancouver deliver a letter to the US Consulate demanding freedom of the Cuban 5. July 24, 2006.

around the case of the Cuban Five, you will know that last year, on August 9, 2005, the Five Cuban Heroes were granted a retrial with a change of venue by a three-judge panel of the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta. The court stated a "prejudice" that exists in Miami against Cuba is so outspoken that to continue the trial for the Cuban Five in Miami would not resemble anything close to fairness. But you will also know that directly after this decision, the US government intervened in the decision and demanded that the full 12 judge panel of the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court review their decision on granting the Five Heroes a retrial. Exactly one year after the original decision by the court, they released their final decision – the Cuban Five would not get a retrial or change of venue - a decision in favor of the US government. The picket protest on August 14<sup>th</sup> was a response to this most recent injustice and received the solidarity of over 35 people in front of the US consulate to demand that the Five immediately be freed. That day we heard from Kelly White, a Coast

had arrived that day with a letter in condemnation of this latest legal setback in the case of the Five Cuban Heroes. The letter was addressed to the US government and was hand delivered to a Consular of the US consulate in Vancouver.

The Free the Cuban Five Committee-Vancouver has organized ten protest picket actions in front of the US consulate in the last ten months, and they plan to continue holding these and other actions in defense of the Five Cuban Heroes and to demand their release from prison until they are all returned to Cuban soil.

If you would like more information on the case of the Five Cuban Heroes or about work being done in your area to free the Five, please check out our website at: [www.vancubasolidarity.com/freethefivevan.html](http://www.vancubasolidarity.com/freethefivevan.html)

\*Noah Fine is the coordinator of the Free the Cuban Five Committee in Vancouver

## Poetry by Antonio Guerrero - One of the Cuban 5

### Valuable Cause

what will be of love and the eleven o'clock sun  
and the sad dawn without valuable cause?  
-- Mario Benedetti

We will show that are a path  
traversing shadows of our ancestors,  
that we are a mountain and a star  
with defined attributes.

We will show that we are invincible,  
that always the sun will rise for the valiant  
ones,  
no matter they lie in wait, they lock us up,  
they keep our skins from other skins.

We will show that in the difficult contests  
of conscience and power and vice-versa  
never will our firmness vacillate  
because love is our masterpiece  
and until death fills up with life,  
when one has valuable cause

December 8, 1999

### I Will Return

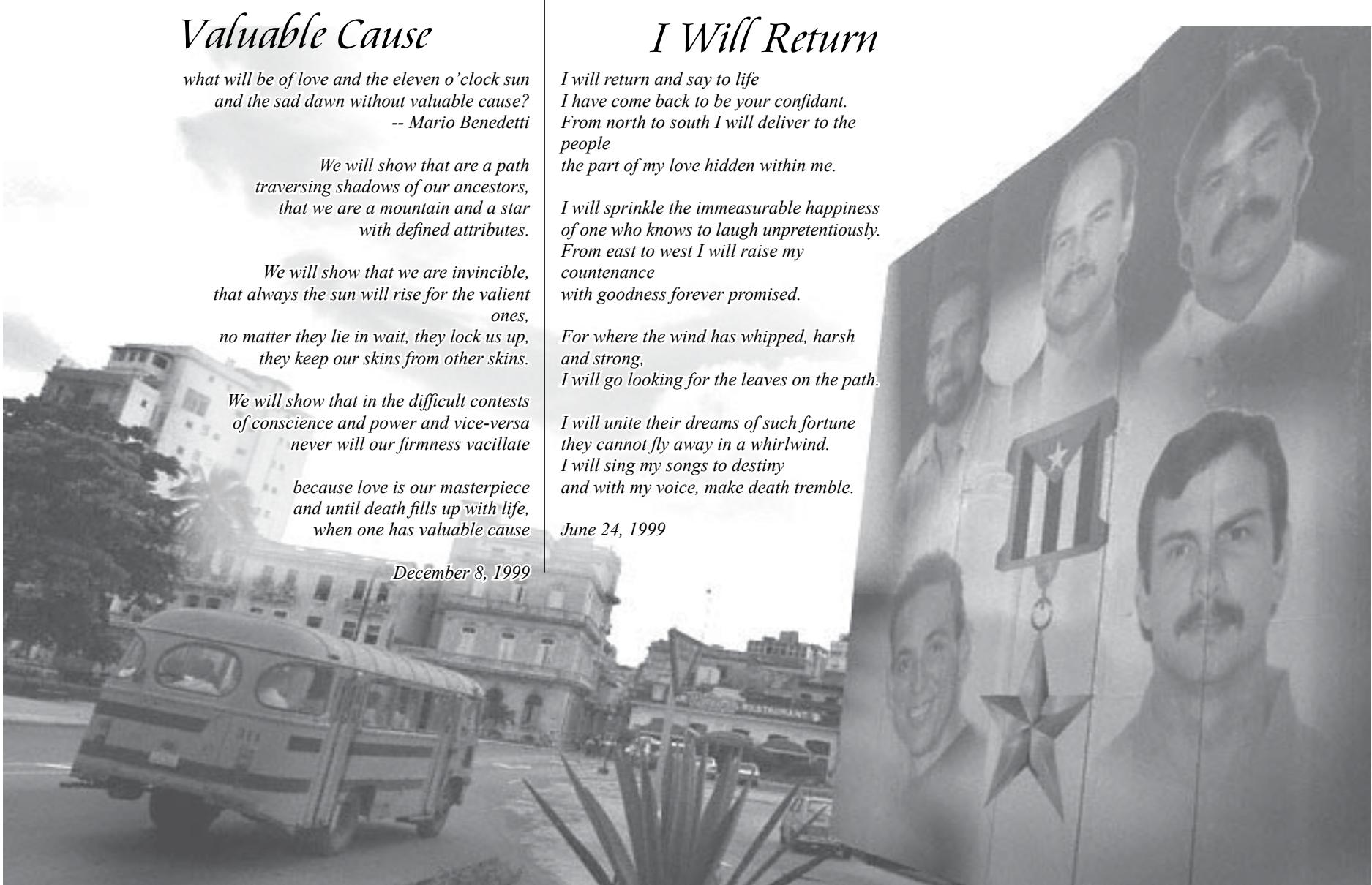
I will return and say to life  
I have come back to be your confidant.  
From north to south I will deliver to the  
people  
the part of my love hidden within me.

I will sprinkle the immeasurable happiness  
of one who knows to laugh unpretentiously.  
From east to west I will raise my  
countenance  
with goodness forever promised.

For where the wind has whipped, harsh  
and strong,  
I will go looking for the leaves on the path.

I will unite their dreams of such fortune  
they cannot fly away in a whirlwind.  
I will sing my songs to destiny  
and with my voice, make death tremble.

June 24, 1999



# Vancouver Celebrates Cuba's Revolutionary History

## July 26 1953

By Nita Palmer

On July 26, 2006, Cuba's compañeros celebrated the Cuban revolution at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. Joining 11 million people in Cuba, over 90 people celebrated the July 26, 1953



"Inspiration" performs at the Vancouver celebration.

attack on the Moncada Barracks in Cuba, which Cuba marks as the beginning of their struggle for sovereignty, human rights, and dignity.

The night began with a lively opening by MCs Colleen Glynn and Tamara Hansen, both members of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC), who hosted the night.

the Cuban revolution alive today, through ensuring that everyone has equal access to services like health care and education.

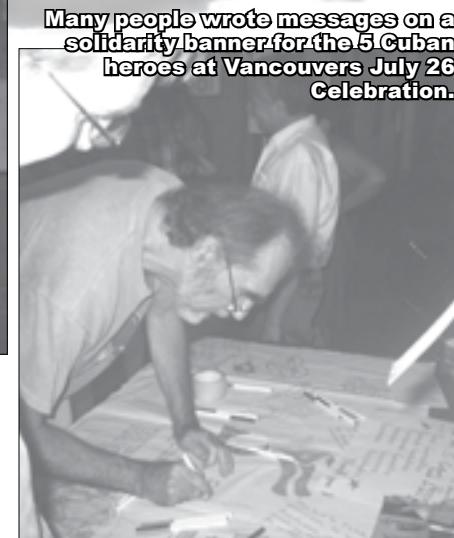
Following Sophie, Wilson Munoz, the coordinator of the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver spoke. Wilson noted that the ideas and values that the July 26, 1953 attack on the Moncada Barracks

brought were not only an inspiration to Cuba, but to all of Latin America. Former Vancouver City Counselor and long-time Cuba solidarity activist Tim Louis noted that the Cuban revolution was a hope not only for Cuba, but for all of Latin America and the world.

The final presentation before the music began was a letter from Lindsay Clarke, an organizer with



Former Vancouver City Councillor Tim Louis addresses the crowd on July 26.



Many people wrote messages on a solidarity banner for the 5 Cuban heroes at Vancouver's July 26 Celebration.



The program began with the film "On the Hillsides of the Himalayas", a heartwarming documentary about Cuban doctors who went to Pakistan as aid workers following the 2005 earthquake there.

Following the film, Jane Ivanova of the Free the Cuban Five Committee – Vancouver brought Cuba's struggle for social justice and human rights closer to home, speaking on the case of five Cuban men who have been held in U.S. jails for nearly eight years, simply for defending Cubans against U.S.-sponsored terrorism.

Sophie Ziner, an organizer with VCSC who had just returned from traveling with the Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba spoke about her experience of seeing

VCSC who was in Cuba on July 26. Lindsay's letter gave an account of the July 26 celebrations in Cuba, attended by millions of people.

The night closed with a dynamic musical performance by Inspiration, who were performing for the first time in public as a group. Inspiration, together with the presentations throughout the night, conveyed the feeling of hope in the struggle for humanity that celebration of July 26 represents in Cuba and around the world. As the last performance wrapped up, dancing continued on into the night, as the finale to the Vancouver celebration of the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the beginning spark of the Cuban revolution.



Fidel Castro addresses a rally on July 26 1962.



Fidel Castro, following his arrest in 1953.



Moncada Garrison.



Moncada Garrison covered in bullet holes.

# VANCOUVER GEARS UP TO HELP FIVE HEROES FREEDOM FUND

By Sophie Ziner

In the warm sunshine of Sunday July 9, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) and the Free the Cuban Five Committee – Vancouver organized a very successful "Free the Cuban Five Garage Sale!"

Taking place on bustling Commercial Drive in East Vancouver, the Free the Cuban Five Garage Sale was a fundraiser for the Five Heroes Freedom Fund, a campaign launched by the National Committee to Free the Five in the United States. This campaign is to raise a \$250 000 towards advertisements to inform people living in the U.S. about the case of these Five Cuban Heroes. As lawyer for the Five, Leonard Weinglass has said- "The Five really need this kind of support because the disinformation is horrendous and the government has succeeded in either bottling up the information about the case entirely or spreading disinformation about it".

René Gonzalez, Ramon Labanino, Gerardo Hernandez, Antonio Guerrero, and Fernando Gonzalez are five Cuban men who are in prison in the United States for simply defending their country, Cuba, from terrorist



attacks by right-wing anti-Cuba groups in Miami. The eight years of these men's incarceration and trial has exposed exactly what the US government means by "justice". The Five were thrown in solitary confinement for 17 months, handed trumped up charges of "conspiracy to commit espionage", given a trial by jury in Miami, the most anti-Cuban city in the world, and are denied access to lawyers and family members. At the same time, the US government uses the twists and turns of the legal system to protect self-admitted terrorists like Luis Posada Carriles.

In Vancouver, we have been doing our part to try and raise awareness about the case and to fundraise for the campaign, and we are happy to announce that with hundreds of people coming out to sort through our treasures and purchase items to support the international effort to raise funds to Free the Five, we raised just over \$700! This money is being added to the other funds collected by the Canadian Network on Cuba. The funds will soon be sent to the United States to support this important awareness campaign, which has already raised \$70,000!

Future plans include another garage sale, a silent auction of souvenirs and memorabilia from Cuba, and many other events and fundraisers until these Five Heroes are free!



Since the imprisonment of the 5 Cuban Heroes in 1998, the biggest roadblock for the case has been a complete media blackout. The National Committee to Free the Cuban Five in the U.S. has launched a \$250,000 fund for a mass national media campaign. They are asking all individuals and organizations to do whatever possible in the raising of

this urgently needed money.  
To make a donation or to find out more about the "Five Heroes Freedom Fund" please check out  
[www.freethefive.org](http://www.freethefive.org) or  
[www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca](http://www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca)

Gerardo Hernández ~ Antonio Guerrero ~ Ramon Labanino ~ Fernando González ~ René González

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By Alison Bodine

Mobilization Against War and Occupation and the Canadian Muslim Alliance organize in response to the Israeli Invasion of Lebanon

On July 12, Israel invaded Lebanon. Israel bombed Lebanon and destroyed the infrastructure in an attempt to gain control over the people of Lebanon and especially over their resistance. The Palestinian and Lebanese resistance showed in their support of Hamas and Hezbollah, mass organizations against US imperialism and the Israeli occupation and war. Israel's war on Lebanon that took the lives of over 1300 Lebanese civilians and displaced one million was another arm of imperialism in the Middle East, alongside the occupations of Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine.

#### **March and Rally**

In Vancouver, the bloody and illegal invasion struck not only the Lebanese and Muslim communities, but also rang a high note in the necessity to unite all people against these attacks. On August 12<sup>th</sup>, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) and the Canadian Muslim Alliance (CMA) organized a demonstration also endorsed by the Lebanese-Canadian Cultural House and the al-Kowthar Islamic Community

## **Unity in Action in Vancouver Against the US-Israeli War Drive**



Association.

Over 500 people came to the streets to a rally and march demanding "Israel Out of Lebanon NOW!". The program included speakers from the Muslim, Lebanese, Iraqi, and Indigenous communities, as well as Latin American solidarity activists, all united against the US-Israeli war drive. This included Kelly White, a Coast Salish elder who opened the rally and welcomed the demonstration on to Coast Salish territory. She was followed by an impassioned and diverse line of speakers, introduced by the emcees of the demonstration - Shannon Bundock, co-chair of MAWO, and Dr. Warif Laila of Lebanese-Canadian Cultural House. Speakers included Dalal Noor, an Iraqi woman and MAWO organizer, Mohammed Mansour, a young man from the Lebanese community, Israa Noureddine, a 12-year-old Lebanese girl, and Mohammed Afzal Malik, president of the Canadian Muslim Alliance (CMA), among others. All of the speakers called for unity against Israel's attack. They connected the struggle of the Lebanese and the Palestinians to the day-to-day struggle of the people of Iraq and Afghanistan against the US and Canadian led occupations of those countries. As the final blow, a resolution demanding self-determination for Lebanon and Palestine and an immediate withdrawal of all troops was

passed with resounding cheers.

#### **Forum**

Within Israel's invasion, it was not only important to go out and demonstrate opposition, but also to educate and arm ourselves for this increasing war drive. On August 14<sup>th</sup>, a "ceasefire" was called. This ceasefire did not mean a stop in Israeli's air strikes or brutality, but it did mean a great deal of confusion for people who thought that this might mean the end of the war. MAWO organized a forum titled "What is Behind the US-Israeli War Drive in Gaza and Lebanon" on August 18<sup>th</sup> to open discussion on this issue. The forum panel included Dr Warif Laila, an activist and organizer against the attack on Lebanon, Mohammed Afzal Malik, president of the Canadian Muslim Alliance, Mazen Fawaz, Lebanese student living in Vancouver, and Ivan Drury, organizer with MAWO. The discussion that followed between all 80 people in attendance was a telling exploration into the connections between the invasion of Lebanon and the occupation of Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan. The event left everyone with a clear message: Israel lost the war on Lebanon, but this is also not the end to the brutality and destruction by imperialism in Lebanon, much less the Middle East.

## **Victoria in Action!**



**Contact Randy for more info or to get involved with the Victoria Goods for Cuba Campaign:**

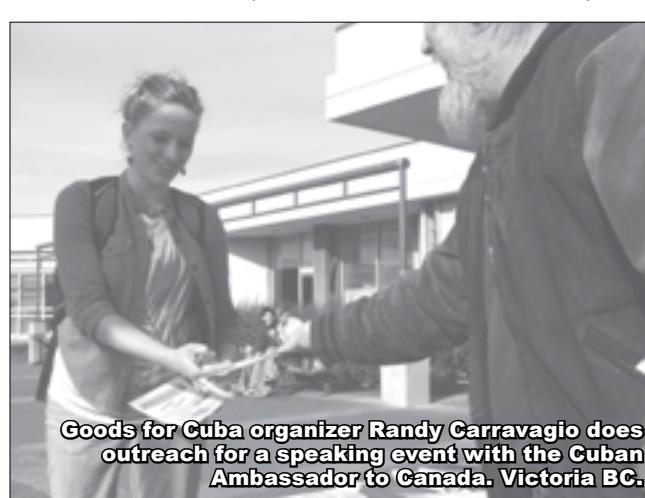
**Phone: 250-743-2994  
E-Mail: [vicc@telus.net](mailto:vicc@telus.net)**

#### **Upcoming Event:**

**Commemorating Che Guevara  
Sunday, October 8  
7-9 PM, Room C103,  
David Strong Building,  
UVic**



*On October 8, 1967, Argentinian doctor Ernesto "Che" Guevara de la Serna, one of the leaders of the Cuban revolution, was captured and executed by US-directed Bolivian troops. His writing and actions continue to influence many people today. Join us to commemorate his life. The evening will feature a showing of *The Motorcycle Diaries*, a film adaptation of Che's memoirs of the adventures he and best friend Alberto Granado experienced while crossing South America by motorcycle in the early 1950s. The film is a moving portrayal of the Che's awakening of political consciousness from his witnessing of exploitation and injustice.*



**Goods for Cuba organizer Randy Caravagio does outreach for a speaking event with the Cuban Ambassador to Canada. Victoria BC.**

**Co-sponsored by the Goods for Cuba Campaign and VIPIRG**



# RHYMES WITH RESISTANCE

*By Nicole Burton*

From July 21– 23, the Lower Mainland played host to the second annual Hip-Hop Festival Against War and Occupation, organized by Vancouver anti-war coalition Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO). These three days turned up the beats, rhymes, and lyrics of anti-war hip-hop from around the world, with more than 50 local and international artists who performed to 2000 people at six different events over the summer weekend.

"Hip-hop has become the protest music of the 21<sup>st</sup> century," said Ivan Drury, an organizer with MAWO and this year's anti-war hip-hop festival. "As war and occupation works

to destroy lives in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Lebanon, and the lives of the poor and working in North America, more and more people –particularly youth—are using hip-hop as a weapon to express their opposition."

The Festival began on Friday afternoon at Ambleside Park, for an all-ages show co-sponsored by the Ambleside Youth Centre and the City of West Vancouver. This was followed by a show that night in Downtown Vancouver at the Picadilly Pub. On Saturday, an indoor show packed people into the Jabez Café in Surrey, with an energetic concert later that night at the Richmond Community Centre, co-sponsored by the City of Richmond. To end this year's Festival, the weekend pulled to a close with an all-day hip-hop extravaganza on the Britannia Community Centre track field in East Vancouver, and a smooth night of anti-war "free-styling" at El Cocal Restaurant on Commercial Drive.

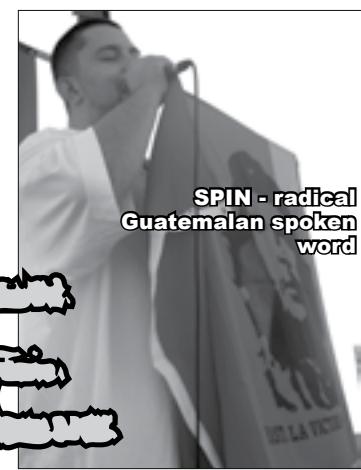
Slotted by local media as one of the top musical events to attend in BC this summer, the Hip-hop Festival Against War and Occupation drew crowds from Seattle to Vancouver Island. Headlining artists that drew large numbers included Colombia-based female duo, Sepia, L.A.-based performers from the Philistines and the



Os12, of local Indigenous crew Sunday Skool Dropoutz.



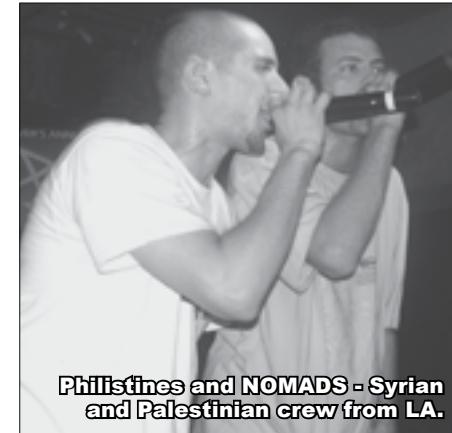
Sepia - Colombian MCs with a political bent.



SPIN - radical Guatemalan spoken word

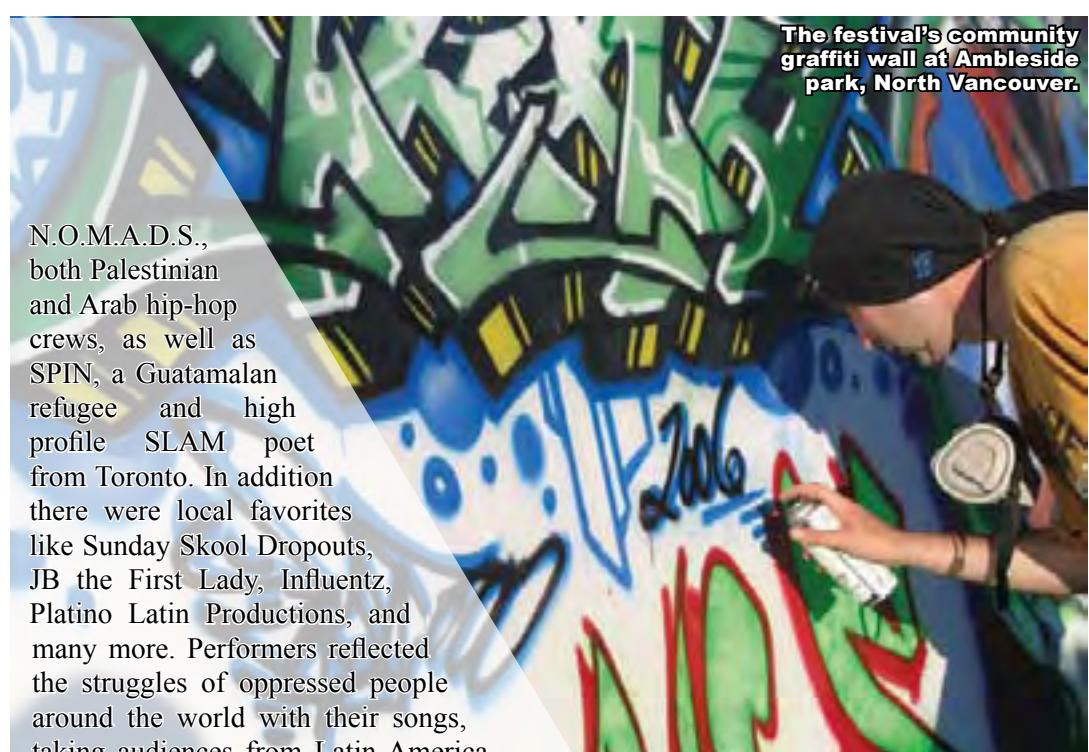


JB the First Lady - Nuxalk and Cayuga Nations



Philistines and NOMADS - Syrian and Palestinian crew from LA.

## Vancouver Hosts the Second Annual Hip-hop Festival Against War and Occupation!



The festival's community graffiti wall at Ambleside park, North Vancouver.

N.O.M.A.D.S., both Palestinian and Arab hip-hop crews, as well as SPIN, a Guatamalan refugee and high profile SLAM poet from Toronto. In addition there were local favorites like Sunday Skool Dropouts, JB the First Lady, Influentz, Latino Latin Productions, and many more. Performers reflected the struggles of oppressed people around the world with their songs, taking audiences from Latin America to the Middle East, Africa to Southeast Asia, and on to the stolen land of Indigenous nations in Canada.

Through the medium of art and music, thousands of people joined in this year's Festival to use hip-hop as a weapon against war. Politically charged lyrics, public speakers, petitions and informational materials all made the Festival a space for people to use art as a political tool of resistance—a tool to educate and mobilize, and a tool of expression.



Rapsure Risin' - Local Indigenous Crew.

But, as many performers said while onstage that weekend, resistance does not begin or end with a microphone.

To truly confront this era of war and occupation that we are living it, it means getting further involved in the anti-war movement, and joining oppressed people in their fight against attacks, at home and abroad!

# EVENTS and ACTIONS

## Vancouver

Saturday October 7  
**Dia del Guerrillero Heroico – Day of the Heroic Popular Fighter**  
 Commemoration of the death of Che Guevara and all men and Women who have fallen in liberation struggles.  
 7PM  
 Dogwood Centre, 706 Clark Drive  
 Free Admission  
 Org'd by: La Surda Latin American Collective  
 For more info:  
 lasurda@resist.ca

Friday October 13  
**FILM SHOWING: Haiti: We Must Kill the Bandits**  
 7PM  
 SFU Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings - Fletcher Room  
 Admission: \$5 Donation  
 Org'd by: Haiti Solidarity BC  
 For more info: 778.858.5179 | haitisolidaritybc@yahoo.ca

October 16-27  
**5<sup>th</sup> Student Week Against War & Occupation**  
 Anti-war events at campuses across the Lower Mainland!  
 Org'd by: Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO)  
 For more info:  
 www.mawovancouver.org  
 info@mawovancouver.org | 604.322.1764

Saturday October 28  
**Bring the Troops Home!**  
 Gather: 12 Noon - Waterfront

Station  
 March: 1PM  
 Rally: 2PM  
 – Vancouver Art Gallery, Georgia @ Howe  
 Org'd by: Stopwar.ca

Sunday October 29  
**Imperialist Aggression & the Era of War and Occupation**

ALL DAY CONFERENCE  
 10AM-7PM  
 Britannia Community Centre,  
 1661 Napier St @ Commercial Dr.  
 Org'd by: Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO)  
 For more info: www.mawovancouver.org  
 info@mawovancouver.org | 604.322.1764

## Comox Valley

Saturday October 28  
**Bring Them Home, Keep Them Home!**  
 2PM  
 CFB Comox – Ryan Road Gates  
 Org'd by: Comox Valley Peace Group  
 For more info: 250.897.3916

## Toronto

Thursday October 5  
**Remembering Che's Legacy**  
 8PM  
 Latinada Bar & Grill, 1671 Bloor St. West  
 Org'd By: Canadian-Cuban



Friendship Association - Toronto  
 For more info: 416.989.6643 | mitziconcha@yahoo.com

Saturday October 14  
**Solidarity Event with Six Nations**

5PM – Movies and Meal  
 7PM – Speakers  
 Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre  
 1499 Queen St. West  
 Admission: Pay what you can

Saturday October 28  
**Troops Out of Afghanistan!**  
 March & Rally

1PM  
 U.S. Consulate, 360 University Ave.  
 Org'd by: Toronto Coalition to Stop the War  
 For more info: www.nowar.ca | stopthewar@sympatico.ca

## Victoria

Monday October 2  
**Public Rally BC Government Retired Employees Assoc.**  
 Rally 12:30-2:00PM  
 Gather on the steps of the Provincial Legislature  
 Org'd by: BC Government Retired Employees Assoc.

Sunday October 8  
**Commemorating Che Guevara**

7-9 PM, Room C103,  
 David Strong Building, UVic  
 Co-sponsored by the Goods for Cuba Campaign and VPIRG

October 14 and 15  
**Cine Sur – A Festival of Films from El Salvador**

Film Festival  
 Sat Oct 14 – 3pm-11pm  
 Sun Oct 15 – 3pm-9pm  
 BCGEU Hall – 2994 Douglas St.  
 Admission \$5 per day or \$8 for both days

Org'd by: Central America Support Cttee and FMLN Victoria

For more info: 250.598.7690

Saturday October 28  
**Bring the Troops Home!**  
 March & Rally

12 Noon  
 Centennial Square  
 For more info:  
 Andrew Barry – 250.885.2210

## Winnipeg

Saturday October 28  
**End Canada's War on Afghanistan!**  
 Rally! March! People's Forum!  
 1PM  
 Gather @ Central Park  
 March to forum @ University of Winnipeg – Bulman Centre  
 Org'd by: Peace Alliance Winnipeg  
 For more info: www.peacealliancewinnipeg.ca | 204.947.2220

## Ottawa

Saturday October 28  
**Troops Out of Afghanistan Now!**  
 RALLY  
 1PM  
 Peacekeeping Monument (Sussex Dr.)  
 Org'd by: NOWAR-PAIX  
 For more info: www.nowar-paix.ca

Saturday October 28  
**Student Anti-war Action**  
 RALLY  
 11AM at Human Rights Monument (Elgin & Lisgar)  
 March to join the City-wide rally @ Peacekeeping Monument  
 Org'd by: Student Coalition Against War  
 For more info: scaw.ottawa@gmail.com

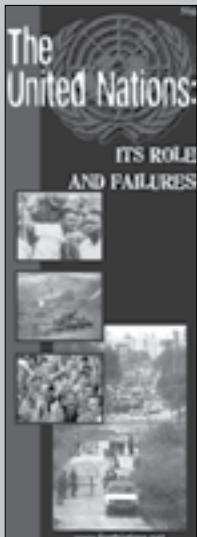
## Distribute Revolutionary Change in Your Area!

For distribution of Fire This Time in your area, across BC, and internationally, please contact:

**Mike Chimenti**  
 Publicity and Distribution Coordinator  
 Phone: (604) 518-5009  
 Email: distro@firethistime.net



## Also Available from FIRE THIS TIME



For more pamphlets available from Fire This Time Contact:  
 Mike Chimenti (604) 518-5009 distro@firethistime.net  
 Or view all available titles at [www.firethistime.net](http://www.firethistime.net)

Join the Pan-Canadian day of action to demand:  
**Canadian Troops Out of Afghanistan**

Rally and March  
 Sat, Oct 28th

Noon, Waterfront Station  
 (at Canada Place)

March  
 1:00pm

Rally  
 2:00pm,  
 Vancouver Art  
 Gallery (Georgia side)



## Subscribe to Fire This Time!

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For a one year subscription, make cheques payable to "Shannon Bundock"

Send along with form to:  
 PO Box 21607  
 Vancouver BC  
 V5L 5G3

Canada \$15  
 USA \$20  
 International \$30

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# Vancouver in Action Against War & Occupation

## Anti-war Activists Respond Strongly to the Canadian War Drive

By Nicole Burton

Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) was busy this summer, continuing their campaign to demand "Canada Out of Afghanistan!" and "Call for an Independent Public Inquiry into the Canadian War Drive!" through regular picket actions outside of the Canadian Forces Recruitment Centre in Vancouver. For three weeks consecutively, protesters picketed the Centre on July 13th, July 27th, and August 3rd in a rapid and organized response to developments of Canada's ongoing and criminal occupation of Afghanistan.

In July and August, bad news from Afghanistan reached Canada's headlines many times, and each week they were more frequent and worsening to hear: More than 500 innocent Afghans, eight Canadian soldiers and one Canadian aid worker were killed within three weeks as the occupation forces battled the growing resistance in southern Afghanistan. On the day of the first picket action, July 13th, it had only been a year since Canadian Chief of Defence Staff Rick Hillier said that Canada would deploy 2,000 more soldiers to Afghanistan to kill "murderers", "scumbags", and "terrorists".

All pickets were organized on less than a week's notice, each one responding to news of the deaths of Canadian soldiers, or in response to new imperialist attacks. And at each of the three, the emergency protest was joined by dozens of protesters who reflect the diversity of the growing opposition to Canada's mission in Afghanistan: youth, elders, people of colour, Indigenous people, women, immigrants, refugees, students, and workers.

With each picket action, opposition gains strength and more publicity. An example is MAWO's petition campaign demanding Canada Out of Afghanistan!, which reached 10,000 signatures in May 2006, and has already gained 2,000 more names this summer. And with Canada's role in Afghanistan on the rise, alongside the rising death toll of Canadian soldiers and Afghan men, women, and children, now is the time more than ever to get involved in the anti-war movement.

*Canada Out of Afghanistan!  
Bring Troops Home Now!  
Call for an Independent Public Inquiry into the Canadian War Drive!*



MAWO Picket at Canadian Forces Recruitment Centre. July 27, 2006.



TShirts  
\$15  
each

Buttons:  
50 cents  
each

## Show Your Opposition to War & Occupation!

Contact Vancouver's Antiwar Coalition  
**Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO)**

for your order of buttons or t-shirts:

P. 604 322 1764

F. 604 322 1763

E. info@mawovancouver.org

Check Out Antiwar Events in the Lower Mainland at

**MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG**

\*This t-shirt also available in Red, Dark Green, Light Blue and Pink



# Heidi in U.S. Jails!

**PROTEST THE 8TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF UNJUST IMPRISONMENT!**



**Rally & March**  
**3PM**  
**Saturday**  
**Sept 23**

**Vancouver Art Gallery**  
**(Robson St. & Howe St.)**

# Vancouver Art Gang (Robson St. & Howie Street) March to the U.S. Consulate

**Free the Cuban Five Committee - Vancouver**  
[www.vancubasdolarity.com/freethefivevan.html](http://www.vancubasdolarity.com/freethefivevan.html)  
cuban5\_van@yahoo.com | 604-719-6947

Endorsed by: Hospital Employees' Union (HEU), Social Justice Center of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, Capilano Students' Union (CSU), UBC Social Justice Center, Latinos in Action, Code Pink Women for Peace, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCS), Knoll Magazine, Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq & Internationally UBC Stephen Buckley-Poet and Political Editoralist, La Sorda- Latino American Collective, Work Less Party, Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Courtenay, Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association, Cuba Education Tours, Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice, Michael Lebowitz – Professor Emeritus of Economics-SFU, KSS Students for Peace-Kwantlen Secondary, Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO), Kanadian Post Kidz, UVIC Students Against War, Michael Neronen- Vancouver City Councillor, SFU Mobilization Against War & Occupation Club United Against War & Occupation (LSU AW), Lisa Barrett-Bowen Vancouver City Councillor, Tim Louis-Fomer Vancouver City Councillor, SFU Mobilization Against War, Indigenous Perspectives - Coop Radio 102.7FM, Iranian Committee Against War, Kla How Yah FM - on Co-Op Radio 102.7FM, Douglas Students Against War, Indigenous Rights and Action Project (IRAP) Vancouver, A Solidarity Victoria, Victoria Goods for Cuba, Kla How Yah FM - on Co-Op Radio 102.7FM, Douglas Students Against War, Indigenous

# SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE WITH CUBA, VENEZUELA, & BOLIVIA

## FREE EVENT

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

**Laureano Cardoso**  
Cuban Consul General in Toronto

# **Samira Amndan**

Official Representation from  
Venetulus Consultata

in Toronto

**Gloria La Riva**  
Coordinator of the National  
Committee to Free the  
Five in the U.S.

**Claudio Vidal**  
Professor of Sociology  
Kuwait University

Kwamehill University College

*A full-day conference with special speakers and discussion on the dynamics of revolutionary movements in Latin America. Closing with a cultural night & celebration!*

For Registration, or for More Info: MAY 20th COALITION  
bcmay20demo@yahoo.ca | 778-882-5223 | 604-732-5197



# **Student Week against war & occupation**

FALL  
**2006**

**US / UK OUT OF IRAQ! CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN!  
ISRAEL OUT OF LEBANON & PALESTINE!  
SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS!**

**October 16th - 27th**

Two weeks of events on campuses across the Lower Mainland leading up to a weekend of antiwar action!

A full calendar  
of all campus events is  
coming soon!

Check the website for details:

**SUNDAY October 29**

Imperialist Aggression & the Era of War and Occupation

Free all-day antiwar conference on building an effective anti-war movement

10AM - 7PM

Britannia Community Center  
(1661 Napier St @ Commercial Dr.)

**SATURDAY, October 28**

International Day of Action Against the US in Iraq, and Cross-Canada Day Against Canada in Afghanistan.

Organized by Mobilization Against War & Occupation = MAWO  
**mawovancouver.org** (604) 322-1764