

An Open Letter

From One Person in the U.S. to the Others

by
Michael Novick,
People Against Racist Terror/Anti-Racist Action

How do we respond to the ferocious and unjustifiable acts of terror on September 11? Some people -- starting with the pResident and the media -- are whooping and hollering for "war," but I don't buy the polls that claim virtual unanimity for seeking military revenge and retribution. What the pollsters are really asking is, "Do you think the people who did this should get away with murder?" and of course 99.9 percent of people say "No!" But look into your own heart. In addition to anger, we are experiencing pain, grief, loss, bewilderment, denial -- all the stages of contradictory emotions that you go through when somebody you care for dies, written 10,000 times larger.

It's only natural that we want to pull together for support and comfort, to deal with strong and disturbing feelings of powerlessness that came out in response to the shocking attacks, death and destruction. But George Bush and his plans for war are a slim reed on which to hang our desire for unity and security. It is up to us, the people ourselves, to put forward a positive, humane, and effective vision, at a moment of anguish and danger. Military force will feed terror, not defeat it, and in the process it will grind up and destroy the last of the freedom, creativity and hope for a better world that we rightly value.

The politicians and pundits want to hype up our anger, frustration and

it is these contradictions which account for the warring emotions we have experienced in the wake of the attacks. For example, we felt an enormous, heartfelt upwelling of identification with those who died, of pride in those who sought heroically to deal with the catastrophe. We want to support the victims, the families, to mend what was torn. This grief, the sense that "it could have been me," is the basis for a positive and human feeling of solidarity and identification with those who are suffering more directly.

This is not a trait of just the American character, but of the human personality. We need to extend that feeling, to open our hearts not just around the city of New York or across the United States, but really to people everywhere on this small planet. We are one human family. We understand the suffering of the people blown out of or jumping off those flaming towers, of the parents and spouses who exchanged a last word by cell phone with loved ones about to die. Can we then be less sensitive to the devastation experienced by the victims of death squads, "collateral damage," US military hardware or direct intervention in Iraq or Colombia, Palestine or Puerto Rico?

There's a disconnect between our feelings of solidarity and the desire to strike back or lash out. Take a moment to reflect, and we must see that we can't lament the deaths of innocents and in the next breath propose that we bomb whole societies "back to the Stone Age." We would be doing exactly what we condemn, giving others another taste of what we just experienced. The grievances, hurt and rage of the hijackers -- whoever they may have been -- could never justify the attacks they carried out on innocent civilians, and neither would our feelings justify the same kinds of attacks by the U.S. To attack in kind would really concede to the perpetrators the 'right' to do what they did, and to escalate in return. What would be next? Germ warfare, or nuclear weapons? Cheney and Bush have already talked about using the "totality of our resources," about a "long war." They are chasing the perpetrators into the briar patch, and they are taking us with them unless we resist.

In response to the September 11 attack, many of us feel very unsettled and

powerless. This is psychologically disturbing on a very deep level, and we sometimes want quick fixes. But we have to acknowledge that powerlessness before we can assert a more positive kind of power. Bush's war will deepen such feelings, not resolve them.

I ask myself, did that sense of futility and helplessness come only from the acts of terror? Or are we powerless because the impersonal forces of economic and political domination within our own country and society have eaten away at our rights and civic participation? Could our sense of futility have as much to do with the outcome of the last election, which put Bush in power through racist disenfranchisement, intimidation and legal and electoral manipulation, as it does with the attacks? Is our powerlessness due perhaps to the dawning realization that in the world of NAFTA and the WTO we have to dance to the tune of global corporations? We need to gain the liberating power to shape our own lives. Power to destroy or dominate others is no substitute.

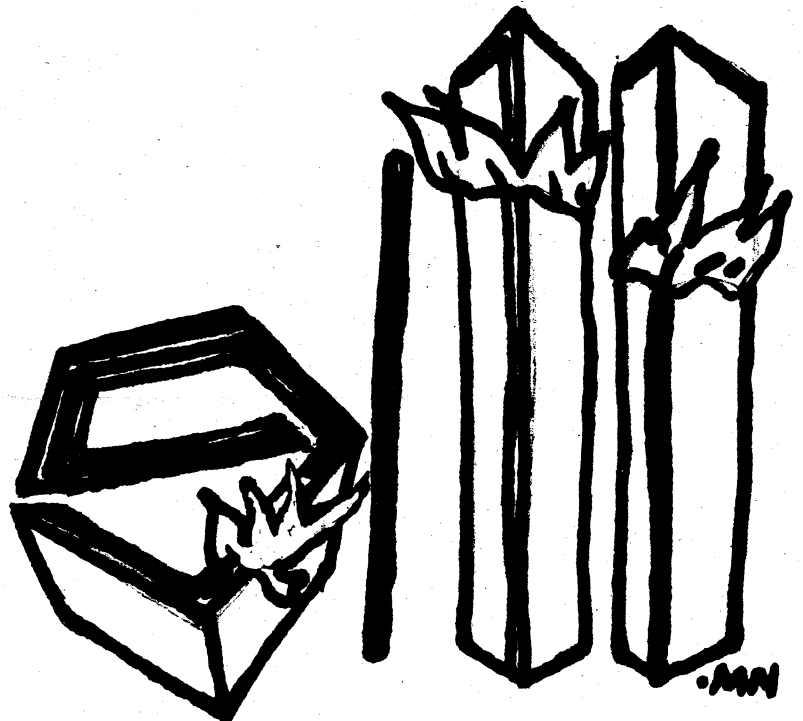
In our grief, our frustration and even in our anger, what is really happening is a painful breakdown in our identification with the oppressor, and a growing if unnamed recognition of what it means to be oppressed. The September 11 attacks drove home clearly that we live in an empire, and in an empire, colonizers and colonized alike, no matter how privileged, are all subjects, not citizens. The attacks were a manifestation of the growing interpenetration and seamless integration of the global and the continental empire. This blurring between the imperial center and the colonized people is a process which is irreversible, short of dismantling the empire entirely.

Did Bush's proposal for a cabinet secretary for "Homeland Security" really make you feel more secure, or did it raise the hairs on the back of your neck with its fascist scent of the "Fatherland"? Bringing the dictatorial methods of rule of colonialism into the colonizing society is the true definition of fascism. Bush's long war and his militarization of life within the U.S. will only deepen and hasten this process.

Who will be made more 'powerful' if the U.S. military and counter-insurgency

feelings of vulnerability into a war fever and a police state. I am just one person, a teacher and union member, a parent, who cannot command the attention of the media or the battalions of the largest military machine on the planet. But I know the average person has a much more complicated and really more profound set of reactions to what has happened. I know that, as I and others have gone out in these days since the attack with a message of peace, justice and solidarity, against war and racism, we have drawn a great deal of support and interest.

For each of us, in dealing with our feelings, with our ideas, or with questions about how to combat terror, there is a lot of sorting out to do. If we are each divided within ourselves, what part of ourselves should we unite with? What should we reconsider? The contradictory feelings and ideas we are experiencing are manifestations of deeper contradictions within our society and our selves, contradictions between privilege and oppression, between aspirations and reality. We must begin to resolve these contradictions to deal with the situation that we now find ourselves in, and we must begin by abandoning the illusions and self-deceptions that died with the thousands on September 11. We have refused to confront the terrorism that we have harbored in our own midst; we have depended on the trappings of imperial might for security, and they have failed us. We can no longer refuse to face the contradictions in our history and society.



9-11-EMERGENCY!

machine wages war and buys 'security' by means of invading and subjugating other nations while infiltrating and regimenting U.S. society itself? Nobody except the politicians and corporations that have too much power already.

We are all looking for answers amid the confusion. This, too, can be a good thing, a recognition that we have left ourselves in the dark about what's going on in the world. Some of us have been glued to the tube or the PC monitor for days, afraid we will "miss something." Of course, we have already "missed something," we let the dangling fruit and distractions of material striving and temptation blind us to the darkening forest of thorns growing in the soil of America. The failure of "intelligence" was not only on the intelligence agencies. Our media have screened out information and opinions that might make people uneasy. As more and more power and wealth has accumulated in fewer and fewer hands in this country, the acceptable spectrum of opinion or dissent has narrowed as well. We the people have been closed out of the political process along with any ideas and challenges that are considered subversive of the established order.

So to find answers, we must examine the facts and ideas that have been forbidden, or hidden by self-imposed blinders. History did not begin on September 11 any more than it had ended with the fall of the Berlin Wall. The U.S. was involved in wars to build and maintain an empire long before the Cold War. It has remained involved in such wars for the decade-plus since the Cold War ended and the communist bloc vanished.

In fact, the U.S. has been at war, with Iraq, over that entire latter period. Few of us took any notice as our government went about destroying Iraq's potable water system, bombing that country regularly. The U.S. maintains an area of military over-flights over Iraqi territory while simultaneously enforcing that as a zone in which the Iraqis cannot fly over their own territory, and of course enforcing an embargo which has cost hundreds of thousands of lives. We could ignore or deny that war (as Bush did in calling his declaration the "first war of the 21st Century"); but we cannot deny this one.

Yet we must oppose it and refuse to allow George W. Bush to wage it in our name. We must recognize that the U.S.

government has other fish to fry beyond the war against terror it has proclaimed. From the moment the old Soviet Russian empire collapsed, the U.S., as the world's only super-power, has had its eyes set on filling the power vacuum and advancing its military power to control the oil wealth of the Caspian Sea and Central Asia. This is the same script we followed as a rising imperial power 100 years ago, supplanting the decaying Spanish Empire.

Then, we fomented a war with Spain over a mysterious explosion on a US warship in Havana harbor. We proceeded to colonize Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines and simultaneously annexed Hawaii. Then, the U.S. Anti-Imperialist League, led by notables like Mark Twain, failed to stop the war because they could not face the reality that we were already an empire within the continent. This time we must do better about facing, and reshaping, reality.

Otherwise the prospects are strong that Bush will lead down a path towards further acts of terror by and against the U.S. that will make September 11 pale in comparison. Think what you or I might have done had we known about the attacks in advance. Without knowing the particulars, we are facing that situation today. The responsibility is in our hands to forestall still greater calamities.

People ask "why?" about September 11, and the honest explanation is one that Bush can never provide. The answer really is simple -- the perpetrators have learned the ugly lesson of "might makes right" that the US and other imperial powers have used as a guide to their behavior in the world. The wars of the last century were wars on civilians, from Kristallnacht, Stalingrad and the German V-2, through Hiroshima, No Gun Ri and My Lai.

Long before that, the wars of settlement in this country decimated and uprooted the indigenous people and took an enormous toll in Native non-combatant casualties. What happened on September 11 is ultimately no more complicated than a network of people willing to give their own lives in order to dish out that same type of treatment to the U.S., in pursuit of their "policy objectives." Their relative powerlessness does not justify it, any more than the relative power of the U.S. justifies its acts of terror in Iraq or Yugoslavia. There has been wild speculation in response to Bush's

undocumented insistence that Bin Laden is responsible -- maybe it was really militias, Israelis, rogue elements in our own military or intelligence -- but ultimately, it doesn't matter who did it. The motivation and the potential outcome is clear -- to strike fear into our hearts, to cloud our thinking and to draw the U.S. into a protracted war. This is true whether it was carried out by Bin Laden's followers to provoke a war with Islam, or by some secret cabal in this country determined to use a war to salvage the global economy and squelch dissent.

I've heard a lot of claptrap both from the right and left about this. The right wants to look for scapegoats. Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson blamed the disaster on gays, feminists and the ACLU for bringing down the wrath of god on the U.S. A lot of other people immediately took it into their heads to find an Arab or a Muslim to threaten, harass or even kill. In their ignorance, they have gone after Egyptian Christians, Sikhs from India. I have no doubt that some will begin attacking Jews, just like during the Gulf War.

Freedom and solidarity are indivisible. If we want to protect civilians from indiscriminate attack or communities from racial or religious prejudice, we have to extend it to everyone. The "golden rule" used to be "love your neighbor as yourself" -- until it became "he who has the gold makes the rules."

Some on the left offer half-baked explanations of their own. I've heard a lot of people saying, "terrorism is the war of the poor and weak against the rich and powerful." When you think about it for a second, that's the same b.s. Bush is putting out. If it was Bin Laden, he had no interest in the downtrodden and no program for liberation. Terror is terror, whether by the state, the racists or whoever carried out the September 11 atrocity. I have been involved with "People Against Racist Terror" for 15

years, because I know that the strong use terror against the weak all the time. That's the bully mentality. The Ku Klux Klan is historically a terrorist organization. The US waged a war of terror in Vietnam. Slave overseers and slave patrols terrorized slaves to control them and the fruits of their labor. Anti-abortion groups use terror to try to deny women their reproductive rights. Andrew Jackson terrorized the Cherokee Nation and other indigenous people out of the East Coast. Germany used terror against England, against the Jews, against the Slavs and against its own people during World War II.

The dividing line on terror is not between governments and groups that don't have state power. It's not between Christians, Muslims or Jews; nor between so-called civilized nations and alleged barbarians. The dividing line is whether or not deadly force gets used against civilians for the purpose of amassing and imposing power over them. George Bush wants to draw a line between Bin Laden and himself. If the dividing line is terror, in fact they both end up on the same, wrong side of the line.

Who taught all these "demonic, terroristic" opponents of ours how to wage their campaigns?

Manuel Noriega, creature of the CIA, part of the Iran-Contra drugs for guns deal;

the Ayatollah Khomeini, ushered in to Iran to replace the Shah who had become too weak to suppress the Iranian revolution;

Saddam Hussein, worked with the CIA, armed by the U.S. to use poison gas on his own people;

Slobodan Milosevic, useful to the CIA plan to break up the old Yugoslavia through ethnic rivalries;

Osama bin Laden, part of the CIA plan to tie down the Soviets in Afghanistan, on the US backed side in Bosnia and Kosovo;

Timothy McVeigh, trained to kill in the Gulf War;

the Taliban, recipients of a massive aid package, "interdiction" even while 'harboring' Bin Laden and terrorizing the Afghani population, particularly women.

The enemy of my enemy is not necessarily my friend. Saddam Hussein, Milosevic or Bin Laden are no friends of oppressed people, and their program and tactics, like those of Bush, are shaped by their desire to consolidate power and impose their will.

Another contradictory set of feelings many people are gripped by is the sense that "everything has changed" and the opposite desire to get "back to normal." The latter is a deadly tendency within us to slip back into denial and complacent arrogance. Normal is what got us into this situation. It will take an extraordinary effort -- far greater than that of the rescuers -- to get us out.

Simply turning away from war, repudiating terror, is not enough. We need more fundamental change. The world did not change on September 11, but our view of the world and our place in it did. The acts of September 11 were spectacular, perhaps designed par-ticularly for a nation numbed by Hollywood depictions of terror. But US policies in Iraq alone have taken more lives, month after month for a decade -- just one of many forms of terror carried out by our government to protect "the American way of life." Even more than U.S. policy in the Middle East or Central Asia, it is the contradictions within that way of life that fuel the crisis facing us.

Our way of life is going to change; the only question is, how? Bush intends to make this a garrison state. Do we have other plans, and how can we implement them under the current circumstances? How can we transform this society so it is more sustainable and less vulnerable? We could make a start by turning the site of the now destroyed twin towers into an international peace park dedicated to the memories of the people who lost their lives. Our spirits could soar higher than the tallest building under a few trees and the open sky amid the concrete canyons. It wouldn't be a bad idea to do the same with the Pentagon.

Yet to talk of turning the Pentagon into a monument to peace is to demonstrate how basic militarism is in the U.S. Endless war and terror are the inevitable byproducts of a system based on empire. Many of us have woken up from a fantasy of invulnerability and the illusion that one can wage a one-sided war, and have begun to see the consequences of empire. Remember that Pentagon war-fighting doctrine is still predicated on fighting 2.5 wars at a time. Congress may have put medical insurance reform on the back burner, but U.S. involvement in the war in Colombia continues to escalate on a daily basis even while fleets and fighter planes steam to the Gulf.

We cannot allow terror to drive us into uniting with our rulers.

There was nothing revolutionary about the September 11 attacks, but ultimately we need a revolution if we are to avoid an endless vicious cycle of attack and counter-attack. We need to de-colonize our own society and economy. Consider the repeated comments about "acts of terror on U.S. soil." Prior to this attack, the U.S. had reserved to itself the "right" to carry out terror in these territories -- terror against African slaves, against Native people, against Mexicans, against immigrants, against organized labor, against women.

If we want to build unity, dismantling that continental empire is a place to start. We need to oppose the militarization of police, prisons, schools and the border. They do not secure us, only the wealth and power of our exploiters.

Simultaneously, we need to think about non-state solutions to our problems. We need to develop civilian-based defense against terror or invasion. It was civilians, for example, who stopped one of the hijacked planes from carrying out the terrorist mission while the Pentagon was stymied, itself under attack. Prevention, security measures at airports are all well and good, but the surest guarantee that no such attacks can take place again is

plane in the sky understands quite clearly the fatal consequences of the next attempt, and will act accordingly. What threat could hijackers possibly make now that would deter the passengers and crew, who know that death is inevitable in any case, from overwhelming them at any cost?

The globalization movement provides a model for the kind of direct, person-to-person and movement-to-movement international relations we need to build, in place of the imperial war machine. We need to develop interconnected communities of resistance that can sustain themselves through war and repression. If people are panicky about terrorist attacks on nuclear power plants, perhaps it is past time to think about renewable, sustainable, non-toxic forms of energy, about reducing energy consumption and dependency on fossil fuels, not just foreign ones.

Every nuclear plant in the U.S. should be shut down, immediately and permanently. Transforming the economic system of the U.S. from one based on expansion and penetration of other societies into one based on cooperative, environmentally sound enterprise is vital. Eliminating U.S. strategic interests in the Middle East (read, "oil") would allow Arab societies to slip off the stifling yoke of reactionary regimes and colonialism.

We need to take this same approach of non-state action to the issue of terror. Counter-terrorism that uses terror will only increase the amount and level of terror in the world and in this country. If guns and bombs will only feed terror, if our own government has been guilty of terror at Wounded Knee and Hiroshima, then how do we defeat terror? By the same weapons we must use against the impulse to terror that we ourselves have just experienced. Terror is fought in a battle for hearts and minds, in a struggle against oppressive power.

Terror is fought by building solidarity. Terror must be dried out from below. Israel and the U.S. actually promoted the Muslim fundamentalist groups that turned to terror,

as part of an imperialist strategy to divide oppressed people and to blunt the dynamic of social revolutionary forces. Only by building such forces in our own society, opposing the terror of our own government, struggling for economic justice and equality, can we develop the capacity to unite with similar movements in other countries that could eliminate the sources of terror within their people as we must within ours.

I shared these thoughts with a Canadian friend, Sunday Harrison with Anti-Racist Action in Toronto, and she replied, "I've been thinking about the solidarity you mention, and I think you put it well as far as what we should be encouraging people to do at home. But what about internationally? My idea (and I hope others might be thinking along these lines) is to support a broad-based fundraising campaign for an activist group of Afghan women, such as RAWA. Why not support the Afghani victims of the Taliban and Jehadis, who after all have the most interest in rebuilding their country as a secular democracy?"

"The Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan is operating clinics and schools, going into Afghanistan and documenting Taliban atrocities (with men who also risk their lives providing escort), at the same time as feeding their families and surviving assassination attempts. If RAWA had even a fraction of the U.S. money that will be spent on armaments, money extracted from the U.S. people whether they want it or not, the Taliban and bin Laden would be in for serious trouble. In any case, if the US goes in shooting, RAWA will still need all the help they can get. Solidarity is the antithesis of U.S. interventionism: the U.S. people (and other progressives) can take active measures to counter clerical fascism beyond our own borders, by providing such material aid."

She is right. It is only by rebuilding the solidarity and revolutionary capacity and unity of oppressed people that terror can be uprooted. Such a process of rebuilding must be self-critical: Oppressed people are not saints. Experiencing Hitler's genocide, for example, did not prevent many Jews from embracing Zionism and colonialism. Within the imperialist system, everyone experiences a mix of oppression and privilege, whether in the form of white skin privilege or neo-colonialism.

The system offers us options to surrender and incorporate ourselves into the imperialist structure by stepping on somebody else's neck. The great strength of this system, the reason it is now a global superpower, has been its capacity to capture our consent. It uses the privileges of participation in empire and settler colonialism to generate within us an identification with our own oppressors and an internalization of our own oppression. But those privileges in the form of white supremacy or neo-colonialism blind us and bind us to our own exploitation and oppression, along with that of others. The wealth and power we see around us is extracted from us and from millions around the globe.

To counter the tendencies toward either collaboration or terror, we need to emphasize the creative power of resistance. We need to develop the understanding that all the power and wealth of the oppressor's system is derived from the oppressed and exploited, used against us by virtue of our own participation in that system.

Yet the days of this system are numbered. War may defer but cannot eliminate its insoluble economic contradictions. Every globalized factory, every worker bled and sweated, every acre of stolen land, generates a productive capacity whose output can never be profitably accommodated or marketed.

Every empire in history has crumbled into dust, and this empire is no exception. That understanding, coupled with the realization that we have the capacity to create something much better in its place, will give people the hope and courage to persevere. The working, oppressed and colonized people of the world can and will unite.

**No condescending saviors,
no unity with our rulers!
We are our own liberators!**

RACIST ATTACKS NATIONWIDE

by
The Oread Daily

And so it has begun. Verbal and physical attacks against Arab-Americans and Muslims and people taken for Arabs or Muslims in the United States and other Western nations are breaking out in "response" to the terrorist attacks on Tuesday. Among the various reports:

- In L.A., an Egyptian shop-keeper, a Christian, was killed. In Arizona, a man shot at a Lebanese family and an Afghan who had moved into his old house, and then shot and killed a Sikh gas station attendant who was wearing a turban and a beard. Sikhs are from India and are not Muslim. In Denton., Texas, a firebomb was hurled at the Islamic Society Center.

- Muslims at the University of Arizona have been targets of threats.

- Mohamed Al-hajri, a systems and industrial engineering junior from Qatar in the Persian Gulf, said an American student threatened him Tuesday morning. "I was going to my (8 a.m.) class," he said. "And I heard a guy screaming near the mosque. He came up, kind of scary, and he said, 'Who are you?' I was silent. I

- In Bellevue, Washington, the president of the Islamic Center of Eastside, who asked that his name not be used, said many of his members were shaken by threats they'd received. "You will all die," "Get out of this country," and "You will be treated like the Japanese were during Pearl Harbor" were among the abusive messages left on the center's answering machine, he said.

- In Australia a mosque in Mirrabooka was defiled with human feces. Also in Australia, school bus carrying Muslim children was the target of stone-throwers in Brisbane, and vandals tried to set fire to a Lebanese church in apparent acts of retaliation for the terrorist attacks in the U.S., officials said.

- In Suffolk County, New York, a man was arrested for allegedly making an anti-Arab threat and pointing a handgun at a gasoline station worker.

- In Texas, at least six bullets shattered windows at the Islamic Center of Irving. Police say windows at the Islamic Center of Carrollton were also broken.

- In Fairfax County, Virginia, the All Dulles Area Muslim Society building was vandalized on Tuesday, said the American Muslim Council.

- In Asbury, New Jersey, Ramandeep Singh, a Sikh said he had rubbish and stones thrown at his car and stayed home from work.

- Hate messages and insults were left on the answering machine of the Manassas Mosque in Virginia, said director Abu Nahidian.

- In Dearborn, Mich., Issam Koussan, owner of a local supermarket, reported that men pulled into his parking lot and yelled threats and racial slurs at his customers.

- In Colorado Springs, a group of men threatened to burn down a mosque.

- In Chicago, Mustafa Yassin of the Arab American Action Network said he and three others were closing the office when a middle-aged man drove by and threatened them. "He said, 'We're going to make sure you guys are going to get yours,'" Yassin said. In the suburban Illinois city of Palos Heights, a man was charged with a felony hate crime for allegedly attacking a gas station attendant he believed was Arab with the blunt end of a machete, police Sgt. Dave Delaney said. The attendant, who is Moroccan, didn't seek treatment, Delaney said.

- In Grand Forks, North Dakota, a Pakistani doctor was taken from the Airport and detained for four hours because he "looked suspicious."

am sure that if I said my name he would definitely have done something to me."

- A mob of three hundred people were stopped by police as they tried to march on a mosque near Chicago. "I'm proud to be American and I hate Arabs and I always have," said 19-year-old Colin Zaremba, who marched with the group from Oak Lawn. Also, in Chicago a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Arab-American community center.

- Abu Nahidian, director of the Manassas Mosque in Virginia, said his congregation has been the target of insults and hate messages left on the office answering machine.

- In Montreal, a firebomb was thrown at a local mosque.

- In Oakville, Ontario, five school children with Arabic-sounding names were assaulted.

- In the Seattle area, threats and vandalism were directed at local mosques, and several Muslims were physically attacked.

- In Gary, Indiana, a masked man fired a high-powered rifle at a gas station where Hassan Awdah, a Yemani-born U.S. citizen was at work.

- A mosque in Lynnwood, Wash., was vandalized.

- In Huntington, New York a drunk tried to run over a Pakistani woman in a shopping mall parking lot. Police said Adam Lang then followed the woman into a store and threatened to kill her for "destroying my country."

- Police said an Islamic bookstore in Old Town Alexandria, Va. was vandalized Tuesday night. Someone threw bricks through 14 windows at the Islamic Center and Mosque at Old Dominion University Tuesday evening, according to college officials.

At the same time, many Americans have phoned mosques and Islamic centers and organizations to offer support to the embattled Arab American community and have spoken out against this racial hatred. For example, in Chicago, a press conference in solidarity with Arab Americans and Muslims was convened by the American Friends Service Committee, Illinois Peace Action, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, the Japanese American Citizens League, the National Lawyers Guild, the Chicago Committee to

Defend the Bill of Rights, Jewish Peace Forum, Not In My Name and the Eighth Day Center for Justice. Also, Muslim, Jewish and Christian groups, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson, held a prayer vigil near the Federal buildings in downtown.

In Seattle, members of the Church Council of Greater Seattle met last night to condemn threats against mosques and offer to act as safety patrols "and be a presence of non-retaliation," said Executive Director Alice Woldt.

Sources: Detroit News, Arizona Daily Wildcat, Irish Times, Ananova, The Seattle Times, The Melbourne Age, Nando Times, This Is London, Grand Forks Herald, Washington Post, Hampton Roads Daily Press and the Arab American Action Network.

The Oread Daily provides daily (Monday-Friday) progressive, left, anti-racist, anarchist, commie, activist, environmental, Marxist, revolutionary, etc. news and information from around the US and around the world. The Oread Daily was a mimeographed sheet that came out first in the summer of 1970 in Lawrence, Kansas. It was irreverent, radical, spicy, revolutionary et. al. Now, three decades later it returns. To view the entire Oread Daily, please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OreadDaily>

U.S. Muslims Condemn Attack, Aid Victims

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful
CAIR ACTION ALERT #308

(WASHINGTON, DC - 9/11/2001) - The Council on American-Islamic Relations is calling on Muslims nationwide to offer whatever assistance they can to help the victims of today's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

Muslims in local communities should take the following IMMEDIATE ACTIONS:

CAIR also asks community members to 1) REPORT INCIDENTS of anti-Muslim harassment or attacks (Report to the police and then to CAIR. See attached "Incident Report Form.") and 2) ISSUE LOCAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEDIA (see below) condemning the attacks and offering condolences for the victims.

It is also suggested that steps be taken to increase security around mosques and Islamic centers. (In the first few days following the 1995 attack on the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma, Muslims reported more than 200 incidents of harassment, threats and actual violence.) Security precautions suggested by CAIR include:

- * Those who wear Islamic attire should consider staying out of public areas for the immediate future.
- * Request additional police patrols in the vicinity of mosques.
- * Post mosque members at entrances and parking areas during prayer times.

- * Report suspicious packages to police.
- * Document descriptions of suspicious people or vehicles.

SAMPLE PRESS STATEMENT:

U.S. MUSLIMS CONDEMN TERRORIST ATTACKS

(9/11/2001) - Muslims in the U.S. today condemned the apparent terrorist attacks in New York and Washington and offered condolences to the families of those who were killed or injured.

In a statement, local Muslim representatives said:

"We condemn in the strongest terms possible what are apparently vicious and cowardly acts of terrorism against innocent civilians. We join with all Americans in calling for the swift apprehension and punishment of the perpetrators. No cause could ever be assisted by such immoral acts.

"All members of the Muslim community are asked to offer whatever help they can to the vic-

* Muslim medical professionals are asked to go to the scenes of the attacks to offer aid and comfort to the victims.

* Muslim relief agencies should contact their counterparts to offer support in the recovery efforts.

* Individual Muslims should donate blood by contacting the local office of the Red Cross. (Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.) They should also send donations to those relief agencies that are on the scene of the attacks.

tims and their families. Muslim medical professionals should go to the scenes of the attacks to offer aid and comfort to the victims.

Muslim relief agencies should contact their counterparts to offer support in the recovery efforts. Individual Muslims should donate blood by contacting the local office of the Red Cross. They should also send donations to those relief agencies that are on the scene of the attacks.

"We further call on media professionals to exercise restraint and not draw premature conclusions as to who was responsible for the apparent attacks."

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
453 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C., 20003
Tel: 202-488-8787
Fax: 202-488-0833
E-mail: cair1@ix.netcom.com
URL: <http://www.cair-net.org>

INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Return form with supporting documents (such as police reports, etc.) to:
CAIR Incident Report, 453 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C. 20003; Tel: 202/488 8787. Fax: 202-488 0833
E-Mail: cair1@ix.netcom.com (All reports are confidential.)

NAME OF REPORTING PARTY:
ADDRESS:
CITY:
STATE:
ZIP:

TEL: (Day)
TEL: (Evening)
FAX:
E-MAIL:

DESCRIBE THE INCIDENT IN DETAIL:
(Who/What/When/Where/Why/How)

"WHY?"

by
Mumia Abu Jamal

[Column Written 9/17/01] Copyright 2001 Mumia Abu-Jamal

The woman's voice on the phone was as plaintive as a tear, as she implored the non-responsive talk show host to please tell her, "Why do they hate us so much? Why?"

Her voice, while not commonly projected in the current media, resonates in the consciousness of millions of Americans, who look at the carnage of the World Trade Center, shiver at the violent audacity of it, and wonder, "Why?"

This is a particularly American response, one made in a culture that has no yesterdays, and only a tomorrow of creature comforts, no-fat ice cream, and luxury cars.

History, to millions of Americans, is John Wayne, or the vaunted Founding Fathers, who have no blemishes, nor flaws. Much of the outer world are of no import, as they are subjects of the Empire, and thus expendable.

Their histories, deeply intertwined with the U.S., are of no serious consequence. Hence, the question, "Why?"

This almost willful ignorance of millions of Americans allows them to look at the bombing of the U.S.S. Cole, and the veering jet liners of 11 September, 2001, and ask, "Why?"

If you, the reader, don't want to hear an answer to this rhetorical question, feel free to turn the page, for the writer's response will not please you.

The airplane bombing of the WORLD TRADE center towers and of the Pentagon didn't begin on Sept. 11, 2001. Nor are they, as some politicians glibly suggest, "A war against civilization." But it ain't the job of politicians to inform you.

It is the job of the media, but their central concern is to sell you, and therefore they don't want to upset you. Their primary responsibility is not to their readers, but to the owners, or the stockholders. And it is the interests of the military-industrial-complex that millions remain uninformed and misinformed.

The suicide flights over New York, Washington and Pennsylvania had their

beginning in the mountainous terrain of Afghanistan, in the 10-year guerilla war against the former Soviet Union. That war was supported and facilitated by the U.S. CIA, which pumped billions into the anti-Soviet insurgency. The result? An Algerian sociologist told an American journalist in Algiers, "Your government participated in creating a monster." The sociologist added, "Now it has turned against you and the world -- 16,000 Arabs were trained in Afghanistan, made into a veritable killing machine" (Los Angeles Times, Aug. 4, 1996). A U.S. diplomat in Pakistan echoed these sentiments when he said, "This is an insane instance of the chicken coming home to roost. You can't plug billions of dollars into an anti-Communist *jihad*, accept participation from all over the world and ignore the consequences. But we did. Our objectives weren't peace and grooviness in Afghanistan. Our objective was killing Communists and getting the Russians out" (Los Angeles Times, Aug. 4, 1996, p. 2).

How did the Afghans pay for the weapons, in such a poor, war-ravaged country? How many know that Afghanistan is the world's greatest producer of heroin?

Short on hard dough, the Afghan *mujaheddin* traded heroin for arms with their CIA suppliers, and the "Golden Crescent" heroin ring was born.

When the Soviets were whipped, and the war ended, the insurgents looked around and saw, not Soviet, but U.S. dominance in the region. They saw the U.S. military presence in the Islamic holy places in Saudi Arabia, its backing of anti-democratic client states, its ravaging of Iraq, and its one-sided support of Israel at the expense of the beleaguered Palestinians, and as they examine the U.S., they see the imperial similarities to the Soviets.

Afghanistan, one of the poorest, most rugged places on earth, has a population with a male life expectancy of 46 (45 for females!). It has a literacy rate of about 29%. It looks at the swollen opulence of the Americans, the global reach of the American empire, and bristles.

This nationalist, cultural, religious and class distance fuels a deep and abiding hatred of American dominance.

Humiliation, of which the Islamic world has had a great deal since the fall of the Ottoman Empire in 1922, and the colonial era of the early-to-mid Twentieth Century, is a powerful force. It brought a humbled Germany to the brink of world conquest after World War I. It is not to be taken lightly.

Afghanistan may prove another turning point in world history, which is why we all should learn about it.

Dineh Activist's Perspective About "Pearl Harbor" In Manhattan

On August 17th 2001, I was getting ready to take the sheep out at 5 AM, and I was just having a cup of coffee and absorbing the beautiful brightness of day just beginning. I heard, in the fresh, cool moistened air of the Dinnebito Wash basin, the loud rumbling and clabbering of steel coming up the main dirt road. It was not the early school bus that normal makes its way up this dirt road which makes its pick up for Rocky Ridge School students.

Finally, this rumbling sound approached over the hill, and it turned into a roar as I notice BIA cop cars, Ranger vehicles, horse trailers, and a flatbed hauling a heavy equipment. I knew this was evil and it was an attack. It was an attack as it was confirmed, later, when I brought the sheep back in as the day got hot. These Agents of: the US Justice Department, the Answers to Energy Needs and Corporate Profits, and the Interior Department's BIA had just carried out a 'well orchestrated terrorist' attack on the nerve center of the Sacred Hoop of the Red

The Dineh Resisters have been labeled terrorist. I feel a real terrorist has the technological capabilities to initiate aggression or death upon a peaceful, humanistic culture. A terrorist doesn't sleep in the dusty earth in a sleep bag or go hungry. A real terrorist doesn't believe in a spiritual creation, a spiritual center and a Spiritual Law.

Would have this been the consequences of a desecration at Big Mountain? Peabody Western Coal Company's "time of decay will come."

My last name is Keediniihii. Its a name which came about in the late 1860s when Kit Carson was massacring our ancestors around Big Mountain and Blue Canyon. In the last 27 years I stood with my people to defy the US Colonial aggression, and I've seen many of my people perish to unthinkable depression and suicides.

Today, I am a landless Dineh and I long for my playgrounds, places where I watered the herds, places where I hunted and camp out, and places where my parents told me of their childhood. Yes, I will always live

Nations.

An Elder Dineh Sun Dancers said, "What has been done to this Sacred Cotton Wood Tree was completely wrong. Such a crime is very likely to go unpunished. The Great Spirit has seen this crime committed against many people's prayers, and the offerings of many have been ground to bits. This has been certainly the most serious crime ever committed against Our People who only wish to stay on their land and maintain a ceremonial place. It has been a forbidden thing (they) did and sooner or later it will come to reality that (they) have done this to themselves."

Just as they have sent out their agents into the small and poor community of Black Mesa to sever a Sacred Pole and to plow into the circled prayer lodges, THEIR globalization towers and THEIR lodges of human-destruction has seen its consequences.

with deep anger and sadness. I don't condone the so-called terrorist attack on Amerika because my country, Big Mountain, has always been under a attack by the federal government and their Indian Agents.

AHO!

Thank you, Tunkasula, for allowing me, at least for one day, to see You clearly. This

might be the only time in my life to see Father Sky without endless, commercial jetliners and the Peabody cargo plane.

To All My Relations

In the Spirit of Chief Barboncito,

Bahe

For more information on the struggle of the Dineh (Navajo) and Hopi people at Big Mountain, contact:

<elijah@solfoundation.org>

STOP WHITE POWER ROCK!

Did you know The Shack in Anaheim is the Nazi white power music headquarters of southern California? - At the same time, anti-racists have been lulled into complacency locally in the last year or two. As a result, nazi organizing and racist violence have seen a big upsurge.

The nazi scene has re-emerged in a big way in southern California, linked to white power gangs inside and outside the prisons. More than 70 nazis were just arrested in L.A. as part of a meth-amphetamine ring.

Because of the huge growth in CA prisons over the last dozen years, and the lockdown of old-line nazi gangs like the Aryan Brotherhood in Special Housing Units, newer nazi street gangs, like the Peckerwoods, the Nazi Low Riders and the Peni Skins, have stepped up inside the prisons into serious criminal activity.

Here are some recent messages from the nazis about their shows at the Shack. This announcement was on the British neo-nazi website of Combat 18 from the Women for Aryan Unity.

"Blood & Honour California is currently working on a WP compilation CD to recruit all whites who are not already part of our great movement. We need another \$1100, so we have decided to host a benefit show at The Shack in Anaheim, California on Sunday, August 19. The band line-up is as follows: Youngblood (first time playing in many years!) Final War; Hate Crimes; Warfare88. [Come and] show your support for Blood & Honour and for your race!"

Luckily, Anti-Racist Action found out about the show ahead of time, and the owners canceled at the last minute after our protests. Because we weren't sure if the show was really off, about 100 protesters showed up to picket the Shack.

This is from the website of "Radio White," a white power music site based in Orange CA. "Radio White is an internet broadcast showcasing music that you won't hear on mainstream radio. However, we do reserve the right to play a song or two from a mainstream band that maintains a respectful and healthy attitude towards our people. We are constantly interviewing the 'Power Houses of the [white power] movement! Max Resist, Youngland, Aggressive Force, and Final War [are] playing LIVE at The Shack in Anaheim, Sunday, September 2."

More than 80 nazis, bomeheads and a local Klan leader turned out for that show. Because we learned about it late, we had only about 40 protesters, and the Shack has been emboldened to allow the nazis to

book and run their shows openly. There are clearly nazi sympathizers on the security force at the Shack.

The Resistance Records website has this review of a show at the Shack from June, complete with many color photos, showing The Shack banner prominently displayed above white power, nazi bands. (We didn't learn of this show until after the fact. ARA is in the process of stepping up our intelligence gathering about nazi organizing to avoid this happening again.)

"LINEUP: Aggressive Force; Hate Crime; Youngland; Final War; Extreme Hatred; Michele; and Brutal Attack. On June 24 a big WP concert headlined by Brutal Attack was held in Orange County, the Skinhead capitol of the world. The event was put on by American Front with the help of Vinland's Viking Security team. Resistance Records, Panzerfaust Records, and Vinland Records all were present with merchandise tables set up. White kindred from all over the world came to witness what was possibly the greatest show the US has ever seen. They left the stage after successfully getting the audience pumped up and hungry for more action. [One band] dedicated the song 'Race Land' to Tom Metzger, who was in the audience. Even though Tom is now well into his sixties, he just couldn't resist running through the mosh pit with us and knocking into everybody for a few songs. Everyone in attendance seemed to understand how important it is for us to be able to leave behind our confrontational mindsets once in a while for us to come together with our people and celebrate the continuing success and growth of the White Racialist Movement."

Resistance Records is the outfit owned by William Pierce of the National Alliance, author of the racist novels "The Turner Diaries" and "Hunter" that advocate genocide and mass murder, extermination of Jews, people of color, race mixers and race traitors. They use this music to promote fascism and racist violence! And the owners of the Shack have hung out the "NAZIS Welcome Here" sign, letting the boneheads get roused up by the music and boozed up to fill The Shack's cash register, without thought to the likely consequences in racist attacks, gay-bashing, anti-semitism and border violence.

This is not free speech, it is profiteering from racist terror. Rich Kane reports in the LA and OC Weekly that "Owners John Terbay and Bob Gibson, after two years of denials, are now beginning to acknowledge that their club has hosted a series of Nazi get-togethers... Some Shack employees said Terbay and Gibson had often misled them. A freelance technician (who spoke on condition of anonymity) told the Weekly that one of the Shack's owners asked him months ago to work a Sunday White Power show but 'didn't explain what the situation was ... he was kind of evasive, but I took it anyway. [There was] a line of people in front of the stage who were sieg-heiling. There were also KKK guys wearing white shirts with KKK emblems."

Let's show The Shack and the nazis that there is no space for white supremacist violence in southern California. The Shack is risking its future as a venue to make a fast buck catering to nazi hatemongers. Several of us went back to The Shack on the Thursday following the nazi show to leaflet and alert people attending what was

usually a scheduled "Hip Hop" night. The place was nearly deserted, and "Hip-Hop Night" wasn't happening. Instead a couple of live bands were there, with no publicity. One, a group of Chicanos, took our flyer and expressed concern about the situation. While we were there, one of the bouncers came out and told us, "We're not racists. We have N*gg*r bands, too."

In raising this issue, we have learned of other oppressive nazi scenes around southern California and we will be addressing those too. We have heard that a white power gang has been terrorizing students at high school in the San Fernando Valley. There are also bonehead groups active in the Sunland area and in the northern reaches of L.A. County around Lancaster and Palmdale. If you are aware of racist activity in your area, please call us at Anti-Racist Action, and let's get organized to deal with it.

Spread the word widely and immediately. Call the Shack or email them from their website and demand the show be canceled. Make it clear that until they stop, we will BOYCOTT of the Shack as a perpetuator of racist and fascist violence!! THE SHACK, 1160 N. Kraemer Blvd., Anaheim, (714) 630-0121 or www.theshackrestaurant.com.

For more information about Anti-Racist Action, call 310-495-0299; email part2001@usa.net, or write to

ARA/PART
P.O. Box 1055
Culver City CA 90232

Anti-Racist Action Points Of Unity

The Anti-Racist Action Network consists of people from all different backgrounds, with a lot of different viewpoints. With over 150 ARA chapters out there, it's not surprising that no two are alike.

What we all agree on, however, is the following:

WE GO WHERE THEY GO:

Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there.

We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US:

This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:

In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom.

ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people.

WE INTEND TO WIN!

Afghan Women's Mission Denounces Violence

The Afghan Women's Mission strongly denounces the acts of cruel violence committed on September 11, 2001, resulting in the loss of thousands of American lives. We join the country and world in grieving for those who were killed in New York, Washington DC and Pennsylvania

However, we strongly urge the US Government and its allies to not carry out military attacks on Afghanistan in retaliation for these violent acts. Afghanistan is a country devastated by more than two decades of war, starting from the late 1970s when fundamentalists called the Mujahadeen, armed and trained by the US government and other countries, fought the Soviet occupation of their country. After the Soviet withdrawal in the early 1990s, in-fighting between the various Mujahadeen groups resulted in the destruction of most of the infrastructure in cities such as the capital Kabul. When the fundamentalist Taliban took over most of Afghanistan in 1996, the situation only worsened for Afghans. As we all know, the Taliban are the most repressive government in the world today, and do not represent the Afghan people.

Afghans have been suffering the results of extreme war, poverty, disease, hunger, lack of education, health care and shelter for too long. Afghans comprise the second largest refugee group in the world today. In addition, there are

millions of internally displaced Afghans who are living on the edge of survival throughout the country. To attack Afghanistan now would be to attack a weak and defenseless people who have no control over those that rule them with violence and terror. While we insist that those responsible should be identified and tried in a court of law, we urge the United States government to not answer violence with violence.

The Afghan Women's Mission also urges our fellow Americans to remember the values of freedom and respect for diversity that make this country great. We need to remind each other of the reactionary backlash towards Americans of Japanese descent who were unfairly targeted in 1941 after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. In the wake of the tragedy on September 11th, let us treat each other with respect and dignity, regardless of national origin or religion.

The Afghan Women's Mission works to support long term positive change in Afghanistan via health and educational projects.

info@afghanwomensmission.org
www.afghanwomensmission.org

Statement on the Terrorist Attacks in the US by the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan

The people of Afghanistan have nothing to do with Osama Bin Laden and his accomplices.

On September 11, 2001 the world was stunned with the horrific terrorist attacks on the United States. RAWA stands with the rest of the world in expressing our sorrow and condemnation for this barbaric act of violence and terror.

RAWA had already warned that the United States should not support the most treacherous, most criminal, most anti-democracy and anti-women Islamic fundamentalist parties, because after both the Jehadi and the Taliban have committed every possible type of heinous crimes against our people, they would feel no shame in committing such crimes against the American people whom they consider "infidel". In order to gain and maintain their power, these barbaric criminals are ready to turn easily to any criminal force.

But unfortunately we must say that it was the government of the United States who supported Pakistani dictator Gen.

Now that the Taliban and Osama are the prime suspects by the US officials after the criminal attacks, will the US subject Afghanistan to a military attack similar to the one in 1998 and kill thousands of innocent Afghans for the crimes committed by the Taliban and Osama?

Does the US think that through such attacks, with thousands of deprived, poor and innocent people of Afghanistan as its victims, will be able to wipe out the root-cause of terrorism, or will it spread terrorism even to a larger scale?

From our point of view a vast and

indiscriminate military attacks on a country that has been facing permanent disasters for more than two decades will not be a matter of pride. We don't think such an attack would be the expression of the will of the American people.

The US government and people should know that there is a vast difference between the poor and devastated people of Afghanistan and the terrorist Jehadi and Taliban criminals.

While we once again announce our solidarity and deep sorrow with the

Zia-ul Haq in creating thousands of religious schools from which the germs of Taliban emerged.

In the similar way, as is clear to all, Osama Bin Laden has been the blue-eyed boy of CIA. But what is more painful is that American politicians have not drawn a lesson from their pro-fundamentalist policies in our country and are still supporting this or that fundamentalist band or leader. In our opinion any kind of support to the fundamentalist Taliban and Jehadies is actually trampling democratic, women's rights and human rights values.

If it is established that the suspects of the terrorist attacks are outside the US, our constant claim that fundamentalist terrorists would devour their creators, is proved once more.

The US government should consider the root cause of this terrible event, which has not been the first and will not be the last one too. The US should stop supporting Afghan terrorists and their supporters once and for all.

people of the US, we also believe that attacking Afghanistan and killing its most ruined and destitute people will not in any way decrease the grief of the American people. We sincerely hope that the great American people could DIFFERENTIATE between the people of Afghanistan and a handful of fundamentalist terrorists. Our hearts go out to the people of the US.

Down with terrorism!

Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA)

September 14, 2001

To see this article on the web, go to:
<http://rawa3.hackmare.com/ny-attack.htm>

The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) web site is:
<http://www.rawa.org/>

To learn about the Northern Alliance (armed opposition to the Taliban), go to:

http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/northern_alliance.htm

THE ABORIGINAL TENT ASSEMBLY: A Letter from Aboriginal Elders to All People

by
Indigenous Solidarity Action Network

Dear People

January 26, 2002 will be the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy on the lawns of Old Parliament House, Canberra. At the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, indigenous people from the many nations continue to struggle against the system that the invaders have enforced across this continent. We have done this by taking back land from the "commonwealth" and consistently occupying this land. We have used this prime position in the parliamentary zone of Canberra to protest against the "commonwealth" government and the queen. We have fought against the imposition of British law and the export of capitalism to our country since invasion. We are the original people of this land who never ceded our sovereign rights in this country. We have held many rallies and events over the last 29 years at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy and we will continue to do so until this criminal and racist government ceases to

A large proportion of indigenous people are locked up by the white law. As a race of people we are the poorest Australians with the worst levels of health, housing, education. We are locked up for stealing because we have nothing. We are locked up for being alcoholics because we are sick with pain from being stolen from our families and kept in concentration camps such as missions, reserves and homes. We are locked up for refusing to vote for an illegal white government. We are locked up for protesting because our people are being killed by the system. When we are in the cages of the white man we die in custody at an alarming rate.

Our laws continue to be broken as our land is torn apart by mining companies, as pastoralists, industry and developers clear the land and poison the earth, the rivers and the air. Yet these criminals walk free.

This is the extent of genocide committed by the "commonwealth" on the indigenous "australian" race. There can be no reconciliation. We at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy all on all people who support our struggle for justice and

all those who marched for reconciliation due to good intentions to join us in fighting against the government until the genocide ends. Until there is no more exploitation of the land our mother, until there is no more exploitation of any peoples in the name of economic benefit to a minority.

The "commonwealth" government plans to build a monument to reconciliation called "Reconciliation Place" at a cost of 5.5 million dollars from the "public" purse. "Reconciliation Place" is a dirty public relations exercise based on lies. In an attempt to keep indigenous "australians" in our place as an oppressed race, the "commonwealth" would ultimately like to combine the construction of "Reconciliation Place" with the removal of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy. It just doesn't fit to have in "everything is OK now we have reconciliation" monstrosity alongside a site of protest for justice for indigenous people.

We, the grassroots Aboriginal people will not allow this "Reconciliation Place" monument to be built. We would like your support in our campaign to prevent the construction of

operate.

The Aboriginal Tent Embassy is a sacred site where we have ceremony. The sacred fire for peace and justice is constantly burning, surrounded by our sacred objects and humpies. This is the place we talk of our world before the coming of the white people. This is where we know and fight the present genocide of our people. This is the place where we talk of and fight for the future when the destruction of the land and the people will end. The ashes of warriors for indigenous justice have been spread on the earth at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy. Many indigenous people have brought ashes and wood from their ancestral homelands to this sacred place.

This year the "commonwealth" and white "australia" celebrate the centenary of federation. The constitution of the "commonwealth of australia" is based on lies, theft and murder. The centenary of federation is nothing more than a celebration of invasion and genocide of a race of people, the original people of this land.

"Reconciliation Place" and to protect our sacred Aboriginal Tent Embassy protest site. We are currently occupying the site of the proposed "Reconciliation Place" with our sacred fire ceremony for peace and justice. The National Capital Authority and the Australian Federal Police have moved in on our protest on four separate occasions over the last month and a half, each time breaking our law by desecrating our sacred ceremonies, impounding sacred objects and arresting a keeper of the sacred fires.

We would encourage you to show your support by visiting the Aboriginal Tent Embassy. Bring some wood for the sacred fires and come to speak with us and learn about our struggle and discuss a better future for us all.

This year in October, Australia is hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). CHOGM is a major decision making body of the British Empire. We will be protesting against the Queen of the British Empire, the "Commonwealth of Australia", the Centenary of Federation in the period surrounding CHOGM. We would appre-

ciate your attendance and efforts to build for our protest rallies and events to be held at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy from October 1st to 9th. We will inform people of what will be happening on each date shortly or contact us for further information.

We would also appreciate your attendance and efforts to build for our protest to be held on invasion day, 26th January 2002 on the 30th Anniversary of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy. We urgently need assistance with funding with all these campaigns relating to the Aboriginal Tent Embassy. Please make cheques out to 'Elders for Spirituality/Justice'. Alternatively make a direct deposit to this account through Australia Post (cost=\$2). The account details are as follows -

ACCOUNT NAME: Elders for Spirituality/Justice
INSTITUTION: Canberra Credit Union
BSB: 801009
ACCOUNT NO: 1142075

We appreciate your solidarity,
The Aboriginal Tent Embassy.

STOP GENOCIDE and Return Our Lands Through A Peace Accord

by
Sovereign Union of Aboriginal Nations and Peoples in Australia
Speaker: Yaluritja Isaacs

To The World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance
Oral intervention to Plenary, 6 September 2001, Durban, South Africa

Today I say Sorry. Sorry to the Peoples of the world that the Australian government for the last fifty years failed to implement the Genocide Convention. How many other countries are there like this? Who are they and why has this situation been tolerated so long? Let's be serious about this matter. Member States either join up or they must be thrown out.

A prerequisite to be a member State of the United Nations must include full compliance with the Genocide Convention. Personal accountability is a powerful force for change.

UBUNTU! UBUNTU! UBUNTU! I call for unity among Indigenous Peoples and UN member States to address this insult to humanity.

We propose an international Indigenous Peace Accord for Land Rights and Sovereignty and for Kofi Annan and Mary Robinson to support our call for a Special Rapporteur on Genocide in Australia.

The 1992 the High Court Mabo judgement threw out Australia's claim to sovereignty, the lie of terra nullius, replacing it with an "Act of State", which is only a doctrine, not international law. The Mabo case admitted that domestic legal systems can not determine the sovereignty of Aboriginal Peoples. Only the International Court of Justice can do this. We argue that if the UN is serious about ending racism it should take the indigenous sovereignty issue out of the debate and refer it to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion.

Our resolve is to claim back our sovereign identity and our traditional lands and cultural heritage, with a clear unrestricted right to maintain our religious and spiritual practices.

If all Australians had the same living experiences as Aboriginals, a third of them would not be alive today. We addressed many UN Committees in search of remedies. CERD [Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination] placed Australia on "early warning and urgent action". Nothing improved. Since 1999 CERD condemned the Native Title Act as racist, as it validates non-Indigenous title to land, while depriving us of our inheritance. It is only a bundle of residual rights, not proper land rights.

Justice Kirby in the High Court said that the Australian Constitution is racist, like Nazi Germany and South Africa under apartheid. Australia has repossessed the apartheid policy, which they once sold to South Africa, and welcomes the foot soldiers, who left South Africa on the "chicken run". Australia is celebrating the Centenary of its Constitution, which is an Act of the British Parliament. In 1901 the National Interest was defined for the "Aryan race and the Christian faith". The Queen in 1954 personally signed the Aborigines Ordinance, which forcibly removed our people off their lands in Canberra.

On 11 and 12 September in Canberra High Court, in Wilson-v-Anderson, we welcome international lawyers and observers to witness these proceedings, where the government-funded National Farmers Federation is challenging the Native Title claim of Michael Anderson, the co-ordinator of SUANPA, who was prevented from being here, because this case was scheduled immediately after this conference.

Ph/Fx: +61 8 9342 5394 +61 2 62476821, Mobile: +61 408331239,
sovereignunion@hotmail.com

WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM

by

Bob Brown, <paroots02@yahoo.com>

Director, Kwame Ture Work-Study Institute and Library
Pretoria, South Africa, 5 September 2001

Much has been said over the past few days, weeks and months about the United States and Israeli government's threats to pull out of the 3rd UN World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in Durban. Good bye, and good riddance!

Two UN World Conferences Against Racism have convened without the United States and Israeli government's presence. This one too shall continue to meet,

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, Slavery and Colonialism

Much has been said over the past few days, weeks, months and years about the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery, colonialism and apartheid, crimes against humanity; whether acknowledged as so by the United Nations or not. Permit us here to prove that they were and remain Pan-African and International in their scope and impact.

The Trans-Atlantic slave trade began in Africa, not in the Americas as so many forces incorrectly proclaim. According to the UNESCO Slave Trade Project, the Museum of the Atlantic Slave Trade, and the Harvard Database on Slave Voyages, between 28 and 42 million African people were captured and enslaved between 1441 and 1888. Fourteen to twenty-one million Africans, one half of all captives, two women to every man, were enslaved in Africa. Four to six million Africans, 40% of all captives and slaves, were murdered or died along the entire "way of death" which included the wars of conquest in the interior of Africa, the forced march to the sea, the period of incarceration in the forts and castles along the coasts, and during the Middle Passage. Ten to fifteen million of these African slaves, two men for every woman, were landed alive in the Americas.

Portugal and Brazil, Great Britain and France kidnapped, transported and sold more than 9,643,600 or 87.4% of the landed African slaves. They were responsible for the death of 3,857,440 additional African slaves. Holland, Spain, the United States, Canada and Denmark, Scandinavia and Germany kidnapped, transported and sold more than 1,418,900 or 21% of the landed African slaves. They are collectively responsible for the death of 567,560 additional African slaves. The Vatican sanctioned, legalized and benefited from the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery and colonialism as well. The records exist, and the facts speak for them-

selves!

For over 400 years, for more than twenty generations, Western Europe and their colonies in the Americas invaded, pillaged, raped and destroyed countless African villages, societies and civilizations in at least eight major regions of Africa, including: Senegambia, Sierra Leone, the Windward and Gold Coasts, the Bight of Benin, the Bight of Biafra, West Central Africa and South East Africa. For more than 400 years, for more than twenty generations, Western Europe and their colonies in the Americas murdered and raped, kidnapped and enslaved tens of millions of African people in Africa, and transported them to, murdered and enslaved them in at least 15 major areas in the Americas.

Without the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and slavery, the European colonization of Africa and the Western Hemisphere would have been difficult, if not impossible. Colonialism, settler-colonialism, neo-colonialism and apartheid, crimes against humanity, existed for an additional 100 years after the formal end of slavery in Africa and the African Diaspora, and continue to exist in Africa and the African Diaspora today, albeit in contemporary manifestations and forms.

All moral and reasonable women and men must acknowledge that these crimes against humanity have no statute of limitations. All moral and reasonable women and men must admit that these crimes against humanity have had and continue to have a tremendous impact, (economic, social and political) on Africa, the African Diaspora and the world. All women and men of morality and reason must therefore accept that reparations is the order of the day!

On Reparations, the Debt and Aid

We have demonstrated the Pan-African and International scope and impact of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery, colonialism, settler-colonialism, neo-colonialism and

and we pray that it will declare the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery and colonialism crimes against humanity, with no statutes of limitation, and in so do make a meaningful and lasting impact on the world-wide struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including caste-based discrimination.

Perhaps here, we should remind the United States and Israeli governments, United Nations and ourselves, that it is the people, through the leadership of the popular and revolutionary movements and organizations who make history, the governments of the world, not the United Nations, and not even the Non-governmental Organizations. The struggle therefore continues and intensifies!

apartheid, crimes against humanity. It goes without question therefore, that reparations must be even more Pan-African and International in its scope and impact.

There is no part of Africa or the African Diaspora that has not been impacted by the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery, colonialism, settler-colonialism, neo-colonialism and apartheid, crimes against humanity; and therefore every part of Africa and the African Diaspora is owed and should demand reparations. There is no part of Western Europe and the Americas that has not participated in, or benefited from these crimes against humanity; and therefore every country, corporation and non-governmental organization in Western Europe and the Americas owes and must be required to pay reparations, according to their particular circumstances and conditions.

Permit us to suggest, that if the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery, colonialism, settler-colonialism, neo-colonialism and apartheid are crimes against humanity, then the racist accumulation of power, of capital, of wealth, and of debt that these crimes have created should be redistributed and liquidated respectively. We say to Africa, the African Diaspora and the world, without hesitation or compromise, that the slave, colonial and apartheid debt can not, should not and must not be paid. We also say to Africa, the African Diaspora and the world, that the power, the capital and the wealth of Western Europe and the Americas, which was built and is being maintained on the blood and sweat of African, Indigenous and other Oppressed Peoples must and will be redistributed, and used to repair, rehabilitate and redeem our peoples, our societies and our nations.

We therefore demand the outright and unconditional conciliation of the debt, and we demand reparations, not welfare, not affirmative action, and not handouts or aid. We demand and reaffirm our uncompromising intent to reclaim our land, and our material and immaterial

resources!

With reparations, African people can and solve all of the problems that confront Africa and the African Diaspora! With reparations, African People, the world over, can and make our contribution towards world humanity and ensure that these and other crimes against humanity will never be committed again.

Zionism is Racism and Apartheid, A Crime Against Humanity

We have heard and read much since our arrival in Azania, about Dr. King's 1967 statement on Zionism and anti-semitism. Permit us here to remind Zionism and ourselves of two of Dr. King's other statements.

Dr. King said, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Dr. King also said on April 4, 1967, one year and four days before he was murdered by the United States government, that "there comes a time, when silence becomes betrayal, of the very principles which one believes." Dr. King said, in his speech, that he had agonized for more than 10 years over his silence with respect to the war in Vietnam, and that his principles compelled him to speak against that war, and to condemn the United States government as "the greatest purveyor of violence" that the world had ever known.

Permit us to suggest here, that injustice against the Palestinian and Muslim peoples in Palestine is a crime against humanity.

where. Permit us also to suggest here, that Dr. King were alive today, his principles would compel him to speak out against the war in Palestine and the Middle East, and to condemn the Israeli and United States governments as the greatest purveyors of violence in the world today. If Dr. King failed to do so, he would be guilty of betraying the principles that he believed in, and therefore cease to have any moral or political relevance.

Thank you.

U.S. Boycott of Racism Conference is nothing new.

by JoNina M. Abron, September 6, 2001 (Durban, South Africa)

The U.S. government's withdrawal from the third World Conference Against Racism is consistent with its role in the two previous international conferences on racism. It boycotted those, too.

A review of history reveals that the United States has failed to use its influence as a world super power to support the 29-year campaign of the United Nations against racism and racial discrimination.

First Decade: 1973-1982

In November, 1972, the U.N. General Assembly designated 1973-1982 as the First Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The United States did not participate in the first decade, and the administration of President Jimmy Carter did not send a delegation to the first WCAR, held in Geneva in 1978. (Since he left the White House, Carter has become an international crusader for human rights.)

Just as it has been at the Durban conference, the Middle East conflict was a contentious issue at the first WCAR. Indeed, in 1975, three years before the 1978 conference, a majority vote of the General Assembly approved a resolution that "Zionism is a form of racism."

If this sounds familiar, that's because it is the same language that on Monday caused the United States and Israel to walk out of the Durban WCAR.

Regarding the first WCAR, a majority of delegates supported draft language in the conference's declaration that was critical of discrimination against Palestinians. As a result, several delegations from Western countries walked out of the conference.

Second Decade: 1993-1992

In December, 1982, the General Assembly designated 1983-1992 as the Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Part of the Program of Action for the second decade focused on the elimination of South African apartheid, which the General Assembly condemned as "the most extreme form of racism."

President Ronald Reagan opposed the decision of the U.N. Security Council to impose economic sanctions against South Africa, but Congress forced him to go along with it.

There was no U.S. delegation at the second WCAR, held in 1983 in Vienna. Apartheid was a major topic of discussion.

Third Decade: 1993-2002

In 1994, 25 years after the United Nations approved the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the United States ratified it. The 155 governments who have signed ICERD pledge to fulfill several legal obligations, one of which is to report every two years to the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which oversees the implementation of the ICERD.

People who believe they are victims of racial discrimination in countries that have ratified the ICERD may file complaints directly to the CERD. Although the United States has approved ICERD, it did so with qualifications, saying it will not be bound by any parts of ICERD that are protected by the constitution and the laws of the United States.

The United States was instrumental in the creation of the United Nations in 1945. Today, 56 years later, the American government has once again turned its back on one of the most crucial tasks of the United Nations--the elimination of all forms of racism and related intolerances.

Reflections on the World Conference Against Racism

By
David L. Horne

After an 18-hour flight of over 11,000 miles from Durban to Johannesburg, to Cape Verde to New York to Los Angeles, I am back. I am bleary-eyed and probably spastic, but much wiser and informed from the tremendous experiences of the World Conference Against Racism and its sister conference, the NGO Forum.

The Middle East crisis will not be solved by the World Conference Against Racism, nor should anyone have expected it to. However, language was found and agreed upon that was at least mutually tolerable concerning two hot-button issues: the Zionism/Palestinian confrontation, and on the "slavery as a crime against humanity" issue.

What did blacks in the US get out of the WCAR and the NGO Forum?

— We participated on a world stage with several thousand other groups, organizations and individuals.

— We gave voice to several perceptions of harm being done internationally to women, caste groups, national groups, apartheid victims, etc.

— We represented ourselves well. The Conference Declarations and Programs of Action are to be put into various implementation projects worldwide, and we had significant input. We rallied, demonstrated, negotiated, and communicated with the best and worst of them, and we showed some skills and aplomb at international protocol, diplomacy and analysis. As African Americans we were not marginalized at these two conferences, although the US government relentlessly attempted to do that to us.

— We networked broadly and grandly. We now know of reparations advocates in Brazil, Jamaica, Belize, Tanzania, France, Senegal, Columbia, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Libya, South Africa, etc.

— We got a real feel for how deep and wide the

growing international movement is, and a closer scrutiny of the depth of the opposition. The United Council of Churches was there, so were several Presbyterian groups, and the United Methodists as advocates of reparations for African and African Americans. Black American church groups were conspicuous by their absence.

— We gave primary recognition and re-introduced ourselves to a whole slew of heroes and heroes in this effort: Jamaica's 85-year-old Dudley Thompson, who is a superb negotiator; December 12th's Viola Plummer and Roger Wareham; Fidel Castro; Adjoa Aiyetoro; the Black Political Leadership Forum; N'COBRA; the National Black United Front; reparations lawyer Charles Ogletree; Danny Glover and Harry Belafonte; and the Africa and African Descendants Caucus, to name but a few.

— We learned once again that rhetoric and passion simply are not, and will not be, enough if victory, rather than merely noise and publicity, is our real goal. We've got to hit the books and records hard and develop tight, tight arguments. The European Union came to the WCAR coordinated with denials, excuses and counter-arguments for virtually everything we had, and they ran a strong tag-team assault on our reparations positions in virtually every commission, every

The Dalits, the dark-skinned people of India, the Roma (gypsies) of Europe, and many other issues got an airing.

The continually negative news reports to the contrary were simply mistaken. (There were over 1,000 journalists/media people at both conferences, and they had to have something to write home about everyday. (Negative news is always easier news.)

The WCAR, slow and plodding as it was, got on with its business, and cannot be adjudged a failure at any level, save the common denominator problem with housing accommodations courtesy of Turners Travel and Tours (the single company assigned by the S.A. government to handle accommodations for over 15,000 guests in a city with only 6,000 registered hotel/bed 'n breakfast units). Turners, in a word, was not equal to the task.

meeting and every discussion. If we plan on running with and conquering the big dogs of this particular war, we better get our stuff very much together, and we are clearly not yet there.

— We attended and frequently participated in many of the hundreds of panel discussions and information forums presented at the WCAR. There were too many great ones to name here, but a new UNESCO historical project on the Slave Trade Routes, Peoples, Issues and Resolutions was presented (mostly in French, with excellent work by the translators). Other issues included: A full elaboration of the May 2001 French law that declared the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade a crime against humanity and promised future discussions on possible compensation; racism and the media; issues of women's status in relation to racism, sexism other forms of intolerance; racism in the criminal justice system in international perspective; racism in Japan, were some of them. The learning opportunities at both conferences were immense.

— We got a clearer vision of what this is all about and what we have to do.

— We learned, again, about the perils of little or no communication between allies in a major battlefield. We handicap ourselves and sap our own strength. Too often, one group of African

Americans was doing one thing, while another group operated as if it was fighting alone, and another acted as though it was the only group that counted and that could speak for us all: altogether sometimes confusing issues and negotiating partners unnecessarily, and all sometimes cancelling each other's efforts and hard work.

— We learned that we are not alone and we have some permanent friends.

— We learned that we better choose our own leaders and spokespeople better, or they will anoint themselves to our detriment. Rev. Jackson, for example, did a lot of speaking for us without consulting any of us, and he did not always get it right.

I have "tons" of paper and documents that I have to sort through and organize for some public presentations back in L.A. And yes, I do have quite a few pictures (at least, I think I do; the security scans which we had to go through at least 50 times, hopefully didn't zap them).

First, however, I need some sleep. —

Dr. David Horne teaches at California State University-Northridge. (c)2001 David Horne, distributed by HYPE, www.afrikan.net/hype, mediablacks@hotmail.com

RACISM AND POLICE MURDER IN THE U.S.

Statement to the International Thematic Commission on Racism in the Criminal Justice Systems, The International Criminal Justice Caucus, World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia, and Religious Intolerance, gathered in Durban, South Africa, 09/06/2001

Minority Rights Group International

To: Chairperson and panel members

My name is Lorenzo Komboa Ervin. I am at this conference representing the Black Autonomy International. We have in turn created a network of local groups in the State of Michigan (in the USA) which primarily organizes around racism, police brutality and racial profiling, called the Southwest Michigan Coalition Against Racism and Police Brutality. It should be noted at the outset, that the city of Detroit leads the United States in the number of police shootings and deaths in custody (over 100 since 1991).

Although the U.S. government refuses to report on the exact number of persons killed by police use of deadly force each year (NOTE: as it is in fact mandated by the 1994 Criminal Code revision), we have been able to document 500-1,000 cases per annum of police fatalities filed to the U.S. Department of Justice, but only through the work of local grassroots groups like ours, national activist groups like the October 22nd Coalition, and others.

Through these organizations and our own efforts, we have learned that there are thousands of cases of police shootings of racial minorities, some of which often prove fatal in the United States. In addition, numerous other Black and other non-white persons lose their lives each year after beatings, strangulations and other violent methods used by American law enforcement authorities. There is also widespread racial profiling by American police agencies, who stops hundreds of thousands of innocent racial minority group persons upon the streets of American cities and highways, some of which stops have turned into deadly provocations, fatal shootings, and

other encounters.

Even where there are no deaths, racial profiling caused daily humiliation and/or has resulted in illegal imprisonment and torture. For instance, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, it was discovered last year that over 25 black males had been illegally arrested on minor offenses, and then stripped naked at the jail, and made to remain that way for hours on end. In New York city, similar "naked jailing" cases involved over 60,000 black and Latino citizens, and there are such cases all over the country. This humiliation and torture many times precede the tragic loss of life.

Even though there are civil rights and criminal codes in the United States which allegedly protect racial minorities and could be used to punish excessively violent police offenders, they are invariably not implemented if the accused is a law enforcement officer and the victim is a racial minority. Neither the investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (the agency used to perform "independent" investigations by the U.S. Dept. of Justice, or a civil rights lawsuit by the family will go in their favor. They are left without any satisfaction at all because of legal obstacles and judicial collusion with police.

The case of Mr. Wadie Suttles is a case in point: Mr. Suttles, a 66 year old African American grandfather, was arrested without legal cause in Chattanooga, Tennessee during the Christmas season of 1983. He was immediately beaten by the arresting officer, and then taken to jail where he was beaten several times and ultimately killed by a truncheon-wielding Officer Mike Williams and other officers of the Chattanooga Police Department. Almost immediately, when the family and activist members of the black community demanded answers, they were met with stonewalling and lies by local officials, and inaction by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who covered up his death for years. When the family filed a lawsuit in 1984, the city government officials claimed not to know how he was killed, but

claimed invariably that it was a "suicide", "heart attack", or other "natural method" of death, when they knew for a fact he had died by homicide. The judge, a political appointee of the Ronald Reagan administration named R. Allen Edgar, conducted a sham civil rights trial, and promptly threw the case out. Then the family conducted a 15 year campaign for justice, through a civil rights group they had helped to create, called the Concerned Citizens for Justice. But although the local authorities knew full well that this man was unlawfully killed while in police custody, no one has ever been arrested or prosecuted in this matter. Mr. Suttles' case is typical of what the families of the victims of police murder routinely go through in the USA: lies, evasions, and a criminal coverup. The fact is that generally the American federal government will not put police officers in jail for killing racial minorities.

Even though there are U.N. international codes of conduct for law enforcement officers and an international covenant on police use of deadly force, none of this has stopped the killings in the USA, primarily because of the fear of the international community to pressure the only remaining superpower. Thus, the U.S. government stands defiant to any international law as it benefits the Black and other minorities. The government only uses international law when it can gain tactical advantages in an international dispute with another nation or the United Nations as a body. It does not see itself bound in anyway to an international criminal code, or the UN code of conduct for law enforcement officers.

Thus, what I am saying is that the USA is an outlaw nation, a white supremacy regime, hiding under the erstwhile cloak of democracy and human rights (for the white population only), while it uses its law enforcement agents to practice state terrorism against the Black population and those of other racial minorities. It is a government which withdrew from any participation in this conference and has boycotted the

two previous U.N. conferences on racism and racial discrimination, in 1978 and 1983 respectively.

It uses its court system to railroad numerous poor and racially oppressed national groups into the prisons of the U.S. and even into the death chambers, where many have been killed in both an unlawful and immoral fashion. Just last year, it executed a clearly innocent man, Shaka Sankofa in the State of Texas, and Mumia Abu Jamal has sat on death row in the State of Pennsylvania for the last 20 years as the result of a severely flawed criminal prosecution, where his race and past political associations were used to convict him. He is not guilty of any crime other than being an outspoken Black militant and journalist, who criticized the Philadelphia Police Department for its routine use of excessive force against the Black community. The governor, and other high officials of the state personally know he is not guilty, but continue to hold him in prison because of racism and political expediency. It is an example of the kind of pernicious white racism which saturate the American criminal justice system.

The country which postures as the champion of human rights is guilty of genocide, racism, and torture. Police agents are allowed to torture, kill and illegally detain racial minorities throughout the country. Neither the individual states or the federal executive branch have vigorously prosecuted any officer for committing murder while in uniform. Rather, it has shown them the greatest deference.

We came here to Durban hoping that this conference will apply sanctions against the U.S. government, and/or obtain an agreement forcing it to abide by international law on the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers. If it can do that, then our coming to the WCAR will be well worth it. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, Acting Chair, BANCO/BAI

FIDEL CASTRO SPEAKS at the WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM

Key address by Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Republic of Cuba at the World Conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in Durban, South Africa.

September 1, 2001

Excellencies:

Delegates and guests:

Racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia are not naturally instinctive reactions of the human beings but rather a social, cultural and political phenomenon born directly of wars, military conquests, slavery and the individual or collective exploitation of the weakest by the most powerful all along the history of human societies.

No one has the right to boycott this Conference which tries to bring some sort of relief to the overwhelming majority of mankind afflicted by unbearable suffering and enormous injustice. Neither has anyone the right to set preconditions to this conference or urge it to avoid the

The inhuman exploitation imposed on the peoples of three continents, including Asia, marked forever the destiny and lives of over 4.5 billion people living in the Third World today whose poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and health rates as well as their infant mortality, life expectancy and other calamities --too many, in fact, to enumerate here-- are certainly awesome and harrowing. They are the current victims of that atrocity which lasted centuries and the ones who clearly deserve compensation for the horrendous crimes perpetrated against their ancestors and peoples.

Actually, such a brutal exploitation did not end when many countries became independent, not even after the formal abolition of slavery. Right after independence, the main ideologists of the American Union that emerged when the 13 colonies got rid of the British domination at the end of the 18th century, advanced ideas and strategies unquestionably expansionist in nature.

It was based on such ideas that the ancient white settlers of European descent, in their march to the West, forcibly occupied the lands in which Native-Americans had lived for thousands of years thus exterminating millions of them in the process. But, they did not stop at the boundaries of the former Spanish possessions; consequently Mexico, a Latin American country that had attained its independence in 1821, was stripped off millions of square kilometers of territory and invaluable natural resources.

Meanwhile, in the increasingly powerful and expansionist nation born in North America, the obnoxious and inhumane slavery system stayed in place for almost a century after the famous Declaration of Independence of 1776 was issued, the same that proclaimed that all men were born free and equal.

After the purely formal slave emancipation, African-Americans were subjected during one hundred more years to the harshest racial discrimination, and many of its features and consequences still persist after almost four more decades of heroic struggles and the achievements of the 1960's, for which Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X and other outstanding fighters gave their lives. Based on a purely racist rationale, the longest and most severe legal sentences are passed against African-Americans who in the wealthy American society are bound to live in dare poverty and with the lowest living standards.

Likewise, what is left of the Native-American peoples, which were the first to inhabit a large portion of the current territory of the United States of America, remain under even worse conditions of discrimination and neglect.

Needless to mention the data on the social and economic situation of Africa where entire countries and even whole regions of Sub-Saharan Africa are in risk of extinction the result of an extremely complex combination of economic backwardness, excruciating poverty and grave diseases, both old and new, that have become a true scourge. And the situation is no less dramatic in numerous Asian countries. On top of all this, there are the huge and unpayable debts, the disparate terms of trade, the ruinous prices of basic commodities, the demographic explosion, the neoliberal globalization and the climate changes that produce long draughts alternating with increasingly intensive rains and floods. It can be mathematically proven that such a predicament is unsustainable.

The developed countries and their consumer societies, presently responsible for the accelerated and almost unstoppable destruction of the environment, have been the main beneficiaries of the conquest and colonization, of slavery, of the ruthless exploitation and the extermination of hundreds of millions of people born in the countries that today constitute the Third World. They have also reaped the benefits of the economic order imposed on humanity after two atrocious and devastating wars for a new division of the world and its markets, of the privileges granted to the United States and its allies in Bretton-Woods, and of the IMF and the international financial institutions exclusively created by them and for them.

That rich and squandering world is in possession of the technical and financial resources necessary to pay what is due to mankind. The hegemonic superpower should also pay back its special debt to African-Americans, to Native-Americans living in reservations, and to the tens of millions of Latin American and Caribbean immigrants as well as others from poor nations, be they mulatto, yellow or black, but victims all of vicious discrimination and scorn.

It is high time to put an end to the dramatic situation of the indigenous communities in our hemisphere. Their own awakening and struggles, and the universal admission of the monstrosity of the crime committed against them make it imperative.

discussion of historical responsibility, fair compensation or the way we decide to rate the dreadful genocide perpetrated, at this very moment, against our Palestinian brothers by extreme right leaders who, in alliance with the hegemonic superpower, pretend to be acting on behalf of another people which throughout almost two thousand years was the victim of the most fierce persecution, discrimination and injustice that history has known.

Cuba speaks of reparations, and supports this idea as an unavoidable moral duty to the victims of racism, based on a major precedent, that is, the indemnification being paid to the descendants of the Hebrew people which in the very heart of Europe suffered the brutal and loathsome racist holocaust. However, it is not with the intent to undertake an impossible search for the direct descendants or the specific countries of the victims of actions occurred throughout centuries.

The irrefutable truth is that tens of millions of Africans were captured, sold like a commodity and sent beyond the Atlantic to work in slavery while 70 million indigenous people in that hemisphere perished as a result of the European conquest and colonization.

There are enough funds to save the world from the tragedy. ~~There have been enough centuries of deception.~~

May the arms race and the weapon commerce that only bring devastation and death truly end.

Let it be used for development a good part of the one trillion US dollars annually spent on the commercial advertising that creates false illusions and inaccessible consumer habits while releasing the venom that destroys the national cultures and identities.

May the modest 0.7 percentage point of the Gross National Product promised as official development assistance be finally delivered.

May the tax suggested by Nobel Prize Laureate James Tobin be imposed in a reasonable and effective way on the current speculative operations accounting for trillions of US dollars every 24 hours, then the United Nations, which cannot go on depending on meager, inadequate, and belated donations and charities, will have one trillion US dollars annually to save and develop the world. Given the seriousness and urgency of the existing problems, which have become a real hazard for the very survival of our specie on the planet, that is what would actually be needed before it is too late.

Put an end to the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people that is taking place while the world stares in amazement. May the basic right to life of that people, children and youth, be protected. May their right to peace and independence be respected; then, there will be nothing to fear from UN documents.

I am aware that the need for some relief from the awful situation their countries are facing has led many friends from Africa and other regions to suggest the need for such prudence as would allow something to come out of this conference. I sympathize with them but I cannot renounce my convictions, as I feel that the more candid we are in telling the truth the more possibilities there will be to be headed and

respected. There have been enough centuries of deception.

I have only three other short questions based on realities that cannot be ignored.

The capitalist, developed and wealthy countries today participate of the imperialist system born of capitalism itself and the economic order imposed to the world based on the philosophy of selfishness and the brutal competition between men, nations and groups of nations which in completely indifferent to any feelings of solidarity and honest international cooperation. They live under the misleading, irresponsible and hallucinating atmosphere of consumer societies. Thus, regardless the sincerity of their blind faith in such a system and the convictions of their most serious statesmen, I wonder: Will they be able to understand the grave problems of today's world which in its incoherent and uneven development is ruled by blind laws, by the huge power and the interests of the ever growing and increasingly uncontrollable and independent transnational corporations?

Will they come to understand the impending universal chaos and rebellion? And, even if they wanted to, could they put an end to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related issues, which are precisely the rest of them all?

From my viewpoint we are on the verge of a huge economic, social and political global crisis. Let's try to build an awareness about these realities and the alternatives will come up. History has shown that it is only from deep crisis that great solutions have emerged. The peoples' right to life and justice will definitely impose itself under a thousand different shapes.

I believe in the mobilization and the struggle of the peoples! I believe in the idea of justice! I believe in truth! I believe in man!

My Trip to New York City Yesterday

by
Jordan Feder,
Anti-Racist Action

The other day I called my friends in New Brunswick, New Jersey, Food Not Bombs, about possibly going to volunteer and do a sharing in either New York or on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River. They agreed that it would be good to go after their sharing Saturday. Saturday morning we received a call that they are taking no more volunteers and did not need any more food. After that news, one friend and I decided to take pictures, hand out literature on racism toward Arabs and Muslims, and a plea for no more violence. We intended to go to New York City after stopping in Hoboken and Jersey City area.

On the way up we were able to see the NYC Sky line. It was a sight that was absolutely horrible. We both were silent as we came upon the view. There is still constant thick gray smoke originating out of the former World Trade Center and covering the entire city. I almost pulled over due to feeling sick. It reminded us of the stories people told about seeing the smoke in the concentration camps during the Holocaust. The pictures on TV or in news papers do the sight no justice. On TV they are never able to capture the entire city and retain detail and the still photographs do not show the constant flow of smoke rising.

We moved on away from the park and into the city of Hoboken. There was a line of cabs waiting by the train station for passengers, I took the anti-racism flier and asked one of the drivers to hang it up in his cab so his riders can read it. He read it, we gave him tape...he immediately hung it facing the back seat. We then went on to the other drivers, all warmly receiving the flier and thanking us for doing what we were doing. We decided to go store to store asking to hang them up in the window. For the most part, everyone let us hang them up, some took them and said they had to ask the owner, and even others asking for a few more to put by their time clock or give to a friend who is creating reactionary racism toward Arabs. This was very warming.

It was now getting dark so we drove to Jersey City where we heard that they were taking overnight volunteers at the Exchange Place. On the way over we saw another amazing sight. We passed by the entrance to the Holland Tunnel, it looked like a ghost town, as it was still closed. If you have ever traveled from New Jersey into New York City this would be unimaginable to you. I recall as a little kid my parents taking me into the city and waiting hours at the Tunnel entrance to go in and pay the toll. Now the 10 lanes of traffic were not even there. We made it to the volunteer area, it was night time, the

sight again saddened me. We were still able to see the city sky-line, a sight that while anti-environment is normally nice to look at with all the lights and architecture (I am an artist, so I can marvel at this). There was an area completely pitch black that has not gained power back yet, but in the center was a bright glow of the sight, working by generator lights. There was a row leading to the bright area about a mile or two long of flashing yellow lights of dump trucks, tow trucks, and construction vehicles, intermixed with rescue lights.

On the NJ side where we were, tents have been set up by corporate businesses that... were not selling food. They were giving it away(!) to the volunteers and all Police/EMT/Fire Fighters. Workers were returning covered in gray soot and ash from the city. I over heard one construction worker said he had to leave because his area has been finding charred body parts, no full bodies, many times not even full limbs. He started to cry and left. I was nearly sick. Throughout the night people were arriving with food and coffee for the workers who were coming over to NJ to take a break and rest in the tents and cots provided. This is why they do not need any more food or volunteers, there is so much.

A large area had been created of candles and messages. People were praying and crying and speaking only in whisper. If I

We first went to a park in Hoboken. While people were doing the every day park activities, there were candles all over. If you do not know, this park is right across from New York City only separated by the Hudson River; the park goes right up to the water and has an unobstructed view of the city. In the part of the park closest to the city were tons of candles, flowers and notes people left. Also in the spot was a picture that someone had taken last week in the same spot of the skyline... it was completely changed.

The two of us walked around and hung up some fliers that were created, "Please Help Prevent Reactionary Racism" and "Plea By American Citizens to Stop the Violence." Both of these were composed in the form of a letter to either fellow Citizens and to President Bush. We hung them up the walked back to where we started to see if they were still there and if people were reading them. The reaction was unexpected. People were reading them and calling over friends to see the fliers, others were taking a picture of the flier. There were a few people discussing them, although we were unable to tell if it was favorable to not, but to create discussion was good for us.

was sickened by looking at the city from the NJ side, I decided I cannot bring myself into New York. Since this is the closest I was going to get. I left a candle and a note there for my Cousin Philip Rosenzweig who was killed on flight 11 from Boston.

We then distributed the rest of the 300 "Reactionary Racism" fliers to the people there. Actually giving it to people instead of hanging them up enabled us to talk to people. They looked at it read it, we were thanked, hugged, called "righteous", people asked for more to give to other friends, or hang in their office. It was truly inspiring to see people read it while sitting in front of the city and say to us "I was feeling this way, now I am not. Thank you." A priest asked for additional copies for his Church. We gave them to workers and police coming in from the City.

It brought up my spirits, until we were encountered by a nut job. He came up to us saying what we were doing is good and all but not at this time. He said he was watching across the river and saw the whole thing, as if he was better than anyone there. I told him that my cousin watched from inside the plane that crashed into it. He got louder and said "We cannot let this happen" "We must go after all of them." other people came over to us. We were saying things back to him, he tried to grab the rest of our fliers. Three large men

stepped between us and told him to leave; supporting us. Many were yelling at the guy and said we were right. We started to walk away, then he started again, saying that "every one of them are responsible." We turned back and he told us to step up to him. Then people yelled for the police to come over. The guy said "we would never do anything like this to others." My friend went off saying, "not only have we in the past but sometimes we are worse" The guy threw down his bag and said "all right lets go" as if to fight. I said I will not fight you, I do not believe in violence. People laughed at the guy. At this point two police captains came over and asked what was going on. I gave them the flier we were giving out, one read it and said there is nothing wrong with this. He sent the guy home and told us to not go near him till he leaves. We were given an area to hand out the rest of the fliers to people, which were gone shortly after as people wanted to read what we had to say.

If it is at all possible, you must go and see what New York City looks like now. Even if you cannot go to the City look from the NJ side. Stand with people talk to them. The media is not portraying what I saw yesterday.. Everyone should honestly see it with your own eyes.

-Jordan

National Security Archive Releases September 11th Sourcebooks

The horrific September 11th terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon brought all of us here at the National Security Archive feelings of rage at the hijackers, of grief for the thousands who were murdered, and also of determination that we will contribute to finding the best ways for America to respond. The Archive's mission is to put on the record the primary source documentation that can enrich the policy debate, improve journalism, educate policy-makers, and ensure that we don't reinvent the wheel or repeat the mistakes of the past.

To these ends, we begin today by publishing the first volume in a series called The September 11th Sourcebooks. We have cast a wide net, because the policy debate itself is also ranging widely, from deployment options abroad to wiretap surveillance at home. The first volume contains the documents that our staff experts, led by Dr. Jeffrey Richelson and coordinated by Michael Evans, have selected as the most important available primary sources on U.S. terrorism policy. These materials include CIA biographic sketches of Usama Bin Laden and Taliban leader Mohammad Omar, reports from the Pentagon and the Senate Intelligence Committee on previous terrorist attacks on the USS Cole and the Khobar Towers, the State Department's overview of global terrorism and the FBI's review of terrorism in the U.S.

How will we make the United States -- and the world -- both secure and free?
<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/sept11/>

American Redcoats

by
Stan Call

Honking horns and whoops could be heard from the street below my apartment, where women and children are holding a rowdy vigil, some waving American flags. The street was filled with carloads of young, jubilant and rowdy people, honking, yelling and waving the flag. I made a sign, "War will not bring Peace -- Don't Honk, THINK -- Stop ALL terrorism, including by the American Government," and joined them.

At first I felt a little like I was competing with them. I was upset by what I perceived as their insensitive nationalism and celebration when the United States has declared "the first war of the 21st Century." But I said hello to them, showed them my sign, answered their questions and stood quietly next to them, on the corner, holding up my sign and looking down. I didn't join in on the yelling.

Around the same time I got there, two young boys arrived holding an American flag with a peace sign in place of stars. Would've been better without the stripes, too, but hey --

Soon, most of the people in passing cars were putting two fingers up for peace, and some people quietly waved. Many of the other people on the corner also started showing the peace sign. It had become a non-violent antiwar demonstration!

HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK IN THE NEW WAR ON TERRORISM

Treatment of Immigrants within the United States

At the request of Attorney General John Ashcroft, INS Commissioner James Ziglar today (September 18) signed an "administrative" order expanding the time the INS may detain immigrants while it investigates whether they have violated any immigration laws or regulations. At the same time, the Justice Department announced today that it has detained 75 "immigrants" for "questioning" in last week's terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Forty-nine immigrants were detained as of yesterday, twenty-six more were detained today. At this rate, hundreds of immigrants could be detained for "questioning" in the coming weeks, and perhaps thousands in the coming months.

As Attorney General Ashcroft made clear in his announcement today, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) now possesses far greater powers. It can jail immigrants indefinitely in "extraordinary circumstances," even though the people detained are

Under the new policy immigrants may be held for up to 48 hours without being charged with having violated any immigration law, and, in undefined "extraordinary circumstances, for however long the INS thinks "reasonable." The recent terrorist attacks will surely be considered "extraordinary circumstances" by INS officials. The indefinite detention of immigrants who had nothing whatsoever to do with the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks, and indeed are suspected of no crimes at all, will likely become more and more common in the coming weeks and months.

Attorney General Ashcroft did not specify what constitutes an emergency or "extraordinary circumstance," but the new rule will immediately be applied to the 75 people already detained by the INS as part of the investigation into the World Trade Center attack.

This expansion of INS detention powers is wholly unnecessary to combat terrorism on U.S. soil. Even before the adoption of this broad detention policy, the INS could detain a person for longer than 24 hours as long as the agency charged the person with an immigration law violation. The INS could then deny bail or set a prohibitive bail taking into consideration a wide range of factors including national security concerns, safety of the community, seriousness of the charge, and the likelihood the immigrant may flee.

Nothing required the INS to admit anyone suspected of seeking entry to the United States in order to perpetrate acts of terrorism. Thus, INS has always had and widely exercised the ability to detain suspected violators of the immigration laws in a manner consistent with both national security concerns and the Constitutional right to due process

and freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention.

To the extent that people are suspected of violating any of the criminal laws of the United States, including laws against terrorism, law enforcement agencies have the power to detain them and charge them with crimes. A Grand Jury has been impaneled in White Plains, New York, to investigate the World Trade Center terrorist attack. The Grand Jury will review evidence gathered by the FBI and other law enforcement agencies, and has the power to compel the attendance of witnesses, including any person suspected of involvement in the attack.

The Government also has the power to detain material witnesses in its criminal investigation. Embarking on a widespread program to detain immigrants suspected of no crimes and against whom the INS cannot even bring charges of having violated civil deportation laws will result in the arbitrary arrest and detention of many people. But it will likely do little to bring those responsible for the attacks to justice. Immigrants will simply be driven deeper underground, and avoid contact with law enforcement agencies to the maximum extent possible.

Official and arbitrary antipathy toward immigrants also tends to promote the belief among some members of the public that retaliatory crimes against Muslims and Arab-Americans are somehow justified in the wake of terrorist attacks against the United States. Members of the Arab-American community have reported over 200 hate-crimes against their community since the World Trade Center attack. Many of these criminal acts have been directed against mosques and community centers. While President Bush may

not suspected of having committed any crimes in the United States or abroad, and are not charged with actually having violated any immigration laws. The logic of this extraordinary measure could, if the Bush Administration thought it necessary, presumably be extended to the detention of U.S. citizens who are similarly not suspected of any crimes.

Until now, the INS had 24 hours following an arrest to decide what immigration laws the detained person likely violated and to charge the person accordingly. Since an arrest itself cannot, consistent with the Constitution, be made without a reasonable belief that the person has violated the immigration laws, charging that person with the suspected violation within 24 hours after arrest has never been difficult for the INS. The charge simply commences an administrative hearing before an Immigration Judge to determine whether the person actually violated the immigration laws and is therefore removable from the country.

decry such vigilante attacks, the "us" versus "them" rhetoric and invocation of religious symbolism in the "crusade" against terrorism leads at least some members of the public to believe that revenge attacks on Muslims is somehow patriotic. As law-abiding Muslims and Arab-Americans in this country come under attack, there is no talk of stiffening the laws against hate-crimes committed by U.S. citizens against innocent civilians merely because of their skin color or religion.

Innocent people in the immigrant community should not be made the scapegoats for what took place on September 11. They are not the problem. Drastically curtailing their rights, or attacking their places of worship or businesses, will do nothing to solve the problem of terrorism.

Restrictions on the rights of U.S. citizens and residents

On September 17, 2001, the Attorney General held a news conference at FBI headquarters announcing other changes in domestic policy that will effect U.S. citizens and immigrants alike. Based on a "threat assessment" and conclusion that terrorists "may [have] a continuing presence in the United States," within a few days the Administration intends to finalize a package of comprehensive legislative measures to combat terrorism. First, there will be "expanded electronic surveillance [and] search authority...."

Secret wiretapping of telephone conversations will be increased significantly. The statute of limitations for prosecution of terrorism crimes will be eliminated. Laws making it a crime to offer "financial support" to a "terrorist" will be enacted, along with new laws criminalizing providing

"material support or resources" to a terrorist organization. Unless federal laws defining "terrorists" and "terrorist organizations" are amended, these new laws would make it illegal to support in any way groups around the world that embrace armed struggle as our own Forefathers did against religious and secular tyranny.

Federal law broadly permits almost any group involved in an armed struggle against a government to be designated as a "terrorist" organization. Sabotage of any vessel, aircraft or vehicle, even if the vessel, aircraft or vehicle is used to kill innocent people by a brutal dictatorship, is considered "terrorism." The use of any "firearm" with the intent to "endanger" the "safety" of anyone, including the security forces of an anti-democratic repressive regime, may be considered "terrorism" under current federal law.

Under the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, the Great Writ of habeas corpus, a constitutional mechanism by which people unlawfully detained may petition the courts to restore them to freedom, has already been weakened. Aid to so-called "terrorist" groups was criminalized, and alleged terrorists were blocked from entering the United States, making them promptly deportable if located within the country. It is already illegal for any person to harbor, transport, provide funds to or otherwise in any way provide material support to any person or group known to be or who should reasonably be known to be a terrorist individual or group.

CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

256 S. OCCIDENTAL BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90057
Tel.: (213) 388-8693

pschey@centerforhumanrights.org

If this is the first issue you have seen of *Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education*, you may not be aware that this independent grass-roots voice of anti-racism and anti-colonialism has been coming out at least quarterly since the 1980's. Without government funding, foundation grants, corporate or church sponsorship, or partisan subsidies, *Turning the Tide* has been a vehicle for building a new movement against fascism, sexism, white supremacy, and authoritarian politics.

If you've been reading *Turning the Tide* for a while, perhaps you've begun to take for granted its uncompromising anti-imperialist analysis and its unique coverage of liberation movements, political prisoners, struggles against police brutality or movement debates.

If you want to see more of *Turning the Tide*, act now! Subscriptions to this grass-roots anti-racist journal are \$15 a year for four quarterly issues. We send this newspaper free

Editor's note: Among the more than 5,000 missing in the wreckage of the World Trade Center in NY are more than 1,000 Latinos. By far the greatest number are Puerto Ricans -- 875 according to labor leader Dennis Rivera. Such loss of life should make all of us more cognizant that the U.S. still militarily occupies Puerto Rico and continues to bomb it. Here is a comprehensive look at the current struggle over U.S. Navy occupation and bombardment of the Puerto Rican island of Vieques.--MN

Aiding Vieques amid the madness

by
John Lindsay-Poland <forlatam@igc.org>

I wish hope and strength to you in these very difficult days. I am writing to ask for your collaboration in the continuing struggle for peace and justice for Vieques, particularly how it is playing out in Washington. Even before the attacks of September 11, decision-making in Congress and the White House regarding the Navy's bombardment of Vieques was at a critical point. It still is.

In the current climate, it will be easier for those who see war or militarism as a solution to the world's ills to institute far-reaching measures that contradict our best values. An alternative vision to war as a response to attack encompasses the need to respect the ecology and basic human rights of those affected by bombing practice in Vieques. We cannot overcome terror by inflicting it.

It is also important to note that such practice is ineffective in defending people from terrorist attacks. The day after the attacks, Admiral Kevin

Green, commander of U.S. Navy South and normally a vocal proponent of the Navy's activities in Vieques, acknowledged in an interview with *El Nuevo Día* that the continuation of training by Navy forces in Vieques may not have prevented the attacks.

The reasons why Vieques is not needed, as previously detailed by experienced naval analysts and officers, are still valid. (We have assembled a packet of materials on this subject; contact us if you would like a copy.)

In the current crisis, the Congressional leadership will probably not want to spend time on controversial issues that do not address overseas-based terrorism. However, if Congress does not hear from us, then those who favor keeping the Navy in Vieques may believe that the movement to end Navy bombing of the island has evaporated.

Status of Vieques Legislation

Two versions of the Defense Authorization bill may be approved on the floor of the House and Senate in the coming days, each with different language concerning the Navy's bombing in Vieques. The Senate Armed Services Committee markup of the bill maintains the status quo, including a referendum in November which would put to a binding vote in Vieques whether the Navy ends training there by May 1, 2003.

The House Armed Services Committee markup would eliminate this referendum, but adds two other provisions that practically guarantee the permanent shelling of Vieques: the Navy would have to find one single location to replace the range in Vieques that is "equal or better" in military terms; and the Navy would retain administrative control of the lands in Vieques for use in case of national emergency.

In Puerto Rico, there is strong support for eliminating the federal referendum, since the people of Vieques expressed themselves clearly on July 29 - with a 68% majority - for an immediate cessation of Navy training, cleanup and transfer of the lands. Another reason for this is that in the federal referendum scheduled for November 6, a vote for the Navy's departure by 2003 would transfer the lands to the Fish & Wildlife Service and prohibit it from transferring the lands to Puerto Rico. For these reasons, the Puerto Rican legislature may repeal the local legislation enabling the referendum.

If that turns out to be the case, and the House language prevails, then the law will prevent the Navy from leaving at all. That is why, although there is not a consensus about the federal referendum, all in the movement for peace in Vieques agree that

it is critical to make sure that the House language on Vieques is taken out when the Authorization bill goes to conference committee. Congressional staffers we have spoken with are unsure when the Authorization bill will reach the conference committee, but it could be as early as next week (the week of September 23).

Recommended Action

We urge you to send a letter, with followup phone calls, to key Congressional offices and the White House, urging them to honor the expressed wishes of the people of Vieques and of Puerto Rico for the definitive departure of the Navy from Vieques. The accompanying talking points can be supplemented with information about how Vieques does not help defend the United States from the kind of attack suffered last week.

Communication should be directed to the probable members of the conference committee and their staff. Fax numbers all have a 202 area code. Capitol Switchboard for phone calls: 202-224-3121.

Senator Carl Levin (D-MI) (staff: Mike McCord) - Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) chair - Fax: 228-0036
Senator John Warner (R-VA) (staff: Cord Sterling) - SASC chair [note: Mr. Sterling went to Vieques for the July 29 referendum to support the pro-Navy campaign there] - Fax: 228-0037
Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) (staff: Noelani Kalipi) - SASC Readiness panel chair - Fax: 224-2126

Senator James Inhofe (D-OK) (staff: Gary Hoitsma) - SASC Readiness panel ranking member - Fax: 228-0380
Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO) (staff: George Withers) - House Armed Services

Committee (HASC) ranking member - Fax: 225-7120
Rep. Bob Stump (D-AZ) (staff: Jim Lariviere) - HASC chair - Fax: 225-9077

White House Comment Line: 202-456-1414.

Points to consider including in your letter or call:

THE NAVY'S CLAIMS THAT VIEQUES IS NEEDED FOR TRAINING

* Admiral Kevin Green, commander of U.S. Navy South and normally a vocal proponent of the Navy's activities in Vieques, acknowledged in an interview on September 11 that the continuation of training by Navy forces in Vieques may not have prevented the attacks.

* A study by the Center for Naval Analysis in August 2000 demonstrated that the Navy can and does use other facilities on the Eastern Seaboard for the training conducted in Vieques (primarily in North Carolina, Virginia and Florida). Bombing in Vieques wastes resources on activities that harm people and the environment and hurt the local economy, while doing nothing to increase national security.

* If the United States accepted the rule of law and used diplomacy instead of bombing in conflicts with Iraq, Yugoslavia and other nations, it wouldn't need to practice firing bombs anywhere.

DEMOCRACY

* Vieques residents voted overwhelmingly - 68% - to stop the bombing and clean up the land.

* Unlike communities affected by bombing

ranges in the United States, who can vote for Congressional representation, Puerto Rico is a colony. This referendum was a way for Vieques to express its democratic will.

IT'S ILLEGAL

* The Navy's violations of environmental and civil rights laws in Vieques have led to half a dozen lawsuits and nearly 2,000 administrative tort claims, in addition to more than a thousand cases of civil disobedience.

HEALTH CONCERNS

* According to the Puerto Rico Cancer Registry, Vieques residents had a 26.9% higher incidence of cancer than other Puerto Ricans for 1985-1989, the last period in which data are available.

* A study last year showed that 44% out of 49 Vieques residents who were tested had toxic levels of mercury in hair samples (the same method used by the FBI in forensic investigations).

* A study released in January found excessive levels of lead and cadmium in vegetables and other plants grown in the civilian area of Vieques - levels above critical values for human consumption as defined by the Food and Drug Administration. The study found high levels of nickel, cobalt, magnesium and copper in edible plants grown in Vieques. The same metals are found in the constituent elements of ordnance fired or dropped in Vieques.

* No other potential source has been identified for these environmental carcinogens.

NEED FOR CLEANUP

* A cleanup will be necessary for the protection of public health, whether the land is preserved as ecological refuges, developed for social use, or dedicated to a balanced mixture of uses.

Please feel free to call us for more information.

--
**Fellowship of Reconciliation
Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean**
2017 Mission St. #305, San Francisco, CA 94110
Tel: 415-495-6334 Fax: 415-495-5628
Web: <http://www.forusa.org/>

to hundreds of prisoners and many young anti-racist activists, but we can only continue with the support of our readers. Paper, printing and postal costs are all going up - and without you, *Turning the Tide* is going under.

Send concealed cash, a U.S. postal money order to Boxholder, POB 1055, or a personal check made out to Michael Novick, to: P.O. Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232-1055. Indicate what issue you want to start your

Ending Racism in Medicine

by
Richard A. Zmuda,
www.thehealthchannel.com Editorial Team

NEWPORT BEACH, CA (thehealthchannel.com) - In a speech to academic researchers and healthcare executives, Dr. Rodney Hood, president of the National Medical Association (NMA), called on the medical community to focus more aggressively on the persistent gap in quality of care faced by the nation's minorities.

The NMA, which represents more than 25,000 African-American physicians, has been a consistent voice in the call for more parity in care for minority groups in the U.S.

Higher Mortality

Recently, the American Cancer Society (ACS) released findings indicating that general cancer incidence rates are finally falling among African-Americans. But they are still dying from their disease at unacceptably higher rates.

For the first time in 20 years, the incidence of newly diagnosed cancers among African Americans fell, as measured during the period 1993 - 1997. Similarly, the cancer mortality rate fell during the period 1991 - 1997, reversing a 30-year trend.

However, despite this progress, the ACS said, "African-American women continue to have a higher death rate from breast cancer than Caucasian women, despite lower breast cancer incidence rates." Overall, the cancer death rate for African-American women was 22 percent higher than that for Caucasian women.

Equal Treatment, Equal Outcomes

And yet, numerous studies have shown that if African-American patients are diagnosed at a similar stage of disease — and given similar treatment opportunities — differences in recurrence and mortality rates effectively

disappear.

For example, a study published in the journal *CA - A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* concluded that African-American breast cancer patients had similar outcomes to white patients when their treatment and follow-up care were equal and appropriate for their disease conditions.

According to the lead author, Dr. James Dignam of the University of Pittsburgh, the reason for the increased mortality rates for African-American breast cancer patients compared to their Caucasian counterparts must therefore lie beyond simple biological differences between the races.

What causes for the disparity did Dignam identify? He suggested the fact that cancer was discovered late was a prime factor in less favorable outcomes. And this delay was due to less access to or utilization of health care resources that would result in earlier detection.

Dignam's study showed that African-American women were often first seen by doctors with larger tumors, greater nodal involvement, and estrogen receptor negative tumors. Even obesity, found in demographic studies to be more

Hood noted that each year 35 percent more African Americans die from cancer than the general population, and 40 percent more die from heart disease.

"Nobody is talking about these excess deaths," he said. "Little effort has been made to address these disparities through organizational quality improvement."

prevalent among African-American breast cancer patients, was associated with a more advanced stage of the disease. This was possibly due to obesity's effect on estrogen, which can accelerate disease progression.

Dignam further noted that studies in some urban hospitals, which are likely to treat a disproportionate share of African-American breast cancer patients, have a greater rate of late-stage diagnosis as well as a higher degree of non-standard care. This included less frequent radiation therapy after surgery, fewer diagnostic tests to determine the best therapy, and lower use of more aggressive chemotherapy and/or tamoxifen.

In addition, Dignam cited studies in which African-American women were much more likely to have received total mastectomy rather than lumpectomy with radiation therapy in cases where either procedure would have been acceptable.

SOURCES:

National Medical Association (<http://www.nmanet.org>)
CA - A Cancer Journal, Jan/Feb 2000; 50:50-64
The American Cancer Society (<http://www.cancer.org>)

"WHAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY"

by
Frank Dorrel <fdorrel@hotmail.com>

In the aftermath of September 11's tragic events, I offer a gift of enlightenment, a tool for educating yourself and others to the true nature of U.S. foreign policy. My video "What I've Learned About U.S. Foreign Policy" can help you and others to understand some of the reasons that could lead to the deaths of thousands of people in New York and Washington DC. Feel free to forward this message to others. My name is Frank Dorrel. I live in Culver City, California and I consider myself to be a peace activist. I am a Veteran for Peace. I work with the Save the Iraqi Children Coalition, and with many of the other peace organizations here in Los Angeles.

1. **Martin Luther King Jr.**, Civil rights leader who was killed after he spoke out against the U.S. war in Vietnam.
2. **John Stockwell**, Former CIA Chief of Station in Angola, working for then CIA Director, George Bush Sr.
3. **Bill Moyer's "The Secret Government"**, played on PBS-1987.
4. **"Coverup: Behind the Iran-Contra Affair"**, on Nicaragua. Narrated by Elizabeth Montgomery. Produced by the Empowerment Project.
5. **"School of Assassins"** with Father Roy Bourgeois, on the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia. Narrated by Susan Sarandon.
6. **"Genocide by Sanctions"** Shows the effects of the sanctions in Iraq, with Ramsey Clark talking to Iraqi doctors. Made by Gloria La Riva.
7. **"The Panama Deception"** Won the academy award for best documentary. Narrated by Elizabeth Montgomery, made by The Empowerment Project.
8. **Ramsey Clark**, Former Attorney General, talking on U.S. militarism.
9. **Amy Goodman**, talking on the genocide committed against the people of

East Timor by the Indonesian military with help from the CIA.

10. **S. Brian Willson**, Vietnam Veteran who wages Unconditional Peace against U.S. imperialism. Introduced by Kris Kristofferson.

This video is an excellent educational tool that reveals the true nature of U.S. foreign policy. It has been seen in college classrooms, at churches and by various political groups. It is very eye-opening!

People such as Howard Zinn, Brian Willson, Blase Bonpane, Ed Asner, Amy Goodman, Michael Parenti, Oliver Stone, Father Roy Bourgeois, Ramsey Clark, Casey Kasem and many others have seen this video and find it very worthwhile and informative.

If you are interested in getting a copy of this video, email me your mailing address and I will send you the tape. I ask for a \$6 donation, which includes postage. I will send you the video before I receive the payment. I do this in good faith and as a way to protect you. The donations do help

I put together video compilations on U.S. foreign policy. My best video is called "WHAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, CIA Covert Operations and U.S. Interventions Since World War II- What You Didn't Learn in School and Don't Hear on the Mainstream Media".

I am willing to mail it to you before receiving payment. After you have watched it, if you feel it is worthwhile, you can send \$6 to the address listed below. It is a 2-hour compilation featuring 10 segments which I have edited. These excerpts are as follows:

me to keep this project going.

I also have 2-hour video on the effects of the sanctions against Iraq called "Genocide by Sanctions". It features Denis Halliday, who worked 34 years at the UN, ran the Oil for Food Program in Iraq for one year before resigning his position, calling the sanctions a genocide, and putting the blame directly on the United States and England. Hans von Sponeck is also on this video. He followed Denis Halliday as the Director of the Oil For Food Program in Iraq and he also resigned his position, calling it Genocide against the Iraqi people.

I also have a 2-hour video on the CIA's involvement with international drug dealers. This is a very interesting video, showing how the CIA has been complicit with and has profited from the illegal drug trade. It features such people as Michael Ruppert (cop versus CIA), Cele Castillo (former Drug Enforcement Agent), Peter Dale Scott, John Stockwell, Michael Novick and many others who have been involved in one way or another in

exposing this CIA-drug business.

Finally, I am reprinting the graphic book by Joel Andreas, **"ADDICTED TO WAR, WHY THE U.S. CAN'T KICK MILITARISM."** This brilliant 64 page illustrated expose, first published in 1993, is now out of print. This is the best book I have ever seen on this subject! "Addicted to War" takes on the most powerful and destructive military in the world. Hard-hitting, well-documented, and heavily illustrated, it reveals why the United States has been involved in more wars than any other country. Read it to find out who profits, who pays, who dies. It is available for \$8.

Frank Dorrel
310-838-8131
3967 Shedd Terrace
Culver City, Calif. 90232
fdorrel@hotmail.com

2002 Political Prisoners/POWs Calendar

Representing freedom fighters from liberation movements and struggles for self-determination in Puerto Rico, Mexico, the USA, and Canada. Proceeds raised from the calendar will go to medical support for political prisoners.

The calendar features information on Death Row prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, American Indian Movement prisoner Leonard Peltier, and many former members of the Black Panther Party and the black Liberation Army who are still in prison and still struggling for Black liberation. Also included will be information on the recent history of Native resistance to colonization in Canada, on the Puerto Rican freedom fighters who remain incarcerated and on the prisoners being held in Mexico as a result of the 8-month-long student strike at UNAM. This calendar helps put the growing anti-globalization movement in its historical context and examines the continued criminalization of resistance.

This calendar is a collaborative effort between outside organizers and political prisoners Herman Bell, Robert Seth Hayes, and David Gilbert. Calendar is 3 colors/ in English.

To pre-order your calendar: send check or money order (made out to QPIRG Concordia) for \$15 US / \$15 Canadian for individuals, or \$25 US / \$25 Canadian for organizations. You will receive your calendar by November 2001. Add \$3.00 shipping for the first calendar and \$1.00 for each additional calendar.

If you are interested in distributing the calendar, please contact the distribution committee at this address:

Calendar Committee c/o QPIRG Concordia
2130 Mackay, RM 102
Montreal, PQ H3G 2J1

calendar committee (e-mail)
freepcalendar@onebox.com

Political Prisoners Held Incommunicado

Minutes after the September 11 attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, several political prisoners and POWs were forcibly taken out of general population and thrown into Security Housing Units. They were classified as Administrative Segregation, and detained officially "for investigation." Included in the roundup were at least Tom Manning, Carlos Alberto Torres, Marilyn Buck, Sundiata Acoli, Richard Williams, and Father Philip Berrigan. Tom Manning and Father Berrigan have both been released, but the others remain in detention.

In an unprecedented development, the political prisoners remaining in segregation have been denied ALL ACCESS to the outside world. Even their lawyers are denied contact with them - no legal visits nor legal mail is allowed. All social visits have been cut off. These prisoners are not being allowed access to the telephone, and are not allowed to receive mail. When lawyers and outside supporters called the prison to protest these developments, prison staff told them that it was "for the protection of the inmate."

Clearly these political prisoners had no involvement with the World Trade Center or Pentagon attacks, so what is the BOP "investigating?" These prisoners have been in prison for more than 15 years, with all outside contact rigidly controlled by the prison system. They are only allowed to call approved telephone numbers, and all calls are monitored and recorded. Visitors are subjected to extra-rigorous screening; all legal and social visits are monitored. Outgoing mail is photocopied, and incoming mail is read and copied as well.

These comrades were kidnapped and put in isolation allegedly for their "protection," but it is the U.S. government and Bureau of Prisons who

have endangered their lives by consistently labeling them as "terrorists" to inflame public opinion against them. Other prisoners and even staff know that the political prisoners help mediate disputes between prisoners and are always helpful and willing to advocate for prisoners' individual and collective rights.

All the prisons where the lockdowns have occurred deny responsibility for these actions. Lawyers for the political prisoners have confronted wardens and regional prison staff seeking the origin of these unprecedented policies. They have been told that the directive came "from the highest levels of the Department of Justice," probably the office of the Attorney General. It remains unclear why only some of the political prisoners and prisoners-or-war held in U.S. prisons have been targeted. Contact Attorney General Ashcroft at www.usdoj.gov/contact-us.html to protest this violation of our political prisoners' human rights. Also, write frequently (even just a postcard) to the prisoners so they (and their captors) know that they have a lot of support from our communities!

Marilyn Buck
#00482-285
FCI-Dublin, SHU
5701 8th St., Camp Parks
Dublin, CA 94568

Sundiata Acoli / Clark Squire
#39794-066
USP Allenwood, SHU
P.O. Box 3000
White Deer, PA 17887

Carlos Alberto Torres
#88976-024
FCI-Oxford, SHU
P.O. Box 1000
Oxford, WI 53952

Richard Williams
#10377-016
FCI-Lompoc, SHU
3901 Klein Blvd.
Lompoc, CA 93436

ANTI-ARAB ATTACKS CONTINUE

Washington, DC, Sept 21- A number of troubling new instances of hate crimes and discrimination against Arab Americans and Muslims, or those perceived to be, unfolded across the country today. In seven separate instances in cities including Tampa, Orlando, Minneapolis, and San Antonio, pilots or passengers caused Arab American or Muslim passengers, who had passed through rigorous security checks and been seated, to be expelled from the aircraft simply on the grounds of their apparent ethnicity. And an Arab American was killed in Michigan in an apparent act of vengeance for the Sept. 11 attacks.

In one instance, three Arab American men were expelled from Northwest flight 673 from Minneapolis to Salt Lake City at the insistence of other passengers, because of their ethnicity. When the other passengers refused to fly if the three remained on board, Northwest expelled the Arab Americans from the plane. A Northwest spokesman has been quoted as saying, "Under FAA security rules, the airline has no choice but to re-accommodate a passenger or passengers if their actions or presence make a majority of passengers uncomfortable and threaten to disrupt normal operations of flight." In other cases, such as that in Orlando, where two businessmen from Pakistan were expelled from a flight they had boarded, it was the pilots who insisted on passengers' expulsion due to perceived ethnicity.

ADC appealed to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Justice Department to promptly issue guidelines clarifying that neither pilots authority nor passenger sentiments could be grounds for excluding passengers simply on the basis of ethnicity or religion. ADC President Ziad Asali said "when the FAA regulations were promulgated they were not intended as a vehicle for the arbi-

trary exclusion of passengers due to race, ethnicity or religion. Clearly it is unacceptable that passengers are expelled from aircraft because someone, even the pilot, just doesn't like the way they look. The FAA needs to clarify its rules regarding the expulsion of passengers based on perceived ethnicity."

Elsewhere, what is at least the third hate crime murder since Sept. 11 occurred in Lincoln Park, Michigan, just outside Detroit. The victim, a 45 year old US citizen originally from Yemen, was shot 12 times in the back by his girlfriend's former lover. According to the suspect's own police confession and the girlfriend's statements, as the two were sleeping, her former boyfriend broke in and dragged the Arab American out of bed, saying "I'm going to kill you for what happened in New York and DC." The victim ran outside and was killed. The attacker is in custody and has made a full confession. ADC has received assurances from the FBI and Justice Department that anti-Arab hate crimes will be vigorously investigated.

ADC (American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee) is the largest Arab-American grassroots organization in the United States. It was founded in 1980 by former Senator James Abourezk. To receive membership information, please send us your name and mailing address or visit our website.

4201 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20008, U.S.A.
Tel: (202) 244-2990, E-mail: adc@adc.org
<http://www.adc.org>

P.A.R. T.
P.O. Box 1055
Culver City CA 90232

Address Service Requested

Presorted
Standard Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Culver City CA
Permit No. 140

[Phyllis and Orlando Rodriguez's son Greg is one of the World Trade Center victims. They have asked that people share these copies of letters they sent to the NY Times and the White House as widely as possible.]

Not in Our Son's Name

Our son Greg is among the many missing from the World Trade Center attack. Since we first heard the news, we have shared moments of grief, comfort, hope, despair, fond memories with his wife, the two families, our friends and neighbors, his loving colleagues at Cantor Fitzgerald / ESPEED, and all the grieving families that daily meet at the Pierre Hotel.

We see our hurt and anger reflected among everybody we meet. We cannot pay attention to the daily flow of news about this disaster. But we read enough of the news to sense that our government is heading in the direction of violent revenge, with the prospect of sons, daughters, parents, friends in distant lands dying, suffering, and nursing further grievances against us. It is not the way to go. It will not avenge our son's death. Not in our son's name.

Our son died a victim of an inhuman ideology. Our actions should not serve the same purpose. Let us grieve. Let us reflect and pray. Let us think about a rational response that brings real peace and justice to our world. But let us not as a nation add to the inhumanity of our times.

Copy of letter to White House:

Dear President Bush:

Our son is one of the victims of Tuesday's attack on the World Trade Center. We read about your response in the last few days and about the resolutions from both Houses, giving you undefined power to respond to the terror attacks.

Your response to this attach does not make us feel better about our son's death. It makes us feel worse. It makes us feel that our government is using our son's memory as a justification to cause suffering for other sons and parents in other lands.

It is not the first time that a person in your position has been given unlimited power and came to regret it. This is not the time for empty gestures to make us feel better. It is not the time to act like bullies. We urge you to think about how our government can develop peaceful, rational solutions to terrorism, solutions that do not sink us to the inhuman level of terrorists.

Sincerely,
Phyllis and Orlando Rodriguez

Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

TURNING THE TIDE

Volume 14 Number 3*Fall 2001*By Subscription

WAR WAR III?

STOP THE WAR BEFORE IT STOPS YOU!

People Against Racist Terror*Anti-Racist Action*

PO Box 1055*Culver City CA 90232*

310-495-0299*ISSN 1082-6491*part2001@usa.net