Imperialists Whip Up Nuclear Hysteria

Defend North Korea!
Down With UN Sanctions!

“The U.S. extreme threat of a nuclear war and sanctions and pressure compel the DPRK to conduct a nuclear test...as a corresponding measure for defense.” North Korea’s Foreign Ministry issued this statement four days before the country conducted its first nuclear test. Less than a week after the test, the United Nations Security Council unanimously voted on 14 October to impose sanctions against North Korea—an act of war, as the North Koreans rightly noted.

Fifty-six years ago, the forces of what became the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea entered the south of Korea with the purpose of liberating that area from the collaborators with the Japanese imperialist occupation—the former colonial masters of Korea—who remained in place under the auspices of the “peace” World War II U.S. military forces in the region. In the process of attempting to reunify Korea, the Northern-based army unleashed a powerful social revolution in the South and came within a hairbreadth of driving the U.S. imperialist army off the peninsula. In just over two years, the U.S. military, which led the attack on Korea under the aegis of the UN, sustained nearly as many losses as it did during the ten-plus years of the Vietnam War. In the process, the U.S. imperialists and their allies, including Australia, slaughtered over three million Koreans, incinerating and suffocating many villagers with oceans of napalm.

As Trotskyists, we stand for the unconditional military defence of the North Korean deformed workers state, and thus welcome the development of nuclear weapons by North Korea as a necessary deterrent against imperialism. Our defence of North Korea—ruled through primogeniture by Kim Il Sung’s son, Kim Jong Il, at the head of the Stalinist bureaucracy—is a defence of the overturn and expropriation of capitalism. To abandon defence of the workers states is to abandon the cause of international proletarian revolution.

The U.S. imperialists are now being driven back on all fronts except Iraq, the Aboriginal community on Palm Island was terribly oppressed, the Korean War has never ended, not just technically because the U.S. refused to sign a peace treaty, but in reality. For from being the product of the stereo-enhanced mobilisations to defend Aboriginal people! Down with racist state terror! For union/minority/black mobilisations to defend Aboriginal people!
In Melbourne on 18-19 November, thousands protested outside a meeting of the G20 (Group of Twenty), which includes some of the world's largest industrial and middle-income economies. The protest was against the capitalist policies of these countries, the Australian government, and the global capitalist system.

The protest was the largest in Australia's history, with estimates ranging from 100,000 to 500,000 people. The protesters were demanding an end to austerity measures, the dismantling of the global capitalist system, and the recognition of the rights of all people.

The police response was brutal, with reports of violence and arrests. The protesters were met with water cannons, tear gas, and the use of pepper spray. The police also used excessive force, with reports of police brutality.

Despite the violence, the protesters continued to march, with thousands of people carrying signs and chanting slogans. The protest was a powerful demonstration of the need for change and the determination of the working class to fight for their rights.

The protest was followed by a series of solidarity actions across the country, with thousands of people taking to the streets in solidarity with the G20 protesters. The solidarity actions were a powerful expression of the growing anti-capitalist movement in Australia.

The G20 protests were a turning point in the anti-capitalist movement, with a new level of organisation and solidarity. The movement is growing, and the struggle continues.
Philippines: Down With Arroyo's Reign of Terror!

The following article is slightly adapted from Workers Vanguard (No. 878, 13 October), newspaper of the Spartacist League/U.S. section of the International Communist League (Fourth International).

Declaring "all-out war" against the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA), the government of president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has unleashed a renewed campaign of terror, vowing to "crash" them in two years. While the stated goal of this offensive, which was announced on June 16, is the destruction of Jose Maria Sison's CPP and its affiliated organizations, the repression targets all who speak out for social justice or any improvement in the miserable conditions of the Filipino masses.

The new campaign is the latest chapter in an ongoing drive by the Arroyo regime against leftist and other oppositionists. Since Arroyo was installed in power in 2001, the police, the military and death squads have run rampant. The Philippines has become the site of an unrelenting wave of abductions, torture, disappearances and assassinations of not only leftists and labor and peasant activists but of women's rights leaders, Moro (Muslim) leaders, lawyers and journalists, with over 700 killed under Arroyo. Even before Arroyo announced the new crackdown, the Asia Times (2 June) observed, "That the activists are not being killed en masse, but rather at a slow-motion rate of one every other day, seems calculated to maximize the chilling effect while also minimizing public outrage."

A state of emergency was declared in late February on the eve of the 20th anniversary of "People Power One"—the movement that signaled the end of the hated Marcos dictatorship and resulted in the installation of Corazon Aquino as president. This crackdown, which followed a rumored coup attempt, fit seamlessly into the ongoing repression. Arroyo banned all demonstrations celebrating the fall of Marcos, raided opposition media offices and ordered the police and armed forces to suppress "any act of insurrection or rebellion." Nevertheless, public protests broke out against the state of emergency, which was lifted after a week. And in March, more than 10,000 women defied a police ban and marched on International Women's Day in Manila and other cities.

Fifty-nine individuals, ranging from leftist members of Congress to military officers, were arrested during the state of emergency on bogus charges of rebellion and planning a Communist/RIGHTist coup d'etat. Fifty of those arrested were prominent figures from across the spectrum of the left. Anyone alleged to have taken part in "rebellen," including for acts carried out years ago, could be arrested at any time without a warrant—a threat against any group or individual deemed to be "subversive." A case in point is that of leftist Congressman and veteran labor leader Crispin Beltran, who was arrested on the basis of a 21-year-old warrant. When lawyers challenged the arrest because the charges had been dropped in 1988, Beltran was then accused of "incitement to sedition" and subsequently charged with "rebellen" against the Arroyo regime.

Arroyo's reign of terror is abetted and enhanced by the death squads, which are run rampant. The Philippines government. This has included dispatching Australian cops to the Philippines, providing naval vessels for border control and training Philippines soldiers. Now the Arroyo regime is preparing to sign a new pact with Australia called Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) which would authorize joint military exercises between the Australian and American military forces. Despite our fundamental political differences with the Manist CPP, we call on the workers movement internationally to defend them as the government again steps up its repression. The combative Filipino working class and its trade unionists must mobilize their social power to resist the Arroyo regime.

The death squads would not be able to operate without the complicity, direction and protective umbrella of regional imperialist military and Australian cops. The death squads would not be able to operate without the complicity, direction and protective umbrella of regional imperialist military and Australian cops. They operate without the complicity, direction and protective umbrella of regional imperialist military and Australian cops.
military commanders. The Armed Forces of the Philippines documented a June 2005 document called “Knowing Your Enemy,” a list containing the names of 26 leftist and other opposition groups described as enemies of the state. Moreover, as Anonymous (marked *A*) noted in its August Report, “Philippines: Political Killings, Human Rights and the Peace Process,” the potential enemies included the names and addresses of members of the CPP-linked National Democratic Front and others who had been “involved in ‘peace negotiations’ with the regime and whose identities had supposedly been protected by a ‘safe conduct’ agreement.”

A notorious ringleader of the murderous repression is General Jovito Palparan, who was appointed the army’s Chief of Staff following his return from heading up Philippine detachments that took part in the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq until pulling out two years ago. After Palparan was assigned to Central Luzon in September 2005, the number of assassinations in the region reached 52 in four months. Palparan, who returned to this sector in September, has also been accused of perpetrating a spate of disappearances and assassinations of Leftists, journalists and others who had taken part in protests in Central Luzon. The AI report quotes an anonymous article in which Palparan, known as “the Butcher of Mindoro,” coolly stated that the bloody repression would bring “collateral damage but it will be short and tolerable… The killings, I would say, are necessary incidents in a conflict.”

Among those killed under Arroyo are 43 trade-union leaders and members, including Doroteo “Ogie” Paredes, president of the Neufi workers union, who was slain in September 2005 during a militant strike. The previous year the notorious massacre of striking Hacienda Luisita sugar workers was carried out. The February 1983 “Massacre of Unionists in Philippines?” (WN No. 838, 10 December 2004). Other targets have included members of the CPP-linked national labor federation Kilusang Mayo Uno (May First Movement), the Negro Federation of Sugar Workers, and electric utility and bus company unions. Other victims linked to the CPP include 113 members of the Bayan Muna (Nation Workers) party and 62 activists from the Group for Truth in Mindanao. At least 42 journalists have been cut down during Arroyo’s presidency.

The Arroyo regime’s repression has particularly hit the countryside, long the site of massacres carried out by the state, that is, by American and Philippine military forces against the Filipino peasantry. Some 70 pecans and peasant leaders involved in land disputes have been killed. In November 2004, the Visayas region attacked peasants holding a public meeting, killing nine. In a March 2005 slaughter shown live on national television, security forces stormed a military prison where 26 unarmed Muslim detainees, mostly displaced peasants and fishermen, were shot dead as they protested their arbitrary and inhuman detention under horrific prison conditions.

In a sop to international pressure, on August 17 Arroyo announced the formation of the Malo Commission, which is supposedly meant to investigate the murders of leftist and labor leaders. Composed of longtime loyalists of both the Macapagal and Arroyo families, this whitewash commission includes a former Supreme Court justice, the Chief State Prosecutor and the director of the National Bureau of Investigation!

Meanwhile, the longstanding campaign against the oppressed Moro population continues unabated. Since 2001, when the U.S. opened a “second front” in the “global war on terror” by landing troops on the island of Mindanao, tens of thousands of Moro Muslims have been forcibly displaced and hundreds tortured, killed or disappeared. The sight of American soldiers roaming Mindanao and inflicting bloody repression is a haunting reminder of the atrocities meted out to the Muslim population under U.S. colonial rule at the turn of the 20th century. This March marked the 100th anniversary of the methodical slaughter by American troops of some 900 Moro men, women and children who had taken refuge in the bowl of the volcanic crater of Bud Dahu mountain. No one was spared. “Not even a baby alive to cry for its dead mother,” wrote Mark Twain in denouncing this atrocity. President Theodore Roosevelt congratulated General Leonard Wood, who directed the bloodbath, and his men “upon the brilliant feat of arms wherein you and they so well upheld the honor of the American flag.”

The marginalization and expropriation of the Muslim population intensified in the postcolonial period, especially under Marcos, who attempted to not only to get to the “Muslim question” by overwhelming the Moro population with Christian migrants. While in 1903 Muslims constituted 76 percent of the population of Mindanao, today they make up less than 10 percent. Arroyo’s administration has continued to attempt to marginalize the Muslim tollers into the working class. Down with the military occupation of Mindanao! U.S. and Philippine troops out now! All bases and in the Indian Ocean during the invasion of Afghanistan, and it sent troops to Iraq. This March, the regime signed an agreement setting up the Security Engagement Board (SEB), which will increase U.S. forces in the Philippines under the pretext of maritme security, fighting “terror­­ism,” and dealing with natural disasters and epidemics. The SEB is the latest in a series of military pacts drawn up since 1998 that effectively create a permanent U.S. military presence in the country. Manila has also invited the U.S. to occupy the bases it abandoned at the time of the counterrevolutionary destruction of the Soviet Union in 1991-92.

The growing U.S. military presence in the Philippines over the past decade is part of a broader strategic shift of American military forces to the Asia-Pacific region. This shift is aimed squarely at China, as the imperialists seek their drive for capitalist counterrevolution in the largest and most powerful of the remaining deformed workers states, as well as at North Korea. A U.S.-Japan joint policy statement issued in February 2005 that declared capitalist Taiwan a “veritable security concern,” signaled the imperialists’ intention to strengthen their military agreements and reposition their forces against China.

The Pentagon’s 2002 “Nuclear Posture Review” lists China as one of seven potential targets of a U.S. nuclear first strike. The U.S. has infested the Pacific Ocean with a massive armada of warplanes, aircraft carriers, and nuclear submarines. Barely a month passes without a Japanese capitalists are putting enormous pressure on China to open up its state-owned financial system to foreign banks, while the IMF “advises” Beijing to reduce its budget deficit by cutting back on investment in infrastructure, an austerity measure it will probably be unable to even begin in view of the livelihood of millions of Chinese toilers.

Ever since the destruction of the Soviet Union, the imperialists have set China as the main target for counterrevolution, aiming to reverse the gains of the 1949 Revolution. Despite profound bureaucratic deformations, the Chinese Revolution was of world-historical significance, overthrowing the rule of the imperialistic-backed Chinese bourgeoisie and creating a collectivized economy that laid the basis for an enormous leap in social progress. A nation that had been ravaged and divided by foreign powers for a century was unified and freed from imperialist domination. In a country defined by absolute deprivation and backwardness, this process of national liberation enabled women to advance by magnitudes over their previous status. These gains, however, have been undermined by Stalinist misrule. Following the Stalinists’ dogma of “socialism in one coun­try” and its corollary, “peaceful coexist­ence,” the Chinese Communist Party leaders, from Mao through Deng to today, has incorporated imperialism, not least through selling out revolutions in other countries. As one of the main beneficiaries of “market reforms” has been the strengthening of domestic counterrevolutionary forces.

The impact of capitalism on the Chinese population would be even
more devastating than what befell the working people of the former Soviet Union, which reflected imperialist military and military power. It is in the direct interest of the international proletariat to defend China and the other remaining interests of the international proletariat to uphold China and the other remaining interests of the international proletariat to imperialist centers.

Eighteen Filipino crewmen aboard the MV Nella, owned by a Greek company and registered in Panama, went on strike in the Los Angeles area Port of Long Beach for four days (in September), and they won with support of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU). The seafarers set up a picket line at the top of the gangway, carrying signs that read: "Seamen on Strike for Wages, Hours and Conditions." The company had cheated them out of $362,000 in back wages and refused them break time, with most of the crew not having been home for two or three years. The strike began on September 7 after an inspector for the International Trans

posture and open embrace of its American imperialist master.

While pursuing on-and-off peace talks with the government, the Sisonites taunt Arroyo as "anti-Filipino" and seek to broker alliances with disaffected military officers and the shadowy MRK (Nationalist Filipino Soldiers). In a March 12 statement, Sison called for the "legal and nonviolent ouster of the Arroyo regime" through a "broad united front of patriotic, progressive and anti-Arroyo forces" that would be "open to the participation of civilians and military officials and personnel of the reactionary government." The statement called for the formation of a "Transition Council" that would include "the representatives of all major coalitions, political parties, mass organizations and groups of retired military and police officers."
The Sisonites thus call for alliances with some of the very forces that were the U.S. hold down leftists and Muslim militants.

Underlying this class-collaborationist policy is the Menshevik-Stalinist program of "two-stage revolution": fighting for a "democratic" revolution in league with a mythical "progressive" and "anti-imperialist" wing of the bourgeoisie while relegating the struggle for socialism to an indefinite future. From the Chinese Revolution of 1925-1927, which was drowned out by the proletarian Russian Revolution of 1917.

As explained by Leon Trotsky, co-founder with V.I. Lenin of the October Revolution, the evolution of backward countries that came to capitalist development in the epoch of imperialism reflects the process of "combined and uneven development": cottage industries and other backward forms of production exist side by side with massive industrial plants, funded by imperialist capital, employing the most advanced techniques. Thus in the Philippines, production for the world market has led to the emergence of a modern, concentrated proletariat war for electronics giants like Hitachi and Philips, Japan's automakers, and other major corporations, while the peasantry has been robbed of its lands to pay for sugar cane, coconut and banana plantations dominated by the likes of Standard of the Orient. Facing this propertyless, impoverished mass is a sliver of a domestic bourgeoisie that acts as compradors for the imperialists.

Under its "two-stage" program, the Arroyo regime has launched a campaign for constitutional "Charter Change." The proposed changes to the constitution include removing restrictions on the operation of foreign capital in the country and eliminating provisions for the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively. It also calls for replacing the current political system, under which leftist parties have won a number of Congressional seats in recent elections, that would result in the scheme, the 2007 legislative elections will be postponed. There is plenty of doubt.

Bent on reversing some measures instituted after the fall of the Marcos dictatorship, the Arroyo regime has launched a campaign for constitutional "Charter Change," or "C-Cha." The proposed changes to the constitution include removing restrictions on the operation of foreign capital in the country and eliminating provisions for the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively. It also calls for replacing the current political system, under which leftist parties have won a number of Congressional seats in recent elections. Under this scheme, the 2007 legislative elections will be postponed. There is plenty of doubt.

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South Africa Permanent Revolution vs. “Two-Stage” Stalinist Betrayal

The following article is reprinted from Workers Vanguard (No. 875, 1 September), newspaper of the Spartacist League/U.S. section of the International Communist League.

In 1994, after more than a decade of massive struggles by the predominantly black working class and township poor, the white-supremacist police-state regime in South Africa was replaced by Nelson Mandela’s African National Congress (ANC). The black African, coloured (mixed-race) and Indian working people were promised that their everyday conditions of life would be greatly improved by distributing the country’s wealth from the affluent white ruling elite. Instead, under the bourgeois-nationalist regimes of Mandela and his successor, Thabo Mbeki, conditions for the working class, rural toilers and township masses have in many important respects gotten worse.

Almost a million workers have been laid off through the privatization of government-owned industry and other kinds of capitalist restructuring. Today, despite the change in the political leadership is in some difficulty as it has failed to produce the gains it promised the masses. Hence, in order to repair the damaged credibility of the Alliance, the SACP/COSATU tops have adopted a more leftist stance toward the Mbeki regime while promising to fight for more worker-friendly policies. This is a cynical political con game. In order to go forward in its struggles, the working class must break with the ANC-led Alliance and with the reformist politics of class collaboration packaged as the National Democratic Revolution.

“Two-Stage” revolution is the enemy of the black masses toward the ANC regime. The future of the Tripartite Alliance is now being intensively debated within the workers’ movement and among broader layers of society. Amid the anger and bitter disillusionment among their working-class supporters, the SACP tops recently came out with a discussion document in which they openly criticized the central ANC leadership (Bae Komunisti! Special Edition, May 2006). The document raised the possibility of running candidates in future elections in the party’s own name, within the framework of the Alliance. Such candidates would have a purely token character, in no way challenging, much less weakening, the ANC’s governmental power. The document categorically rejects “watering down the ANC’s overwhelming electoral majority.”

Along somewhat similar lines, the COSATU bureaucrats have issued a discussion document (“COSATU Political Discussion Document—Possibilities for Fundamental Social Change”) in preparation for a congress in September strongly condemning the “neo-liberal” policies of the Mbeki regime. It points out that the share of national income going to the workers has decreased while the share raked off in corporate profits has markedly increased. Nonetheless, the COSATU leaders cite favorably surveys through 2004 that “have confirmed that the overwhelming majority of COSATU members support COSATU’s approach of strategic engagement from within the Alliance.”

The world reality behind the ideologically clutched off the SACP document is the maneuvering inside the ANC itself. The SACP/COSATU tops are backing Mbeki’s main factional opponent, Jacob Zuma. Mbeki’s former deputy prime minister Zuma constitutes a “man of the people” posture with appeals to Zulu tribalist nationalism. The SACP leaders have always used the Menshevik/Stalinist schema of “two-stage revolution” as an ideological justification for their historic alliance and interpenetration with the ANC. According to this schema, conditions are not currently ready for socialism. Therefore, first must come a political bloc with “progressive” bourgeois-nationalists, which in South Africa is called the “National Democratic Revolution” (NDR). Then, some far-off and unspecified time later, NDR will evolve into socialism. Thus the recent document asserted “the inextricable linkage between the NDR and the imperative of ‘building socialism now’”, while reaffirming “our commitment to the ANC-led Alliance.”

South Africa’s black workers and poor know dam well that the country is not moving toward socialism but in the opposite direction: toward increasingly brutal capitalist exploitation and immiseration. The SACP leadership is in some difficulty as it has failed to produce the gains it promised the masses. Hence, in order to repair the damaged credibility of the Alliance, the SACP/COSATU tops have adopted a more leftist stance toward the Mbeki regime while promising to fight for more worker-friendly policies. This is a cynical political con game. In order to go forward in its struggles, the working class must break with the ANC-led Alliance and with the reformist politics of class collaboration packaged as the National Democratic Revolution.

In opposing the “two-stage revolution” schema—a formula for class betrayal—Spartacist South Africa, section of the International Communist League, stands for the program and perspective of permanent revolution developed by Bolsheviki leader Leon Trotsky. This poises that in countries of combined and uneven development, the outstanding democratic tasks historically associated with the bourgeois revolutions can only be carried out through the assumption of power by the working class. In South Africa, genuine national liberation and the destruction of black oppression require proletarian revolution and its extension to the advanced capitalist (imperialist) countries of North America, West Europe and Japan. In fighting for that goal, we seek to build a Leninist revolutionary vanguard party of the working class that would champion the cause of the vast unemployable urban masses, the landless, immigrants, women, and the millions of Africans oppressed under neo-apartheid capitalism.

Upsurge in Labour Struggles, Township Protests

All too little has changed in the “new” South Africa. Retarded growth has mad e the economic resources of the country...
the SACP and COSATU tops have sought to counter growing anger against the government among the working class. The organizations have taken the lead against the Zuma "camp" of the ANC. When Mbeki dismissed Zuma as deputy president of the COSATU leadership, the SACP and the ANC Youth and Women's leagues came to his defense. Mbeki is widely viewed as a coldblooded, arrogant technocrat whose main priority is placating the white corporate elite and their black counterparts, as well as his black junior partners. As a bourgeois politician and Zulu traditionalist, Zuma has been known in the past to take a more radical line on issues of repression against the ANC grassroots and to attract foreign investment and boost profits—the document argues: "Relative to the transformational potential of the 1994 conjuncture, this project [GEAR] represents a serious strategic setback for the working class (and the national democratic revolution)" (emphasis in original). The working class cannot simply lay hold of the means of production, restructure and wield it for its own purposes. The capitalist state cannot be reformed. It must be smashed through socialist revolution. Ironically, a counter-polemic against the SACP document published in an official journal of the ANC, ANC Today (13 June 2006), cites Marx to refute the SACP argument. The South Africa is not a capitalist society with a capitalist state: "In reality, the statement that South Africa is 'not inherently capitalist' is more demagogic than with no scientific, Marxist foundation." Indeed the SACP's purpose was the procurement, reproduction and control of super-exploited African labor for white-owned capital, initially centered on the mining industries. The legal edifice may have changed, but the fundamental basis of South African capitalism, including the enormous disparities between racial groups, has not. During the anti-apartheid struggles, the SACP and COSATU leadership consciously maneuvered to tie the working class to the bourgeois-nationalist ANC despite the daily and weekly expressions of popular aspirations, thereby laying the basis for a capitalist state. In the current period of capitalist re-imposition and oppression can be eliminated only through a "proletarian socialist" current, the Russian Revolution led by Lenin and Trotsky's Bolshevik Party.

Menshevik/Stalinist "Two-Stage" Blueprint

The 1917 October Revolution was the great event of the 20th century. Leading the vast, impoverished, and decimated working class, the small Russian working class, concentrated centrally in a few industrial centers, seized political power across one-sixth of the globe. The Russian Revolution smashed the old state apparatus, inherited from the Tsarist autocracy, replacing the class dictatorship of capital with the dictatorship of the proletariat on the basis of democratically elected councils (soviets) of workers and peasants. Despite the enormous poverty and backwardness that the Bolsheviks confronted (and the later degeneration of the Soviet workers state after World War II), the October Revolution laid the basis for a planned economy that would transform the country into a socialist society whose military service might serve as a counterweight to U.S. imperialism. Full employment, housing, and other benefits won only through the overthrow of capitalism. Against the Mensheviks, the original proponents of "Two-Stage," Lenin wrote a few months after the overthrow of the tsarist autocracy while Russia was still an empire: "The leaders of the petty bourgeoisie—the intellectuals, the middle-class elements, the present parties of the Narodnik [populists], and the Bolsheviks—must not at present in favor of a revolution against the capitalists...

The conclusion is obvious: only the assumption of power by the proletariat, backed by the anti-imperialists, can give the country a really strong and really imperialist government (basis in original)."

A Strong Revolutionary Government" (May 1917)
South Africa...

(continued from page 7)

Thus, Trotsky wrote in *The Permanent Revolution* (1929): "With regard to coun-
tries with a belated bourgeois development, especially colonial and semi-colonial coun-
tries, the theory of the permanent revolution signifies that the complete and
genuine solution to their tasks of achieving
democracy and national emancipation is
 conceivable only through the dictatorship
of the proletariat as the leader of the sub-
jugated nation."

In South Africa, adequate housing for
millions in the townships and shanty-
towns, electricity and clean water for
the entire population, free quality education,
the eradication of leprosy (the bride price)
and female genital mutilation, the mobil-
ization of all available scientific and
medical resources in combating the AIDS
pandemic: these desperately needed
measures require the socialist transforma-
tion of the economy and society. South
Africa's industrial proletariat has the
power and class interests to unite all of
the oppressed in a determined battle for a
Socialist Revolution.

Lenin, Trotsky and the other leaders
of the Bolshevist Revolution never
believed (contrary to Stalin's later falsifi-
cation) that socialism could be built in
a single country, especially not in a rela-
tively poor country beset by world
imperialism. As Trotsky wrote in The
Permanent Revolution: "In a country
where the proletariat has power in its
hands as the result of the democratic revo-
lution, the subsequent fate of the dicta-
torial and socialism depends in the least
analysis not only and not so much upon
the national productive forces as upon
the development of the international
socialist revolution."

As we wrote shortly after the ANC
succeeded the apartheid regime:
"The consolidation or simply the survival
of a socialist revolution in South Africa
requires its international extension.
This was the core of the Bolsheviks'
program..."

"For the moment South Africa is a
weakened link in the chain of the world
capitalist system funding the neo-
colonies of the Third World to the
imperialist states of North America,
West Europe and Japan. It is necessary to
mobilize the forces of the proletariat
with the Taaffeite Committee for a Work-
ers International. Trevor Ngwane him-
self is a former ANC local councillor who
was expelled from the party in 2000 for
opposing the extensive privatization of
government-owned industries.

In a brief document titled, "The
Vanguard and the Masses" (February 2005),
Ngwane calls for "a party which groups
the majority of workers together on poli-
tics which reflects their own interests" and
denounces any conception of an inde-
pendent vanguard party as amounting to
"not really a vanguard—just a sect." Ngwane's
"Socialist Group" in the APF
issued a similar call three years ago.
In response, we wrote in "South Africa:
Union Militants Protest COSATU
Alliance with ANC" (WV No. 808, 28
August 2003): "This is essentially a call
for a new chapter of class. The model
for this is the old British Labour Par-
y. We reject the notion that the
South African working class must

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AUSTRALASIAN SPARTACIST

Spartacist League of Australia

Web site: www.icl-fi.org

Melbourne

GPO Box 2339

Melbourne Vic 3001

Phone: (03) 9654 4315

E-mail: spartacist@primus.com.au

Sydney

GPO Box 3473

Sydney NSW 2001

Phone: (02) 9281 1281

E-mail: spartacist@exetel.com.au

International Communist League

Box 7429 GPO, New York, NY 10116, USA

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Internationalism
North Korea...

(continued from page 1)

"axis of evil" delusions of the Bush administra-
tion, U.S. imperialism's sole policy toward the Stalinist-led North has always been to keep on the road to overthra-
ing the 1949 Chinese Revolution.

The Korean War was initiated by Democratic president Harry Truman and continued by his Republican successor, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Douglas MacArthur promoted the notion of making China. There is little question that the U.S. government set a nuclear ripe by the USSR gave pause to the Dr. Strangeloves, while the entry of a million-plus "volunte-
ters"—the Chinese People's Liberation Army, after China itself was militarily threatened by the U.S., allowed North Korea to survive. To this day, the U.S. maintains nearly 30,000 troops in South Korea, including three air bases. These troops have been repeatedly used to back up the suppression of working-
class militancy and social uprisings in the South and are a signal of U.S. imperi-
alism's intent to reverse its defeat in the North. All U.S. troops and bases out of
South Korea!

The day before the statement was issued by North Korea's Foreign Ministry, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Chris Hill met with the DPRK government to go live with a nuclear China. [6] can have a future, or it can have these weapons. It cannot have both.

The anti-nuclear pre-
tensions of the U.S. are the purest hog-
wash designed to erase the memory of the so-called "atom bombs" Nagazaka and Nagaoka at the end of World War II. It is the U.S. in its 2002 "Nuclear Posture Review," that has targeted North Korea, among several other countries, for a potential nuclear first strike. Meanwhile, of course, no one ever adequately covently sought to develop the technology necessary for full-power, full-fledged, Japanese, which has more than 40 tons of plutonium, is a screw's turn away from developing nuclear weapons. And then, of course, there is Israel’s large nuclear arsenal.

Nevertheless, North Korea's nuclear test has been characterised by most bor-
neos commentators as the product of a bizarre, deranged and rogue dictatorship.
There is much less clarity about the dynastic,
mythologised bureaucratic role of the Kims in general and specifically about the increasing separation of Kim Jong II. But North Korea's decision to conduct a nuclear test is an essential first step to developing nuclear weaponry to deter imperialist attack. It is no accident that North Korea's only partial respite from the unrelenting pressure of U.S. imperialism was during the period when it was eco-
nomically and militarily in alliance with the USSR. Indeed, had it not been for the Soviet nuclear arsenal, it is likely that much of China, Vietnam as well as North Korea would be irradiated rubble.

Down With Imperialist Blackmails

In the aftermath of the 1962 Sino-
Indian border conflict, during which the USSR supported to support India in the ser-
cice of the Soviet quest for "peaceful coexistence" with U.S. imperialism, we have been hearing the familiar act in October 1964 as an elementary act of defence in the context of the Soviet bloc, the Chinese line was "Platina.

A main point is that every increase in the ability of the Chinese to hold the U.S. at bay mili-
tarily, increases the potential for the proletarian revolution—above all in Asian South East Asia. But the gains thus far made by the international working class!" (Spartacist No. 3, January-
February 1965).

For revolutionary Marxists, it is axio-
omatic that for socialist revolution to sur-
vive, it must in relatively short order achieve a state of monopoly of power, or ex-
perience a seizure of power in the most advanced strongholds of imperialism. The bureau-
crats of the CCP have no such perspective. They derive their relative economic privi-
ge by the social power from their patron relationship to the workers states and, thus, from all of a raffishness of any proletarian militancy that would threaten to replace their dominance. Thus, while occasionally forced to defend the revolu-
tions over which they hold political sway from imperialism's attacks, these Stalinist bureaucrats emphasize the "stability" of their party's leadership function. Thus, while occasionally forced to defend the Soviet Union, they hold political sway from imperialism's attacks, these Stalinist bureaucrats emphasize the "stability" of their party's leadership function.

During the U.S.-mobilised Cold War that followed World War II and targeted the Soviet Union, the U.S. mobilised Cold War II and targeted the Soviet Union for nuclear attack, the

victory, one has to destroy it on the road to overturning a century until its defeat in World War II, while currently using North Korea as an excuse to overrule the role of capital in the military contained in the postwar constitu-
ung. For their part, the Australian rulers have been aggressively enforcing imperialist neo-colonial rule in the region by dis-
patching troops and cops to the Solomon Islands, East Timor and Tonga. Two heavily armed warships were stationed off Fiji in anticipation of the military coup that eventually took place in early December. For the U.S. and the Stalinist rulers, enshrining the "stability" in this region also serves their strategic encirclement of China. U.S. mili-
ty and spy bases in Australia, once nearly 100 miles from the Soviet Union, now monitor China, North Korea and Vietnam with the object of reversing social revolu-
tions that overturned capitalism. We

Iran. Senate minority, leader Harry Reid put it sharply: "The Democrats...have aban-
doned diplomatic diplomacy...and paralysed by internal divisions, the Bush administration has for several years been in a state of denial over the strategic en-
angle of North Korea, and has too often tried to downplay the issue or change the subject...North Korea's nuclear weapons program must be to ensure that this alleged first nuclear test was not in fact a "test" (Agence France-Presse, 9 October).

In Australia the ALP leaders promote themselves in small families. A recent report of the Iraq Study Group in the U.S., signalling the depth of bourgeois defection over the occupation of Iraq, has evoked a new round of calls by Labor politicians for troops to be withdrawn. They want troops out of Iraq so that the Australian military can play a greater role in Afghanistan and closer to home, policing the South Pacific and targeting North Korea and Chud. Rudd recently remarked, "The War is a distraction in terms of where Australia's national security resources need to be deployed" (Australian Financial Review, 14 October).

The Democrats regained control of the Senate and House of Representatives in the recent U.S. mid-term elections, in large part because voters were dismayed by the seemingly endless occupation of Iraq. But at the same time, imperialist warriors par excellence. Virtu-
ally every major imperialist nation in the 20th century was carried by Democratic presidents—because U.S. rulers are aware that "Democrat's" pos-
ure as "friends" of working people makes them better able to sell U.S. imperialist's wars to the people. In Japan, Rudder and Nixon in 1969 were working to get the United States to base nuclear weapons in Japan, to better able to sell U.S. imperialist's wars to the people. In Japan, Rudder and Nixon in 1969 were working to get the United States to base nuclear weapons in Japan, to

demands: U.S. bases out now! Down with the counterrevolutionary U.S. Alliance! Not one person not one cent for the Algerian imperialist military! Au-
tralian troops, cops hands off Fiji! Get out of the South Pacific, East Timor now! Beijing's craven appeasement of the imperialist drive against North Korea is particularly dangerous to China's own defence. Capitalist counterrevolution in China would be a devastating defeat for the international proletariat, turning the world's most populous country into one giant sweatshop directly for the imperia-
list exploiters, or perhaps some other eventualty not now envisioned. What is urgently poised is the struggle for prote-
grantial political revolution in China to out the ruling Stalinist bureaucrats in Bei-
jing and replace them with a regime based on workers democracy and revo-
lutionary internationalism. A workers political revolution in China would be a spur for a similar uprising in North Korea while igniting socialist revolution in South Korea, providing the basis for the revolutionary reunification of the Korean peninsula. It would arouse the powerful Japanese proletariat in opposition to its capitalist rulers and set the stage for a worldwide proletariat offensive against imperialist rule.

For International Socialist Revolution!

The Australian government, backed by the Labour party and the bourgeoisie Greens, have been in the forefront of the year-long U.S.-led campaign targeting North Korea. Thus foreign affairs minis-
ter, Alexander Downer, and now federal ALP leader of the opposition, Kevin Rudd, railed against North Korea's suc-
cessful nuclear test. The Australian imperialists jumped to offer a naval ves-

cel to assist in intercepting North Korean vessels.

In the U.S., the Democrats have seized upon North Korea's nuclear test to portray themselves as the hard wingers who know how to defend America against the real rogue states like North Korea and

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Mumia... (continued from page 12)

Cowperthwaite declared, “Black liber­
ation cannot succeed apart from united class, national, socialist, working-class emancipation cannot suc­ceed without an implacable fight against anti­black racism, and the struggle for Mumia’s freedom is part of the fight against racial oppression and working­
class oppression." 

Cowperthwaite was loudly applauded when he championed the TWU’s strike action, pointing to the workers’ “unyielding power” for three days last December. We paralyzed the racist, union­
uniting MTA and the city itself. That’s the same power we need to free Mumia and all our prisoners. “In every workplace, the words ‘Strike!’ and ‘Free Mumia!’ should ring out in the same breath.”

Cowperthwaite illustrated the capitalist state as a machine of class repression by pointing to its role in the transit strike: “The government and courts only inter­
vene into the unions to haggle and destroy them as fighting organizations. Just look at the recent court injunctions, fines and prison time imposed on TWU Local 100... The LBL says: ‘For complete and unconditional independence from capitalist control and security guards out of the unions! No to union­
suing! Labor must clean its own house!’”

He said: “A host of white socialists, groups, liberals and others, always say: ‘We need some badly needed legal efforts of PDC attorneys on behalf of Mumia, including bringing out the Beverly evidence, which is but one part, although a crucial part, of the massive evidence of Mumia’s innocence. As Erica Williamson noted in her address, the PDC first learned of Mumia’s case from MOVE member Ramona Africa, the sole adult survivor of the government’s fire­
bombing of the MOVE commune on 13 May 1985, which killed 11 adults, 18 women and children were burned to death. The PDC defended MOVE and for 20 years has included MOVE members in its program of monthly financial stipends to class-war prisoners.”

Directly responding to Williamson’s and Cowperthwaite’s criticism of the role played by the liberal­reformist left in demobilizing support for Mumia, Pam Africa stated: “I want to dispel the myth that people who call for a trial for Mumia is the cause of the movement being splin­
tered.” Speaking of those who might sup­
port the death penalty and don’t know whether Mumia is innocent but see that “he didn’t have a fair trial,” she said: “You don’t run these people off.” Her conclusion was: “I am simply underlining the range of political views of those in attendance.

Pam Africa defended the Workers World Party (WWP) and Jeff Mackler of Socialist Action (SA), saying they “do work” to build political power for Mumia. She contin­
ued by saying that “a lot of people aren’t... here tonight because we do not under­
stand that such a decision to create a trial for you cannot pull people in opposing them.” She pointed to the 24 April 1999 “Mil­
lions for Mumia” protests, which the WWP and SA heavily built as, a high point in mobilizing for Mumia and men­tioned as well the ILWU stop­work action that shut down West Coast ports that day. She went on, “You know what broke this movement up? It’s fear. It’s racism. It’s class­
ism. And the terrorism that was in the hearts of this government, when they looked out there on April the 24th, 1999, when they saw the people united, moving together... They had to stop that.”

She also took issue with the PDC and LBL, speakers’ assertion of the strategic importance of mobilizing the labor move­
ment in this struggle, asking about the poor and the unemployed: “They stood beside the workers. I’m saying we must give credit to all those people who worked to free Mumia.” She spoke of Italian Americans, Mexican Americans and black nationalists who came out for Mumia at that time. She also pointed to “black policemen” who were “there for Mumia.”

The PDC’s Rachel Wolkenstein, who was on Mumia’s legal team from 1995 to 1999 and led the investigation that turned up evidence of Mumia’s innocence, in­
cluding the Beverly confession, responded from the platform: “I want to begin by really genuinely thanking Pam for raising her questions here at this meeting... I’m not offended by that. And neither should anyone who we criticize be offended. It’s a function of how being applauded by many underlining the range of political views of those in attendance.

For Class­Struggle Defence!

When Wolkenstein explained, the first step is understanding the nature of the capital­
ist class as “the instrument of repression for those rulers of this country, the capital­
ist class,” who “will stop at nothing against a possible unity of the working class, against the consciousness...that they must struggle for socialist revolution and not accept the parameters of capital­
ialism.” Wolkenstein noted that it was very important that the 1199 union leadership came out in defense of Mumia and that they had signed the statement that ap­
peared in the Amsterdam News. “But they were willing to sign,” she said, “if they could get a statement here today as a first step fighting for Mumia.” Wolkenstein was appalled saying they should have “been prepared to bring out their membership in defending the transit workers when they were on strike and ‘to commit themselves along with every other union here, that labor will stop this city until Mumia is free.’”

Wolkenstein continued, “That con­
sciou­ness is the consciousness that we must win people to.” “Our numbers on a street in a demonstration show our desire to stand for something... But that is not the same thing as being able to stop this system, shut it down! These are very dif­
ferent things.” And that is why we talk about “the role of the working class.”

It is not a dismissal of the good will, the heart, the love and the oppression that only exis­
tes in society. It is not a statement that those people who are unemployed are unimportant in the struggle. But that’s the duty of the labor movement: to organize, to fight for jobs for the unemployed, to am­
italize people across the board.”

Wolkenstein answered Pam Africa on the role of black cops in the frame­up, saying that when she was a police­
like the Black Guardians, had been wel­
come in Mumia protests in the past: “You know, what I want those black cops to do? I want those black cops to tell me what they know about the frame-up of Mumia Abu­Jamil, because there were tons of black cops involved in the frame­up.” Wolkenstein insisted that those cops, precisely “because they’re cops” who “defend the interests, the immediate interest of the gunning down of blacks and immi­
grants and poor and strikers, are just as much a part of the racist death penalty as white cops!”

The party’s polemics, Wolkenstein said, were directed not at individuals who came out for Mumia protests because of their particular union or organization but was more generally at bourgeois organiza­
tions like Amnesty International, whose views are not those of those understanding the state. “Who we are addressing our criticisms to,” she empha­sized, “are those organizations that say they are socialist. That say they are for the workers. That say they’re for black revolution and for black freedom. It’s those organizations that play the game that has been played for decades and decades and decades, which is to say, to use the excuse: ‘People aren’t ready for this yet. The time hasn’t come yet. We can’t go too far in advance of people yet. We must bite our tongue.’”

The PDC’s emphasis was to make a point that more evidence that came out of the frame­up, from 1995 to 1999, the official case that has been presented to people decided to hold people back from their understanding of the nature of the courts. Because “When we say ‘Free Mumia,’ it’s the frame­up...” The more the evidence came out, the more those organizations said: “We don’t want people to know this evidence, Mumia, that Mumia is innocent. We are not going to argue that people need to understand this evidence... We cannot have any illusions in the court and that we’ll need a mass mobilization on the ground—because that is the only way we will get the courts to respond.”

Paula Cowperthwaite, in a 1999 “Emer­
gency Leadership Summit Meeting” that included among its 70 participants repre­
sentatives of the WWP, SA and Refugee & Resist, Wolkenstein stated, “I’ll give a criticism of the Partisan Defense Com­
mitee. We weren’t there at that meeting fighting for what we should have been fighting for.” She continued, “What did they decide to do at this leadership meet­
ning? They decided they would con­
siously make the demand for ‘Millions for Mumia’ be presented to them... ‘Free Mumia.’ And not anything that opposed the death penalty. And this was an interesting, ‘Free Mumia’—the right to do what you want to do and that’s the way only we will get the courts to respond.”

Paula Cowperthwaite continued: “There are going to be liberals who are going to organize on the basis that Mumia is a wonderful person and they will not be used. ‘And he is. And he writes beautifully. And he does. And that the trial was unfair. Which it was. And they will mobilize on that basis. But that’s not enough. And you know what? That will not get Mumia Abu­Jamil free.” She emphasized, “There is no way, given the determination of this state to execute Mumia, that he could be freed short of a mass mobilization that will take the depth of the hatred the state has for him.”

Paula Cowperthwaite continued, “Wolkenstein said, ‘There are accusations being made that to raise the Beverly evi­
dence marks the beginning of a new stage of movement to immediate freedom, to raise the demand that he be an innocent man is divisive, that it’s sending divisive people away. We are going to be present to them... They were ready to do this years ago. Who didn’t allow them to do anything? Who didn’t allow them to present the Beverly evidence? That the only way that you could build a mass movement was by taking people

Join the Campaign!

Funds urgently needed for legal defence!

Make a contribution today, payable to Partisan Defence Committee, write “Mumia legal defence” on the back of the cheque and mail to the address below. Every cent of such contributions is transmitted to Mumia’s legal defense team via Committee to Save Mumia Abu-Jamil in New York.

Organise protest! Pass motions in your unions, campus, community and religious organisations demanding Mumia’s freedom. Get your union or organisation to make a contribution and rally and protests for Mumia. Publicise Mumia’s case in your union or organisation’s newsletter.

Spread the word! Contact the PDC for copies of The Fight to Free Mumia Abu­Jamil. Is he innocent? That pamphlet outlines achievements in the struggle for Mumia’s freedom by presenting the political basis of the frame­up, and re­
vendetta against Mumia and the explosive evidence which completely destroys the official case presented to them... This is an Innocent Man: Free Mumia Abu­Jamil—$2 for 25 copies. Order from/make cheques payable to Partisan Defence Committee, c/o The Bob, Sydney NSW 1230. Contact us on (02) 9281 2181 or (03) 9654 4315.

Australasian Spartacist
Anti-G20...

Anti-G20... (continued from page 2)

politics. In opposition to Laborism, we Trotskyists of the Spartacist League fight for the perspective of building a Leninist vanguard party as a tribute to all of the people, capable of leading the working class in a revolutionary and international struggle against ruling-class attacks. This would open the road to socialist revolution and workers rule.

The same police who bloody anti-G20 protesters also terrorize Aboriginals and attack the capitalist state—its cops, courts and prisons—is a machination of repression committed to defend the capitalist property and profits of the capitalist exploiters, including with violence. The state—its cops and prisons—is a labor administration of the proletariat. The autonomous types and those in their orbit seek, for example, to pressure the working class through “direct action,” enmeshing the need to mobilize the power of the working class against the capitalist state. From a mass of political and practical differences, we stand in defence of them and all the anti-G20 protesters under attack by the capitalist state. Drop all the charges now!

We protest the arrest and detention of 28-year-old student, Akim Sari, following the anti-G20 protests in Melbourne on 18 and 19 November. Charged with affray, riot, criminal damage and theft, he has been denied bail and is held in remand until 12 February court appearance. In effect, almost a three-month sentence! Sari’s detention is an attempt to intimidate activists who protest the injustices of capitalism. It is a reminder of the vicious treatment that activists are likely to face if they dare to stand up to arrogant police and the oppressed Aboriginal people of this country. We demand that Akim Sari be released immediately!

Sari is reportedly one of at least 11 anti-G20 protesters arrested and charged. Others include 19-year-old Rosalie Delaney and David Vakalis, 22-year-old Danya Blyth, 24-year-old Dominick Richardson, charged with riot and affray for alleged crimes such as throwing a milk crate and street signs at police barricades and vehicles. Drop all the charges against the anti-G20 protesters now! These serious charges follow a media frenzy against “violent protesters,” whose real violence was in fact perpetuated by the state. Some 100 police attacked a (anti-G20) festivity gathering outside parliament on 18 November. It is reported they chased and beat people, that such an ambush had to be called to attend to several. Three people were arrested.

The next day, during a violent police attack on an anti-G20 street theatre where the protesters were seated, Boljovic feared for his life when he was abducted and terrorised by unidentified men who turned out to be undercover cops. Eventually released after a traumatic two-hour ordeal, police acknowledged that it was a case of mistaken identity—”he wasn’t even at the anti-G20 protest!” The G20 meeting provided a forum for U.S. imperialist spokesmen, like Paul Wolfowitz, and their Australian junior partners to plan the future immobilisation of the working masses. It occurred in the context of the ongoing murderous neo-colonial occupation of Iraq by the U.S., Britain and Australia (having bombed, bled and starved that country for 16 years), and “war on terror” government repression which shrinks hard-won civil liberties and whips up a racist, anti-immigrant social climate, targeting the most vulnerable sections of immigrant background such as Akim Sari and Drasko Boljovic. We recall that in 2000, a year before the criminal attack on the World Trade Center, the then-recently elected Bracks Labor government oversaw a brutal police assault on youthful protesters who were demanding an end to “third world debt” outside the World Trade Conference in Melbourne. Today, as then, the aim is to squash leftist political social democracy. Respect Akim Sari. Drop all the charges against the anti-G20 protesters now!

Philippines...

Philippines... (continued from page 5)

Day demonstration by Estrada’s plebeian supporters.

Like the CPP, the PM, whose policies are inspired by Fidel Ramos, a labor leader assassinated a month after Arroyo took power, demands a “transitional revolution” government to replace Arroyo. A current vehicle for the PM’s class-collaborationist politics is the Laban ng Massa (LM—Struggle of the Masses) bloc, whose components range from the social democratic BIKIG party to the Revolutionary Workers Party-Mindanao, which is affiliated with the fake-Trotskyist United Secretariat.

In February, the PM/MLM advocated alliances with “patriotic” elements within the military and police. In particular, PM/ LM hailed a group of officers who had rebelled against Arroyo, declaring: “We are united with the Magdalo officers and rebel soldiers in their cause to overthrow an illegitimate regime” (Laban ng Massa Web site, 22 February 2006). This line was a continuation of PM lronco Sonny Melencio’s 2002 call for a “revolutionary united front” that was to include such “non-socialist groups” as the Young Officers’ Union, a nationalist military formation that called for a coup d’état against Arroyo at the January-April 2006 anti-G20 protest.

In their appeals to the military officer corps and the police, the CPP and PM tramplers on the Leninist understanding of the capitalist state. Consisting of its core of cops, courts, prisons and army, the capitalist state is a machinery of violence that exists to defend the profits and rule of the bourgeoisie against the working class and the oppressed. The struggle against repression, exploitation and poverty requires a fight to sweep away capitalist rule through a proletarian revolution that shatters the bourgeois state and replaces it with a workers state, supported by the peasantry and other oppressed plebeian layers.

Key questions: Is the so-called “socialist revolution” in the Philippines is the forging of an internationalist Leninist-Terrorist party, centrally through polemical struggle against all variants of nationalism and class collaboration promoted by the opportunist left? Reforge the Fourth International—world party of socialist revolution!

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Abolish the Racist Death Penalty!

Mumia Abu-Jamal is an Innocent Man!

Death Penalty!

Harlem rally, 28 October. PDC's Rachel Wolkenstein (left) shows Amsterdam News ad with statement signed by over 200 people demanding Mumia's freedom. Pam Africa (right) of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Abolish the Racist Death Penalty!

The following article is reprinted from Workers Vanguard (No. 880, 10 November) and International 880, section of the International Commu-

nism League (Fourth International).

As part of the urgent effort to revitalize mass protest on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal more than 200 people turned out for an October 28 rally at Harlem's Salem United Methodist Church called by the Partisan Defense Committee and the New York Labor Black League for Social Defense. Framed up on false charges of killing a Philadelphia policeman on 9 December 1981, Mumia is on death row for having been a leader of the Black Panther Party, a MOVE supporter and an eloquent and effective opponent of racist oppression.

Recognizing that Mumia's case is now at a critical juncture, the PDC and Labor Black Leagues organized the Harlem rally and others in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Oakland in October under the slogan: "Free Mumia now! Mumia is an innocent man! Mumia Abu-Jamal's life is in danger—Mobilize now! Abolish the racist death penalty!" The rallies brought together speakers and organizations across a spectrum of political beliefs raising their own perspectives on which way forward in the fight to free Mumia. That crucial debate was the defining feature of the Harlem rally.

The PDC's August 25 rally call (printed in WV No. 876, 25 August) laid out our perspective to "win activists to the understanding that Mumia's defense must be built on a class-struggle perspective—organizing independently of the racist capitalist state that has framed him up!"

The call stated: "Worldwide protests, crucially involving trade unions, have been a vital contribution for Mumia in August 1995. Millions rallied to Mumia's cause out of the realization with the injustices inherent in capitalism—poverty, racial and ethnic bias and war. But they were demobilized by a host of reformist and liberal organizations that reflect to bourgeois forces who see in Mumia's case an instance of 'miscarriage of justice' that could be rectified with a 'new trial.' This means rejecting the very reasons Mumia's case won such broad international support.

'This worldwide movement must be revived and infused with a new strength and militancy built on the understanding that there is no justice in the capitalist courts.'

Harlem Rally: United Struggle for Mumia

The Harlem rally drew a wide range of activists, including members of the New York Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition and Black Panther Party veterans, as well as students from an array of NYC-area campuses. It pointed toward the kind of united-front action that is necessary to mobilize broad social forces, particularly the trade unions. The watchword must be unity in action with full freedom of criticism for participating organizations.

The PDC's Erica Williamson, who chaired the event, opened her remarks by condemning the killing of four policemen in Oaxaca the night before and calling for "international solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Mexico who are being victimized by vicious government repression."

Williamson addressed the urgency of the fight for Mumia's freedom, stating, "If Mumia is to be freed, it will take the mobilization of the masses, centrally labor, to champion his cause in outrage and on the basis that this was a case of a political frame-up through and through." Williamson placed Mumia's case in the context of the "increased bipartisan attacks on civil liberties and the frame-up conviction and sentencing of leftist lawyer Lyne Stewart to 28 months and her co-defendants Mohamed Youssry to 20 months and Ahmed Abdel Sattar to an outrageous 24 years," as well as the attacks by the Bush administration on defendants' habeas corpus right to challenge evidence. She stressed that "while all legal proceedings and legal remedies should be pursued on Mumia's behalf, we cannot have any illusions or reliance in the capitalist courts."

Williamson continued: "There is no need for a trial to prove that Mumia is innocent—the facts speak for themselves. The evidence of Mumia's innocence is overwhelming. The PDC has fought to get this evidence out, well before the conclusive piece of evidence that helps tie it all together—the confession of Arnold Beverly—was exposed. Mumia has been in prison or on death row for nearly 25 years. He doesn't need another 'trial' in court. He needs his freedom."

Powerfully supporting this appeal, just days before the rally, a full-page statement calling to free Mumia and signed by more than 200 black and labor activists and prominent individuals around the world appeared in the major Harlem-based black newspaper the Amsterdam News (26 October). The statement specifically points to the confession of Arnold Beverly that he, not Mumia, shot the policeman; it is titled: "I Demand the Immediate Freedom of Mumia Abu-Jamal, An Innocent Man."

The rally heard taped greetings from Mumia and a recording of a moving speech by his sister Lydia Rasbarabino at the Oakland rally. A statement was read out from New York's 1999/2000 United Healthcare Workers East union declaring: "We support the demand to free Mumia Now!" Besides speakers from the PDC and LBL, the audience was addressed by Jose A. Arroyo, vice chair of Section 115 of Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100, Lynne Stewart and Pam Africa of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Arroyo described the rally as being "united with one common cause, and that is we are in the class struggle" and referred to the TWU strike last December. An immigrant from Mexico, Arroyo described his horror at watching the news of the May 1985 firebombing of MOVE, saying that he "saw how the government was burning an entire block of people, with children inside!" The audience was read a statement from Leonard Riley Jr. of International Longshoremen's Association Local 1422: 'Coming from South Carolina and coming out of the Charleston Five experience, I know first hand the full potential and extent to which the government will go to act against those that openly challenge their policies.... It was only through national and International solidarity, the support of the Charleston 5 were eventually freed.' Riley's statement concluded: "We Can and We Must use the collective forces of the Labor Movement to free this innocent man, Free Mumia Now!"

Addressing the rally less than two weeks after her sentencing, Lynne Stewart expressed her determination to challenge her frame-up conviction and sentencing for the "crime" of being a zealous advocate on behalf of her client, the Islamic fundamentalist cleric Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman. She received a standing ovation.

Later in the program, Monique Cole read a statement from Mumia's son Jamal Hart, who was framed up and sentenced in 1998 to 15 and a half years on bogus firearms possession charges for speaking out in his father's defense.

Free Mumia: Which Way Forward?

The core debate at the rally tackled the question of why support for Mumia was demobilized overall and what must be understood in order to build the kind of development that can win his freedom. As Williamson said in her opening remarks, "The fact that people are not mobilizing and filling the streets now like they once did for Mumia does not go unnoticed by the courts."

"Many so-called socialist organizations such as Workers World Party, Socialist Action, the Revolutionary Communist Party and the International Socialist Organization have at one point or another taken up Mumia's case. But it is a question on what basis they take it up. It boils down to a difference between reforming the capitalist state and organizing working people independent of it and to fight it. Many of these organizations are fighting on the basis of winning the courts over to Mumia's side and trying the masses to have faith in the courts, instead of fighting on the basis of winning the masses to the fight for the freedom of an innocent man. And now that Mumia stands on his last legal legs in court, with small exceptions you hardly hear a peep about most of these organizations."

In fact, the organizations mentioned by Williamson were notable for their absence from this rally.

Speaking for the New York Labor Black League, who was amtiated by and isfraternally allied with the Spartacist League, TWU Local 100 member Tom continued on page 10