On January 31, after the thirteenth case came to light of a death row inmate in Illinois—who had been falsely convicted, Republican governor George Ryan announced a state moratorium on executions pending a “review” of death penalty procedures. In the following two weeks, the Philadelphia City Council called for a moratorium in Pennsylvania, with hearings scheduled in the state legislature, and the U.S. Department of Justice announced plans to review the federal death penalty for racial bias.

It is a testament to how flagrantly unjust this system is that this Republican governor, a supporter of the death penalty, felt compelled to call a temporary halt to executions. The string of innocent men condemned to death and the repeated cop corruption and frame-up scandals in Chicago, Philadelphia and Los Angeles, the NYPD’s sadistic torture of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima and the repeated cop corruption and frame-up scandals in Chicago, Philadelphia and Los Angeles, the NYPD’s sadistic torture of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima and the repeated cop corruption and frame-up scandals in Chicago, Philadelphia and Los Angeles, the NYPD’s sadistic torture of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima...
The ostentatiously reformist Interna­tional Socialist Organizing Committee (ISO) usu­ally excludes us communists from their public events and meetings. But open political revolt is not the language of groups claiming to represent the left. Those who want to fight for socialism must hear the political contem­tion among leftists in order to decide which strategy to follow. This will serve to advance the fight for socialist revolution in the United States. The meeting of Feb­ruary 8 at a public meeting at New York University of the ISO’s group “Campaign to End the Death Penalty,” they got a lesson in workers democracy. And it came from members of the Campaign who were disgusted at the ISO’s political exclusion and censorship.

The event was billed as a discussion on the fight against the death penalty. It featured Lawrence Hayes, a former Black Panther party member and death row in­mate who was recently freed after prov­ing his innocence. When our comrades approached the event, they were told we were not allowed inside. We protested but, unable to enter, we began distributing our literature out­side the meeting hall and talking to peo­ple. Lawrence Hayes was convinced that the ISO could not believe that we were being excluded, but when we explained that it was the ISO’s policy already to exclude debate, the two members grew angry and led us up to the event with the intention of having us enter and speak...

When we entered the room, this time totally un molested, Lawrence Hayes was already speaking. He was followed by a speaker from the ISO. The contrast between the two was quite graphic. Hayes had given clear-cut-sightliness to say out­right that what is necessary is a move­ment for socialism. He was scathing in his criticisms not only of right-wing politi­cians who push the death penalty, but also of Democrat Bill Clinton who has expressed support of the state to unprecedented levels. On the other hand, the ISO speaker simply enthused over the illusionary words “End the Death Penalty” (see article on page 1) and went on to push over how Clinton recently said that he would not sign a death penalty moratorium on the death penalty (see article on page 1) and went on to push over how Clinton recently said that he would not sign a death penalty moratorium on the death penalty. He also mentioned that the word “socialism” was never de­noted fit to utter by this ISO mem­ber. The ISO’s big shick that night was to put up around the question demanding a “Moratorium Now” be sent to Clinton!

When discussion began, one of the Campaign’s members who thought he had a right to speak stood up and announced, while ISO leaders looked on in dismay, that we were there in opposition to the death penalty and that people in the room should listen to what we had to say. He then ceded the floor to one of our sup­porters, who explained that the racist death penalty is a direct legacy of chattel slavery and the de facto legal Re­construction following the Civil War. We saluted Lawrence Hayes’ strug­gle. The ISO speaker then faced the room and challenged the enemy to fight for freedom. We must not allow this to be the death penalty. We must fight for freedom. We must not allow the enemy to be the death penalty. We must fight for freedom.

In conclusion, what we believe about the death penalty is that what is so dangerous about the excluded people is that they are excluded and that they are ex­cluded. Such calls are echoed by reform­ists, who see in the death penalty the ex­clusion of a national “will of the people,” these high-sounding words, to consolidate its power over the working class and impose its own will on the proletariat. By contrast the proletariat, the overwhe­ling majority of the population, openly wields the class power of its mass organizations, its councils, in order to abolish the privileges of the bourgeois state which cannot be reformed, but must be smashed through workers revolution. While the ISO opposes the death penalty, it is too soft on the liberal grounds. For example, they think the cops, who are the armed defenders of capitalist law and order, are part of the working class, if only they would “rebel collectively.”

The ISO has a problem. Fearing exposure by revolutionaries, they think they can seal us off from their membership. But the only way to attract the critical thinker who wonders what is so dangerous about the excluded people is that they are excluded — the enemy who attract the critical thinker, so essential for any genuine socialist organization, that the ISO fears and wants to drive away (for downright). For our part, we would like the ISO mem­bers to know that they are welcome to join the Campaign. Of course, we will scathingly polemicize against their pol­itical program of warmed-over liberalism. Polemics, like reformists, will always defend the Klan’s member as “squabbles,” are an essential part of being a commu­nist, for nothing else than to justify the group’s independent existence. Speaking back in 1967 to students of the New Left, the Marxist intellectual Isaac Deutscher gave a piece of advice that I would like to pass on to members of the ISO and the Campaign to End the Death Penalty: “All human thinking and all human organiza­tion is subject to differentiation. Whether you like it or not, ‘squabbles’ is the stuff of life, do not be contemptuous of it.”

Defend Arrested Charleston ILA Members!

As we reported in “Charleston ILA Battles Racist Union-Busting Assault” (WV No. 728, 28 January), on January 20 an army of cops in Charleston, South Carolina attacked hundreds of members of International Long­shoremen’s Association Local 1422 as they were picketing a scrub chip. Coming only three days after Local 1422 had mobilized a contingent for the huge protest in Columbia, the state capital, against the Confederate flag of slavery and Klan terror, the cop assault underscores how racism and “open shop” are still going on.

Following the police attack, four ILA members face indictment on trumped-up charges ranging from assault crimes that could mean years in prison. In a Feb­ruary 17 letter to the Partisan Defense Committee (PDC), ILA workers that reported speech attacked by state and local cops.

They need and deserve the best possible defense.

An injury to one is an injury to all! The PDC offers the following services to the workers Defense Fund, and we urge all our readers to do likewise. Send contrib­utions to: Workers Defense Fund, c/o Robert J. Ford, Treasurer of the Fund, 910 Morrison Drive, Charleston, SC 29403.

WORLDS VANGUARD
OAKLAND—On the eve of the March 7 primaries in California, racist State Prop 21, which seeks to criminalize "gang-related activity," is gaining momentum among the nation's leading establishment politicians. The measure is in line with the inner-city massacre of Los Angeles Cardinal Mindszenty, the protracted police terror and state repression. The bill is an attempt to defuse growing public anger against the system that has systematically destroyed the lives of millions of young people in the form of an anti-gang bill, Prop 21.

Prop 21 would intensify police reign of terror against ghetto and barrio youth, extending use of the racist death penalty and requiring children as young as 14 to be tried as adults in specified cases.

Break with the Democrats-Fight for a Multiracial Revolutionary Workers Party!

The Russian Revolution-How the Communist Party Fought Against Racism

The Russian Revolution-How the Communist Party Fought Against Racism

During the Russian Revolution, the Communist Party fought against racism and discrimination. They worked to create a society where all people were equal and had the same rights. The Communist Party also fought against police terror and state repression. They believed that the working class had the power to change society and create a better world. They worked to organize and mobilize the working class to fight against oppression and discrimination. The Russian Revolution was a key moment in the struggle for equality and justice. It showed that the working class could take power and build a society where everyone had the same rights and opportunities. The lessons learned from the Russian Revolution continue to be relevant today. The struggle for equality and justice is ongoing, and we must continue to fight against discrimination and inequality. The Russian Revolution is a reminder that we can create a better world and that we must be strong in the struggle for justice.
On November 8, 1999, on the tenth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, there was a talk show on German TV with Mikhail Gorbachev, former head of the Soviet Union; Helmut Kohl, ex-chancellor of German imperialism; and U.S. ex-president Bush. They were chatting about how they organized the counterrevolution in East Germany (DDR) in 1990 and Gorbachev said:

"We changed our point of view on the process of unification of Germany under the impact of events that unfolded in the DDR. An unexpected situation came about in January [1990]. In essence, a breakdown of structures took place. A threat arose—a threat of disorganization, of a big destabilization. This began on January 3 and [went] further almost every day.

On January 3, 1990, 250,000 people came to an anti-fascist, pro-Soviet, pro-socialist mobilization at East Berlin's Treptow monument, which was built to honor the Red Army soldiers who died in the struggle to free Berlin from the fascists. They came in protest against the desecration of that monument by fascists in late December 1989. And it was we Trotskyists who initiated that united front. We distributed 130,000 leaflets to East Berlin factories, working-class neighborhoods, city train stations and especially to foreign workers. And we said:

"The vile desecration of the Memorial to the Fallen Soviet Heroes in Treptow on December 28 provokes disgust and rage among millions of workers and their families throughout Germany. This desecration is directed against our own, our heroes, which was built on the ruins of Hitler fascism."

We warned: "Resurgent fascism is still an enormous threat, a frightening specter that would again threaten all mankind as soon as the first crisis in a reunified Götterachtland [Greater Germany] might arise."

Today, however, the SPD/SPD [the Social Democratic Party] and their government hired the former DDR: the whole of industry was leveled down, with mass unemployment of 20 percent or more, even worse for the youth. There are incessant, relentless attacks on the living standards of the working class in the West, a drive to break the power of the trade unions and to destroy industrial wage contract systems. Women have been especially hard hit—60 percent of them lost their jobs in the former DDR and there are attacks on abortion rights. The bourgeoisie wants to destroy the pension system, the education system, health care.

At the same time, increased racist state terror is used to split the working class. There are countless deportations of immigrants and refugees, even of young born in Germany, who are scapegoats of the fascists, with day-to-day fascist murder and terror. And such a huge rise of anti-Semitism that any Jew, even the latest Jewish community, who died some months ago, made sure he wouldn't be buried in Germany, because he didn't want his grave to be dynamited by fascists, as happened to the grave of his predecessor three times already.

In East Europe, the situation for the working masses is even worse. At the same time, throughout East Europe, they have been huge militant struggles of the working class against these attacks by the bourgeoisie. So for the bourgeois Neo-Classicism's celebration of the tenth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the capitalist Social Democratic-led government hired the most popular of the government-friendly writers and artists to come to the Brandenburg Gate, in the center of the German capital, Berlin. Only 15,000 turned out, compared to 2 million for the Millennium celebration, because the majority of the workers in Germany and Europe see nothing to celebrate.

On that TV talk show, Kohl wasn't very happy with what Gorbachev said.

The bourgeoisie is pushing this big "death of communism" campaign, trying to make everyone believe what once was fought for capitalism in 1989-90, and the Treptow mobilization on January 3, 1990 doesn't fit into that campaign at all. Just one example: A big book was published.
with protocols of Kohl's negotiations in 1989–90; it was one or two thousand pages long. The protocols beginning in January 1989, which we published in our call at the end of December 1989 for the united-front protest at Trep­tenberg, were known in the West as being marked "secret" and were not reprinted. At the same time, there's a sinister calculation by the world bourgeoisie to sabotage the fall of the Berlin Wall, the trials. Representatives of the DDR workers and soldiers became convinced that the Mensheviks wouldn’t fight for their interests, wouldn't break with the bourgeoisie, no matter how much pressure they might put on them. The workers and soldiers broke with the Mensheviks and were won to the Bolsheviks. In October 1917, the Bolsheviks led the workers revolution; the soviets took power in an insurrection based on the armed working class and the soldiers smashing the bourgeois state. The world bourgeoisie did everything to smash the revolution. A civil war of unprecedented scale ensued, with 14 capitalist countries invading on the side of the White Guards, the Russian counter-revolutionary armies. The Red Army, led by Trotsky, defeated them with the help of the working class in the home countries of the invading capitalist armies. The Bolsheviks recognized backward Soviet Russia couldn't survive if it remained isolated. They saw October 1917 as the beginning of world revolution. It was necessary to extend the October revolution to all the countries of the world capitalist system. The Third International was founded to lead the world revolution. The Russian Revolution was an inspiration to all the oppressed, all over the world. At the end of the world war, a wave of revolutionary upheavals swept over Europe. Like their Russian counterparts, the social-democratic parties elsewhere in Europe acted to save the rule of the bourgeoisie from the working class. The newly founded Communist parties were too young and inexperienced to lead these revolutions to victory. In Germany, one of the most advanced capitalist countries, the revolutionary crisis was the most acute. The SPD used the Freikorps, a fascist counterrevolutionary army, to drown the 1918–1919 Revolution in blood. They beheaded the young Communist Party (KPD), killing Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, the two outstanding revolutionary leaders of the German proletariat. In 1923, an extraordinary revolutionary crisis shook Germany. The German working class, which stood for the KPD to lead them, but the leadership of the KPD looked to the left wing of the SPD to help it in the revolution and even joined them in a parliamentary, that bourgeois, coalition government. When there was a post-war situation pass, the workers in devastated Soviet Russia became demoralized, because of the isolation of the Russian Revolution. At the beginning of 1924, a conservative bureaucratic caste came to power, using its advantage of the situation and usurped political power, ripping it out of the hands of the proletariat. At that time, the people who ruled the USSR, the way the USSR was ruled and the aims the USSR was ruled for all changed. It was a political counterrevolution, but not a social counterrevolution. The bourgeoisie unleashed the fascists. The working class wanted to fight. The SPD leadership didn't want to mobilize its working-class base because once the workers were set in motion against the fascists, they wouldn't stop at that, but would go on to sweep away the whole capitalist system that breeds the fascist scour. At the same time, the Communist Party refused to mobilize against the fascists in a united front with the SPD, to smash the fascists on the one hand and to prove the superiority of the communist program over the bourgeois program of the SPD on the other. Such united-front action would have enabled the Communists to rip the SPD's working-class base away from its treacherous leadership in the course of the struggle and thus open the road to a proletarian revolution. That's what the Trotskyists Left Opposition was fighting for. In early 1933, Hitler came to power without even a shot being fired. The fascists smashed all working-class organizations, the Communist Party, the SPD, the trade unions. Then they started the Holocaust, the killing of six million Jews and millions of homosexuals, Roma (Gypsies) and Communists. In 1941, the Nazi regime invaded the Soviet Union, trying to get one-sixth of the world back under the yoke of capitalist exploitation. We Trotskyists unconditionally militarily defended the Soviet Union. But we had no side in war that the imperialist powers, instead struggling for its overthrow through international proletarian revolution. And it was the Red Army, despite Stalin, that smashed the Nazi regime. Nearly 30 million Soviet citizens gave their lives. After the victory of the Red Army, the Stalinists extrapoltiuated capitalism—for their own reasons and with their own methods—in East Germany and East Europe. Faced with imperialist Cold War hostility, the Soviet bureaucracy abolished private property in those countries occupied by the Red Army in East Europe—to bring the new regimes into accordance with that of the USSR. The series of post-war social transformations were not carried out as a consequence of the proletariat like the Russian Revolution of 1917, but from the top down with military-bureaucratic means, after the earlier capitalist states had been smashed as a result of the war. The political regimes of all the deformed workers states in the post-war period were qualitatively the same as in the USSR after decomposition. Stalinism included Yugoslavia, China, North Korea, Vietnam and Cuba, where the differences, if any, if any, were limited to the quantitative measure of the means of production is a progressive measure which we defend. But, as had been argued, the German Red Army moved into eastern Poland in late 1939, such expropriations are not the key political criteria, unless a change in property relations leads to a rise in the consciousness and the organization of the proletariat. In the context of Defense of Marxism, the "politics continued on page 10"
Austria: Down With Racist Demagogue Haider!

We publish below an edited translation of a leaflet issued on February 18 by the Spartanist Workers Party of Germany (SPad), section of the International Communist League. The SPad distributed this leaflet the next day at a protest of nearly 300,000 people in Vienna against Jörg Haider’s openly racist Freedom Party (FPO). Following the FPO’s entry into a coalition government with the People’s Party (OVP) earlier this month, mass protests have taken place not only in Austria but throughout West Europe. The presence of the FPO in the government poses a sinister threat to the Austrian working class, immigrants and other minorities. At the same time, the political thrust of these protests is to restore to power the Socialist Party (SPÖ), which long after the FPO, or its “sister” group, Linksruck, explicitly backs German imperialism and its racist state terror, in the Balkans War.

In February 1999, Vienna: 300,000 protest Haider’s racist FPÖ. West European social democrats have seized on FPÖ’s entry into Austrian government in drive to strengthen European Union imperialist bloc.

Haider statements by German and French leaders “reflected a growing determination to turn a union that was long essentially a trade bloc into an ever closer political community with some aspects of a federal state.” In imposing sanctions against the FPO’s entry into the Austrian government, German imperialism and its partners are asserting a precedent to dictate policy to other EU member states.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (11 February) quoted in the leaflet gives a hint of how the Social Democrats’ “anti-fascist” rhetoric is used to further the ambitions of German imperialism: “The Holocaust and ‘never again’ are becoming the code-words for the founding myth of a European nation... Germany has participated in a war for the first time since 1945, led by a left government. The reason given was to stifle a new fascism in the Balkans... In connection with the European left, he [Schroeder] works toward the Europeanization of the Holocaust. This eases the burdens on the Germans, especially when they, together with their European partners, kick the Austrians in the shin.” While ordering the first German expeditionary force into the Balkans since Hitler’s Wehrmacht, at home the Schröder regime which cynically intones “never again” is perpetrating racist terror and deportations against Turks, Kurds and other “non-Germans.” Indeed, the same EU governments which now hypocritically denounce the FPO for its pronounced anti-racist racism joined opposition to our “own” imperialist rulers and declare: “The main enemy is at home!”

Many leftists and workers are taking to the streets to demonstrate against Haider and the FPO, an extremely racist and reactionary party. Haider and his cronies demonstate their fascistic views, for example celebrating the “orderly employment policy” of the Nazis. Now, with the FPO in the government, the SPD is trying to portray itself as the defender of “democracy,” while for decades itself carrying out racist state terror against immigrants and refugees and actively preparing the way for the FPO. They only have to think of the brutal murder of refugees Marcus Omofuna in April 1999 by the FPO cops and the massive deportations, often to certain death. Encouraged by this FPO-led racist state terror, in the mid-1990s Austrian Nazis began a wave of terror against immigrants, refugees, Roma and Sinti [Gypsies] and leftists.

The capitalist governments of Europe, most of which are led by social democrats, imposed a hypocritical “bilateral boycott against Germany’s election at the ministerial level.” At the same time, Nazis were marching through the streets of Berlin, protected by the cops of the SPD/Green government. These governments back the FPO’s racist, anti-semitic policies against immigrants, refugees and Roma and Sinti that the FPO intends to carry out. Frankfurter Rundschau put its finger on it: “If it was a question only of this, the EU would have to keep an eye on German minister of the interior Otto Schily.” The current deportations of 180,000 Balkan refugees will be continued and intensified by the SPD/Green government and also the FPO’s [Party of Democratic Socialism]-supported state governments—in cooperation with the “blocot” FPO ministers.

For almost 50 years without interruption, the racist SPD has administered Austria’s imperialist state. In 1999, the other successor to the Third Reich—with which it is indissolubly bound—the SPD and Adolf Hitler ran his 1937 election campaign on the slogan, “People who were once for Adolf are still for Adolf again this year.” Today this, the scenes, is leading the demonstrations against the OVP-FPO government, for their capitalist Austria.

The vanguard for the SPD in this are the “leftists” such as Linksruck in the groups such as the Communist Party of Austria, Arbeiter intelligentenstand [AiS], the [C] (former SPO’s expression) and the newly formed Socialist Left Party (SLP), formerly the SOV [Thefaufreis], all of whom want to make the SPO-led [Austrian Trade Union Federation] fight for the continuation of class collaboration in an SPD-administered capitalism. This means the interests of the workers are subordinated to those of the capitalist exploiters.

In contrast we fight to bring down racial capitalism. For this, what is needed is an anti-imperialist, anti-racist workers’ unions and the building of a new revolutionary workers party, which mobilizes the working class and fights fascism, extreme right and the state terror against the workers’ own class interests. The social democratic trade-union bureaucracy, which the exploiters use to tie their hands on the working class base from these bourgeois workers’ parties.

The truth is that the social democrats see socialists such as Haider as a threat to European economic unity, which the European capitalist rulers know is necessary for the EU to compete successfully as an imperialist trade bloc against Japan and especially the United States. This is the reason for the sharp reactions especially of Belgium and France—which face strong fascist, extreme rightist, anti-Europe movements in their own countries—dangerous diplomatic sanctions against the workers of the EU.

The SPD’s Bundestag [parliamentary] deputy fraction head, SPD “leftist” Ger­ner Erler, hit the nail on the head: “In terms of foreign policy, this will be ‘useful’ if Haider tries to block the eastward expansion of the EU” (Frankfurter Rundschau). In an article based on the main reasons for the Balkan War led by the governing Social Democrats. The
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung commented on 11 February: "The anti-Haider action was born at the Stockholm Holocaus­

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung commented on 11 February: "The anti-Haider action was born at the Stockholm Holocaust Conference. It was conceived in the Balkan War. From then on the left— above all the Germans—carried their Europe under their hearts, no matter where it beat. And Tony Cliff's fake-left Socialist Workers Party, British parent organization of Linksruck, appealed to their imperialism: "There should be no cooperation with the Freedom Party. We are supporting the European Union's position." [London Times, 3 February].

Meanwhile the social democrats all over Europe are using their campaign against Haider to wrap themselves in the flag of "anti-fascist" patriotism and to build chauvinist mobilizations in order to distract from their own attacks on the living standards of the masses. For instance, at a February 5 demonstration in Berlin, social-democratic leftists like Linksrukk and the [anarchoid] Auto­

The German-dominated EU is an un­stable conglomerate of the European capital­

imperialism in the war against Yugosla­

Now these social-chauvinists write about the FPO's "anti-fascist" mobilizations. "The new coalition will launch massive attacks on workers' rights and huge cuts in public spending. The programme of the FPO will, of course, be Austria's migrant workers and refugees." They deny Tony Blair's Labour govern­

The German-dominated EU is an un­stable conglomerate of the European capitalists which is directed against the interests of the capital (capitalists) have been brought into power since the counterrevolution in East Europe and the Soviet Union with the explicit aim of destroying the "social welfare state." The capitalist rulers no longer feel obliged to defend workers' interests. In West a higher living standard in order to compete with the social gains of the planned economies of the East. Deformed workers states that emerged from the victory of the Red Army in the Second World War. After the last election, the OVP decided that the Austrian Social Democracy hadn't given them enough concessions and opted for the FPO.

In all the European countries, bourgeois nationalism is leading to a sharp increase in racism against the dark-skinned and East European immigrant populations of Europe. They are confronted with mass deportations and state as well as fascist violence. Immigrants, who as "guest workers" are no longer needed to do the low-paid dirty work, are being thrown out, while [immigrant] youth of the second generation are treated with contempt by the rulers. Without a job and without a future, they are feared by the ruling class as socially explosive. Throughout Europe, capitalist regimes governed by supposed "socialists" turn their cops loose to terrorize these youth. Racism is spreading, not only linked to capitalist exploitation. While the bourgeoisie is trying to drive up the rate of exploitation, the immigrants are not only victims of deportations, but are also used as a convenient scapegoat for unemployment and impoverishment. Racism against immigrants is the battering ram for attacks on the whole working class. As working-class and minorities advance their interests together, or they will be beaten back separately. The workers movement must fight for full citizenship rights for all immigrants and refugees.

The immigrant sections of the working class in West Europe are not just vic­

The social-democratic regimes and popu­

narrate a "more democratic Europe" and call for the replacement of the old ruling class with their politics of class counterrevolution. For the reforging of the Fourth Interna­tion and the construction of the United Socialist States of Europe!

Social-democratic regimes and popu­

frontal capitalists in the the epoch of wars

The form of a coalition between bourgeois parties and workers, where the workers' interests are subordinated to the interests of the capitalist ruling class (capitalists) have been brought into power since the counterrevolution in East Europe and the Soviet Union with the explicit aim of destroying the "social welfare state." The capitalist rulers no longer feel obliged to defend workers' interests. In West a higher living standard in order to compete with the social gains of the planned economies of the East. Deformed workers states that emerged from the victory of the Red Army in the Second World War. After the last election, the OVP decided that the Austrian Social Democracy hadn't given them enough concessions and opted for the FPO.

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The immigrant sections of the working class in West Europe are not just vic­

The social-democratic regimes and popu­

frontal capitalists in the
We seek to inflame the proletariat with the understanding that it will take nothing short of a workers revolution to sweep away the barbaric institutions of the capitalist state which—with the cops, courts, prisons and military—no longer serves anything other than an apparatus of organized violence for the repression of workers, and the oppressed in defense of the profits and power of the property­

From Lynch Law to "Legal" Lynching
The promised study of racial bias in federal death row inquests by Clinton/ Reno's Justice Department should not take more than five minutes—because fully two-thirds of the 21 federal death row inmates are either black or Hispanic! This is an even higher proportion of the understanding that it will take penalty organized violence for the repression of the oppressed in defense of black freedom. Free Mumia! Abolish the racist death penalty!

This is an even higher proportion of the understanding that it will take penalty organized violence for the repression of the oppressed in defense of black freedom. Free Mumia! Abolish the racist death penalty!

Mumia Abu-Jamal
Terry/Gamma-Lasion
Court acknowledged the massive amount of evidence proving racism in death pen­

Conditions have only continued to worsen under Clinton Democracy. De­

The American capitalist state is a killing machine, from court-ordered executions in the nation's death chambers and summary executions by cops on the streets to the murderous bombing of civilian popu­lations overseas aimed at imposing U.S. im­

SPARTACIST LEAGUE/U.S.—
Local Directory and Public Offices
National Office: Box 1377 GPO, New York, NY 10116  (212) 732-7860
Web site: www.kil.org  E-mail address: vanguard@fia.net

Boston Box 390040, Central Sta.
Cambridge, MA 02139
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Sta., Box 60680
(312) 454-2154

Los Angeles Box 29574, Los Feliz Sta.
Los Angeles, CA 90029
(213) 380-8499

Oakland Box 17369
Oakland, CA 94604

San Francisco Box 77944
San Francisco, CA 94107
(415) 395-9520

Toronto Box 7198, Station A
Toronto ON M5W 1X8
(416) 593-4158

Vancouver Box 2717, Main PO
Vancouver BC V6X 3X2
(604) 697-0533

EXECUTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Speedup on death row is part of broader intensification of capitalist repression in U.S.

TROTSKYIST LEAGUE OF CANADA/LIGUE TROTSKISTE DU CANADA

TORONTO Box 7198, Station A
Toronto ON M5W 1X8
(416) 593-4158

VANCOUVER Box 2717, Main PO
Vancouver BC V6X 3X2
(604) 697-0533

NEW YORK LABOR BLACK LEAGUE Forum
Lessons of the Diablo Trial—There Is No Justice in the Capitalist System
Saturday, February 25, 2 p.m. and Tuesday, February 29, 7 p.m.
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WORKERS VANGUARD
A chief call of such "reformers" is the demand for a better public defense system for capital defendants in cases. To be sure, the overwhelming majority of capital defendants get only the most minimal legal defense, an aspect of how this system is rigged from top to bottom to allow for massive repression, and otherwise serve the interests of workers and the oppressed. In practice, they embrace these illusions as the bourgeois liberals.

Thus the International Socialist Organizing Committee (ISO) has called for a "reform" of the capitalist state to ensure that the capitalist state can be turned into a "democratic system". This call is the reformists' pledge of allegiance to keep the fight for a new society within the confines of bourgeois politics—i.e., Democratic Party—politics, while sowing illusions in the "justice" of the capitalist courts. In this way they seek to win support from capitalist politicians who would be all too happy to see Jamal reconvicted in a less obviously rigged proceeding than the travesty which sent him to death row in 1982. A column by the Salim Mawakki in *In These Times* (12 December 1999), podía en la sociedad de la República Democrática (Socialists of America), features the following statement in large print in the middle of the page: "We may never know whether Abu-Jamal is innocent or guilty because he was never given due process."

The opportunists' ploy is "we'll be found innocent and opposed to the capitalist rulers who have never been found guilty" claim the cops were unarmed. Thrown into a panic by the humiliating drubbing received by their thugs, the PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party) government of Mexico accused to Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas' PRD (Party of the Democratic Revolution) to use its influence for the cops' release. The mayor of the town, a PRI member, convinced the crowd not to kill the cops, while the state PRI did not do any involvement. A negotiating committee was made up of the Hidalgo government secretary, the regional PRI leader, the mayor and a student leader of the EZLN (Zapatistas). This is not an alternative, but simply a more radical version of nationalism. Unlike the Zapatistas, who as "liberals with guns" seek to use the PRD to pressure the bourgeois state for concessions through negotiations, we Spartacists fight for the proletarian will to lead the oppressed and dispossessed masses of Mexico to power.

The urgent demands and needs of Mexico's toilers and peasants—for agrarian revolution, education, health care, etc.—cannot be fulfilled by the current and rival Mexican capitalist class, beholden to U.S. imperialism. Even the most minimal reforms, like those the students at El Mez are seeking, demand the Trotskyist program of permanent revolution. The Trotskyists of the GEM fight to build a Leninist vanguard party that can lead the workers and peasants of Mexico to power, smashing the capitalist system of oppression and opening the way to proletarian revolution throughout the Americas.


Multiracial proletariat must be mobilized in fight to free Mumia, abolish the death penalty.

be "wanton and freakish" and ordered the states to rewrite the statutes. The statutes were rewritten, and four years later, with the mass protests a thing of the past, the Supreme Court quickly ended that "moratorium" and gave a green light to the killings.

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Mexico... (continued from page 12)

schools, were arrested during a sit-in in front of the governor's mansion in the regional capital of Puebla. Over 800 students from other schools who had joined the sit-in were summarily deported to their home towns, some as far away as Guerrero and Chiapas. Facing the army of police at El Mez, the student strikers appealed for help to the UNAM General Strike Council (CGH), which sent a delegation. The Grupo Espartaguista de México, which demanded the immediate, unconditional release of all arrested militants, was launched.

The "battle of El Mez" was launched when several thousand people (including the student's family) surrounded the school, demanding freedom for those arrested in both attacks, as well as in earlier attacks, and marched several police cars ablaze. The terrified thugs attempted to flee by diving into sewage canals, but the villagers, armed mostly with only sticks and stones, captured over sixty cops, stripped them down to their underwear and marched them five kilometers into the town square! Displaying their captives, the furious townspeople demanded: "Free the arrested or we will set these pinche cops on fire!" Meanwhile, parents and students took the school and discovered a police arsenal, including grenade launchers. The government had

liely claimed the cops were unarmed.

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Contents include:
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- From Death Row: The Mumia Abu-Jamal "La Amistad and American Law"
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- For Non-Sectionarian, Class-Struggle Defense
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- Philly Cops' Reign of Terror
- Desperation, Segregation and the "Benevolent" Consensus
- Down With "English Only" Racism!
- Coleman Young: From CIO Union Organizer to Overseer for Auto Bosses

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25 FEBRUARY 2000
thinking and any independent political expression of the working class, so the working class was atomized and politically backward. The only secret service called the Stasi, spying on the working class and those they perceived to be opponents of the regime.

Despite the Stalinist bureaucracy, because of the planned economy the Soviet Union made huge strides forward, which however were achieved at terrible cost and sacrifice by the Soviet working masses. But still the economy lagged significantly behind those of the most developed capitalist countries in productivity of labor. In the 1970s and 1980s it became clear that the old bureaucratic methods of extensive capital investment and borrowing of techniques, which in the past had achieved great results, though at great social and economic overhead, had reached their limits. The USSR was gripped by a relative economic stagnation. As Trotsky observed in 1936 in The Revolution Betrayed: "Under a nationalized economy, quality demands a democracy of producers and consumers, freedom to make agreements, conditions incompatible with a totalitarian regime of fear, lies and flattery."

So Gorbachev, they trade in the bureaucracy of the Soviet Union, introduced so-called "market socialism reforms." "Market socialism" conformed to the centralized planning, and introducing capitalist market mechanisms into the planned economy. It meant pitting factory mujahedin. They declined that offer, so we instead collected money for the city of Jalalabad, which was fighting a siege against the Soviets. We had agreed that this was the time that it became better to fight imperialism in Afghanistan than counterrevolution in Moscow.

Fall of the Berlin Wall

In the summer of 1989, there was a huge outflow of DDR citizens to the West, ripping big holes out of the planned economy. At that time, as part of his "market socialism" reforms, Gorbachev announced that the Soviet Union would sell oil and raw materials only at world market prices and currencies to the other deformed workers states. It became clear that the DDR could no longer go on in the old way. At the beginning of October 1989, demonstrations started across the GDR. As the week went on, Honecker wanted to use the army against the demonstrators, but Gorbachev and the Soviet army opposed the DDR's claims. On November 4, 1989, the DDR was recued by the Soviet Union. We had seen how the Soviet Union defeated the Afghan government to organize an international brigade to fight against the Afghan people.

In the DDR we encountered a contradiction of the "progressive peoples" label, which was given to us by the IC. We had been exposed to the appetites of a wing of the Stalinist bureaucracy and for socialist revolution in the DDR to overthrow the bourgeoisie. We understood that Gorbachev was divided by a class line and that the question was: Revolution or counterrevolutionary reunification. So we made our opposition to the latter, as clearly by our slogan "No to the sell-out of the DDR!" From that standpoint we found our one chance and made a fight to oust the Stalinist bureaucracy and for the proletarian political revolution. It got a huge reception. In all cities, groups of youth demonstrators sprang up, distributing Arprekorr, whom we organized into the Spartakist-Gruppen, Spartacist groups.

For a Red Germany of Workers Councils!

We intervened with our program for a Red Germany of workers councils, for revolutionary reunification through proletarian political revolution in the East to oust the Stalinist bureaucracy and for socialist revolution in the West to overthrow the bourgeoisie. We understood that Gorbachev was divided by a class line and that the question was: Revolution or counterrevolutionary reunification. So we made our opposition to the latter, as clearly by our slogan "No to the sell-out of the DDR!"] From that standpoint we found our one chance and made a fight to oust the Stalinist bureaucracy and for the proletarian political revolution. It got a huge reception. In all cities, groups of youth demonstrators sprang up, distributing Arprekorr, whom we organized into the Spartakist-Gruppen, Spartacist groups.

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the image of the racist strikebreaking cops in the wake of the Diallo killing. To unleash labor’s power requires a break with the capitalist Democrats and the fight for a class-struggle leadership of the unions committed to the forging of a workers party.

Black people are in their overwhelming majority working people. Working people need a party that fights for their interests, against strikebreaking and racist terror, against poverty and all-sided oppression—not a party that makes empty promises every four years come election time, but a party that mobilizes labor/black power in the factories and streets. Only such a party understands that the fight against racist oppression means a fight to get rid of the capitalist state, class which fosters racism to divide the working class and maintain its profits and class rule. We need a party based on understanding that the fundamental division in this racist society is not by skin color but between two counterposed classes—the handful who own all the means of production and the vast majority who must sell their labor power in order to survive.

Spartacist League/Labor Black League protest at March 1999 New York City Hall

The question is: how to fight back and wage our own struggle for everything that working people and youth need and deserve? The capitalist state is not a neutral body that can be pressured and the interest of the oppressed, as the libertarians believe, but an instrument based on the control of the means of production, the courts, the prisons—for the repression of the working people in the interests of the capitalists who appropriate the wealth created by workers' labor. Defenders of labor, minorities, and democratic rights need a workers' party that can unite all other extensions of the murderous, racist, union-busting state apparatus. But it is also a question of making it impossible what working-class and minority youth need: jobs for all, free education and health care, the end to exploitation and all forms of racial and social oppression. The Spartacist Youth Clubs fight to win students and young workers to the program of building the revolutionary, multiracial workers party essential for this struggle. Join us!

25 FEBRUARY 2000
FEBRUARY 22—A year after Amadou Diallo was killed in a hail of 41 bullets, the message from the Albany “trial” of the cops who gunned him down was put simply and bluntly: the cops were simply “doing their job” as a racist occupying army in the ghettos and barrios. Diallo was black, and thus he was automatically branded an unarmed man, guilty of nothing more than looking out his door. If Diallo had been killed with one bullet, he would simply have been another statistic in the racist “war on crime.” The problem for the rulers was that the volley of bullets that cut him down was potentially damaging to the authority of the forces of war and death at the hands of the cops.

An editorial in the Amsterdam News by publisher emeritus William Tatum, titled “The Diallo Trial, or Cops Crying a River of Blood,” provides a measure of the fear and loathing of the racist cops among the black population as a whole. This voice of the black middle-class establishment, which only last October sought to whitewash the cops. Whatever the verdict, the message is clear—being black in America means being branded a criminal to be targeted for harassment, brutality and death at the hands of the cops.

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In the dawn cop attack at EI Mexe, 176 villagers were beaten by an armed street, and more than 68 cops were arrested. The protest outside trial of killer cops.

January 31, Albany: Outrage over death-squad-style NYPD execution of Amadou Diallo at protest outside trial of killer cops.

We have found us, as a people, on the business end of the kind of stick wielded by Justin Volpe in the sodomizing of Abner Louima.

Tatum opines: “We will not do anything about it except yell, scream, shout, march and pray.” Here is an expression of the despair of the black middle class who thought that maybe they could make it in capitalist America and who have sought to keep the peace by coralling black people behind the Democratic Party. Last year, the black Democrats headed by Al Sharpton desperately tried to quell the mass outrage over the killing of Diallo and channel it into electoral pressure poli­cies. The Spartanist League and the Labor Black Network affiliated with the SI, fought for labor-centered mass protest. Warning “Beware Democratic Party Hun­ters—Enemies of Labor, Blacks” (WF No. 710, 2 April 1999), we wrote: “The mass outrage against the cops doesn’t need an organized political expression. Not one aimed at strengthening the hand of the Democrats, the political tool of the very capitalist rulers whose interests the cops serve and protect, but one which provides a proletarian class axis that can weld the social power of the multi-racial working class to the anger of the inner city through mass labor-centered protest against cop terror.

There will be no end to police brutality short of the destruction of the system of capitalist exploitation and racist oppression which the cops serve as armed guard dogs. But a massive mobilization of labor would give the cops some peace... Bringing that kind of social power to bear in a mass protest against cop terror would be a big step toward imbuing the working class with the understanding that its interests are inseparably linked to the defense of the ghettos and barrios and the fight for black freedom.”

Sharpton Fronts for Indochin Rules

Police terror in the inner cities is aimed at a population which has already been subject to organized mass attacks

Hidalgo, Mexico Campus Strike Villagers Seize Strikebreaking Cops

On February 19, the villagers of Francisco Madero, in the state of Hidalgo north of Mexico City, erupted in just outrage against the notoriously brutal and corrupt Public Security riot police, dramatically seizing 68 cops who had violently raided a rural teachers college occupied by student strikers since January 5. The strike at the EI Mexe Rural Normal School, de Mexico, February 19: Cops held in town square after villagers repulsed police attack on student strikers. The Spartacist League and the Labor Black Network affiliated with the SI, fought for labor-centered mass protest. Warning “Beware Democratic Party Hun­ters—Enemies of Labor, Blacks” (WF No. 710, 2 April 1999), we wrote: “The mass outrage against the cops doesn’t need an organized political expression. Not one aimed at strengthening the hand of the Democrats, the political tool of the very capitalist rulers whose interests the cops serve and protect, but one which provides a proletarian class axis that can weld the social power of the multi-racial working class to the angry of the inner city through mass labor-centered protest against cop terror.

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Free Jailed UNAM and EI Mexe Militants!

Tepatepec, Mexico, February 19: Police stormed (continued on page 11)