

We are realists... We dream the impossible - Che

ftt FIRE THIS TIME

In English / En Español



Alison Bodine, Antiwar Activist Under Attack - Page 5

*40 year anniversary
of the assassination of*
Che Guevara

*his Ideals &
his Battles for
Revolutionary
Change today*

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By Tamara Hansen

On Sunday October 21st 2007, Cubans headed to the polls. Yes, I do in fact mean elections polls - What, you didn't know there are elections in Cuba?

Back and forth between Fidel and Bush - Democracy, in Cuba?

On July 9th 2007, Cuba announced a new round of general elections to take place in Cuba this fall and winter. This began a great new war of words, or Battle of Ideas between Cuba and the US government over democracy and the electoral system in Cuba.

Cuba's Council of State called for the general elections to begin on October 21st 2007 with the election of municipal assemblies across the country. This will lead to the election of provincial delegates and deputies to the National Assembly for sometime in early 2008.

The day after Cuba announced its elections the debate and public discussion began. In a July 10th Agence France-Presse (AFP) article, US State Department spokesman Tom Casey is reported to have said, "If Castro-lite, meaning Raul Castro, wants to hold elections-lite, meaning the kind that they have held in the past -- single party elections that don't allow the people to have a choice and only allow them to ratify the rule of the current dictatorship - whether its Fidel Castro's name that is on top of the ballot or Raul Castro's doesn't really matter

much." Then on October 19th in his "Reflections of a Commander in Chief" entitled, "the Elections". Fidel Castro responded. An article in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel explained, "Fidel Castro lampooned U.S. elections Saturday as corrupted by corporate money aimed at "brainwashing" the few Americans who still bother to go to the polls. The Cuban leader's comments came a day before the island holds elections featuring 37,258 candidates vying for 15,236 seats on local assemblies. Today begins a process that culminates with parliamentary elections next spring."

On October 24th when George W Bush opened his mouth to speak about Cuba, he had this to say, "Today I also am announcing a new initiative to develop an international multi-billion dollar Freedom Fund for Cuba. This fund would help the Cuban people rebuild their economy and make the transition to democracy. I have asked two members of my Cabinet to lead the effort -- Secretary Rice and Secretary Gutierrez. They will enlist foreign governments and international organizations to contribute to this initiative. And here's how the fund will work: The Cuban government must

Elections Called in Cuba

This is what Popular Democracy looks like!

11-million-strong popular democracy against US 2-party capitalist system

demonstrate that it has adopted, in word and deed, fundamental freedoms. These include the freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of press, freedom to form political parties, and the freedom to change the government through periodic, multi-party elections. And once these freedoms are in place, the fund will be able to give Cubans -- especially Cuban entrepreneurs -- access to grants, and loans and debt relief to help rebuild their country."

Wait, "Especially Cuban Entrepreneurs?" While Bush is complaining about the poor in Cuba, and the so-called "misery" of the Cuban people, he plans to help by giving them loans? What a generous humanitarian!

Cuba responded only a few hours later, when Felipe Perez Roque, Cuba's Foreign minister, adamantly rejected Bush's anti-Cuba speech. Juventud Rebelde,

was not happy that Cuba's revolutionary government, led by Fidel Castro, kicked US economic interests and exploitative businesses off their island. This is also why the US government is so interested in "helping" Cuban entrepreneurs.

The final word in this round of debate has come honourably and powerfully from the National Bureau of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) who rebutted Bush saying, "Mr. President of the United States, Your ridiculous words are embarrassing and disgusting to the Cuban youth. We wonder how it is possible that a man in charge of ruling over the richest country of the world can make

Homeland's independence, for which many of its better sons paid the high price of their lives."

What are elections like in Cuba?

Walter Lippmann, a long time social justice activist, writer, photographer and the moderator of the CubaNews e-mail list (a very popular source for a great collection of news on Cuba), was in Cuba for the recent October elections. Below are some of his very interesting observations.

"This route took me past dozens and dozens of places where the voting was going on. My guess is Cuba must be the easiest place in the world to vote, and voting is very, very strongly encouraged, though voting is not mandated by law. The polls opened at 7 AM and were active until 6 PM. Voter registration lists are posted outside

on in a very long time."

The basic explanation of how Cuban voting is set up:

- 1) The Cuban government has three main elected levels: municipal, provincial and national.
- 2) Elections begin at the municipal level, with residents in each constituency (a smaller area within a municipality) nominating between 2 and 8 candidates at public meetings held several weeks before the municipal election. Out of these candidates the constituency elects one delegate to their municipal assembly.
- 3) Once the municipal representatives have been elected they receive suggestions from nomination commissions for who should be elected to the provincial assembly and as the deputy to the national assembly. The municipal

the newspaper of Cuban youth, explained, "The diplomat [Felipe Perez Roque] cited one particular phrase by Bush, who said "the operative word in our future dealings with Cuba is not 'stability'; the operative word is 'freedom.'" Responding to this Pérez Roque commented, "Cuba understands those words—which demonstrate frustration, desperation and Bush's personal hatred of Cuba—as an invocation to the use of force and a call to violence, which Cuba rejects categorically."

Now, let us be clear that the government of the United States, whether it was the democrats or republicans in power, have labeled the Cuban government as tyrannical and undemocratic basically since the victory of the Cuban revolution. The reason? The United States government

such foolish remarks, blinded by hatred and powerlessness. [...] The Cuban youth, raised on values completely different to the model you represent, are not a bunch of uncommitted and fanatic people that will run after your cynical offerings. We know our history and have learned very well the lessons of sovereignty that so many generations have left us throughout many years. [...] There are many young people in this world to whom our everyday reality is just a dream, unreachable due to the genocidal wars and unsustainable consumption models that you defend no matter the consequences. [...] We know very well that the day that is coming will be the end of the criminal blockade and the overbearing and arrogant empire that threatens the human species. We will never negotiate our

each location, so everybody knows everybody. They're staffed by local volunteers, and a pair of Pionero children who salute each person after they deposit their hand-written ballot in the box. After 6 PM the polls close and the ballots were hand-counted there. Outside each place there were sample ballots posted, and some also had the real ballots posted with the actual names of the candidates, two to four of them, for that circumscription (in the U.S. we would call that a voting precinct). Each candidate had their personal history and organizational linkages posted with a color photograph, about 4x6 inches. In the past these photos had been black-and-white images printed like a driver's license or ID card photo. None were smiling. Some of the men looked like they hadn't had a tie

councils then vote on this grouping of suggested representatives.

4) This grouping is then sent to the population for ratification.

Who participates in the constituency elections? Article 132 of the Cuban Constitution ratified in 1992 states, "All Cubans over 16 years of age, men and women alike, have the right to vote except those who: a) are mentally disabled and have been declared so by court; b) have committed a crime and because of this have lost the right to vote." Who can be nominated as a candidate? Article 133 of the Cuban constitution states, "All Cuban citizens, men and women alike, who have full political rights can be elected. If the election is for deputies to the National Assembly of People's Power they must be more than 18 years old."

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Pioneers stand next to a ballot box at a polling station during Cuba's municipal elections in Havana.



Marlenes Alvarez Perez works at a polling station in the Playa district of Havana on Oct 21, 2007.



Pioneers stand next to a ballot box at a polling station during Cuba's municipal elections in Havana, Oct 21, 2007



Protesting the occupation, Baghdad, Iraq.

A Human Crisis & a Set Back for Civilization

By Nita Palmer

“Since my husband died I need to work outside the home and someone should stay at home to take care of the youngest children and I have no one but them. It is sad to see my two girls losing their future like this but it is better than losing their lives.” - Um Nour Zeid, Baghdad resident (IRIN news, October 29th 2007)

access to clean drinking water. 47% of the population of Iraq is “highly dependent on government rations”, according to the Non-governmental Coordination Committee in Iraq. However, few see access to these necessary rations, as cuts to aid and problems with the distribution system mean that only 40% of those who need rations are able to access them. As well, in recent months the number of reported cases of cholera has jumped from 30 to over 1,500, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

that money and saw my children screaming of happiness, I discovered that honor is insignificant compared to the hunger of my children.”

This is “freedom and democracy” in Iraq, US-style.

Morale Lower than Ever Among US Troops

The occupation has also brought a demoralizing and harmful situation for the

their commanders once in a while, pretending they are on patrol. This low morale among troops is also reflected in the desertion rate. In 2006, 3,196 soldiers deserted, according to the US Army. According to the International Herald Tribune “from 2002 through 2006, the average annual rate of army prosecutions of desertion tripled compared with the five-year period from 1997 to 2001”.

The unending combat, killing, and violence has also resulted in increased suicide rates and mental health problems for US troops in Iraq. One out of every three Iraq veterans needs mental health treatment, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association. Many suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Rates of depression and alcoholism are also high. According to the Associated Press, rates of soldiers at risk for suicide “are reminiscent of the increased suicide risk among returning soldiers in the Vietnam era.” The current suicide rate in the US Army is 17.3% - the highest level ever out of the 26 years that the army has kept records.

US Quagmire

The US government is facing a crisis in Iraq. They have failed to establish any of their true objectives in Iraq – which from the beginning were not to bring “freedom and democracy”, but were to open up Iraq for plunder and exploitation by US corporations, and to establish a permanent military presence for the US army in the strategically valuable location of Iraq. The chief reason that the US has not been able to establish its hegemony in Iraq is the Iraqi resistance. The resistance in Iraq has organized strikes, demonstrations, and spontaneous protests in addition to continued battles against the 160,000 troops and 126,000 “security forces” (private armies such as Blackwater USA Corp) occupying their country. Declining troop morale is another concern for the occupation forces, as they are less and less able to convince soldiers to fight this war which is attempting

On March 20th 2003, the US invaded Iraq. They promised that they would bring freedom, democracy, and a better life to Iraqi people. Fast-forward to 2007 and none of this is reality. Reality on the ground in Iraq is the experience of Um Nour Zeid and many others like her: complete insecurity and instability, increasing violence, and limited access to food, medicine and water. This is a crisis of Humanity.

Human Crisis

According to a recent report by the UK-based ORB polling agency, over 1.2 million Iraqis have been killed since the invasion and occupation began in 2003. Millions more have been injured. Besides these deaths, the devastating impact of occupation spreads into every corner and aspect of everyday life in Iraq.

Seventy percent of Iraqis do not have

Cholera is a disease which has been almost completely eliminated in much of the world, and can be prevented simply by having access to uncontaminated drinking water.

Before the occupation, widows in Iraq were provided with assistance and free education for their children. Today, 15% of women whose husbands have been killed by the occupation forces have been forced to turn to prostitution to survive. Families have been forced to sell their daughters into prostitution to put food on the table. Recalling how she got into prostitution, Baghdad resident Rana Jalil said, “When I came home with some food I had bought from

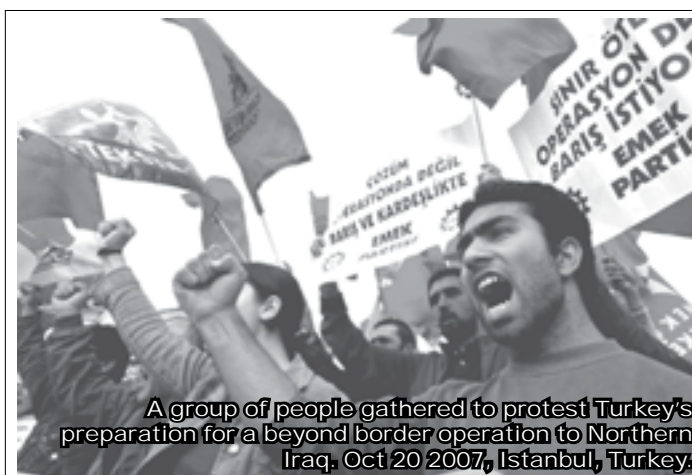
160,000 US troops in Iraq. “Search and avoid” missions have become common practice, according to US soldiers. Fear of fighting and death has led many soldiers to simply park their vehicles and radio in to

to send humanity back to the dark ages.

It is not a matter of time that the US needs to “succeed” in Iraq. Everything over the last five years has proved that more time will only equal more crises for humanity as well as for the occupation forces in Iraq. But the US and UK are continuing their occupation of Iraq because they have little other option to solve their growing economic crisis. The occupation of Iraq is their attempt to secure their economic interests and therefore stave off the effects of the crisis of overproduction and falling rate of profit. It also means gaining a better strategic position – in terms of military and trade – over their imperialist competitors like Japan, France, Germany, etc.

What solution to the Quagmire?

The US is in a quagmire in Iraq. If they want a dignified way to leave, the occupation forces should get out of Iraq before the Iraqi people kick them out. Iraqi people have shown time and time again that they will not turn back in their fight for self-determination, in their fight for the interest of humanity over the interests of the US forces of imperialist destruction. Self-determination is the only way that Iraqi people will have the chance to develop the future of their country and tackle the problems of poverty, lack of infrastructure, lack of access to education, etc, that exist today. For our part here in Canada and everywhere else around the world, we cannot turn back in our fight alongside the people of Iraq. We must unite around a clear demand: OUT NOW!



A group of people gathered to protest Turkey's preparation for a beyond border operation to Northern Iraq. Oct 20 2007, Istanbul, Turkey.

The Newspaper Of

FIRE THIS TIME MOVEMENT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

www.firethistime.net Volume 4 Issue 9/10 - Sept/Oct 2007

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Subscriptions

For a one year subscription outside the lower mainland, make cheques payable to “Shannon Bundock” (Canada \$15 , USA \$20, International \$30) Send to: PO Box 21607 Vancouver BC, V5L 5G3

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We welcome articles, letters, and unsolicited submissions. However we cannot promise publication. Submissions can be made by email, fax, or mail. Submissions will not be returned.

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- ISSN 1712 - 1817 -

Che

Reflections of the Commander in Chief **FIDEL CASTRO**

I make a halt in my daily struggle to bow my head in respect and gratitude to the exceptional combatant who fell in combat on October 8th, forty years ago; for the example he passed on to us as leader of his Rebel Army Column, crossing the swampy grounds of the former provinces of Oriente and Camagüey, while being chased by enemy troops. He was the liberator of the city of Santa Clara and the mastermind of voluntary work; he accomplished honorable political missions abroad and served as messenger of militant internationalism in East Congo and Bolivia. He built a new awareness in our America and the world.

I thank him for what he tried and failed to do in his home country, because he was like a flower prematurely severed from its stem.

He left to us his unmistakable literary style. He was elegant, swift and true to every detail of whatever happened to cross his mind. He was a predestinate, but he didn't know it. He still fights with us and for us.

Yesterday, we commemorated the 31st anniversary of the killing of all passengers and the crew of a Cubana airliner blown in mid-air, and we are on the threshold of the tenth anniversary of the cruel and unjust imprisonment of the five Cuban anti-terrorist heroes. We likewise bow our heads in respect to them all.

It was with great emotion that I watched and heard the commemoration ceremony on TV.

*Fidel Castro Ruz
October 7, 2007, 3:17 pm*



El Che

Reflexiones del Comandante en Jefe **FIDEL CASTRO**

Hago un alto en el combate diario para inclinar mi frente, con respeto y gratitud, ante el combatiente excepcional que cayó un 8 de octubre hace 40 años. Por el ejemplo que nos legó con su Columna Invasora, que atravesó los terrenos pantanosos al sur de las antiguas provincias de Oriente y Camagüey perseguido por fuerzas enemigas, libertador de la ciudad de Santa Clara,

creador del trabajo voluntario, cumplidor de honrosas misiones políticas en el exterior, mensajero del internacionalismo militante en el este del Congo y en Bolivia, sembrador de conciencias en nuestra América y en el mundo.

Le doy las gracias por lo que trató de hacer y no pudo en su país de nacimiento, porque fue como una flor arrancada prematuramente de su tallo.

Nos dejó su estilo inconfundible de escribir, con elegancia, brevedad y veracidad, cada detalle de lo que pasaba por su mente. Era un predestinado, pero él no lo sabía.

Combate con nosotros y por nosotros.

Ayer se cumplió el 31 aniversario de la matanza de los pasajeros y tripulantes del avión cubano hecho estallar en pleno vuelo, y nos adentramos en el décimo aniversario del cruel e injusto encarcelamiento de los cinco héroes antiterroristas cubanos. Ante todos ellos inclinamos igualmente nuestras frentes.

Con mucha emoción vi y escuché por la televisión el acto conmemorativo.

*Fidel Castro Ruz
7 de octubre de 2007, 3:17 p.m.*

Cuban Elections

Continued from page 1

Who is in these 'nomination commissions'? In accordance with Cuba's Electoral Law, it is the municipal, provincial or national, executives of the Central Cuban Workers' Organisation (CTC), the Committees for the Defence of the Revolution (CDR), the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), the University Students' Federation (FEU) and the Intermediate Level Students Federation (FEEM) who give the suggested nominations to the elected municipal representatives. Interestingly, ballots are counted publicly, at the end of the days polling. Anyone interested in watching the vote count is free to do so, including national and foreign media, diplomats, tourists, etc.

The reason for having civil society groups create a nomination commission is to make sure that groups who were traditionally excluded from elections: workers, women, Afro-Cubans and young people all have organizations representing their interests involved in the elections process.

Some of the impacts of this can be seen in an interesting article by the IPS news agency, who did a special story on Marisol Cabrera, a woman who is both the President of her municipal Assembly of People's Power in Placetras and a member of the National Assembly of People's Power. Some of her comments on elections in Cuba provide interesting insight from a woman's perspective. "I wondered whether I was capable of this, it felt like a huge challenge. There was no tradition of women in this post." She continued, "I have always been self-confident, but when I was elected president

of the municipal government I had my doubts. I felt that I was on probation, and I drove myself hard. Now I don't feel I have to be everywhere at once. We're a team."

The IPS article continues, "The

[Cuban] system has its detractors, who argue that free elections are impossible without a multi-party system. But Cabrera says that in her view, it is one of the most democratic systems in the world. "It isn't the governing Communist Party that nominates candidates, but local people themselves, and the election doesn't depend on how much money candidates have," she says."

Also interesting is that during the Cuban municipal elections in October there were 37,328 candidates running to represent their constituency in one of Cuba's 169 municipalities. Of this total, 10,799 of the candidates were women, which is 1,600 more women candidates than the 2005 municipal elections.

Should the US really be talking about democracy?

2007 Municipal Elections in Cuba – an overwhelming turnout!

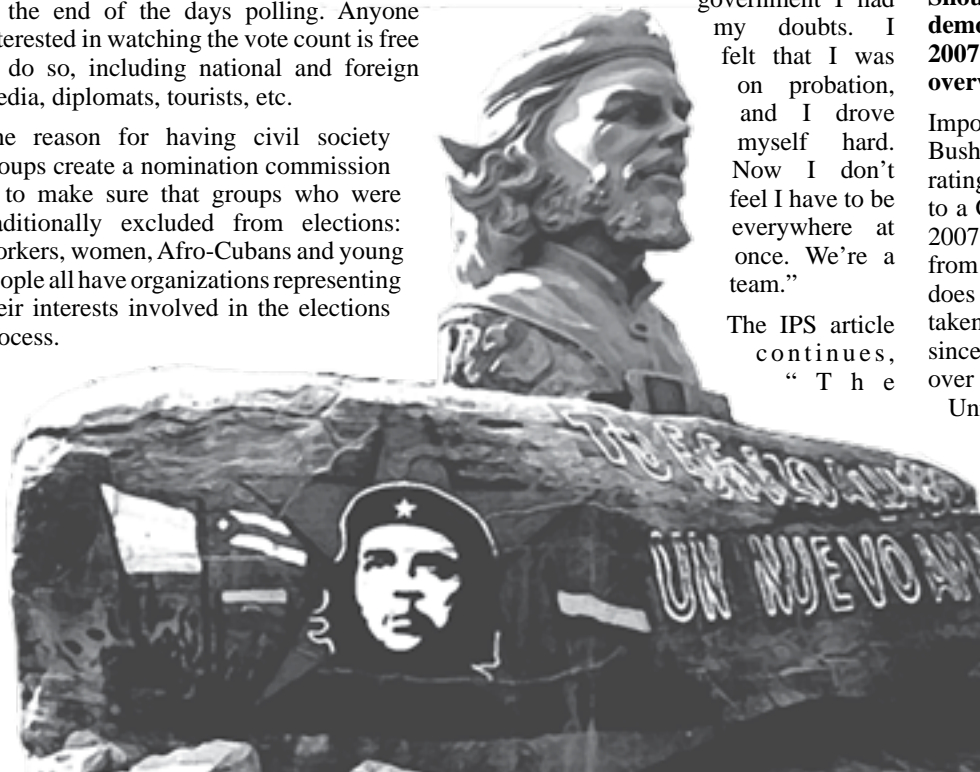
Important to note is that, with all of Bush's talk about democracy his approval ratings currently stand at 32% according to a Gallup/USA Today poll (mid-October 2007). Indeed, I must admit, this is up from the summer, when it sat at 27%. But does that really matter? In over 100 polls taken by over 10 different organizations since January 2007 Bush has never had over a 38% approval rating. Who is the United States to judge and evaluate electoral systems and democracy, when over 40% of voters to not even come out for elections and their president doesn't even have a 50% majority approval?

Whereas the United States Federal Election Commission, shows that voter turn out has sat between 49-55% in the last 3 US elections. The President of National Electoral Commission

in Cuba, María Esther Reus, announced on October 27th that Cuba's recent municipal elections had seen 96.45% of eligible voters come out to the polls. According to Reus, a total of 92.99 percent of the electoral ballots were valid, while 3.93% were left blank and 3.08% were disallowed. On a trip to Cuba this summer with the Che Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade, we had a workshop about democracy in Cuba. I asked a question about blank ballots. The response I received was basically that, like in every country, not everyone supports the electoral system some people leave a blank ballot because they are not sure who to vote for, some because they don't approve of any candidates or the electoral system, they will never know why some ballots are cast as blank. However, no one is forced to vote and casting a blank ballot is a legal act that dissenters have a right too.

According to the BBC in the 2003 elections, "Dissidents had called on voters to hand in blank ballots, dismissing the election as a 'parody' of democracy." However, only 0.86% of the votes for the 2003 provincial elections came in blank. Basically these 'dissidents', which the US, British, and other bourgeois media pay so much attention to, are a tiny minority in Cuba – and in many cases a reactionary, counter revolutionary minority funded by projects such as the US Government's "Freedom Fund for Cuba".

The vast majority of Cubans do indeed want to see improvements and changes in their country, one of the things you will hear everyone say is, a better world is possible – un mundo mejor es posible. However, this is not a request for the United States to intervene and "give" Cuba some Iraq-style military "freedom" or "democracy". They want to see these changes happen under revolutionary leadership, with their grassroots organizations, unions, youth, women and the Communist Party of Cuba



Mobilization Against War + Occupation (MAWO)

STATEMENT

on Canada's "independent advisory panel"

on AFGHANISTAN



"... our government wants a full, open and informed debate about our options [in Afghanistan]. (...) To that end, today I am pleased to announce the formation of an independent panel of eminent Canadians who will consider our options and provide expert non-partisan advice that will help parliamentarians make our decision." -Prime Minister of Canada & Federal Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, Stephen Harper October 12, 2007

Stephen Harper's October 12th announcement of the newly appointed "Independent Advisory Panel on Afghanistan" marked the latest government maneuver to try to delay and mask the deepening crisis that the occupation of Afghanistan poses for the government of Canada. The creation of this 'independent' and 'non-partisan' panel attempts to sideline any public or parliamentary debate on the occupation of Afghanistan until the panel has delivered its report by the end of January 2008. Harper stated that the decision in

of Foreign Affairs in October 2001 when Canada supported and participated in the US-led invasion of Afghanistan. The other members of the panel are 5 ruling class advisors with career histories in federal government politics with the Conservative or Liberal parties, the department foreign affairs, or as CEOs and top executives of major Canadian corporations. The panel includes former federal Cabinet Minister and Conservative Party of Canada member Jake Epp, former Clerk of the Privy Council Paul Tellier, former Canadian Ambassador to the United States Derek Burney, and Pamela Wallin, former Canadian Consul General in New York City.

The announcement of this panel comes at a time when the failure of the occupation of Afghanistan to provide security, democracy, stability or freedom for regular Afghan people couldn't be more glaring. In 6 years, the NATO/Canada occupation has lowered life expectancy by 4.5 years, killed tens of thousands of Afghan people, raised the suicide rate of women, and

parliament on whether or not to extend Canada's occupation of Afghanistan past February 2009 will be informed by this advisory panel. Unable to deal with the widening rift in the ruling class on how to remedy the crisis, the government of Canada is using this as an attempt to determine some way Canada can still secure its economic and political interests through this war and occupation.

The "independent" panel is chaired by John Manley, a member of the Liberal Party and a former Foreign Affairs minister and former Deputy Prime Minister. Manley was minister

destroyed hospitals, schools, and other infrastructure. Daily criticism of this failure from the media and other elements of the ruling class is heaping pressure on the Conservative government. This "advisory panel" is their desperate response to diffuse the pressure that comes from their failure.

John Manley himself said "Canada's future in Afghanistan really transcends partisan politics." and this is very true. For all sections of the ruling class of Canada, whether they're grouped into different political parties or not, the occupation of Afghanistan is key to rescuing

the status quo political, social and economic system in Canada from economic crisis. The recommendations from this panel will not fundamentally change anything about the occupation, nor will they represent the interests of regular Afghan people or working, poor people in Canada. This panel is nothing but a ruling class advisory to deal with a ruling class crisis. If it is "independent", it is indeed independent from the working and oppressed masses of Canada and therefore people in Canada shouldn't be tricked by this ruling class maneuvering.

Mobilization Against War &

Occupation (MAWO) strongly condemns and opposes the formation of this panel which only serves as another way to continue Canada's occupation of Afghanistan. As an antiwar coalition in Vancouver, BC Canada MAWO continues to call for an independent and public inquiry into Canada's war drive in Afghanistan. The call is for an inquiry that will be 100% independent of the war-making government of Canada and its political parties, not hand-chosen by Harper. People in Canada do have a right to know how and why the decisions were made to occupy Afghanistan, expand and extend the operation, and more

than double the military budget without any say from people in Canada at all. More than 13,000 people in the Lower Mainland have signed the MAWO petition demanding "Canada Out of Afghanistan Now!" in a show of just what regular people think about this occupation. No more "advisory panels", non-binding debates in parliament, and maneuvers to maintain this criminal occupation!

We demand: Canada/NATO Out of Afghanistan Now!

Independent Public Inquiry Now!



Hundreds of students protest in Nangarhar province, demanding the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan.

CANADA / NATO OUT OF AFGHANISTAN!
CALL FOR AN INDEPENDENT PUBLIC INQUIRY
SELF DETERMINATION FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS

»» **PICKET ACTIONS**
Canadian Forces Recruitment Centre 1070 W Georgia St (@Thurlow)

1 TUES NOV 6 12noon
2 TUES DEC 4 12noon

Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO)
WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG
p. 604.322.1764 | f. 604.322.1763 | info@mawovancouver.org



Crowd protesting Malalai Joya's removal from Afghan parliament.

From Vancouver BC to Washington DC, Anti-war & Social Justice Activists Under Attack!

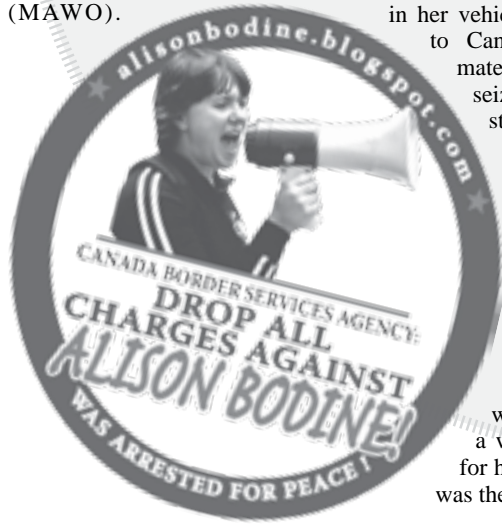
Alison Bodine DEFENCE COMMITTEE

ORGANIZES ACTIONS IN A BROAD CAMPAIGN TO DEFEND THE DEMOCRATIC & HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL SOCIAL JUSTICE & ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS!

By Kira Koshelanyk

What Happened to Alison Bodine? Harrassment, Detention, Deception & Frame-Up

Near midnight on Thursday September 13th 2007 Alison Bodine, a political organizer and social justice activist, was arrested by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). Alison Bodine, originally from Broomfield Colorado, is currently an Executive Committee member, Co-chair and spokesperson of the Vancouver antiwar coalition Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO).



began after border officials searched her vehicle, and upon finding various political materials and progressive newspapers, identified her as a political organizer. After facing questioning, Alison was asked to voluntarily return to the US and she complied. Alison has traveled between the US and Canada on dozens of occasions and she had never been denied or asked to return to the US. When she returned to the border latter the same day she was legally allowed into Canada. To minimize harassment by border guards, she asked a close friend from Vancouver to come pick up political materials and other items that were in her vehicle. He legally returned to Canada, but the political materials and items were seized and a receipt issued stating Alison would be allowed to pick them up within 40 days. Alison returned to claim these items Thursday September 13th as she was returning to the US. Upon presenting the receipt to claim the materials, she was handcuffed and told she was under arrest, and that a warrant had been issued for her arrest in Canada. She was then taken into detention.

Canada. The "Alison Speaks Out!" blog went online to broadcast and post all updates, upcoming actions and act as a center for information on the case.

CBSA Manoeuvres and the ABDC Response

On Monday, September 17th, in the early afternoon Alison learned from a CBC reporter that the CBSA had cancelled her Admissibility Hearing that had been scheduled for 2pm. Alison herself was never officially notified by CBSA. The next day, as supporters rallied outside the offices of the CBSA, Alison was told that her hearing had been rescheduled for September 28th.

The CBSA cancellation of Alison's hearing was one of the first maneuvers to delay and attempt to take momentum away from the case because they knew they wouldn't be able to prove the false charge of "misrepresentation" that they leveled against her. Already the ABDC had received letters of support to bolster her case from the Hospital Employees Union of BC, the International ANSWER Coalition - Seattle Chapter, the Filipino Canadian Youth Alliance, the President of the Calgary and District Labour Council, No One is Illegal - Toronto and the Iglesia San Romero de las Americas in New

College, Langara College and University of Victoria. The tour was accompanied by petition drives on each campus collecting hundreds of signatures. The ABDC set a goal to collect at least 1,000 signatures on the petition by the next hearing date.

Early in the morning, September 28th 2007, Alison Bodine arrived at the CIC building in downtown Vancouver for her Admissibility Hearing. Alison was greeted by over 80 supporters when she arrived, as well as newspaper, radio and television reporters, from CBC news, Radio-Canada (in French), and 24 Hours newspaper among others. Before walking through the entrance of the building, Alison held up a thick stack of papers and announced that she was holding the more than 1,200 petition signatures of people demanding "Drop All Charges Against Alison Bodine!" - all of which were collected in less than one week!

When Alison entered her hearing on September 28th however, she and her lawyer still had not received full disclosure of the CBSA's evidence in their case against her. Her lawyer requested this evidence, and it was ruled that the CBSA had to give



resistance and on his current struggle for refugee status in Canada.

In this third week of the campaign, on October 3rd, came the news of the case of two members of Code Pink Women for Peace, a nationwide US group of women organizing against the occupation of Iraq. These two women were traveling to Canada for a meeting organized by the Toronto Coalition to Stop the War and were denied entry at the border because of their records of social justice activism and civil disobedience. This case, alongside those of the US war resisters, reinforced that there is a concerted campaign against antiwar organizers from the US by the CBSA, trying to hamper cross-border cooperation by the antiwar movement. The two women from Code Pink were denied entry a second time, even after being invited to Canada by several MPs on October 25th.

Alison, a US-citizen, was arrested when she attempted to legally cross the border at Peace-Arch border crossing, traveling from Canada into the United States. Three days prior Alison was harassed by Canadian Border Guards while traveling from the US into Canada. The ordeal

This unjust imprisonment was met with a huge protest and organizing drive by the newly-formed Committee to Free Alison Bodine. On the afternoon of Friday September 14, on only 5 hours notice, 80 people came together at the Citizenship & Immigration Canada (CIC) building in Vancouver demanding the immediate release of Alison Bodine. Media was also quick to pick up this important case, which was covered locally and nationally by TV, radio, and newspapers.

Fast Response Brings First Campaign Victory

Following all of this, Alison's status took a major turn. She was told all day that there was no way to release her from detention until at least Monday September 17th. However, at 8:00pm Friday evening, Alison was given notice by Immigration officials that she would be released from custody immediately until her Admissibility Hearing on Monday September 17th. Alison then joined

the over 65 enthusiastic activists from a variety of organizations and political backgrounds who had met for an emergency meeting to organize for her release. The focus now became having all charges against her dropped immediately with a parallel focus of winning the Admissibility Hearing. The Alison Bodine Defence Committee (ABDC) sprang into action sending out appeals for support, beginning the legal defence, petition and media campaign and a massive outreach drive to progressive organizations and individuals across the US and

York City.

Major Campaign Launched: Drop All Charges Against Alison Bodine Now!

Throughout the ten days leading up to the September 28th hearing, the support for her case only grew stronger. Letters of support arrived from NDP MPs Libby Davies, Bill Siksay and Alex Atamanenko, MLA David Chudnovsky, the 55,000 member Canadian Union of Postal Workers, the Richmond NDP, the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators, Capilano Students Union, the US-based Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, and the Green Party of the USA among many others. The ABDC launched a petition campaign demanding "Drop All Charges Against Alison Bodine!" and a schedule of consistent and ongoing defence rallies at the CIC building. The campaign strategy was to continue mobilizing while gathering together the broadest range of progressive forces in a united front in defence of Alison's democratic and human rights, and by extension the rights of all activists, immigrants, refugees and non-status people.

On Saturday September 22nd, the ABDC organized the first of three citywide public forums on the case. Over 65 people attended to hear the speakers and participate in a discussion on the case. The following night, there was also a packed house at the legal defence fundraiser for Alison's case.

On Monday September 24th, the ABDC launched the "Alison Speaks Out!" Campus Speaking tour. Forums and discussions were held at Simon Fraser University, the University of British Columbia, Capilano

Alison and her lawyer this disclosure - another important victory in Alison's case! As a result of the introduction of new evidence, the hearing was adjourned until October 11th 2007.

September 28 - October 11: the campaign grows...

On October 1st the ABDC began the third week of an intense defence campaign with actions and events throughout Vancouver and in Victoria on Vancouver Island. Alison spoke again on university and college campuses as part of the "International Week of Solidarity with the 5 Cuban Heroes Held in US Jails" the 1st ever campus tour of events dedicated to the Cuban 5. The ABDC also held the third public forum on the case, "Why I Have Been Targeted: the CBSA violates Civil Liberties" on October 6th. A special guest speaker was Brad McCall, a US soldier who fled his military unit in the US in protest to being assigned to be deployed to the criminal occupation of Iraq. McCall was also arrested by the CBSA when he crossed into Canada on September 15th and faces the same charge of "misrepresentation" as Alison. He spoke about the action he took to resist the US war on the people of Iraq, how he was targeted because of this

October 11th Admissibility Hearing Brings Partial Victory

After another powerful defence rally and press conference on the steps of the CIC building began the day on October 11th, the day of Alison's Admissibility Hearing.

Continued on page 7



Mobilization Against War & Occupation Conference Sept 16.



ABDC Coordinator Andrew Barry Speaking at an event in Victoria Sept 25.



Mobilization Against War & Occupation Rally Sept 15.



Petition Stop in Vancouver Oct 5.



Canceled Admissibility hearing Sept 28.



Admissibility Hearing Oct 31.

Leo cuidadosamente todos los días las opiniones sobre Cuba de agencias tradicionales de prensa, incluidas las de los pueblos que formaron parte de la URSS, las de la República Popular China y otras. Me llegan noticias de órganos de prensa escrita en América Latina, España y el resto de Europa.

El cuadro es cada vez más incierto ante el temor de una recesión prolongada como la de los años que siguieron a 1930. El gobierno de Estados Unidos recibió el 22 de julio de 1944 los privilegios otorgados en Bretton Woods a la potencia militar más poderosa, emitir el dólar como moneda internacional de cambio. La economía de ese país estaba intacta después de la guerra, en 1945, y disponía de casi el 70 por ciento de las reservas en oro del mundo. Nixon decidió unilateralmente, el 15 de agosto de 1971, suspender la garantía en oro por cada dólar emitido. Con eso financió la matanza de Vietnam en una guerra que costó más de 20 veces el valor real de las reservas en oro que le quedaban. Desde entonces la economía de Estados Unidos se sostiene a costa de los recursos naturales y los ahorros del resto del mundo.

La teoría del crecimiento continuo de la inversión y el consumo, aplicada por los más desarrollados a los países donde la inmensa mayoría es pobre, rodeada por lujos y derroches de una exigua minoría de ricos, no solo es humillante sino también destructiva. Ese saqueo y sus desastrosas consecuencias es la causa de la rebeldía creciente de los pueblos, aunque muy pocos conozcan la historia de los hechos.

Las inteligencias más dotadas y cultivadas se incluyen en la lista de recursos naturales y están tarifadas en el mercado mundial de bienes y servicios.

¿Qué ocurre con los superrevolucionarios de la llamada extrema izquierda? Algunos lo son por falta de realismo y el agradable placer de soñar cosas dulces. Otros no tienen nada de soñadores, son expertos en la materia, saben lo que dicen y para qué lo dicen. Es una trampa bien armada en la que no debe caerse. Reconocen nuestros avances como quienes conceden limosnas. ¿Carecen realmente de información? No es así. Les puedo asegurar que están absolutamente informados. En determinados ca-



Reflexiones del Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro

LOS SUPERREVOLUCIONARIOS

La supuesta amistad con Cuba les permite estar presentes en numerosas reuniones internacionales y conversar con cuantas personas del exterior o del país deseen hacerlo, sin traba alguna de nuestro vecino imperial a sólo 90 millas de las costas cubanas.

¿Qué aconsejan a la Revolución? Veneno puro. Las fórmulas más típicas del neoliberalismo.

El bloqueo no existe, pareciera una invención cubana.

Subestiman la más colosal tarea de la Revolución, su obra educacional, el cultivo masivo de las inteligencias. Sostienen la necesidad de personas capaces de vivir realizando trabajos simples y rudos. Subestiman los resultados y exageran los gastos en inversiones científicas. O algo peor: se ignora el valor de los servicios de salud que Cuba presta al mundo, donde en realidad, con modestos recursos, la Revolución desnuda el sistema impuesto por el imperialismo, que carece de personal humano para llevarlo a cabo. Se aconsejan inversiones que

son ruinosas, y los servicios que aportan, como el alquiler, son prácticamente gratuitos. De no haberse detenido a tiempo las inversiones extranjeras en viviendas, habrían construido decenas de miles sin más recursos que la venta previa de las mismas a extranjeros residentes en Cuba o en el exterior. Eran además empresas mixtas regidas por otra legislación creada para empresas productivas. No había límites para las facultades de los compradores como propietarios. El país suministraría los servicios a tales residentes o usuarios, para lo cual no se requieren los conocimientos de un científico o un especialista en informática. Muchos de los alojamientos podían ser adquiridos por los órganos de inteligencia enemigos y sus aliados.

No se puede prescindir de algunas empresas mixtas, porque controlan mercados que son imprescindibles. Pero tampoco se puede inundar con dinero el país sin vender soberanía.

Los superrevolucionarios que recetan tales medicamentos ignoran de forma deliberada otros recursos verdaderamente decisivos para

la economía, como es la producción creciente de gas, que ya purificado se convierte en una fuente inestimable de electricidad sin afectar el medio ambiente y aporta cientos de millones de dólares cada año. De la Revolución Energética promovida por Cuba, de vital y decisiva importancia para el mundo, no se dice una palabra. Llegan todavía más lejos: ven en la producción cañera, un cultivo que se sostuvo en Cuba con mano de obra semiesclava, una ventaja energética para la isla, capaz de contrarrestar los elevados precios del diésel que derrochan sin freno los automóviles de Estados Unidos, Europa Occidental y otros países desarrollados. Se estimula el instinto egoísta de los seres humanos, mientras los precios de los alimentos se duplican y triplican.

Nadie ha sido más crítico que yo de nuestra propia obra revolucionaria, pero jamás me verán esperar favores o perdones del peor de los imperios.

Fidel Castro Ruz
3 de septiembre del 2007. 8 y 36 p.m.

Who is VCSC?

Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) is an organization working to build solidarity and support for Cuba in Vancouver, Canada and internationally. To do this, we organize frequent educational events, cultural events, conferences, mobilizations and actions in support of Cuba's sovereignty against Imperialist attacks and in defence of the gains of the Cuban revolution.

We also support 3 petition campaigns:

- 1- Against the US Blockade on Cuba
- 2- To Free the Cuban 5 held in US Jails
- 3- To Extradite anti-Cuban Terrorist Luis Posada Carriles to Venezuela

Through petitioning throughout the lower mainland, at events, festivals, high schools and campuses, we engage with thousands of people about Cuba. Our work aims to bring Cuba, as a country making important social gains, to youth, students, women, Latin American people, people of the third world and other working and oppressed people in Canada, as an example of a building a better world.

We welcome new members and encourage everyone to get involved with VCSC to build a larger, stronger Cuba solidarity movement in Canada!

For more information contact:

cubacommunities@yahoo.ca

778-882-5223

www.vancubasolidarity.com

Comunidades de Vancouver en Solidaridad con Cuba (VCSC por sus siglas en inglés) es una organización que trabaja para crear apoyo y solidaridad para Cuba en Vancouver, Canadá e internacionalmente. Para cumplir con esta labor nosotros organizamos frecuentes eventos educativos y culturales, conferencias, movilizaciones y acciones en defensa de la soberanía de Cuba contra los ataques imperialistas y en defensa de las victorias de la Revolución Cubana.

Además apoyamos 3 campañas de peticiones:

- 1- Contra el Bloqueo de los EE.UU. contra Cuba
- 2- Por Libertad de los Cinco Cubanos Encarcelados en los EE.UU.
- 3- Por la Extradición del Terrorista Anticubano Luis Posada Carriles

A través de las campañas de peticiones en toda la lower mainland, en eventos, festivales, secundarias, y universidades, podemos

¿Quiénes son VCSC?

conversar con miles de personas sobre Cuba. El objetivo de este trabajo es llevar a Cuba, un país haciendo importantes avances sociales, a jóvenes, estudiantes, mujeres, personas de América Latina, personas del tercer mundo y a otras personas trabajadoras y oprimidas en Canadá, como un ejemplo de la construcción de un mundo mejor.

Cualquier miembro nuevo es bienvenido y animamos a todos a que se involucren con VCSC para construir un movimiento de solidaridad con Cuba más fuerte y más grande en Canadá.

Para conseguir mas información contacta:

cubacommunities@yahoo.ca

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49
Years of the Cuban Revolution
Monday Dec 31
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Tickets: \$5-15 Sliding Scale
8pm
Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba-VCSC
The Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver
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Reflections of the Commander in Chief

FIDEL CASTRO

THE SUPER-REVOLUTIONARIES

Every day I carefully read the opinions about Cuba in the traditional press agency releases, including those from the peoples which were part of the USSR, those from the People's Republic of China and others. News reaches me from the Latin America press, from Spain and the rest of Europe.

The picture is increasingly uncertain as we face the fear of a prolonged recession like that of the 1930s. On July 22, 1944, the United States government received the privileges granted in Bretton Woods to the most powerful military power, that of minting the dollar as the international exchange currency. After the war, in 1945, with its economy intact, that country had at its disposal almost 70 percent of the world gold reserves. On August 15, 1971, Nixon unilaterally decided to suspend the gold backing for each dollar minted. With this he financed the slaughter in Vietnam in a war that cost more than 20 times the real value of its remaining gold reserves. Since then, the United States economy is sustained by natural resources and the savings of the rest of the world.

The theory of continuous growth from investment and consumption, applied by the most developed to the countries where the vast majority is poor, surrounded by luxuries and the wastefulness of a tiny minority of wealthy individuals, is not only humiliating but

destructive, too. That pillage, and its disastrous consequences, is the cause of peoples' growing rebelliousness, even though very few are aware of the history behind the events.

The most gifted and cultivated intellectuals are included on the list of natural resources and they have their price tags on the world market of goods and services.

What is happening with the super-revolutionaries of the so-called far left? Some simply lack realism while others enjoy the pleasure of dreaming sweet dreams. Others still are far from being dreamers and are experts in the subject; they know what they are saying and why they are saying it. It is a well conceived trap that should be avoided. They recognize our breakthroughs as if it were a favor to us. Are they really short of information? That is not how it is. I can assure you that they are absolutely well informed. In certain cases, the alleged friendship with Cuba allows them to attend numerous international meetings and chat with as many people from abroad or from the country as they want, without any objection from our imperial neighbor just 90 miles away from the Cuban shores.

What is their advice to the Revolution? It's pure poison; the most typical of the neoliberal formulae.

The blockade does not exist; it would appear to be a Cuban invention.

They underestimate the Revolution's most colossal achievement, its work in education, the massive cultivation of peoples' talents. They sustain that some must live doing simple and rough work. They underestimate the results and exaggerate the costs of scientific investments. Even worse: they overlook the value of the healthcare services that Cuba provides to the world; actually, with modest resources the Revolution is stripping bare the system imposed by imperialism which is lacking the human personnel to carry it out. They advise investments which are ruinous, and the services they provide, such as rent, are practically free. If foreign investments in housing had not been stopped in time, they would have constructed tens of thousands without any more resources than the prior sales of that same housing to foreign residents in Cuba or abroad. Furthermore, they were joint enterprises governed by a legislation intended for productive companies. There were no limits for the authority of the buyers as owners. The country would supply services to those residents or clients, without the need of being knowledgeable in science or computers. Many of the dwellings could be acquired by the enemy intelligence agencies or their allies.

We need some of the joint enterprises since they control very necessary markets. But you can hardly flood the country with money and not sell our sovereignty.

The super-revolutionaries who prescribe such medication deliberately ignore other resources which are truly decisive for the economy, such as the growing production of gas which, when purified, becomes an invaluable source of electricity without affecting the environment and brings with it hundreds of millions of dollars each year. About the Energy Revolution promoted by Cuba, of vital and decisive importance for the world, not one word is spoken. They go even further: they see an energy advantage for the island in the production of sugarcane --a crop that was grown in Cuba with semi-slave labor-- to counter the high cost of diesel being guzzled by the automobiles of the United States, Western Europe and other developed countries. The egotistical instinct is being fostered in human beings while the price of food is doubling and tripling.

Nobody has been more critical of our own revolutionary work than I have, but they shall never see me hoping for favors or apologies from the worst of the empires.

Fidel Castro Ruz
September 3, 2007. 8:36 p.m

Alison Bodine

Continued from page 5

The ABDC also announced they had surpassed their latest goal to collect 2,000 petition signatures for Alison! Alison achieved another partial victory on this day. At the hearing the prosecution tried to introduce new evidence, not included in the full disclosure of the case given to Alison and her lawyer. This attempt to sneak in secret evidence against Alison was denied by the adjudicator. It was clear throughout the hearing that the adjudicator

was not convinced by the prosecution's arguments. The weakness of the prosecution's case was further exposed when the adjudicator announced that the final decision would not be released until October 31st.

The window of these 20 days gave the ABDC time to continue to build the campaign in defence of Alison and democratic and human rights of all social justice and antiwar activists. To continue to raise pressure on the CBSA and Immigration and Refugee Board, the ABDC announced that the petition to drop all charges against Alison would carry more than 3,000 signatures by the time the hearing re-

convened for the adjudicator's decision while continuing to organize actions and events.

The Struggle Continues!

After the October 11th Admissibility Hearing, the case of Alison Bodine has continued gaining support. After monitoring Alison's case since September 17th, the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) decided to support Alison in her fight. The BCCLA linked Alison's case with the case of the Code Pink Women for Peace activists who were denied entry into Canada at the US/Canada border in October. The BCCLA support and the support of the dozens of other organizations has been a cornerstone of the strength of this campaign -- broad-based unity in action in defence of democratic and human rights.

It was clear from the beginning that this case was not so simple -- that Alison has been singled out for harassment, arrest, detention and this extended period of uncertainty and legal limbo for purely political reasons. The governments of the US and Canada are falling further and further into crisis in their wars and occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a result, the war at home on immigrants, refugees, non-residents and especially those organizing and speaking out against war and occupation has been intensified. The attack on Alison has the same motivation as the CBSA attack on US war resisters and the two organizers of Code Pink Women for Peace. The CBSA is partaking in the attempt by the governments of Canada and the US to keep antiwar organizers from both sides of the border from uniting and working together to build a stronger movement against war and occupation. The September 15th arrest of 197 people at the International ANSWER demonstration in Washington DC is a further extension of this attack on antiwar and social justice activists. In order

to advance the democratic and human rights of oppressed people, and defend the antiwar movement in order to build it for the future, we must defend these rights now while they are under attack.

The ABDC is repeating the call for all peace-loving and humanist people, all allies of oppressed people fighting for their rights to support this important campaign as it advances both legally and politically in the struggle for victory! Visit the blog at <http://alisonbodine.blogspot.com>, send a support letter, get updates and get involved!

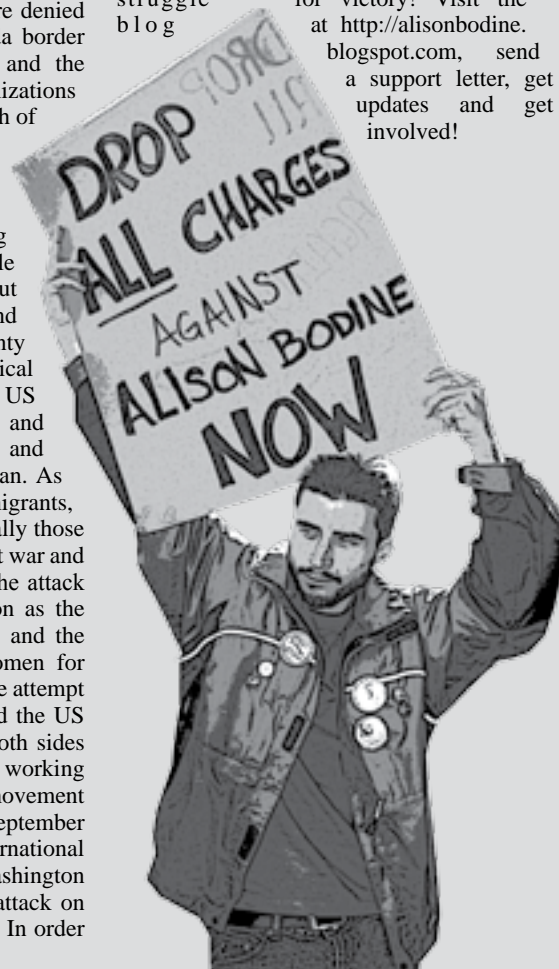
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REPLYING to three spurious initiatives for Cuba proposed by George Bush in Washington on October 24, Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Pérez Roque set out 12 points “covering what the U.S. president should propose as aid” to the island.

He warned that time is running out for the U.S. president but that does not make him less dangerous.

The Cuban foreign minister convened the national and accredited international press here “to respond in the name of the government and people of Cuba to the statements made by President Bush.”

In a speech lasting a little over one hour, Felipe Pérez Roque stated that Cuba considers that the words of the U.S. president herald “an unprecedented escalation in the anti-Cuba policy” of more blockade, more subversion, and more attempts at isolation.

He noted that the policy in force within the Bush regime is a change of regime in Cuba “including via the use of force,” which the U.S. leader calls “accelerating the process of transition” and Fidel describes as “the re-conquest of Cuba by force.”

The foreign minister analyzed the “threatening and arrogant language” of the speech in the White House and the significant change of words and concepts.

“In January 2004,” he stated, “Bush talked of ‘working toward a rapid and peaceful transition to democracy;’ in May it was ‘speeding up the day that Cuba would become a free country;’ and, in October, ‘the Cuban people should be freed.’

“Three years later, last June,” the minister

noted, “Bush advocated ‘heavy pressure for the freedom of Cuba ;’ and now he is saying in this speech; ‘the word in order in our future dealings with Cuba is not stability, it is freedom.’

“Cuba understands these words as an irresponsible act that reflects the level of frustration and calls for violence to defeat the Revolution.”

Pérez Roque noted the fact that “Bush is leaving open the option of a hypothetical and fantasy internal uprising that everybody knows is politically impossible because the Revolution has the support of the people,” but also leaves open the possibility of an external aggression.

“Time is running out for Bush but that does not make him any less dangerous,” the minister warned, adding that in his Washington speech he made “a vain and ridiculous attempt to recruit” our Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior, whose lives he would spare if they betrayed the Revolution.

“I have a message for you, you are raving, you are talking to an army of liberation” and to security combatants who have prevented more than 600 assassination

attempts on Fidel. You are mistaken, you do not know this people, who are not in the category of the mercenaries whom you pay here.”

“Cuba’s reaction is one of indignation, but of absolute serenity and confidence in our strength. The word in order here is courage.

The foreign minister also commented on Bush’s three new initiatives for Cuba, evidence, he said, of that there is almost nothing left to try out against the island.

He referred to Bush’s disposition to consider granting licenses to non-governmental organizations and religious groups to supply computers to young Cubans and access to the Internet.

“A ridiculous announcement that would

be laughable if it was not inserted into this intensification of the anti-Cuba policy. In a country that, despite the blockade, has more than 500,000 computers installed; which, next year is to install another 150,000; and, from 2008 can assemble 120,000 per year. Where 600 Youth Computer Clubs are operating that give free access to the Internet to more than two million Cubans every year.”

Felipe Pérez Roque continued: “Moreover, he is inviting young Cubans, the sons and daughters of his mercenaries in Cuba, to join a 3-year grant program implemented for Latin America. “This, for a country with 65 universities where 730,000 young Cubans are currently studying and which, in addition, has 30,000 scholarship students from 120 countries.”

Lastly, Bush proposed the creation of an International Fund for the Freedom of Cuba, with the aim of other countries contributing money to defeat the Revolution,” the foreign minister noted.

“Mr. President made a desperate call on other countries to join the blockade,” Pérez Roque highlighted, “evidence of his isolation, that he has no support in the

Cuba responds to Bush

Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Pérez Roque sets out 12 points



Felipe Pérez Roque,
Foreign Minister of Cuba.

world. “He might be the most powerful person, but he is not the most respected one. The international community does not go along with his policy and today, rejection of the genocidal blockade is almost universal.”

After commenting on the “initiatives,” the foreign minister listed the 12 points that “the U.S. president should propose as aid” to the island:

1. Respect for Cubans’ right to their independence and sovereignty.
2. An immediate end to the policy of aggression and threat.
3. An end to intervention in Cuba’s internal affairs and attempts to manufacture an internal opposition.
4. An end to subversive acts against Cuba and the dismantling of the radio and television that offend the name of the national hero (José Martí).
5. The immediate lifting of the blockade.
6. The elimination of the ban on travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens and family visits by Cubans living there.

7. An end to the stimulation of illegal emigration from Cuba. The repeal of the Cuban Adjustment Act and the fulfillment of the Migratory Agreements.

8. An end to the aggressive disinformation campaigns.

9. The release of the five anti-terrorist fighters, political prisoners in U.S. jails.

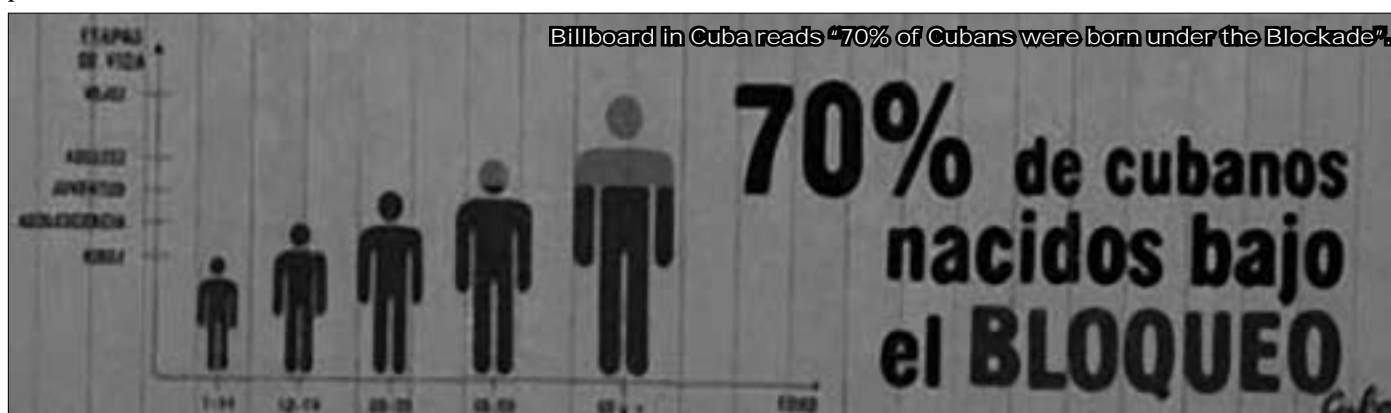
10. The extradition of the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles to Venezuela or his trial in the United States.

11. The immediate closure of the torture center he created on the Guantanamo Naval Base.

12. The cessation of pressure on the international community to support his anti-Cuba policy.

Pérez Roque reiterated that Bush will not succeed in his designs against Cuba. “There is no human or natural force in the world capable of making the Cubans desist from their dreams of justice, freedom and independence. We are a victorious Revolution and we have won the respect of everybody.”

Almost at the end of his speech, the Cuban foreign minister recalled that on the 45th anniversary of the October (Missile) Crisis: “The Cuban people have the same serenity, the same integrity, the same sentiment of national unity and patriotic pride as in those luminous and sad days – as Che called them – when the Cuban people were even prepared to confront a nuclear holocaust before renouncing their principles and their sovereignty.”



A tres espurias iniciativas para Cuba presentadas el 24 de octubre en Washington por George Bush, el Canciller cubano Felipe Pérez Roque respondió en La Habana con doce puntos “de lo que debería proponer el Presidente norteamericano como ayuda” a la isla • Advierte que al presidente norteamericano se le acaba el tiempo y eso no lo hace menos peligroso

El Ministro cubano del Exterior convocó a la prensa nacional e internacional acreditada aquí “para dar respuesta a nombre del Gobierno y el pueblo de Cuba a las declaraciones del presidente Bush”.

Felipe Pérez Roque, en una intervención de algo más de una hora, expresó que Cuba considera que las palabras del Presidente de Estados Unidos anuncian “una escalada sin precedentes en la política contra Cuba”, de más bloqueo, más subversión, más intentos de aislamiento.

Advirtió que la política en vigor en el régimen de Bush es el cambio de régimen en Cuba “incluso por la fuerza”, lo que el mandatario norteamericano llama “acelerar el proceso de transición” y Fidel califica de “la reconquista de Cuba por la fuerza”.

El canciller hizo un análisis del “lenguaje amenazante y altanero” del discurso en la Casa Blanca y el significativo cambio de palabras y conceptos.

En enero del 2004 —indicó— Bush habló de “trabajar por una transición rápida y pacífica

han impedido más de 600 intentos de asesinatos contra Fidel. Usted se equivoca, no conoce a este pueblo, que no es de la categoría de los mercenarios que usted paga aquí”

“La reacción en Cuba es de indignación, pero de serenidad absoluta, firmeza, y confianza en nuestra fuerza. La palabra de orden aquí es coraje”.

El Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores comentó además las tres nuevas iniciativas de Bush sobre Cuba, prueba —dijo— de que casi no queda nada por ensayar contra Cuba.

Se refirió a la disposición que manifiesta Bush al considerar el otorgamiento de licencias a organizaciones no gubernamentales y a grupos religiosos para que suministren computadoras a los jóvenes cubanos y acceso a Internet.

“Un anuncio ridículo que movería a la risa si no estuviera insertado en este recrudescimiento de la política contra Cuba. En un país que pese al bloqueo tiene más de 500 mil computadoras instaladas, que el año que viene instalará otras 150 mil y a partir del 2008 podrá ensamblar 120 mil por año. Donde funcionan 600 Joven Club que dan acceso gratuito a Internet a más de dos millones de cubanos al año”.

Además anunció —continuó Felipe Pérez Roque —invitar a jóvenes cubanos, hijos de sus mercenarios en Cuba, a un programa de becas que han implementado para América Latina por tres años. “Esto para

un país con 65 universidades... donde estudian hoy 730 mil jóvenes cubanos...y además tiene 30 mil becados gratuitamente de 120 países”.

Por último Bush propuso crear un Fondo Internacional para la Libertad de Cuba, con el objetivo de que otros países pongan el dinero para derrocar a la Revolución, señaló el Canciller.

El señor Presidente hizo un llamado desesperado a otros países a sumarse al bloqueo —resaltó Pérez Roque—, prueba de su aislamiento, de que no tiene apoyo en el mundo. “Se puede ser el más poderoso, pero no el más respetado. La comunidad internacional no sigue su política y hoy el rechazo al bloqueo genocida es casi universal”.

Luego de comentar las “iniciativas”, el Canciller detalló los doce puntos “de lo que debería proponer el Presidente norteamericano como ayuda” a la isla:

- 1-Respetar el derecho de los cubanos a su independencia y soberanía.
- 2-Cesar de inmediato su política de agresión y amenazas
- 3-Dejar de intervenir en los asuntos internos de Cuba y de intentar fabricar una oposición interna
- 4-Poner fin a las acciones subversivas contra Cuba y desmontar la radio y la televisión que ofenden el nombre del Héroe Nacional



Cuba responde a Bush

El Canciller cubano Felipe Pérez Roque respondió con doce puntos

hacia la democracia”, en mayo era “acelerar el día que Cuba sea un país libre” y en octubre, “el pueblo cubano debería ser liberado”.

Tres años más tarde, en junio pasado —señaló el Ministro— Bush dijo continuar “presionando duro por la libertad de Cuba” y ahora dice en su discurso, “la palabra de orden en nuestros tratos futuros con Cuba no es estabilidad, es libertad”.

Cuba entiende estas palabras como un acto irresponsable, que reflejan —expresó— el nivel de frustración y convocan a la violencia para derrocar a la Revolución.

El Canciller consideró que “Bush deja abierta la opción de un hipotético y fantasioso levantamiento” interno que “cualquier persona sabe es políticamente imposible porque la Revolución tiene el apoyo del pueblo”, pero también deja abierta la posibilidad de una agresión desde fuera.

A Bush se le acaba el tiempo y eso no lo hace menos peligroso, advirtió el Ministro, y añadió que en su discurso en Washington hizo “un intento vano y ridículo de reclutar” a nuestras Fuerzas Armadas y al Ministerio del Interior, a los que les perdonará la vida si traicionan a la Revolución.

“Le tengo un mensaje, usted delira, le está hablando a un ejército libertador” y a combatientes de la seguridad que

5-Levantar de inmediato el bloqueo

6-Eliminar la prohibición de los viajes a Cuba de los estadounidenses y de las visitas familiares de los cubanos que viven allá.

7-Dejar de estimular la emigración ilegal desde Cuba. Derogar la Ley de Ajuste y cumplir los Acuerdos migratorios.

8-Cesar las agresivas campañas de mentiras

9-Liberar a los cinco luchadores antiterroristas, presos políticos en cárceles norteamericanas.

10-Extraditar a Venezuela o enjuiciar en Estados Unidos al terrorista Luis Posada Carriles.

11-Cerrar de inmediato el centro de torturas que creó en la Base Naval de Guantánamo

12- Cesar las presiones contra la comunidad internacional para que apoye su política contra Cuba

Pérez Roque reiteró que Bush no logrará sus designios contra Cuba. “No hay fuerza humana ni natural en el mundo capaz de hacer desistir a los cubanos de sus sueños de justicia, de libertad e independencia. Somos una Revolución victoriosa y nos hemos ganado el respeto de todos”.

Casi al finalizar su intervención, el Canciller cubano recordó que se cumplen 45 años de la Crisis de Octubre y como “en este momento hay en el pueblo cubano la misma serenidad, la misma entereza, el mismo sentimiento de unidad nacional y de orgullo patrio, que en aquellos días luminosos y tristes, como los llamó el Che, en que el pueblo cubano estuvo dispuesto a enfrentar, incluso el holocausto nuclear, antes que renunciar a sus principios y su soberanía”.



The Treaty Process and Indian Nationalism

By Ray Bobb

In a treaty process that is strictly circumscribed by the federal government's Comprehensive Land Claims Policy Indian status is being legislatively extinguished. The treaties of this process require tribal people to (1) renounce their status as Indians under the meaning of the Indian Act, (2) cede their aboriginal entitlement to land and (3) incorporate into Canada as (first nation) municipalities. The government's Comprehensive Land Claims Policy is only incidentally a policy for the settlement of land claims. Primarily, it is a policy to extinguish Indian status.

Canada's treaty process is, on two counts, illegal in international law. Canada exercises colonial rule over a people whose nationality is Indian, i.e., Canadian Indian. (1) By depriving Indian people of their nationality Canada is violating their human rights in contravention of article 15 of the UN Universal Declaration On Human Rights which states that "No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality."

(2) By, then, incorporating Indian tribes into Canada as municipalities Canada is violating Indian people's political rights in contravention of article 1 of the UN International Covenant On Civil And Political Rights which states that "All peoples have the right of self-determination."

Additionally, the treaties of the federal government's treaty process are not bona fide. Treaties are by definition made between nations. Canada is a nation. Provinces and tribes are not. Separately existing and independent tribal nations did exist prior to colonization. Upon being colonized by Canada, however, tribal authorities were replaced by the Department of Indian Affairs operating under the authority of the Indian Act and the tribes were unified into a single, de facto, national entity: the native internal colony.

Legal apologists for the government's treaty process hold that negotiated agreements of the treaty process are valid in that they are arrived at (1) bilaterally, (2) voluntarily and (3) fairly. This is not so.

(1) The central issues of the treaty process involve the interests of two opposed national entities: the native internal colony and Canada. In the treaty process the federal government, in effect, pays the Indian representatives. Treaties of this arrangement are not bilateral. They are fraudulent.

(2) The government payments of land, resources and money in the treaty process are part of the normal requirements of an underprivileged people. As such, treaty payments are necessities of life that are purposely withheld by government in order to force Indians into the treaty process. The treaties of such a process are not voluntary. They are coerced.

(3) In the government's treaty process, the quantitative aspects dealing with amounts of money, land and resources are negotiable and a template regarding these is

being formulated. The qualitative aspects, however, dealing with the relationship between Indian people and Canada, are not negotiable. The treaties of such a process are not fair. They are imposed.

The underlying motive for the federal government's extinguishment policy is the demand by big business for economic "certainty" in regard to aboriginal title and land claims. The federal government responded with a wholesale attack on Indian rights. In 1969, the government put forth the White Paper Policy On Indians that proposed to unilaterally extinguish Indian status, Indian reserves, the Indian Act, the Department of Indian Affairs and all rights or entitlements pertaining to Indians. At the same time, the government began sponsoring a native leadership

and funding social reforms to be carried out by that leadership. In 1973, the extinguishment policy of the (failed) White Paper was reaffirmed in the federal government's Comprehensive Land Claim Policy. After several decades of nurturing a captive native leadership, the federal government is now implementing the extinguishment policy, bilaterally, in the comprehensive treaty process.

The government gives ostensive recognition to tribes as nations, i.e., first nations, in order to (1) foster tribalism in the native internal colony, (2) subvert Indian nationalism and (3) give credibility to "nation-to-nation" negotiations that require tribes to secede from the Indian national entity.

Further deception on the part of government is its stated opposition to the Indian Act as an out-moded document. In reality, government wants to nullify the Indian Act because the Indian Act recognizes the existence of a colonized people whose subjection and expropriation question the legitimacy of the

Canadian settler-state.

Indian leadership sponsored by government cannot be relied upon to resist government attack. This resistance can only come from the Indian people, themselves, in direct action and independent organization. To be successful this resistance needs to be inspired by a vision of the future.

Although Indian nationalism has always been a component of native consciousness, it is sometimes thought to be politically inviable. For instance, the native internal colony is sometimes perceived to be small and powerless in relation to the Canadian settler-state. On the global level, the native internal colony is, politically, part of a powerful majority. The entire non-Europeanized world, except for Japan, suffers from foreign domination and exploitation. The national liberation movements in this vast area represent the principal and determining conflicts of our time. This is so to the extent that their success constitutes and historical precondition for the positive development of conflict between the native internal colony and the Canadian settler-state. The establishment of this precondition, although crucial for the native internal colony, is not within the scope of this presentation. Suffice it to say that (1) wars, such as the Vietnam War, have proven that imperialism can be defeated



in the global south and (2) the continuing devastation caused by imperialism guarantees many more Vietnams. The smallness and powerlessness of the native internal colony is belied by the objective process of history.

Three additional features of the native internal colony that sometime cast doubt on Indian nationalism are that (1) the members of the native internal colony are part of the Canadian working class, (2) one-half of them live in the cities of the Canadian settler-state and (3) the tribal territories of the native internal colony are divided throughout the Canadian settler-nation.

The features of the native internal colony indicate (1) the close interrelation of the native internal colony and the Canadian settler nation and (2) the, simultaneous, opportunity in and vulnerability of its position.

Internationally, the vulnerability of the native internal colony can be seen as imperialism militarily attacks the peoples of the global south and outlaws internal support for them. Opportunity on the other hand can be seen in the position of the native internal colony as a bridge between divided parts of humanity all of whom on one level or another are trying to transcend a, once dynamic, social system that now poses a threat to their survival.

Nationally, the native internal colony is vulnerable as can be seen by the genocidal direction of

government Indian policy in (1) the residential school system, (2) the extreme military and police reactions to native activism and (3) the extinguishment treaty process. On the other hand, the resources of the tribal territories can never be completely separated from the Canadian economy and hold the promise of future cooperation and mutual benefit. Additionally, the members of the native internal colony, as workers in Canadian production, can look forward to the right of dual citizenship.

The reality that precludes decolonization and respect for the right of native people to national self-determination is Canada under the control of banks and corporations. Such a country is impervious to rationality and humanity. Once imperialism has been overthrown in the global south, however, it will no longer be able to bribe its domestic workers with high wages and political liberties. The Canadian workers will then transform the banks and corporations from organs of private enrichment into social assets of a new Canada. Before that event, Indian nationalists must (1) associate with and support national liberation movements in the global south, (2) resist anti-Indian policies of the Canadian settler-state, (3) clarify and strengthen the native national entity and (4) develop allies in the Canadian working class.

Venezuelan Government advances

Indigenous Struggle

Statue of Columbus pulled down
Caracas, Venezuela, October 12, 2004.

By Aaron Mercedi

Introduction

In August, over a thousand Indigenous people from 21 different countries in the Americas gathered in Venezuela for the 1st International Congress of Anti-imperialist Indigenous peoples of America. Hosted by the Venezuelan government, this congress set out to tackle the many issues facing Indigenous people today, and to develop an international network of Indigenous people to support and strengthen their struggles.

This gathering is a healthy example of the approach that the Venezuelan government has taken towards the most fundamental struggle in the colonial world. But it is not the first. Within Venezuela, the Bolivarian Revolution has been responding to the question of Indigenous people's inherent rights and their place within the overall social movement that swept the country. Their response was to provide the necessary space for Indigenous people to organize themselves, maintain their cultures and language, and further their rights within Venezuela. The 1999 constitution, which guarantees the rights of Indigenous people, saw the participation of an unprecedented number of leaders from Native communities and Indigenous organizations. Mision Guaicaipuro, which launched later in 2003, is one of a series of social and welfare programs carried out by the Venezuelan government, which specifically seeks to restore communal land titles and

human rights to Venezuela's Indigenous communities, and strengthening their identity, language, education, and culture.

Compare this to Canada, where the colonial government supports the continued theft of Native land for ski resort developments or resource extraction whose profits will only line the pockets of the corporations, and Indigenous people remain alienated from the political system in this country because it does not represent us. This, along with the loss of language, culture and identity, and rampant poverty are all an Indigenous reality today in this country.

Venezuela has embarked on a new path. The tearing down of Columbus' statue in Caracas, and replacing Columbus Day with the Day of Indigenous Resistance were not just symbolic acts. The people are working to reverse hundreds of years of colonialism.

Bringing Indigenous people to the gathering in August was Venezuela's attempt to bridge the gap that exists between many different Indigenous struggles and to help build the fighting force that has to work against the theft and plunder that continues against not only Indigenous people, but oppressed nations around the world. Gatherings like these are a necessary step for the dispossessed Indigenous population from North to South to strengthen itself, to organize and rise up against centuries of murder, destruction and humiliation. This internationalism was the basis of this congress and is most clearly shown in the Declaration of Kumarakapay.

Declaration of Kumarakapay

1st International Congress of Anti-imperialist Indigenous peoples of America – Abya Yala
Translated by Federico Fuentes, Bolivia Rising

“Constructing Indoamerican Socialism”

Meeting in the ancestral territories of Kumarakapay; which our indigenous brothers and sisters of the Pemón People inhabit; within the framework of the 1st International Congress of Anti-imperialist Indigenous Peoples of Abya Yala; held in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, over the days 7, 8 and 9 of August, 2007; conscious of our existence as peoples since millenarian times and with the full conviction of continuing to act in defense of life and the planet, the people united here, from 21 different countries of our continent, from Alaska to the Patagonia, have agreed to emit the following declaration:

We are youth, women, men, grandmothers and grandfathers of the originario [first] peoples, who since time immemorial have live in Abya Yala; descendents from our aboriginal guerilla forefathers, defenders, precursors and founders of a free and sovereign homeland, of great liberators, such as Bolívar, Artigas, Morazan, Sandino etc.

Today we are living proof of ancestral struggles, meeting again as a anti-imperialist front, with delegations coming from Alaska, Argentina, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Uruguay, Bo-

livia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Canada, Honduras, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Surinam, United States and Venezuela.

We recognize that our struggle as indigenous originario peoples has been millenary and which has had key moments in modern times, amongst those being transcendental continental encounters; the result of the diverse efforts by many peoples, communities and indigenous organizations and communities carried out over a long of dialogue and having reached the point of putting forward conclusions and strategies that have strengthened the unity of the indigenous peoples of Abya Yala, expressed in diverse declarations such as those of:

The First Continental Encounter of Indian Peoples held in Quito in 1990; the Continental Campaign of 500 years of Indigenous, Black and Popular Resistance, which involved mobilizations across all of our continent on October 12, 1992; the Declaration of Temoaya of 1993; the 1st Indigenous Summit in Teotihuacan, Mexico, in 2000; the 2nd Continental Summit of Indigenous Peoples and Nationalities

of Abya Yala, which was held in Quito in 2004; the Continental Summit of Indigenous Peoples and Organisations, realized in Mar de Plata, Argentina, in 2005; the Continental Encounter of Indigenous Peoples and Nationalities of Abya Yala, in La Paz, Bolivia, in 2006; and the 3rd Continental Summit of Indigenous Peoples and Nationalities of Abya Yala realized in Guatemala, in March of this year, 2007, out of which came the Declaration of Iximche, whose anti-imperialist positions we support.

We have decided to give continuity to these efforts, in the search for unionist processes; conscious that the Abya Yala, from Alaska to the Patagonia, is a continent ancestrally indigenous, committed to the struggles against domination since the era of colonialism up until current times; where the threat and aggression by the US empire against the peoples of Abya Yala have been continuous and is taking us towards the imminent extinction of our cultures.

It is essential for the indigenous peoples of Abya Yala to constitute and give body, life and movement to a space with continental character to allow us to integrate and unite, based on our spiritual, moral, and combative wealth and resistance, with the fundamental objective of defending ourselves and defending our peoples and the entire planet from attacks, principally led by the US empire.

We see imperialism as the highest phase of capitalism, through its distinct expressions, such as consumerism; the wastage of natural

resources, which is taking us towards the destruction of biodiversity; the transculturalisation of the people which implies wiping out our essence; the loss of our ancestral values and the negation of our existence as people, converting itself into the most terrible threat encroaching over the lives and existence of our planet.

Conscious that an alternative to save the planet from voracious capitalism is the construction, execution and putting into march of the socialism of the 21st century on the basis of Indoamerican socialism, based on the principals of communality, solidarity, reciprocity, social justice, equality, complementarity and harmony with nature.

We recognize that the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), as a viable and just proposal to integrate the people of Latin America and the Caribbean in one single economic, political, cultural and social bloc where complementation and the respect of our identity will be the principal rectores, values that coincide with our ancestral practices.

We Declare:

The urgent necessity to initiate a collective process of construction of ancestral thought, born out of and generated by our realities, our forms of construction of knowledge and our languages.

Due to this, we have decided to constitute ourselves into the Continental Council of the Great Nation of Anti-imperialist Indigenous Peoples, whose temporary headquarters will be in

Venezuela, and which will have as its primordial objectives:

To be a space for the participation, articulation and integration of the diverse indigenous peoples of Abya Yala, and act as a single body in defense against the attacks, aggressions and threats of the empire, in all its forms.

Constitute a platform of discussion of anti-imperialist policies and organizations, emerging from each one of the indigenous communities, via their own organizations or communal councils.

To be the collective voice of the indigenous peoples and communities of America in support of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), with the aim of reclaiming the originario rights of indigenous people, through the policies of the member governments of ALBA.

Push forward the construction of socialism of the 21st century through the contributions that Indoamerican socialism offers.

Plan of Continental Struggle:

Promote the creation of the University of the Indigenous Peoples of Abya Yala, which seeks to consolidate spaces of formation that preserve our identity, culture, language and traditional medical practices, according to the necessities of each people, with multiple installations in all the continent.

We raise our voices, as anti-imperialist indigenous peoples, constituted in the Continental

Council, against the governments of the empire, principally the United States; against the transnational corporations that promote the privatization of natural resources, destroyers of our biodiversity, language and culture; against the organizations, mass media, press, radio networks and television at the service of the empire; and against all those that promote savage neoliberalism in all its expressions. We demand that they:

Stop the depraved exploitation of our natural resources that exist in our space, soil and subsoil; monocultures, the utilization of chemical fertilizers, insecticides, the risks with flugosato, transgenetics, and the genetic manipulation of all living beings – contrary to the principals of life; the poisoning of our peoples that is carried out via the distribution and sale of dangerous canned and bottled chemical products.

Stop the violation of the intellectual property rights; the theft and extraction of medicinal plants; the persecution and harassment of community, alternative media and indigenous communications and journalists; the acts of violation of the right to information, which forms part of our original law.

Stop the installation of imperialist military bases in our countries and immediately withdraw existing ones.

We say no to US or imperialist intervention in the revolutionary processes of the countries of Latin America, principally the Bolivarian revolution being headed by the president and commandante Hugo Chavez, and commandante Fidel Castro.

We pronounce ourselves against the genocide that is being committed against Iraq and Afghanistan and the people who make up those countries, as well as against the threat hanging over the brother country of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We reject with our all strength any attempts at invasion or bellicose intervention against any nation of this free and sovereign world. We demand the unrestricted respect for the

Continued on page 17



President Hugo Chavez visits the Guajira region in Venezuela to commemorate the National Day of Indigenous Resistance. October 12, 2007.

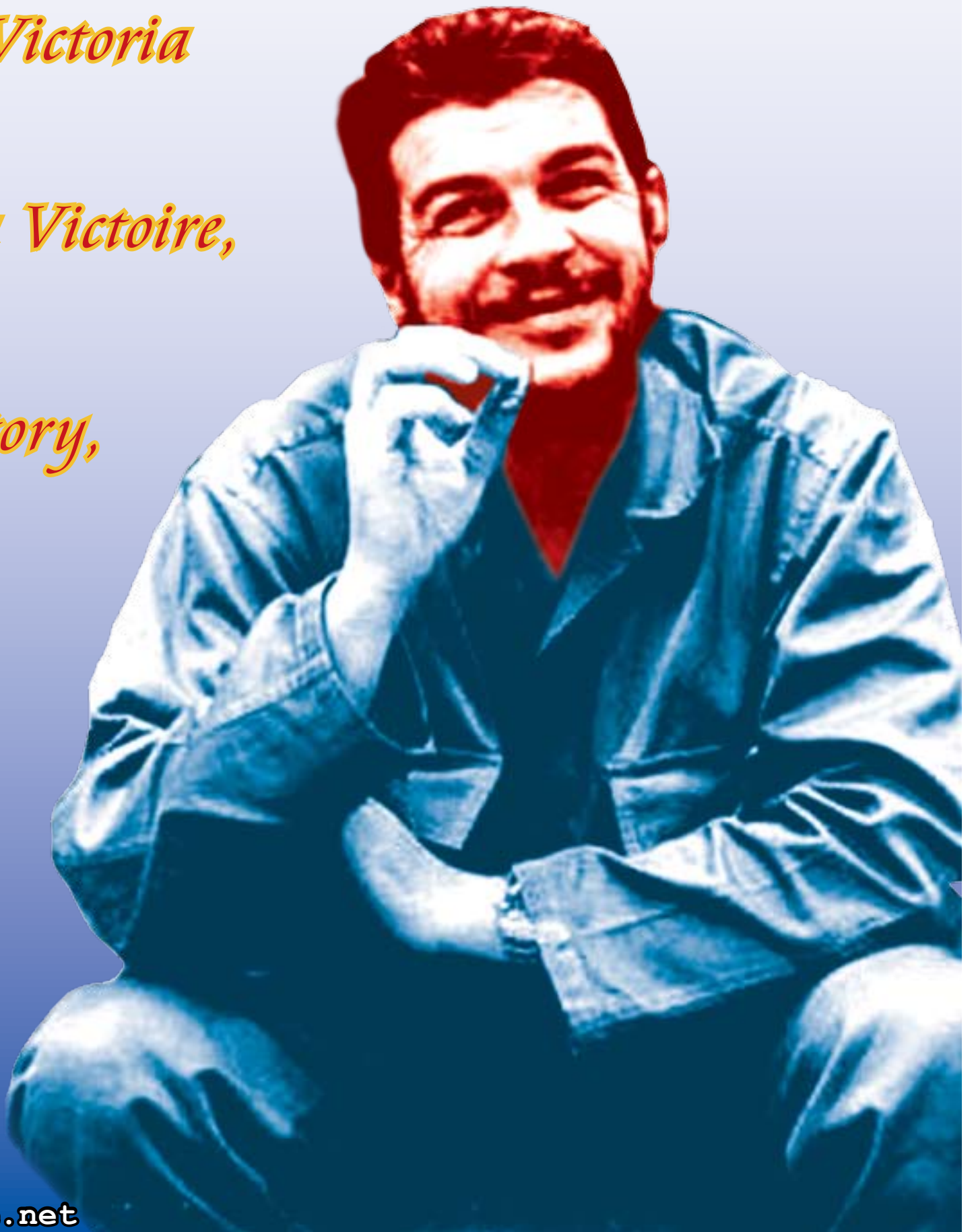
40 year anniversary
of the assassination of

Che Guevara

*Hasta la Victoria
Siempre*

*Jusqu'à la Victoire,
Toujours*

*Until Victory,
Always*



24 hours of protest and solidarity with the 5 Cuban Heroes in US jails

By Noah Fine

From August 19th-20th 2007, speeches, poetry, discussion, music and protest, filled Vancouver with over 150 people participating in the first ever 24 Hour Vigil in honour of the 5 Cuban Heroes in US jails.

Consulate for a protest picket line. Speeches were given by members of the Free the Cuban 5 Committee, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) and many other supporters during the picket that outlined the gross injustice of



A picket action wraps up the 24 hour vigil in Vancouver.

On August 20th 2007, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González, the 5 Cuban heroes underwent another

the 5's imprisonment and called for their release.

The protest was concluded by Tamara Hansen, Coordinator of VCSC and executive member of

appeals hearing in Atlanta, Georgia. They set out to prove that the 2001 trial in which the U.S. government sentenced them to between 15 years and 2 life sentences had many flagrant violations of court process and convicted them without substantial or in some cases any evidence. They were also there to argue against the false charge and conviction made against Gerardo Hernandez, one of the Cuban 5, of "Conspiracy to Commit Murder". The Cuban 5 have been in prison since 1998 for the noble cause of defending Cuban people against attack by ultra right-wing terrorist groups operating in Miami Florida.

Musical performances were made throughout the vigil including Joaquín Ernesto, a dedicated fighter for the cause of the 5 who sang the song, "Imagine" which is a favourite song of Ivette Gonzalez, the nine year old daughter of Rene Gonzalez, who was taken from her when she was only months old.

The poetry of Antonio Guerrero was read which inspired participants to write letters and poetry to the 5. Throughout the 24 hours, a table of candles was kept lit for the 5 despite scattered rain, symbolizing the perseverance and the heroic struggle for justice that the 5 heroes demonstrate daily.

The Vigil continued throughout the day and night collecting more participants who brought with them an arsenal of music and poetry. Songs for the Cuban 5 could be heard throughout the night in downtown Vancouver.

In the morning almost 50 voices at one time gathered at the U.S.

the Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC) who emphasized that "the monthly protests at the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver (numbering 20 at this point) have been a great tool for informing people about the case of the 5. But justice for the 5 will not be easily handed over by the U.S. Government. It will take the united action of all the almost 300 committee's working world wide to free the 5 Cuban Heroes!"

The Hearing that occurred on August 20th sparked a line up of great media coverage and support for the case of the 5 heroes including interviews and articles with the BBC, CNN, New York Times and support letters from many prestigious people including, Colombian Nobel Literature Laureate Gabriel García Márquez, President of Bolivia Evo Morales, famous American actor Danny Glover and hundreds more.

The 5 Cuban Heroes just entered their tenth year of imprisonment which was marked on September 12th. It has taken over nine years to build the international campaign for the Cuban 5 and we must work this year with the support of all human-loving people to make this year the last and free the Cuban 5.

For more information about the Cuban 5 or upcoming events visit:

- www.vancubasolidarity.com/freethefivevan.html
- www.freethefive.org
- www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca



Dave Diewert.



Streams of Justice banner at the October squat.

STRUGGLE AGAINST HOMELESSNESS IN VANCOUVER'S DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

Interview with Dave Diewert

"we're ... a faith-based social justice movement"

By Shannon Bundock

Streams of Justice is a local Christian social justice organization that believes in "the relentless struggle for social justice, the unwavering affirmation of human dignity, and the joyful stance of compassionate solidarity". With this foundation, Streams of Justice took action against homelessness in October 2007. They began a squat action in Vancouver's poorest neighborhood, the downtown eastside, to raise awareness about homelessness and challenge the provincial and municipal governments to address the housing crisis. After facing threats from the city of Vancouver

Shannon: How did the city of Vancouver react to your actions?

Dave: They reacted initially by saying that they were going to close the squat down and ask us to leave. We got onto the site October 14th at about four in the afternoon. We set up things and by two the next day they were going to ask us to leave. We launched a legal process, we were seeking a temporary injunction, that argued essentially that since there is not sufficient housing, not sufficient shelter, that you can't criminalize people for sleeping outside and for sheltering themselves on city property. So that legal process had been put

have an impact on the situation of homelessness in the city. They purchase hotels that are already the last stop before homelessness and they increase shelter times and availability, but they are not building new housing at any significant rate at all. So the problem continues to be there despite all these announcements that they are taking action. In fact very little housing is being built.

Shannon: Can you tell us about how Streams of Justice is responding, and what your plans are for continuing to confront the problem and how people can support?

Dave: One of the things that we're

ver to pack up the squat less than 24 hours after it was established, Streams of Justice won the battle to maintain the site for the duration of "Homelessness Action Week" (October 15 - 21, 2007). Fire This Time had the opportunity to speak with Dave Diewert, a main organizer of Streams of Justice, to discuss the crisis of homelessness, and how his organization is fighting back.

Shannon: Just last month Streams of Justice erected a homeless camp in the downtown eastside, which drew attention to the growing crisis of homelessness in Vancouver. What motivated you and Streams of Justice to take this action?

Dave: I think that the increasing awareness that there are all these resources, municipally, provincially and federally, yet there is nothing being put towards increasing the number of social housing units in the city. As homelessness increases and the government starts to conclude this massive wealth of surplus, it just seemed completely outrageous and unacceptable for this to be going on. There needed to be some awareness raising event or action to be taken.

This particular lot was specially designated, on the city of Vancouver website, for social housing, and it had been so for more than 5 years, and still remained empty. So it became a location where we felt we could bring the issue to the fore.

place Monday morning and there was a hearing set up Friday morning. So when the city came down to shut us down they had just recently realized that they were this legal dispute so they agreed to let the legal process be carried through and let us stay on the site.

Shannon: What do you see as the main factors that have contributed to this housing/homelessness crisis and who is responsible?

Dave: The main factors are that there is not sufficient housing. As land prices have gone up, real estate has skyrocketed and in the downtown eastside there has been a move to increasingly gentrify the area, to purchase these SRO's [single room occupancy hotels] that are falling apart, fix them up, and flip them into student housing or whatever. So there is a net loss of housing for poor people. In addition to that there is the reality of people finding it increasingly difficult to get onto social assistance and when they get on social assistance the funds available are very inadequate to find any kind housing, so there is no rental housing available for people. All of these things combined create a situation where homelessness is increasing and people can't access places to stay.

The province is not building more social housing, at least not at a rate that is necessary to actually

doing as a faith-based social justice movement, one of our areas of focus is to begin to awaken the Christian faith community to issues of justice and these very local situations that people are facing. One of our aims is to continue an educational campaign of trying to get the word out. We're developing a multi-media presentation, a dramatic presentation that will do that. In addition, we're going to continue to explore other possibilities for public action, raising awareness in the general public and trying to exploit the situation and call for a response.

I think that the situation, despite all these announcements, is in very rough shape, as in recent events such as the Pandora apartments completely falling apart from neglect on the part of the landlord and people left with no where to go. In the light of the upcoming Olympics, the grand spectacle of capitalism that is going to have disastrous effects, especially for poor people, I think these kind of things continue to put pressure on poor people in our city and there needs to be a resistance against it.

Thank you Dave.

Streams of Justice meets every Monday night (except holidays) at 7 pm at Grandview Calvary Baptist Church. 1803 E. 1st Avenue, Vancouver, BC



Ethiopian Troops Out of US Hands Off SOMALIA

By Mike Chimenti

It has been 10 months since US imperialism opened its new era of war and occupation in Africa, massacring Somali civilians from the air, while its proxy Ethiopian force attacked Somalis on the ground.

The empire's plan to install a client regime that would answer to the beck and call of US monopoly capital has all but failed, succeeding only in re-igniting a vicious civil war and bringing millions of innocent Somalis to the brink of death.

In May, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and their Ethiopian allies, claimed to have cleared Mogadishu of all opposition forces. Despite their claims, daily fighting in the capital has continued unabated as has the flow of refugees fleeing the city.

"At any moment, a tragedy might happen to you ... Even at night there is no respite as despite the curfew, you can hear automatic gun fire as well as explosions."
- Somali aid worker, July 20th

2007, UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency)

Military Rule

From the beginning of June through the end of September, 65,000 people were forced to leave Mogadishu, adding to the more than 400,000 people who fled the capital in the first 6 months of 2007. Despite the fact that Somali's are now the 5th largest refugee Diaspora in the world, the TFG forced at least 3,000 people out of public buildings they had been living in, leaving them with no where to go, and no way to get there. Many of the roads leading into Mogadishu are routinely closed, blocking the delivery of food and medicine, and entire neighbourhoods are locked down by TFG forces as they carry out mass arrests, terrorizing the population, while they claim to be searching for "terrorists".

At the end of September, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) ordered Somalis in 3 different areas of Mogadishu to leave their houses, without providing any alternative shelter or emergency relief. This campaign of neighbourhood lockdowns and forced expulsions has turned northern Mogadishu into a veritable ghost town.

Those who cannot find a way out of the city are forced to relocate to the southern sections of Mogadishu, hoping to find shelter and food in this relatively calm part of the city. However, given the constant road closures and street fighting, finding work is almost

impossible, and the price of staple food items tripled between August and September.

Human Suffering

According to the United Nations, 1.5 million Somalis are now



"food insecure", an increase of 750,000 since the start of 2007. Despite the fact that thousands risk starvation in the refugee camps and along the roadways leading out of Mogadishu, on October 17th the TFG sent more than 60 police officers to ar-

Yemen. From here, the refugees hope to move on to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries in search of jobs. But the crossing itself is often no safer than life on the streets of Mogadishu. Of the 20,000 smuggled across the Gulf

of Aden this year, at least 439 people were killed during the crossing, and another 489 are missing and presumed dead. In most cases, these unnamed dead were thrown overboard by the smugglers who feared capture by Yemeni authorities.

ment!" in heroic displays of defiance and anger with the imposed government. In response, Ethiopian soldiers opened fire on the march killing 3 civilians, one of them a young boy.

"These two conferences seem to be polarising the situation, making it worse, rather than bringing people together." - Unnamed Somali analyst, September 7th 2007

While Somalis fled their homes throughout the course of the summer, the members of the Transitional Federal Government were engaged in a "Congress of National Reconciliation". From July 5th to September 30th, where conference delegates discussed their plans for Somalia.

Reconciliation?

As fighting raged in the streets, they proclaimed August 1st as the official end of the Somali civil war and announced complete reconciliation between all Somali tribes. Then, taking a page from the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq, they proposed the drafting of a new constitution, to be followed by a national referendum, crowned by national elections before the end of 2009.

position politicians and members of previous Somali governments. The Alliance is run by a 191 member central committee with 2 wings - political and military. The political wing is assigned to lobby international bodies to demand Ethiopia leave Somalia, and the military wing has been assigned to "liberate the country through the barrel of the gun."

Transitional Government in Crisis

As the Transitional Federal Government continues to posture and claim it is unifying Somalia, the cracks within this opportunist alliance are widening. In October, the Somali Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi, resigned after a long power struggle with President Abdullahi Yusuf. The two politicians, representing the largest clans in Somalia, had been involved in a battle over oil company alliances - an issue which has increasingly fostered division not only amongst members of the TFG, but between the regime in Mogadishu and the government of Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland region. The government of Puntland signed oil exploration contracts with Range Resources in 2005, but these agreements are now threatened by a draft oil law

rest Idris Osman, the head of the World Food Program's operations in Somalia. This unexplained action forced the WFP to cancel its first food distribution program in Mogadishu since June, leaving the 75,000 intended recipients to their own fate.

Mr. Osman was not the only victim of the transitional regimes' continuing violence. Suppression of any media hostile to the Washington backed regime has been common practice since the occupation began. Throughout October, government forces continued shutting down radio stations and arresting scores of journalists, until ultimately, the chairman of independent Radio Shabelle, Bashir Nur Gedi, was found dead on October 19th

"As long as Mogadishu is not peaceful, my future is in Saudi Arabia, where I can have a job and live without fearing for my life." - Ali, a 25-year-old student from Mogadishu, Aug 31st 2007, UNHCR

Many Somalis, faced with an increasingly violent and desperate situation in their country, have been forced to chance a dangerous voyage to neighbouring countries in search of some form of stable life.

Tens of thousands of East Africans, half of them Somali, gather in the northern Somali port of Bossaso, placing their fate in the hands of smugglers who take refugees across the Gulf of Aden to

Resistance

"The insurgents are attacking the government and Ethiopian forces almost everyday now ... Whenever this happens, we civilians are the target for the Ethiopian army as well as the Somali forces, so fleeing is the only option we have," - Fartun Adan Mohamed, Somali mother of three, AFP, October 29th 2007

The ongoing street battles reached a new level at the end of October as the Somali resistance began attacking police stations and army barracks in broad daylight. The

Unfortunately for the millions of Somalis affected by the daily violence, there was no mention of how this reconciliation would take effect, or how Somalis would be able to discuss the creation of a new constitution, participate in this referendum, or vote on a government while they linger in refugee camps awaiting a slow death from starvation, or instant death from the bullets of the occupiers.

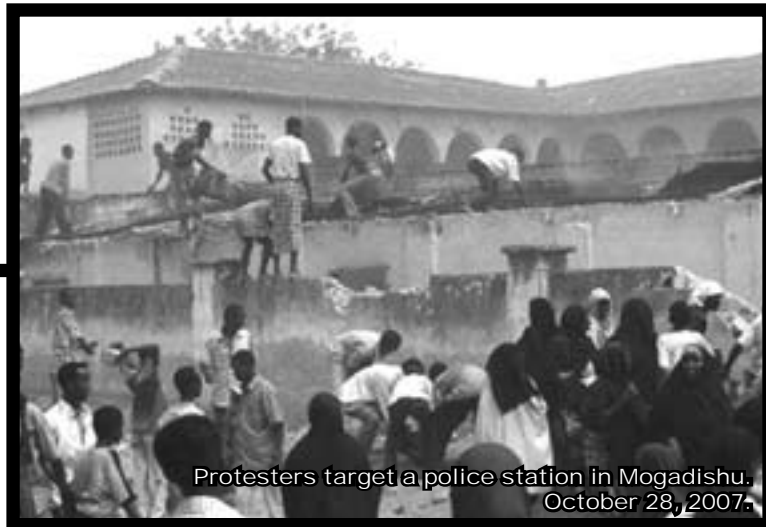
While the members of the Reconciliation Congress congratulated themselves on a job well done, the forces aligned against the occu-

passed by the TFG regime that includes areas already covered under Puntland's previous agreement.

What Now?

As the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq have shown the world, all of the scripting, plotting and planning of the imperialist countries turns to ash in the face of the resistance of the occupied. As Somalis continue to declare their resistance to foreign occupation and demand self-determination, the anti-war movement must do the same.

The war in Somalia is only the opening phase of the new era of war and occupation in Africa. The occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq have shown the people of the world that the imperialists have no limits on



escalating fighting forced 36,000 Somalis to flee Mogadishu in a single weekend and set off a wave of demonstrations against the TFG and the Ethiopian occupiers.

Demonstrators filled the streets chanting "Down with Ethiopia! Down with the Somali govern-

ment!" and TFG opened their own conference in Asmara, Eritrea, on September 6th. This conference resulted in the creation of "The Alliance for the Liberation of Somalia". Announced on September 12th, the Alliance comprises members of the ousted Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), as well as op-

the death and destruction they are willing to unleash on residents of their target countries. These occupations have also shown the people of the world that the only way out of this new era of war and occupation is resistance and fight back.

All Foreign Troops Out of Somalia Now!
US Hands Off Somalia!



Pastors for Peace report back. August 13 2007.

By Tamara Hansen

Towards the end of summer, as the sun was setting and later dusk set in, two great evenings events were held at Trout Lake Park in Vancouver, BC. Both outdoor events were to report back on trips to revolutionary Cuba. The first, a report from the Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba and the second, a trip with the Che Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade.

Over 180 people attended both events to learn more about what local students and activists learned on their trips to Cuba. The events were organized by Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) and sponsored by the Free the Cuban 5 Committee – Vancouver (FC5C-Van).

The Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba

On Monday October 13th the Caravan event opened with event by Alison Bodine (a Caravan 2006 participant) who introduced the night and the beautiful Latin American sounds of musician Joaquin Ernesto. Caravan participants, Oscar Villalobos, Magnolia Villalobos and David Whittlesey all explained their experience traveling from Vancouver to Mexico with the Caravan stopping in cities across the United States to explain the unjust and illegal US blockade on Cuba and gather aid to take to Cuba.

Max Tennant (an organizer with Victoria Goods for Cuba) spoke next. He discussed his first impressions of Cuba and how he was awed by the achievements accomplished by the Cuban Revolution. He commented that Cuba is waging a Battle of Ideas against the US government, where Cuba is fighting for social justice and a better world, while the US is plundering the world and threatening to take

us back to the dark ages through its many wars and occupations.

Finally, Nita Palmer (and organizer with the Free the Cuban 5 Committee – Vancouver) spoke about her second trip to Cuba and her first trip with the Caravan. She briefly explained how the US travel blockade on Cuba was attempting to prevent US citizens from seeing Cuba's example that a better world is possible and how this is the main reason the blockade must be broken.

Nita facilitated the multimedia presentation on the Caravan. She described the trip throughout the US. She discussed Cuba's international-



Oscar & Magnolia Villalobos



David Whittlesey



Max Tennant

REPORT BACK FROM CUBA

YOUNG VANCOUVER CARAVANISTAS AND BRIGADISTAS SPEAK ABOUT THEIR TRIPS

ism through photos of the Latin American School of Medicine graduation ceremonies and the visit to the Latin American School of Medicine. She described the reverse challenge of crossing back into the US, after many Caravanistas had traveled 'illegally' (according to US law) to Cuba. However, this year the reverse challenged happened without any problems from US customs, which is quite different from past years when they have interrogated Caravan participants.

Then, MC Alison Bodine, thanked the audience for coming to the event and explained how people can get involved in future Caravans to call for an end to the US blockade on Cuba!

For more information on the Caravan visit: <http://www.pastorsforpeace.org>

The Che Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade to Cuba

On September 8th, a baker's dozen of Brigadistas, fresh from the 15th Che Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade to Cuba were introduced by event MC's Tamara Hansen (coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba) and Noah Fine (coordinator of the Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver).

Each Brigadista had chosen an interesting topic to share a bit about what they had seen and learned in Cuba. Noah Fine explained a bit about History and the museums and historical sites the Brigade visited to learn about Cuba's struggle for independence. Next, Samira

gave the audience a picture of what daily life is like on the brigade, having everyone close their eyes and get carried from breakfast, to the construction project that this year's participants worked on- a school for children with visual and audio impairments- to the cultural activities of the evenings and more. She was followed by, Kerri Goodwin (a young Indigenous woman of the Oji-Cree Nation) who contrasted Cuba's struggle for sovereignty, with the fight of Indigenous people in Canada for self-determination. Following Kerri, Nicole Burton (an SFU student and organizer with Mobilization Against War and Occupation) spoke about how the Brigadistas had lots of opportunities to sit with Cuban people of all ages and professions and hear directly their opinions and ideas about Cuban and world politics.

Next Mike Larson (a student at Capilano College and an organizer with the FC5C-Van) took the mic and spoke about what he saw of Cuba's world renowned health and education systems, remembering visits to schools, polyclinics and other health facilities. Alex Hansen (a young electrical apprentice) followed Mike with the challenge of explaining Cuba's economy in five minutes- he gave a picture of both the challenges of the US blockade on Cuba and how the organization of the Cuban economy has prioritized a more just distribution of Cuba's wealth and resources. Thomas Davies (a young pipe fitter and organizer with FC5C-Van) told a funny story about a conversation with a taxi driver in Havana, who asked him if workers in Canada get the day off to go to demonstrations- a concept that's very strange to workers here, but normal for Cubans.

Furthering the contrast that the Brigadistas felt, Sarah Alwell (student at Capilano College and organizer with FC5C-Van) then explained about the electoral system in Cuba, explaining that she had never met her MLA here in Canada, but that in Cuba, elected representatives are very much involved in the daily life of their communities. After Sarah, Carly (a student at SFU and ex-

ecutive board member with the Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group) spoke about the brigade's meeting with the Cuban Women's federation, the largest women's organization in the world. A demographic that has advanced their position in society because of the revolution is youth. Aaron Mercredi (an organizer with the Indigenous Rights and Action Project) explained. He sketched a picture of meetings with young Cubans and the institutions that youth in Cuba have built, especially the Union of Young Communists (UJC).

Esteban Gonzalez Arteaga (an organizer with the Solidarity Coalition for a United Latin America and VCSC) spoke next about how some Brigadistas got to meet international students studying for free in Cuba. Brazil (a student at SFU) spoke last, talking about the legacy of the great revolutionary Che Guevara, for whom the brigade is named. Che's ideas of internationalism, of fighting for justice for all people around the world are very much a part of the principles that Cuba operates on.

At this point the audience was excited to see what the Brigadistas were talking about, and although there was no way to magically transport the audience to Cuba the Brigadistas had the second best thing, a beautiful slideshow of the highlights of the trip accompanied by

some of their favorite songs from Cuba. Tamara and Noah then gathered up all the Brigadistas and had a brilliant performance of a song first performed on the Brigade, about the Cuban five. The voices singing together, ringing out through the night left every one who attended the event thinking about their own plans to join the brigade next year!

For more information about the Che Brigade visit:

<http://www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca/brigade>

<http://www.vancouvercuba.com>



Che Guevara Brigade report back. September 8 2007



Carly Teng



The Brigade Choir



Kerri Goodwin

Kerri Goodwin from the Che Brigade
"The Cuban people know about the struggles I face, and that I am not alone in this fight for my people"

Hello my name is Kerri Goodwin. I am a proud Indigenous woman from the Oji-Cree Nation in Sandy Lake Ontario. Last summer was my first time in Cuba. As I was going there I didn't know anything about Cuba. I was going there only because it was a free trip and another reason to leave Canada. While I was in Cuba, I began to wonder about the Indigenous people there, curiously wanting to know where they are. I soon found out they were slaughtered and killed by the Spanish who came to Cuba in the late 15th Century. These selfish people wanted them to become slaves, but the Indigenous people had pride and dignity. Sadly many were forced to take their own lives because they refused to be slaves. This history in Cuba is the same as the history in all the Americas; it is a history of genocide.

When I left Cuba, I was so heart broken. On our journey back to Canada, I made a promise to my-

self that I would return to Cuba. I didn't know how and I didn't know when but I knew in my heart that I was going back to Cuba.

This summer was my second time in Cuba. I was so excited; I thought I was going to explode. Being in Cuba made me feel at home once again. Cuba made me realize that a world can change for my people here in Canada. The everyday struggles and the fight that they face is similar to what I face here in Canada. Let me explain, in Canada I face discrimination almost everywhere. For example when I go into a restaurant the service for me is very slow; I notice that people, who are not people of color, get better service than I do. When my friends and I wear t-shirts that represent our people and community, people walking by will make strange comments and try to bring us down. In Cuba, they face discrimination from the United States government such as the blockade; this prevents Cuba from accessing humanitarian aid such as basic medical supplies, school supplies, books and things you need for daily life.

I was very inspired by the visit we had with the revolutionary combatants. They are men that fought with Che Guevara in the 1959 revolutionary movement and after the revolution in the solidarity mission in the Congo in Africa.

I told them that I support the revolution and that I am standing beside them in solidarity even though many of my friends and relatives don't agree with me.

I remember combatants were telling me that I should keep fighting and never give up. They know about the struggles I face, and that I am not alone in this fight for my people.

One of my goals is to inform the young people in my reserve and people across Canada to encourage them to come on a trip like I have, it will give them a better perspective on what is going on in the world around them. I hope Cuba will change them the way Cuba has changed me.

Now let's work together with Cuba in solidarity to make a better world for everyone and for ourselves, a world that we call home.

Israeli Government Prepares for Another Massacre Against Palestinians

By Mike Chimenti

"It is a declaration of war and continues the criminal, terrorist Zionist actions against our people." - Fawzi Barhoum, Hamas spokesman, September 20th 2007

On September 20th, the Israeli government officially declared the Gaza Strip an "enemy entity" and warned that "Additional sanctions [would] be placed on the Hamas regime in order to restrict the passage of various goods to the Gaza Strip and reduce the supply of fuel and electricity."

These new and deadly pronouncements came into effect on October 25th and on the 28th, Israel began cutting the amount of fuel delivered to Gaza. According to the Israeli government, the reductions were to be between 8 and 11%, but Mojahed Salama, head of the Palestinian Authority's Petrol Agency, said that shipments of gasoline and diesel had been cut by 40-50%, and fuel oil for Gaza's electrical station cut by 12%.

of the entire structure of the siege forced upon Gaza since the election of Hamas in January of 2006. Immediately following Hamas' landslide election victory, a clear signal as to the "kind of state" Palestinians wanted, Israel suspended all tax transfers to the occupied territories. Western countries were quick to follow, with Canada first through the gates in the race to cut all direct aid funding to Palestinians.

The already dire economic situation in this 25 mile long, 6 mile wide open air prison went from unbelievable to unbearable. In a further tightening of the screws, Israel imposed a complete economic blockade on Gaza in June after Hamas seized control from Fatah.

According to the UN World Food Program (WFP), 39% of Gaza's residents are unemployed and those who could find work saw their average annual earnings

Palestine through the barrel of a gun. The history of Israel and its crimes against Palestine are an almost endless series of targeted assassinations, indiscriminate massacres and bombings of civilian targets, followed by hypocritical calls for "restraint" on the part of the victims of aggression.

Despite all the pressure exerted by Israel and its foreign backers on the occupied Palestinian territories, Palestinian resistance has not been stamped out. In fact, it is this continued resistance that Israel is using as its pretext for this new wave of criminal assaults and flagrant violations of the 4th Geneva Convention - most explicitly, Article 33, which expressly forbids the use of collective punishment.

"They aim to starve our people and force them to accept humiliating formulas that could emerge from the so-called November peace conference" - Fawzi Barhoum, Hamas spokesperson, September

1.5 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip hostage in order to force Fatah into accepting a roster of new conditions before any "Final Status" talks are held. Despite Abbas' repeated calls for a timeline to discuss the borders of the two states, on September 21st, Secretary Rice insisted that "A timeline isn't wise at this point, but we will see if one is helpful later ...". Translation: If Israel gets everything it demands in the upcoming conference, the occupying power will graciously discuss a timeline in the future.

Hamas for a Peaceful Solution

Despite Hamas' repeated offers of a truce and/or negotiations about trade and traffic into and out of the Gaza Strip, Israel has refused to accept any conditions other than the unconditional surrender of all Palestinian resistance. The Israeli ruling class has made it clear to the world, time and time again, that they will give no quarter to the

Israel "reconsider this decision" to cut off food, fuel and supplies to a million and a half people. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice promised not to abandon "the innocent Palestinians in Gaza", but said she supported designating all of the Gaza Strip as an "enemy entity", after all "Hamas is a hostile entity to the United States as well."

The Carter Centre, former US President Jimmy Carter's "humanitarian" foundation issued the strongest criticism of Israel's new crimes, characterizing them "as the collective punishment of 1.4 million people for the actions of a few".

Israeli Government and Crimes Against Humanity

In the face of Israel's newest gruesome crime against Palestinians, it has become clear that if the Israeli state refuses to relent, it must face a complete international boycott. Led by the

Gaza Under Siege

In order to make sure that Palestinians realized the full measure of Israel's new aggression, the Sufa crossing, one of only three crossings into Gaza, was closed. Since the closure of the Karni crossing in June, the Sufa crossing had become Gaza's main lifeline with the world.

While the 1.5 million Palestinians trapped inside Gaza were left to suffer the effects of this latest siege, the Israeli government was debating the legal technicalities of severing the supply of electricity to Gaza, 60% of which comes from Israel.

On October 28th, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert made customary "promises" that there would be no humanitarian crisis or disruption in the flow of medical supplies. These "promises" were not just difficult to believe because they came from the head of the Israeli state, but because Gaza's main hospital had been out of anaesthetics for a month when he made these "promises".

Two days later, Israeli Defence Minister, Ehud Barak, made it clear to the world that these new measures were not temporary. Speaking to reporters, Barak warned that "Every passing day brings us closer to a broad operation in Gaza".

Israel Punishes Hamas and Palestinians

All of these new aggressions are only component parts

drop by more than one third from January 2006 to June of 2007. 66% of Gazans are poor and 16% extremely poor, living on less than \$1.60USD per day.

More than 1.1 million people rely on the aid from the WFP to live, and according to the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development more than 30% of children in the Gaza Strip are undernourished.

How many more Palestinians will be sentenced to death by these new measures? How many more will die as a result of Israel's impending "broad operation in Gaza"?

Tragic Palestinian History

Since 1948, Israel has created more than 4.4 million Palestinian refugees and annexed approximately 93% of historic

20th 2007

In order to keep the myth of a 2 state solution alive, the US has announced a new "Peace Summit" to take place some time this November. Ehud Olmert and Fatah's Mahmoud Abbas have been holding meetings regularly over the last month, with 2 in the month of October alone, and Condoleezza Rice has made 8 trips to Israel this year. Israeli aid to the West Bank and Fatah was restored after Hamas claimed control over Gaza. The Israeli government has no diplomatic relations with Hamas and deals exclusively with Fatah, and with Israel's latest announcements their strategy for the conference has become clear.

Israel and the US will hold the

victims of their aggression.

"They are living under siege, in a big prison. This pressure leads to explosion." - Khaled Meshaal, Exiled leader of Hamas, October 6th 2007

What more reason could the "international community" need in order to begin a wave of sanctions and political isolation of Israel? With all of the UN's bombast about no longer tolerating the abuse of human rights and the assertion of the industrialized Western nations that they have a "Responsibility to Protect" the people of "weaker" nations, where is their outcry for Palestinians?

The Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki Moon, asked only that

UN, the international bodies, relief agencies and rights organizations must not remain silent while Israel begins the slow starvation of the 1.5 million prisoners of the Gaza concentration camp.

Every method available must be brought to bear against Israel - sanctions, freezing of Israeli state funds, diplomatic isolation, and the creation of an international criminal tribunal for Israeli war crimes. Palestinians and the people of the world have waited long enough!

End the Siege of Gaza!

Boycott the Israeli Apartheid State!



Palestinian homes destroyed by Israel.

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Haitians Still Suffering under UN/US/Canada/France Occupation

By Thomas Davies

On February 29th 2004 Haiti was invaded. Canadian, US and French military were the first to move in. They forced out the democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and forced in an interim government under the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

Unfortunately for Haitians, Haiti was not spared the brutality of the many other recent occupations such as Iraq, Afghanistan or Somalia. Well-documented massacres and human rights abuses either organized or directly inflicted by UN forces have defined the mission, as well as a continuing lack of civil institutions and basic services. Today the MINUSTAH forces remain to control and abuse the Haitian population, and Haitians continue to demand their freedom.

No End In Sight

On October 15th the United Nations Security Council voted unanimously to extend the Haitian mission through at least mid-October 2008. 7,060 troops and 2,091 will remain posted, while Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon admitted that "the potential for renewed armed violence within the country remains considerable." Of course the potential remains considerable, because the 9,000 primary perpetrators just had their mission extended.

A study published in the British medical journal, the Lancet, estimated that 8,000 Haitians had been killed and 35,000 sexually assaulted- in the greater capital of Port-au-Prince alone- during the first two years of UN occupation. 100,000 became internal refugees and 20,000 more went into exile.

According to Human Rights Watch, the Haitian National Police Forces, trained by

Occupied Elections Produce Occupied Country

After being delayed 4 times, the UN imposed interim government of Gérard Latortue was replaced by Rene Prével after elections took place on February 7th 2006. But how can you elect another President in Haiti when Haiti already had an elected President? Jean-Bertrand Aristide won 91.81% of the votes in the November 26th 2000 Presidential Election, and had not completed his 5 year presidential term when he was kidnapped by occupation forces. Whatever anyone's opinion of Aristide is, he did have a legitimate mandate from the Haitian people. Prével's mandate was created under occupation, and this continues to dictate his policies.

Haiti is now on the brink of the privatizations so many Haitians have fought against for decades. In May, Prével announced that Haiti's public telephone company, Téléco, would be privatized. 2,800 employees have been terminated thus far. Prével's government also has plans for the state electric company (EDH), the customs service and the national airport.

In June, the organization of transportation workers went on a two-day strike protesting increased prices for gasoline. The government refused to regulate gas prices which had increased 20 percent in a two week period, in spite of oil contributed to Haiti by Venezuela at low cost. Fortune Patrice, the Communications Director of the Association of Owners and Drivers of Haiti union in Haiti explained, "The government of René Prével is aligning itself more and more with the interests of the foreign powers in Haiti, to the detriment of the Haitian people. Conditions of life for ordinary people are deteriorating all around us and we cannot sit back and let this happen."

The Occupation Continues

Prével used his speaking opportunity at United Nations on September 26th of this year to call for a continuation of the occupation, and while praising the calm brought by MINUSTAH forces.

Voices on the ground say different things. According to Brian Concannon, the director of the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) and former UN human rights worker in Haiti, under MINUSTAH and Prével's rule Haiti, "is like Guantanamo Bay" in its absence of rights, "Everyone looks like a criminal and MINUSTAH has heavy weapons."

There is also the 2007 report by the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), "a Federal Advisory Committee with a U.S. Government Charter to promote security cooperation between American business and private sector interests worldwide and the U.S. Department of State." They say: "There is widespread discontent with continued insecurity in Port-au-Prince, and the second half of 2006 saw a resurfacing of the nationalist and anti-globalization sentiment always present in Haitian politics. As Pre-

val's term progresses, those impatient with the government are showing more willingness to air their grievances in the street. Student groups, religious organizations and civil society frequently organize sit-ins and demonstrations that follow several common themes. They often demand the departure of Haiti's UN force (MINUSTAH), which protesters claim does nothing to fight insecurity in the country."

The Occupation Must End

60% of Haitians are unemployed, and the average person now makes less than they did 30 years ago. There is \$24 per person allocated for healthcare each year. The foreign occupiers, who have all said they have Haiti's best interests at heart, will suck \$56 Million of "debt repayments" out of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere this year. They will also continue to work with the Prével to sell off anything left in Haiti after over 3 years of occupation.

Is it any wonder that protests continue and grow in occupied Haiti? Is it any wonder that on a recent Canadian speaking tour, Secretary General of the Confederation of Haitian Workers, Loulou Chéry emphasized, "The governments in Canada and the US say they are helping Haiti, but they are not. Haiti needs friends, not hypocrites..."

The occupation has proved itself unable of meeting even the most basic needs of



all foreign troops
OUT
of **Haiti**

the people, and worse, goes beyond this to brutalize, humiliate, and murder them. The people of Haiti have a proud history of fighting against foreign domination. They formed the first independent black republic from a successful slave rebellion on January 1st 1804. Two hundred years later, and their struggle will continue until they are able to determine their own lives free from all foreign conquest. We must continue to demand: Canada Out of Haiti! All Foreign Troops Out of Haiti Now!

Canada under the UN mission, "perpetrate abuses with almost total impunity," and "Human Rights Watch knows of no members of the HNP who have faced criminal prosecution for their abusive conduct."

Declassified documents from the US Embassy admit that in one single raid in the poorest area of Port-au-Prince on July 6th 2005, MINUSTAH fired up to 22,000 bullets. In the most densely populated area in all of Haiti, they claimed only 6 "bandits" were killed in the shootings.

Accounts of similar incidents flood reports by Haitian NGOs and international organizations, but one example comes another raid on December 22nd 2006 by Frantz Michel Guerrier, a young man who is the spokesman of the Committee of Notables for the Development of Cité Soleil. "We saw helicopters shoot at us, our houses broken by the tanks. We heard detonations of the heavy weapons. Many of the dead and wounded were found inside their houses. I must tell you that nobody had been saved, not even the babies. The Red Cross was not allowed to help people. The soldiers had refused to let the Red Cross in..."



Rally in Cité Soleil demanding the departure of MINUSTAH from Haiti.

Venezuela

Continued from page 11

sovereignty of all Indo-Latin America countries. Whenever our nations are attacked by imperialism, the indigenous people will be ready to defend them from all points of view, and in diverse manners.

We support brother Evo Morales Ayma for the Nobel Peace Prize, for having achieved a space for participation in Bolivia in favour of the majority, and having avoided a social confrontation, led by the people in search of their liberation, which today they have found constitutionally.

We are against the state terrorism carried out by the empire; the criminalisation of the social movements; the repression which goes against truly legal and real freedom of expression; the impunity which surrounds the disrespectful freedom of expression that promotes hate, egoism, anger and resistance to changes in favour of the majority, the people.

We oppose in its entirety any international declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples that does not respond to the revolutionary processes, and that, on the contrary aims to grab media attention, and control and fragment communities. Likewise with the multilateral organizations, such as the World Bank, Inter American Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund, that have indebted governments, and with that, the peoples.

We pronounce ourselves against the Zionist movements, which are one form of expression of this imperialism.

We back the efforts and struggles of the indigenous peoples carried out daily across the whole continent of Abya Yala, principally the current indigenous movements of Panama, El Salvador, Honduras, Uruguay, Argentina, Guatemala, where, not only are they not in-existent as they were believed to be, rather, the indigenous peoples are present, and each

day are impeding the empire from continuing to destroy lives and communities in these important territories.

We salute the anti-imperialist governments of the continent, with the presence of Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, Evo Morales in Bolivia and Rafael Correa in Ecuador, where the indigenous struggle has found backing and recognition for their demands.

Our fraternal support goes to the struggle of the indigenous peoples of Oaxaca and Chiapas in Mexico, expressed via the Popular Assembly of the Indigenous Peoples of Oaxaca (APPO) and the Zapatista Movement.

We back the policy of humanitarian and solidarity-based aid that is being carried out via the internationalization of the Missions of the Bolivarian Revolution, as a clear demonstration of what is Socialism of the 21st Century.

We call on all the peoples of Abya Yala to become part of this Continental Council of the Great Nation of Anti-imperialist Indigenous Peoples, as one more space of struggle against the empire, capitalism and neoliberal globalisation that wants to impose itself; which does not substitute any other effort but rather complements our historic, local and regional struggles, so that we continue walking united, as one single body, as one single voice, towards the construction of the great homeland.

We invite everyone to participate in the 2nd International Congress of Anti-imperialist Indigenous Peoples, to be held next year, 2008.

To continue writing the history of our Indo-american indigenous peoples, death to imperialism!

Homeland, Socialism or Death!

We will win!

On the ancestral territory of Kumarakapay, Gran Sabana, Venezuela, on the 9th day of the month of August of 2007.

By Alison Bodine

International Month with the Cuban 5 Heroes In Solidarity

In September 12th 1998 the US government arrested 5 Cuban men. Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González and René González are still held in US jails. Since their initial arrest an international campaign has grown in their defence. The Cuban 5, as these men have become known, have become not only heroes for the people of Cuba, but also heroes for people fighting for social justice around the world.

In 1994 and 1995 the Cuban government sent the Cuban 5 on a mission in the US to investigate anti-Cuban terrorist organizations operating in the US. These organizations are responsible for the deaths of over 3,500 Cubans since the 1959 Cuban revolution. The Cuban 5 collected over 15,000 pages of documents about the activities and plans of these terrorist organizations. Cuba then released all of this collected information to the FBI.

The Cuban 5 were arrested by the US government Sept 12th 1998. They were held in solitary confinement for over 17 months. What ensued when their show trial was finally held in 2001, were sentences ranging from 15 years to double-life. There are currently 10 points that the Cuban 5 are appealing in the Atlanta Circuit Court of Appeals. In August 2005 a 3 judge panel ruled in favour of the Cuban 5 on the basis that the venue of their trial was the fiercely anti-Cuban city of Miami. This decision overturned the convictions of the Cuban 5 and they should have been freed immediately. However, the US government intervened directly and a 12 judge panel upheld the convictions. On August 20th 2007 the lawyers of the five presented 3 more of the points of appeal. People around the world are now awaiting decisions on these next 3 points – but they are not waiting silently.

From September 12th to October 8th during the International Month in Solidarity with the Cuban 5 there were events in the US, Italy, Austria, Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Canada, Philippines,

Actions and Events in Vancouver Demand Justice!

Laureano Cardoso, the Cuban Consul General from Toronto joined with students at the University of British Columbia to outline the importance of the case of the Cuban 5 for Cuba, and the importance of continued action in defence of the 5 heroes.

Three more city-wide events concluded the actions of the month in Vancouver. On Oct 4th the case of the Cuban 5 was a major component of a presentation and discussion on "Building an Effective Cuba Solidarity Movement." The next day was a city-wide public forum "The Case of the Cuban 5 and Political Prisoners in Latin America", co-organized with the Solidarity Coalition for a United Latin America (SCULA). Laureano Cardoso surprised us with his presence at both of these events. The last event of the month, though not by any means the last event of the campaign, was the Western-Canada premiere of the new film about the Cuban 5 "The Trial." The discussion that followed the film summarized the entire weeks of action with a message of support and energy to continue the struggle to free the 5 Cuban Heroes. The International Month in Solidarity with the Cuban 5 was a big success in Vancouver, bringing many young and human-loving people together in defence of Cuban 5 heroes. The events organized by Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba and the Free Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver inspired a significant number of activists to join their ranks in helping to organizing more activities around Cuban 5 heroes.

**VOLVERAN!
THEY WILL
RETURN!**



Laureano Cardoso, Cuban Consul General speaks at UBC October 4.



Picket September 20.



Capilano October 3.



Solidarity evening October 4.

Australia, Cuba, and many other countries around the world, organized by some of the over 315 groups in Solidarity with the Cuban 5. In Vancouver, the Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver and Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) came together to organize 8 events in one month in solidarity with the Cuban 5.

Actions began in Vancouver with the 22nd picket in defence of the Cuban 5 at the United States Consulate. Over 40 people came together to mark the 9th anniversary of the imprisonment of the Cuban 5. Speakers from many different communities in Vancouver added their perspective to the picket. This included Alison Bodine, an anti-war and Cuba solidarity activist recently politically targeted and arrested by the government of Canada in a political frame-up that began after the Canada Border Services Agency found pro-Cuba and anti-war materials in her car. This energetic picket ended with chanting loud and clear way up to the US Consulate "Free, Free, Free, Free the Cuban 5!"

The week of October 1st marked the beginning of the first-ever Student Week in Solidarity with Cuban 5 to happen anywhere in the world. Events took place at Simon Fraser University, Langara College, Capilano College, and the University of British Columbia. The events featured the Cuban film Septiembres y Mas, about the US sponsored terrorism against Cuba. Following the movie, a speaker outlined recent updates in the case and talked about why the case exposes the hypocrisy of the US government's "War on Terror". Alison Bodine also remained a component during the student week, speaking about the rights of peace loving people like herself and the Cuban 5 to fight for justice against war and terrorism without harassment and imprisonment. At the end of the student week a special guest arrived to participate.



Solidarity evening October 4.



Forum October 5.



Film Showing October 7.

Visiting Cuba Through the Eyes of a Young Canadian Activist - Memoir of a Trip with Adventure, Education & Politics ... OR "How I Learned to Love Cuba!"

Available for \$1 ea.
To Order Contact:
Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC)
778-882-5223 or cubacommunities@yahoo.ca
Back-to-Back in Spanish AND English!

Cuba Solidarity T-shirts from Vancouver! **only \$15!**

- * Free the Cuban 5 Committee T-shirt (Left)
- * 'Lift the Blockade' T-Shirt (Right)

To order contact Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) at: cubacommunities@yahoo.ca or 778-882-5223

Five Heroes Freedom Fund!

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 or www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca

DECISION BY THE SUPREME JUDGE

By Manuel Yepe*

The president of the United States of America actually believes that he has divine powers to assume the role of supreme judge on the planet. But, down on the ground, every time mortals consulted this faculty assumed by Washington, it has been denied.

President George W. Bush recently dictated that Cuba and Myanmar (previously Burma) are guilty of the crimes of trafficking of human beings, forced labor and prostitution.

He also declared that Venezuela, Syria, North Korea and Iran are up at the top of the list to have the same sanctions applied, although he invoked his authority to hold off applying them so drastically because of the flow of money linked favors the national interest of the United States.

The president – reports Associated Press – preferred to hold off on applying sanctions to other countries where he has discovered serious problems of trafficking in human beings, such as Saudi Arabia. He also withdrew the immediate threat of sanctions on Kuwait because that country recently opened a refuge for victims of abuse, almost always Asian women forced to work as slaves in wealthy Kuwaiti homes.

How big of him. Bush also decided not to apply sanctions against Iran nor against other nations where the United States sets its



to observing others and to conduct itself in bilateral relations as it sees fit. But no one has the faculty of being above the rest without a democratic mandate by the world community in the United Nations system.

The new Human Rights Council of the United Nations created in 2006 to substitute the Commission of Human Rights is now subordinated to the General Assembly that encompasses all member states and its decisions are made by a majority vote. The United States did not even dare to attempt to gain membership because of the certainty of it would be rejected.

The new UN institution is now in charge of checking that violations of human rights are not a scenario manipulated by the United States to pressure and blackmail poor nations. Now, this council can deal not only with violations occurring in Third World nations but, also, in

sights on extending its cultural and educational services "to prevent abuse".

In the case of the greatest delinquents, Cuba and Myanmar, sanctions imposed by Bush are the withdrawal of US aid and forbidding their participation in cultural and educational exchange programs. Cuba has been submitted to 48 years of a severe commercial blockade and an economic war which has excluded it from these "benefits" for 48 years.

The line of arguments by the US president – assuredly coming to him from divine sources – contradicts the fact that Cuba has been, for more than four decades, victim and not guilty of trafficking of human beings that has become a profitable business for unscrupulous persons based in United States territory with the undisguised support of Florida state authorities and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

In the United States there are laws that promote the illegal immigration of Cubans as a means of propaganda against the island's socialist project viciously repressing irregular immigrants of any other country of the third world.

As for prostitution, it is well known that Cuba practically erased this social blight until the decade of the 1990s when it received a boost though an increase in tourism. The island had to confront the crisis unleashed by the sudden end of commercial ties with the Soviet Union and other nations of eastern Europe. The United States took advantage of this situation to strengthen measures of the longest economic blockade against an independent nation.

However, the prevalence of prostitution in Cuba is insignificant in relation to what affected the country before the triumph of the revolution in 1959 and cannot even be compared to the current high indexes of this scourge in other countries of the continent, including the United States.

As for the occurrence of "forced labor" it is a crime that is non-existent on the island while it is widely extended in the United States with irregular immigrants as victims.

All states have the sovereign right and duty

DICTAMEN DEL JUEZ SUPREMO

Por Manuel Yepe*

El presidente de los Estados Unidos de América cree realmente que cuenta con poderes divinos para ejercer la función de juez supremo del planeta.

Pero, a nivel de la tierra, cada vez que la asignación de tal facultad a Washington ha sido consultada a los mortales, ésta ha sido denegada.

El presidente George W. Bush dictaminó recientemente que Cuba y Myanmar (antes Birmania) son culpables de los delitos de tráfico de seres humanos, trabajos forzados y prostitución.

También declaró que Venezuela, Siria, Corea del Norte e Irán son candidatos para recibir las mismas sanciones, aunque invocó a su autoridad para no aplicarlas de manera tan drástica, porque el flujo de dinero vinculado a esa ayuda favorece el interés nacional de Estados Unidos.

El mandatario –dice la información de la agencia estadounidense Prensa Asociada- prefirió no aplicar sanciones a otros países donde dice haber descubierto graves problemas de tráfico de seres humanos, como Arabia Saudita. También retiró la amenaza inmediata de las sanciones a Kuwait porque ese país abrió recientemente un refugio para las víctimas de abusos, casi siempre mujeres asiáticas obligadas a trabajar como esclavas en hogares de acaudalados kuwaitíes.

Magnánimo, Bush dispuso, asimismo, no aplicar sanciones a Irán ni a otras naciones en las que Estados Unidos cifra esperanzas de poder extender sus servicios culturales y educativos "para impedir los abusos".

En los casos de los máximos delincuentes,

de propaganda política contra el proyecto socialista de la isla, al tiempo que se reprime con saña a inmigrantes irregulares de cualquier otro país del tercer mundo.

En cuanto a la prostitución, es notorio que Cuba logró prácticamente su desaparición como lacra social hasta la década de los años 1990 en que se vio estimulada por efecto del incremento del turismo, cuyo desarrollo la isla se vio obligada a asumir para hacer frente a la crisis desatada por la súbita cesación de los vínculos comerciales con la Unión Soviética y otros países de Europa del Este. Estados Unidos aprovechó aquella situación para extremar las medidas del bloqueo económico más largo de la historia contra un país independiente.

No obstante, la prevalencia de la prostitución en Cuba es insignificante hoy respecto a la que afectaba al país antes de la revolución que triunfó en 1959, y ni siquiera compara con los elevados índices actuales de esta lacra en otros países del continente, incluido Estados Unidos.

En cuanto a la vigencia de "trabajos forzados", es un delito inexistente en la isla, en cambio muy extendido en Estados Unidos con los inmigrantes irregulares como víctimas.

Todos los Estados tienen el derecho y el deber de observar a los demás y conducirse en la relación bilateral como soberanamente lo estimen procedente. Pero a ninguno le corresponde la facultad de colocarse por encima de los demás sin un mandato democráticamente formulado por la comunidad mundial en el seno del sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

El nuevo Consejo de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas, creado en 2006 para sustituir a la Comisión de Derechos Humanos, está ahora subordinado a la Asamblea General integrada por todos los países miembros y en ella las decisiones se toman por voto mayoritario.

violations occurring more frequently in the United States and other industrialized nations. Now the aggressions of Israel against the Arabs are evaluated the same as any other aggression against human security.

Vigilance over economic, social and cultural violations now have the same priority as civilian and political freedoms, which are much more subjective than the former.

Wherever world-wide decisions are taken by a majority vote of sovereign states, democratically – and without the divine intervention of whispers in the president's ear the decisions that the United States must take at all cost and under any circumstances – the world community expresses its opposition to unipolar hegemony and domination by a super power.

The nations of the third world, and in first place those of the non-aligned movement, are gaining confidence in the power of unity with every defeat Washington suffers in votes such as those of its enemy which has obtained nearly unanimous votes of United Nations member states against the support of a few of its protectorates and Israel.

The habitual allies of the super power have not accepted the humiliations that the arrogance of the White House systematically imposes on them and have taken distance, risking imperial rage.

A rational position would be for Washington to acknowledge that humanity, already in the 21st century, cannot accept that one state, however powerful, exerts unilateral conduct of the planet, taken from above or regardless of the world community. Humanity does not acknowledge a supreme judge, regardless of one who claims to be in direct contact with some deity.

*Manuel E. Yepe Menéndez is a journalist and professor of the Higher Institute of International Relations in Havana. October 2007. A CubaNews translation by Ana Portela. <http://www.walterlippmann.com/docs1606.html> Edited by Walter Lippmann.

Cuba y Myanmar, la sanción que les impone Bush es retirarles el derecho a recibir ayuda estadounidense y prohibirles ingresar a sus programas de intercambio cultural y educativo. Cuba está sometida hace 48 años a un severo bloqueo comercial y una guerra económica que le ha excluido de tales "beneficios" desde hace 48 años.

La argumentación del mandatario norteamericano –seguramente de fuentes divinas- contradice el hecho de que Cuba ha sido, durante más de cuatro décadas, víctima y no culpable del tráfico de seres humanos que se ejerce, como lucrativo negocio, por inescrupulosos comerciantes asentados en territorio estadounidense, con el indisimulado apoyo de las autoridades del estado de la Florida y de la Agencia Central de Inteligencia (CIA).

En Estados Unidos rigen leyes que promueven la inmigración ilegal de cubanos con objetivos

Estados Unidos ni siquiera se atrevió a intentar su ingreso, ante la certeza de un seguro rechazo.

Ya el organismo de las Naciones Unidas encargado de vigilar las violaciones de los derechos humanos no es escenario manipulable por los Estados Unidos para presionar y chantajear a los países pobres. Ahora en esa instancia se pueden tratar no solo violaciones ocurridas en naciones del Tercer Mundo, sino también las que, con mayor frecuencia aún, se producen en Estados Unidos y en otras naciones industrializadas. Ya las agresiones de Israel contra los árabes se valoran igual que cualquier otra agresión a la seguridad humana.

La vigilancia sobre las violaciones de los derechos económicos, sociales y culturales tiene

continuado en la página 22



TWISTED JUSTICE IN MIAMI

The Case of Cuban 5 & Others...

By Manuel Yepe*

Similar to the kidnapping of the Cuban boy, Elián González, seven years ago, a five year-old Cuban girl is today the center of an international dispute over her custody in the only place in the world where something like this could happen: the U.S. city of Miami, in south Florida.

Like the Elian case that won world notoriety, the plaintiff is the father of the child and the arguments of the kidnapers are mostly based on the irrational policy of the United States against Cuba.

In this case, the alleged kidnapper is a wealthy entrepreneur involved in human trafficking called Joe Cubas who, under the façade of a sports agent, has made a fortune in the illegal dealing of Cuban athletes using intelligence logistics and US subversion against the island and the support of Cuban-American extremist groups which have transmuted hatred of the Cuban socialist project into a money-making business which includes political wheeling and dealing directly involving top-ranking government officials of the state of Florida in the United States.

Bob Butterworth, secretary of the Department of Children and Families in the State of Florida (DCF in its English acronym) whose lawyers are battling to prevent the Cuban father from obtaining custody of his daughter, told the Miami press that this

amidst the luxury in which he is kept.

Elena has declared that she regrets having left her small town of Cabaiguán where her children were happy. "I know this country seems marvelous to many people but I am disappointed in it", Elena Pérez expressed and described her attempted suicide in a moment of weakness amidst a situation of desperation and destitution.

"One horrible night I decided that my children would be better off without me and so I did something stupid", she declared. I am not crazy. I have been depressed and stressed-out and spent many sleepless nights but I am ok".

The U.S. judge, Jeri B. Cohen, risks her career attempting to act impartially in the Miami environment, in a legal process which is becoming ever more political. She acknowledged that the case would have another outcome in which "the United States government refuses to repatriate the child to a communist country where her father lives". She also revealed that "employees of the state of Florida" – the name given to the legal representation of a state government in trial – want the child to remain in the United States in the custody of a Cuban American family. "They would have acted

"unusual" case is the costliest he has ever seen.

The little girl is daughter of the Cuban campesino from Cabaiguán in the central region of the island and Elena Pérez a 35-year-old woman who left Cuba legally and arrived in the United States in December 2005 with the daughter in question and her son. Shortly after her arrival in the Miami, her new husband, Jesús Melendres, abandoned them.

According to reports in the Miami press, Elena, evidently disturbed because of the economic situation she faced for several months, tried to commit suicide. This was the reason her children were taken from her. The DCF took her children from her in March of 2006 and placed them in the care of Joe Cubas.

When Rafael Izquierdo found out, he decided to assume his duty and his right as a father, and was able to travel to the United States to bring his daughter back.

The mother has been categorical in declaring that if she cannot have her daughter she wants her to return to Cuba with her father "who loves her and wants to be with her". Anything would be better – the mother said – than leaving her in the United States in the care of Joe Cubas who has kept the little girl for over a year and formally adopted her brother.

According to the local press, the 13-year-old adolescent told his mother that he wants to stay with Joe Cubas

differently if the child's father lived anywhere but Cuba."

"In over 10 years of presiding over cases of child welfare I had never seen lawyers of the Department of Children and Family of the State of Florida act against a father to raise his child unless he had repeatedly failed to comply with a court-ordered stipulations, the judge declared.

Considering the tense relations between the United States and Cuba, I believe that "the father may never see his daughter again if he returns to the island without her". It is easy to understand, however, that the judge is working under great pressure and that the trial is not taking place in a fair climate of objectivity and impartiality.

A clear example of the incompatibility of the Miami environment in a reasonable legal process was the sentencing in 2001, amidst the hostile atmosphere of southern Florida, to severe prison terms for five Cubans who penetrated counterrevolutionary groups to monitor and denounce terrorist plans against their homeland constantly under attack through the passive complicity of US authorities.



Cuban Pioneers protest the kidnapping of Elian Gonzalez.



Photos from the trial.

On August 2005, the Federal Eleventh Circuit Appeals Court in Atlanta reversed those sentences decreed against the five anti-terrorist activists who have been in jail since 1998 under vile conditions and dispersed in different prisons of several states of the U.S. union.

In the Atlanta Appeals Court, three judges unanimously made this ruling after observing the fraudulent process which had occurred in Miami, although, at the time, the defense gave solid arguments that the venue was unacceptable but the acting judge inexplicably rejected these.

The verdict of the Appeals Court noted that the hostility and prejudice in the

Miami environment, both in the public as the local press made it impossible to hold an impartial trial in that city "dominated by such marked prejudice against the Cuban government that a legal process was impossible against men who openly identified with the government of their country and with the objective necessity of defending the Cuban people from terrorism."

With such a categorical statement by the Appeals Court, it was logical that the Prosecution disallow the charges and immediately release the five Cubans. But the opposite occurred. On the insistence of the federal government the decision was reversed and the promoters of this legal aberration that was the trial in Miami against "The Five" were stimulated to commit more outrages.

In this legal setting, a Cuban father fights to recover his young daughter in Miami.

*Manuel E. Yepe Menéndez is a journalist and professor at the Higher Institute of International Relations in Havana. A CubaNews translation by Ana Portela. Edited by Walter Lippmann. (<http://www.walterlippmann.com/>)

JUSTICIA TORCIDA EN MIAMI

Por Manuel Yepe*

Con características similares al secuestro de que fue objeto hace siete años el niño cubano Elián González, una niña cubana de cinco años de edad es hoy el centro de una disputa internacional por su custodia, en el único lugar del mundo donde algo así podría ocurrir: la estadounidense ciudad de Miami, en el sur de la Florida.

Como en el caso del niño Elián, que ganó notoriedad mundial, el reclamante es el padre de la criatura y los argumentos de los secuestradores se sustentan esencialmente en la irracional

política de los Estados Unidos contra Cuba.

En esta ocasión, el ejecutor del pretendido secuestro es un acaudalado empresario dedicado al tráfico de personas nombrado Joe Cubas quien, con fachada de agente deportivo, ha hecho fortuna con la compraventa ilícita de deportistas cubanos, valiéndose de la logística de los aparatos de inteligencia y subversión estadounidenses contra la isla y el apoyo de los grupos extremistas cubano-americanos que han transmutado el odio al proyecto socialista de Cuba en un lucrativo negocio que incluye manejos políticos en los que están directamente involucrados los más altos dirigentes gubernamentales del estado de la Florida y de los Estados Unidos.

Bob Butterworth, secretario del Departamento de Niños y Familias del Estado de la Florida (DCF, por sus siglas en inglés), cuyos abogados están batallando para evitar que el padre cubano obtenga la custodia de su hija, reconoció a la prensa de Miami que este caso "poco usual" es el más caro que haya visto.

La niña es hija de Rafael Izquierdo, un campesino cubano de Cabaiguán, en el centro de la isla, y de Elena Pérez, una mujer de 35 años, que salió de Cuba legalmente y llegó a Estados Unidos, en diciembre de 2005, con la hija en cuestión y su otro hijo. Poco después de su arribo al aeropuerto de Miami, el nuevo cónyuge de Elena, Jesús Melendres, les abandonó.

Según las actuaciones reflejadas por la prensa de Miami, Elena, evidentemente enajenada por la difícil situación económica que enfrentó en los meses subsiguientes, intentó el suicidio, razón por la cual los menores fueron excluidos de su cuidado. El DCF le privó de sus hijos en marzo del 2006 y los dio al cuidado de Joe Cubas.

Al conocerlo, Rafael Izquierdo determinó ejercer su obligación y su derecho de padre y pudo viajar de Cuba a Estados Unidos para traerse consigo de vuelta a la niña.

La madre ha sido categórica al declarar que, si no puede conservar a su hija, quiere que vuelva a Cuba, con su padre, "que la quiere y quiere estar con ella".

Cualquier cosa será mejor -dijo la madre- que dejar que la niña permanezca en los Estados Unidos al cuidado de Joe Cubas, quien ha tenido a la niña durante más de un año y adoptó formalmente a su hermano.

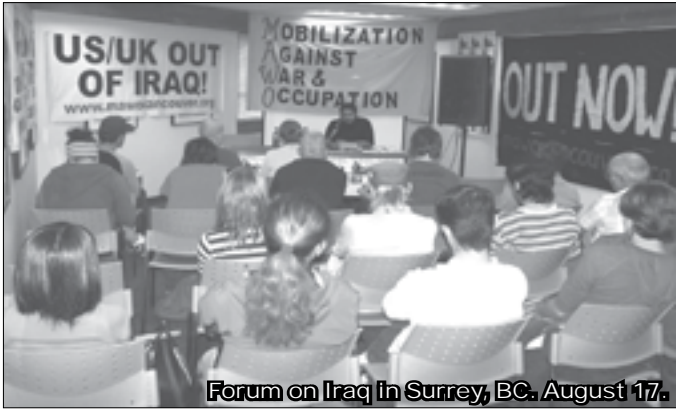
Según los medios de prensa locales, el adolescente de 13 años le dijo a su madre que desea quedarse con Joe Cubas, en el suntuoso medio en que le tiene.

continuado en la página 22

MAWO IN ACTION!

MAWO Forums Spark Debate and Discussion on War and Occupation

Canada Out of Afghanistan US/UK Out of Iraq



Forum on Iraq in Surrey, BC, August 17.

By Janine Solanki

Surrey

On August 17th and 31st, Vancouver based coalition Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) expanded to include Surrey and Burnaby in a series of free public forums which brought out people of all ages and backgrounds to share their thoughts and opinions on the current Canada/NATO occupation of Afghanistan and the US/UK occupation of Iraq.

Surrey's Whaley Public Library brought out around 35 people on August 17th, to discuss in depth the criminal US/UK occupation of Iraq. Jose Angel, from the Solidarity Coalition for a United

Latin America, opened the forum by tying the history of imperialist military interventions in Latin America to the current occupation of Iraq. Shannon Bundock, MAWO co-chair, delved into the situation facing Iraq as the US troop surge came into full effect with 30,000 additional troops occupying Baghdad. This talk was followed by the Iraq section of the MAWO – produced DVD “Canada: Imperialist at Home, Imperialist Abroad” which gave vision to the destruction, and resistance which along with the speeches, sparked a lively discussion facilitated by the evenings MC, MAWO organizer Shakeel Lochan.

Burnaby

Two weeks later MAWO brought the “Canada Out of Afghanistan” forum to the Burnaby Public Library, where over 55 people discussed the bombings, shootings, and indiscriminate killings of Afghans by the foreign occupation forces which has increased rapidly in recent months. These injustices were put to pictures with the Afghanistan section of the MAWO-produced DVD. A speech by Nita Palmer, MAWO Acting Secretary and organizer at the University of British Columbia with Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq and Internationally, went further into the resistance to the foreign occupiers by the Afghan people which has also been increasing. Ali Yerevani,

Political Editor of the Fire This Time Newspaper, also spoke and outlined the economic crisis that imperialist countries are attempting to delay by gaining

As imperialist countries expand their wars and occupations – from the Middle East, to Africa, to attacks on poor and working people as well as on antiwar



Forum on Afghanistan, In Burnaby, BC, August 31.

resources and new trade markets through war and plunder. Again discussion followed along the theme of moving forward and getting involved against this new era of war and occupation, facilitated by the forum's MC Sarah Alwell, an organizer with MAWO and Capilano Students Against War.

activists speaking out here at home, MAWO continues to expand and hold public forums and direct actions with the involvement of communities from Vancouver and beyond, developing a broad opposition to the wars and occupations facing the world today.

mawo picket actions: Demanding Canada out of Afghanistan!

By Sarah Alwell
& Andrew Barry

The intensifying brutality of the Canada/NATO occupation of Afghanistan has claimed the lives of 71 Canadian soldiers and countless tens of thousands of Afghan lives in six years of bloody combat. Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) continues to take to the streets of Vancouver, and joins the people of Afghanistan in demanding an immediate end to this brutal war. August through October 2007 saw MAWO picket the Canadian Armed Forces Recruitment Centre three times demanding “CANADA/NATO OUT OF AFGHANISTAN NOW!”

On August 9th and on August 28 over 60 people joined together at a picket in Vancouver to protest Canada's participation in the

occupation of Afghanistan. The picketers made their voices loud and clear that working people and students in Canada are standing side by side with the people of Afghanistan who are constantly facing an onslaught of NATO air strikes and raids.

The month of September marked an increased escalation of NATO attacks on poor and working people in Afghanistan resulting in further violence for both Afghan civilians and occupying troops. And on September 24 Cpl Nathan Hornberg became the 71st Canadian soldier to be killed in Afghanistan. People in Vancouver responded to these casualties by once again taking to the streets on October 2 at the Canadian Armed Forces Recruitment Centre to picket this ongoing violence in Afghanistan. The media also responded to this picket action as the French newspaper L'Express du Pacifique interviewed organisers with MAWO.

As the government of Canada enters a more desperate and deepening crisis in Afghanistan it is becoming more important now than ever for peace loving people to come together to resist this war in Afghanistan. The need for consistent protests and actions is more evident now to Canadians as the government of Canada's war



Picket October 2.

at home and abroad continues to be further exposed. The attacks and cuts to social programs in Canada continue to increase while at the same time the government has spent over \$4 billion on its military project in Afghanistan. Mobilization Against War and Occupation encourages all peace loving people and social justice activists to come together and unite in this fight for the simple demand of self determination for the people of Afghanistan.

CANADA/NATO OUT OF AFGHANISTAN NOW!

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC INQUIRY NOW!



Picket August 28.



Picket October 2.

CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN NOW!

US/UK OUT OF IRAQ!
US HANDS OFF IRAN
ISRAEL HANDS OFF LEBANON & GAZA!
US/UN HANDS OFF AFRICA!
SELF DETERMINATION FOR ALL INDIGENOUS NATIONS!
SELF DETERMINATION FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS!

**SATURDAY NOV 24
2PM**

VANCOUVER ART GALLERY - ROBSON St & HOWE St

MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG
info@mawovancouver.org | 604.322.1764
Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO

MAWO WEEKEND ACTION

ATTRACTED MANY ORGANIZERS ANTI-WAR

By Nicole Burton

On September 15th and 16th, Vancouver antiwar coalition Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) took part in the international days of action against war and occupation, called by the U.S.-based antiwar coalition International ANSWER.

Saturday

Rally on September 15 was opened by Aaron Mercredi, a Métis youth and organizer with the Indigenous Rights and Actions Project (IRAP), who spoke on the importance of the demand of self-determination for all Indigenous nations in Canada.

Alison Bodine, Co-chair and Spokesperson of MAWO, who was released from immigration detention the day earlier emphasized that her arrest was not only an attack on one individual, but on the entire anti-war movement and

oppressed people around the world. For more information about her case please visit alisonbodine.blogspot.com.

Calling for "Canada Out of Afghanistan!", "US/UK Out of Iraq!", and "Stop the War at Home and Abroad!", the rally program was diverse, including MAWO organizer Mike Chimenti speaking on the war in Iraq as the focus of imperialist destruction today; followed by powerful music from Latin America, performed by Joaquin Ernesto. Mike Larson of Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver spoke about the case of the five Cuban heroes jailed in the U.S. for fighting terrorism against the people of Cuba. Ali Yerevani, the political editor of Fire This Time newspaper spoke about the "War at Home" as an extension of war abroad.

MAWO executive member Kira Koshelanyk spoke on the new imperialist military aggression which she called the new era of war and occupation.

Kerri Goodwin, Indigenous organizer from the Oji-cree Nation, read the rally's closing resolution to the cheering and supportive crowd.

Sunday

On September 16th with MAWO's conference entitled, "The World Since September 11th, 2001: Prospects for Building a World Wide Antiwar Movement,"

attracted more than 80 antiwar, anti occupation and social justice activists.

Alison Bodine the first speaker of the conference explained how her case illustrated one of the many undemocratic and unjust features of the "War at Home", being waged increasingly against immigrants, non-residents, political activists, and all oppressed people, in conjunction with imperialist wars and occupations abroad. Following Alison was Tamara Hansen, coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) and an executive member of the Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC). Hanson encouraged the audience to compare U.S. and Canada's imperialist policies with those of anti-imperialist Cuba.

Participants then took part in two workshops and discussion periods. The first, "War & Occupation in Iraq & Afghanistan: Similarities and Differences", was presented by MAWO organizers Nita Palmer and Shakeel Lochan. They both characterized the US occupation and anti-occupation Iraqi resistance as a crucial axis in the world anti-imperialist struggle today.

The final workshop, addressed by MAWO organizer Shannon Bundock, was on "Building a United, Effective Antiwar Movement". It detailed the history and gave analysis on how the movement has developed and faced challenges since the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan.

The conference concluded with diverse participants gaining further knowledge by discussing and debating issues for building a united, broad, and effective antiwar movement in Vancouver and beyond.



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Justicia Torcida

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Elena ha declarado que se arrepiente de haber dejado su pequeña ciudad de Cabai-guán donde sus hijos eran felices. "Sé que este país le resulta maravilloso a mucha gente, pero estoy muy decepcionada de él", subrayó Elena Pérez, quien describió su intento de suicidio como un momento de debilidad en medio de la desesperación y de una gran miseria.

"Una noche horrible, decidí que mis hijos podrían estar mejor sin mí, y entonces hice algo estúpido", expresó. "No estoy loca. He estado deprimida y tensa, y he pasado muchas noches sin dormir, pero estoy bien".

La jueza norteamericana Jeri B. Cohen, de quien se asegura que está arriesgando su carrera judicial al tratar desde el estrado de lograr imparcialidad en el ambiente de Miami para un proceso legal que está tomando un carácter cada vez más político, reconoció durante el juicio que se sigue sobre el caso que el gobierno de "Estados Unidos está renuente a repatriar a la niña al país comunista donde reside el padre". También reveló que "los empleados del estado de Florida" -como se denomina a la representación legal en juicio del gobierno estadual- quieren que la menor quede en Estados Unidos, bajo custodia de una familia cubano americana y "habrían actuado de otra manera si el padre de la niña hubiera vivido en otro lugar que no fuera Cuba".

"En casi 10 años de presidir casos de bienestar infantil, nunca había visto a los abogados del Departamento de Niños y Familia del Estado de la Florida pronunciarse contra el derecho de un padre a criar su hijo, a menos que este hubiera incumplido con reiteración lo estipulado

en una directiva de custodia ordenada por la corte", declaró la jueza.

Opinó que, teniendo en cuenta el estado de las relaciones entre Estados Unidos y Cuba, "el padre posiblemente no vería a su hija de nuevo si regresara a la isla sin ella".

Se comprende, sin embargo, que la jueza está trabajando bajo gran presión y que el juicio no está teniendo lugar en el clima de objetividad e imparcialidad que se requeriría para que fuera justo.

Claro exponente de la incompatibilidad del ambiente de Miami con un proceso judicial razonable fue el veredicto a que llegó en la hostil atmósfera del sur de la Florida un tribunal que condenó en 2001 a penas tan severas como injustas a cinco jóvenes cubanos que, entregados a la defensa de su patria agredida, penetraron grupos contrarrevolucionarios de Miami para monitorear y denunciar sus planes terroristas, dada la pasividad cómplice de las autoridades de estadounidenses al respecto.

En agosto de 2005, el Tribunal de Apelaciones del Onceavo Circuito Federal en Atlanta dispuso la anulación de aquella sentencia condenatoria dictada contra los cinco jóvenes activistas antiterroristas que desde septiembre de 1998 han permanecido encarcelados en ominosas condi-

ciones y dispersos en prisiones de varios estados de la unión norteamericana.

La corte de Apelación de Atlanta tomó esa decisión, por unanimidad de sus tres jueces, luego de constatar las evidencias del fraudulento proceso que tuvo lugar en Miami, locación contra la que en su momento se pronunció la defensa con sólidos argumentos que fueron inexplicablemente rechazados por la jueza actuante.

El veredicto del Tribunal de Apelaciones, hizo notar que la hostilidad y los prejuicios en el ambiente de Miami, tanto entre el público como en la prensa local, hacían imposible un proceso imparcial en esa ciudad "dominada por un prejuicio tan marcado contra el gobierno de Cuba que imposibilita un proceso debido de justicia en un caso en el que los acusados se identifican plenamente con el gobierno de su país y con la necesidad objetiva de defender al pueblo cubano del terrorismo."

Ante un pronunciamiento tan categórico del Tribunal de Apelaciones, habría sido lógico que la Fiscalía procediera a desestimar los cargos y liberar

de inmediato a los cinco cubanos. Por el contrario, a instancias del gobierno federal, esa decisión fue anulada y los promotores de aquella aberración jurídica que fue el juicio en Miami contra "los cinco" fueron con ello estimulados a hacer nuevas tropelías.

Es este el escenario legal en el que un padre cubano lucha por recuperar a su pequeña hija en Miami.

*Manuel E. Yepe Menéndez es periodista y se desempeña como Profesor adjunto en el Instituto Superior de Relaciones Internacionales de La Habana.

Dictamen Del Juez Supremo

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ahora igual prioridad que la relativa a las libertades civiles y políticas, que son de un carácter mucho más subjetivo que las primeras.

Dondequiera que las decisiones a nivel global sean tomadas por voto mayoritario de estados soberanos, es decir, democráticamente -y sin la intervención de divinidades que le soplen al oído de su presidente las sabias decisiones que Estados Unidos debe ejecutar a todo costo y en cualquier circunstancia-, la comunidad mundial se manifiesta contra la hegemonía unipolar y la dominación de la superpotencia.

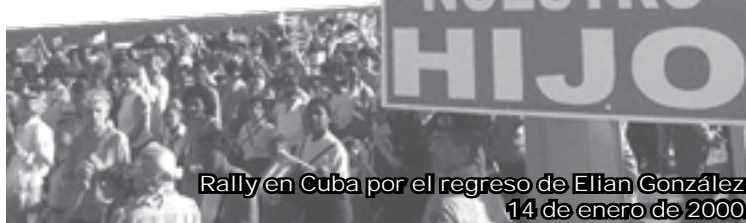
Las naciones del tercer mundo, y en primer lugar las que integran el movimiento de los no alineados, ganan confianza en la fuerza de su unidad con cada derrota de Washington en votaciones como aquellas en las que su adversario ha obtenido casi la totalidad de los votos de los Estados miembros de Naciones Unidas, contra un respaldo a su posición de apenas un par de protectorados suyos, más Israel.

Los aliados habituales de la superpotencia no han soportado en esos casos las humillaciones que la altanería de la Casa Blanca les impone sistemáticamente y se han desmarcado, a riesgo de sufrir la ira imperial.

Lo racional sería que Washington reconociera que la humanidad, en pleno Siglo XXI, no puede aceptar que un Estado, por poderoso que sea, ejerza la conducción unilateral del planeta colocándose por encima, o al margen, de la comunidad mundial.

La Humanidad no reconoce juez supremo, por mucho que quien pretenda serlo alegue estar en contacto directo con alguna deidad.

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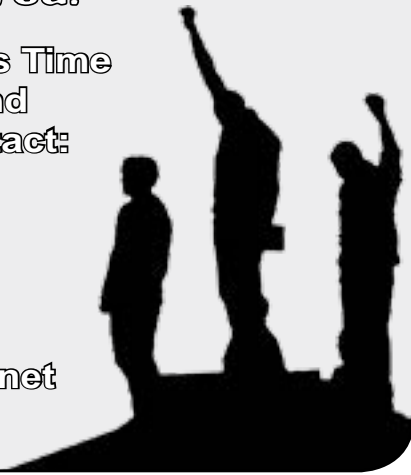
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EVENTS and ACTIONS

Vancouver

November 2nd

What We Can Learn from the History of the Antiwar Movement: from Korea to Vietnam to the Present Growing Era of War & Occupation
6:30pm

Britannia Community Center-
Learning Resource Center
1661 Napier Street

Org'd by: Mobilization Against
War and Occupation

Info: www.mawovancouver.org |
604 322 1764

November 3rd

Bolivia and Ecuador-Revolution
& Counter Revolution: Morales,
Correa, & the Challenges
7pm

Chilean Housing Co-op
3390 School Ave (near Kingsway
and Tyne)

Org'd by: Solidarity Coalition for
a United Latin America

Info: scula_van@yahoo.ca

November 6th

Canada/NATO out of Afghanistan!
Picket Action

12 Noon
Canadian Forces Recruitment
Center

1070 West Georgia Street
(at Thurlow)

Org'd by: Mobilization Against
War and Occupation

Info: www.mawovancouver.org |
604 322 1764



November 7th

Protest Stephen
Harper in Vancouver
Demand Canada call for the
reinstatement and protection of
Malalai Joya

And Troops out of Afghanistan!
11:30am to 1pm

The Westin Bayshore Resort &
Marina (1601 Bayshore Drive)
Org'd by: StopWar.ca

November 24th

Canada/NATO Out of Afghanistan!
US/UK out of Iraq! Self-
Determination for All Oppressed
Nations!

Monthly Antiwar Rally
2pm

Vancouver Art Gallery
(on Robson and Howe Street)

Org'd by: Mobilization Against War
and Occupation

Info: mawovancouver.org
604 322 1764

November 29th

Free the Cuban 5 Heroes Now!
Picket Action

12 Noon

US Consulate

1075 West Pender Street

Org'd by: Free the Cuban 5

Committee-Vancouver

Info: www.vancouver solidarity.com/freethefive.html | 604 719 6947



December 4th

Canada/NATO out of Afghanistan!
Picket Action

12 Noon

Canadian Forces Recruitment
Center

1070 West Georgia Street
(at Thurlow)

Org'd by: Mobilization Against War
and Occupation

Info: www.mawovancouver.org
604 322 1764

December 15th and 16th

Vancouver 5th Annual Antiwar
Film Festival

Britannia Community Center
1661 Napier St

(on Commercial Drive at Napier St)
Org'd by: Mobilization Against War
and Occupation

Info: www.mawovancouver.org
604 322 1764

Victoria

November 4th

Solidarity with Cuba: Report Back
from Two Social Justice Activists
Experience in Cuba

BCGEU Hall (2994 Douglas)
Org'd by: Victoria Goods for
Cuba

Info: vicc@telus.net | 250-
743-2994

November 7th

The Haiti Experience: Report
Back from Roger Annis
UVIC David Strong Building
Room C118

Org'd by: UVIC Students Against
War

Toronto

November 3rd

Che Lives: Report-Back from
Cuba's 40th Anniversary of the
Death of Heroic Guerrillero

3 pm
Ontario Institute for Studies in
Education (OISE) (252 Bloor St. W)
Room No. 2296

Presented by: Ontario Public
Interest Research Group
(OPIRG at U of T)

Sponsored by:
Toronto Forum on Cuba

November 6th

Women and War in Afghanistan
Malalai Joya Speaks in Toronto

7 pm
Steelworkers Hall (25 Cecil St.)
Org'd by: the Toronto Coalition to
Stop the War



November 9th and 10th

Breaking the Silence: Solidarity
Conference for the Cuban 5
Events at City Hall (Queen &
Bay) and the Steelworkers Hall
(25 Cecil St.)

Org'd by: The Canadian Network
on Cuba La Table de Concertation
de Solidarité Québec-Cuba and
the National Network on Cuba
(U.S.)

Info: <http://www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca>

Ottawa

Thursday November 1st

Fidel, Raul and the Future of
Cuban Communism: A Public
Lecture by Hal Klepak, PhD.
Carleton University, Southam Hall
Room 417

Org'd by: Ottawa-Cuba
Connections

Info: www.ottawacuba.org | 613
225-6232

Halifax

November 8th and 9th

Malalai Joya in Halifax
Dalhousie University,
Org'd by: Halifax Voice of
Women for Peace

Info: jmeaton@ns.sympatico.ca |
902 542- 1631

BREAKING SILENCE



SPEAKERS

Elizabeth Palmeiro, wife of Ramon Labanino, and other guests from Cuba

Leonard Weinglass
USA

Jose Pertierra
USA

Ramsay Clark
USA

Soffiyah Elijah
USA

Judge Claudia Marcom
USA

Alice Walker
USA

Isaac Saney
CANADA

Tim Louis
CANADA

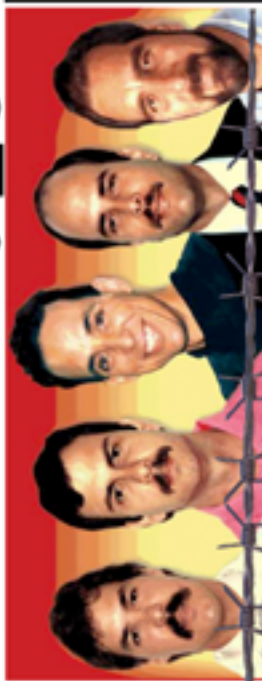
Bill Sloan
QUEBEC

James Cockcroft
QUEBEC

Livio Di Ceirno
QUEBEC

Juan Carranza
CANADA

Paul Copeland



SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE FOR THE CUBAN FIVE

November 9th & 10th 2007

Toronto, Canada

Join the world-wide campaign to demand the release of the Cuban Five. These five heroes are beginning their 10th year in U.S. prisons for monitoring groups planning terrorist attacks against Cuba. Support the campaign against their unjust imprisonment!

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, Nov. 9 SATURDAY, Nov. 10

- City Hall, Queen & Bay
- Press Conference a.m.
- Activists Workshop p.m.
- Public Meeting with keynote
- Leonard Weinglass evening
- Steelworker's Hall, 25 Cecil St. (east of Spadina)
- Lawyers' Panel
- Human Rights Panel
- Intellectuals' Panel
- Social Evening

Registration Cost: \$35-50 sliding scale; \$20 low income

Online Registration: www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca

Canadian Network on Cuba: cnc@canadiannetworkoncuba.ca | 204-783-9380
Table de Concertation de Solidarité Québec-Cuba: info@tcscq.ca | 514-728-7222
National Network on Cuba (U.S.): nnoc20012002@yahoo.com

FREE THE 5 CUBAN HEROES Held in U.S. Jails

Monthly Picket Action
Thursday | November 29 | 12-1pm
U.S. Consulate (1075 W. Pender St.)

NOW!

Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver

604.719.6947 | cuban5_van@yahoo.com | www.vancubasolidarity.com/freethefivevan.html

