



the college **Voice**

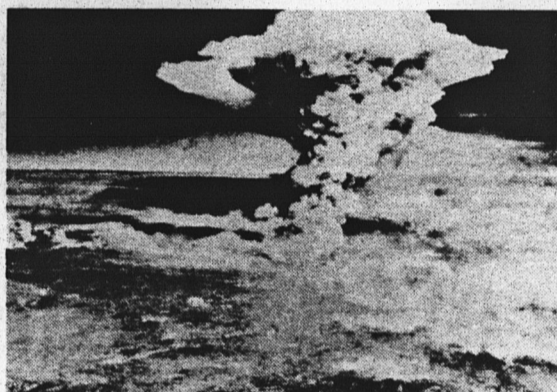
FOR FREE TUITION AND OPEN ADMISSIONS

Volume XIX • Issue No. VII • October 2001

WORLD PEACE



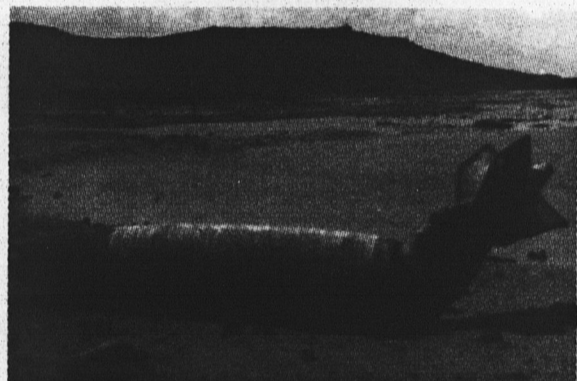
HANOI-VIETNAM



HIROSHIMA-JAPAN



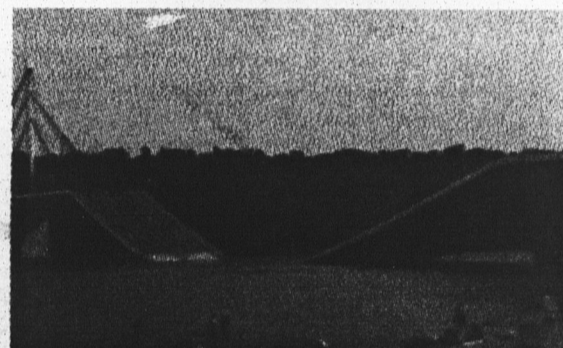
BAGHDAD-IRAQ



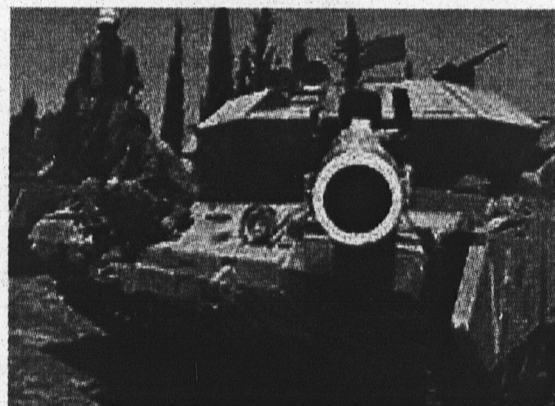
VIEQUES - PUERTO RICO



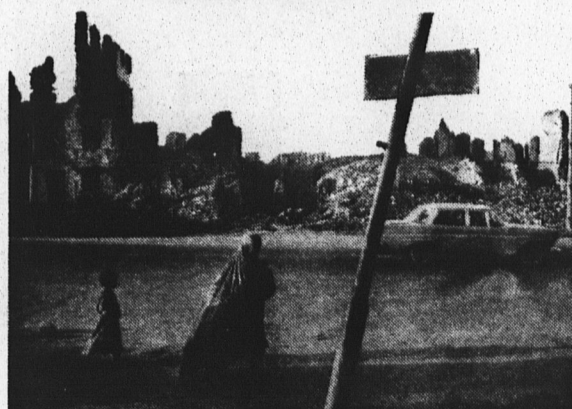
NEW YORK-U.S.A.



BELGRADE-YUGOSLAVIA



WEST BANK-PALESTINE



KABUL-AFGHANISTAN



BOMBING OF THE MOVE ORGANIZATION BY THE STATE OF PHILADELPHIA - 1985

NOT WORLD WAR

CONCERN OR DISCRIMINATION

CSI MUSLIM STUDENTS STOPPED FROM PRAYING IN LIBRARY

GHANIM KHALIL

In the wake of the September 11, attacks on innocent civilians, many "American" men and women have taken upon themselves the task of ridding the United States of all forms of domestic "terrorism" by targeting Muslim Americans and those who even slightly resemble Arabic features or wear Islamic dress. These "patriots" have used various tactics to aid the Bush Administration, which include murder, attacks on Mosques, discrimination towards Muslims and Arabs, biased media coverage, as well as physical and verbal assaults. Not all of these "crusaders" against "evil" are ignorant minded individuals who wish simply to express their hatred towards what they perceive to be Islam and Muslims. Some of these "nationalists" are highly educated men and women in positions of power, influence, and dependability. This concerns me greatly. I am a Muslim and a former U.S. Marine. Not only am I all too familiar with Islamophobia in the United States Armed Forces, but also in the civilian

environment, where popular media empires such as CNN, have covered Islam in a typical predisposed fashion for decades.

Muslims have been praying in the library for at least five years and were never told they couldn't

As a student at the College of Staten Island, I am concerned about the growing number of highly educated staff members who are slowly revealing their hatred for Muslims on campus, particularly those who they see worshipping God, in the school library. Recently, practicing Muslims have been approached and told that they are not allowed to pray in the library. The justification seems to be that CSI clubs cannot gather and/or hold gatherings of a religious nature in IL. Here is where ignorance of what Islam is produces discrimination. Muslims worship God five times a day at specific times. When the time to worship approaches,

Muslims locate a suitable place, face the Holy city of Makkah (currently in Saudi Arabia), and commence their worshipping sometimes individually and at other times in groups. This daily activity has nothing to do with club activity. Practicing Muslims of CSI don't gather to worship God as a club, but as a group of individuals who follow Islam as a way of life. The most convenient place for worship has always been the library.

The United States evolved into a nation, which is still rooted in the idea that each member of mankind is free to worship in any way he/she chooses, as long as it doesn't

Recently, practicing Muslims have been approached and told that they are not allowed to pray in the library.

violate the rights of others. This is an idea, which is not always put into practice. In CSI, I

am purely convinced that some faculty members as well as students have made it their business to prevent Muslims from praying in the library. This was not an issue before the attack on the World Trade Center. Muslims have been praying in the library for at least five years and were never told they couldn't. It is an issue now because the barbaric attacks in Manhattan have created a backlash of barbaric treatment towards Muslims everywhere, including CSI. I urge people who lack tolerance to at least distinguish the difference between Muslims who take the path of terrorism (less than 1%) and the Muslims who don't (99%). I also urge people who are tolerant to speak out against the discrimination CSI Muslim students are experiencing at this moment. We hear that certain faculty members are "concerned" that Muslims may face more discrimination if they keep worshipping in the library. In this case, the cloth of concern is certainly hiding the body of discrimination.

Driving While Black, Flying While Brown: Racism and Politics After 9-11

RENEE MARHONG

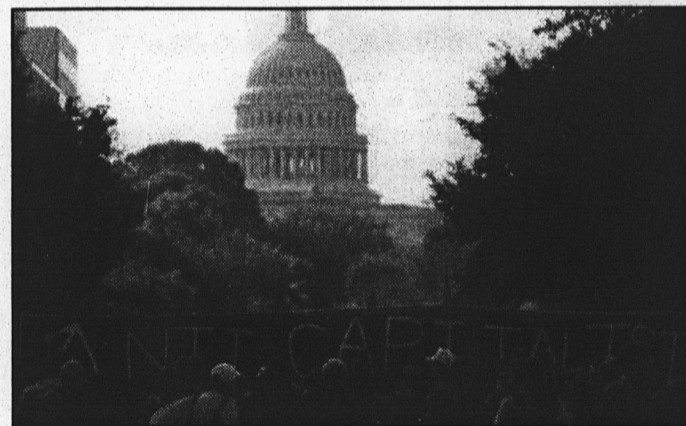
From 1945-1989 the spread of communism was used as the basis for U.S. interventions internationally and domestically. As the Soviet Union fell, so did the government's main excuse to infiltrate and demolish radical organizations. The fear of communism was exploited to the extent in America that it served as a plausible reason to justify the curtailing of civil liberties. In the 1960's and 1970's many radicals were spied on by the FBI's program COINTEL-PRO, as in the case of Mumia Abu Jamal. By the age of 15, the FBI had already opened a file on Mumia, a file that would grow to 800 pages. These blatant stomps on civil liberties along with America's history of institutional racism carried into recent times in the form of daily police brutality and racial profiling. The methods used by the government to penetrate left movements and silence people of color are the same, what has changed over time is their excuse.

The attacks on New York and Washington DC stimulated fear in many Americans, for the first time our nation felt what it is like to live in uncertainty. As a result of the attacks the U.S. government chose to bomb Afghanistan, so that other people can live in insecurity and fear. As America attacks Afghanistan threats of Anthrax and more terrorism in America dominates the news and conversations of our lives. Newspapers meagerly report the racist attacks on Arabs, Muslims and people of color who fit the "new" description. These attacks are not only coming from the rednecks of America, they are coming from the U.S. government.

Racial profiling of people who look Middle Eastern or Muslim is justified now under the guise of "security." Furthermore, people who speak out against war are being targeted by state agencies. At City College and Brooklyn College discussions against the war were "condemned" by CUNY's chancellor. It is not just black men who are being racially profiled, it's Arabs, Muslims, and Activists.

Same Enemy, Same Fight: Anti-Globalization meets Anti-War Movement

Before September 11, 2001 there was a huge and growing movement of anti-globalization activists. Despite the apathy that is depicted of youth in the media, there is an increasing amount of politicized young people. The World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund has not been able to meet without thousands of people questioning their policies and demanding an end to exploitation and world debt. Recent demonstrations in Quebec, Genoa and Sweden have swelled to 100,000+ demonstrators.



On Sept. 29, 2001, 20,000 people demonstrated against racism, war and globalization

These activists are comprised of a variety of tendencies, including anarchists, communists, environmentalists, trade unionists and concerned conscious people of the world. These activists have not turned a blind eye to the events of last month, instead we would like to prevent it from ever happening again.

The bombing of Afghanistan or any country will not stop terrorism or the sentiment that produces third world terrorists. The anti-globalization movement is asking like so many Americans, why did this happen? why us? This is a question that can be answered by examining the history of the United States.

Millions of innocent people have been killed as a result of U.S. foreign policy. Americans are asking for retribution and retaliation following the WTC attacks. Though it seems that Americans do not realize that the families of the victims of U.S. wars would like retribution also. Those families of the millions lost as a result of U.S. foreign policy have never received retribution, revenge or reparations. The slaves who died being forced into America never received retribution or reparations. The Japanese who were the targets of the atomic bombs never received retribution or reparations. The starving children of Iraq, a direct result of the U.S. led sanctions that block food and basic medicine from coming in the country is the dominant view of what Third World people see of America. The anti-globalization activists also see these abhorrent acts committed by our own government, in our name, and we do not want the same thing to happen in Afghanistan.

Made in Afghanistan: Coming Soon, IMF/WTO Open up shop in Afghanistan

Afghanistan is a poor country, led by an oppressive government. After the bombing, surely the Taliban will be destroyed along with many innocent lives, but what will remain? Afghanistan will certainly have a new government put in place by the United States, similar to how the Taliban came into power in the first place. That government will have nothing, the country will have nothing, the people will have nothing. Cleverly, the U.S. will have an answer to "aid" the suffering people of Afghanistan. The answer, as it has

been in every country will be the IMF and the WTO.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) are the facilitators of neocolonialism. How they work is first a country must be:

1. really poor, either because it was bombed, invaded or the U.S. has collapsed the poor country's market.

2. Next, the leaders of the poor country need money and capital to build up their own country and fill their pockets.

3. A loan is given to them by the IMF and/or WTO which is supposed to "aid" the poor citizens of that country.

4. When the loan is given to the poor country the leaders have to agree to certain binding stipulations, such as interest rates and "structural adjustments". Structural adjustment is a fancy term for signing over your country to the United States. The structural adjustments include:

-ending government subsidies (such as basic nutrition for children, i.e. milk, bread),

-ending any environmental laws which protect the poor countries natural resources so that the U.S. government can exploit those resources

-opening up the poor country's labor market to the United States (i.e. sweatshops, slave and child labor).

5. Obviously these structural adjustments inhibit any "aid" to the poor and only oppress people further and send a developing country on a downward spiral.

Neocolonialism (otherwise known as globalization), is what's going to happen to Afghanistan if this war continues. There will be no room for the people of Afghanistan to have the opportunity of self-determination. America will gain a new colony, a new labor market, and new resources to exploit.

Why Should You Care?

The growth of the anti-globalization movement and the rapid development of the anti-war movement goes hand in hand. The

continued on pg 10

Palestinian Families Write to Israeli Youths Refusing to Enlist: We Admire Your Courageous Decision

Palestine Media Center - PMC
<http://www.palestine-pmc.com>

Parents and siblings of ten Palestinian children and two Palestinian women killed by Israeli occupation soldiers in the past eleven months wrote to the sixty-two Israeli youths who have explicitly refused to enlist in the Israeli occupation army. Their letter of appreciation appears below:

We the undersigned, families of Palestinian children and women who were murdered by Israeli occupation soldiers have decided to write a letter of support and appreciation to the Israeli youths who have decided to reject serving in the Israeli occupation army. To those youths, who had informed their Prime minister, Ariel Sharon, that the Israeli occupation army's actions "are not only illegitimate, but also do not achieve their declared purpose - boosting the personal security of the citizens of [Israel]", we write to salute you for your courage and wisdom.

We realize that as youths, you would naturally feel an obligation to serve in its military and protect its citizens. However, we greatly value the high level of awareness you have demonstrated in your rejection to serve in the occupation military. We appreciate your realization that the tasks entrusted to the Israeli army are those of oppressing and killing another People, rather than protecting your own.

By sending your most eloquent letter to Ariel Sharon and Benyamin Ben Eliezer, you have expressed utmost courage and wisdom. As victims of the most horrifying campaign of murder and destruction, we felt relief to know that in Israel, there are youths who have come to realize what an immoral and suppressive campaign the Israeli government is waging against the Palestinian People, without consideration to their age or civilian status.

The Israeli occupation army is implementing a policy that has turned our lives into an endless story of suffering and tears. Our homes have been destroyed, our livelihoods shattered, and our sons, daughters, mothers, sisters, and wives killed in cold blood by Israeli occupation soldiers, one of whom you might have been.

As persons who have lost loved ones acts of senseless murder, perpetrated to protect the last occupying power in the world and prolong the oppression of an entire People, we salute you for refusing to stain your hands with innocent Palestinian blood. We extend to you our genuine support and pray that your decision will become one that many of your colleagues would adopt in the near future.

We close our letter with a prayer that with courageous youths like you, who have decided to play their part in ending this brutal occupation and its heart wrenching acts of murder and destruction, our two Peoples shall soon coexist in peace as neighbors in independent states. We wish you success and pray for your steadfastness.

Sincerely, Families of Palestinian Victims of Israeli violence.

1. Parents and siblings of Mohamed AL-Dura: Mohamed was 12 years old when he was shot to death in the Shuhada' junction (Netzarim) in Gaza on 30 September 2000. Mohamed was shot in his father's arm.

2. Parents and siblings of Iman Hijjo: 4 month-old Iman was killed in her mother's arm when Israeli occupation forces shelled the Khan Younis refugee camp on 7 May 2001. Iman was instantly killed when shrapnel tore through her tiny body and her mother was critically wounded.

3. Parents and siblings of Fares Odeh: 13 year-old Fares was killed near Al-Mintar crossing point, as he was going home from school on 8 November 2000.

4. Parents and siblings of Shahid and Malak Barakat: 4 year-old Malak (angel) and 7 year-old Shahid were killed when Israeli intelligence collaborators orchestrated an explosion that assassinated 24 year-old Hassan Al-Qadhi on 30 April 2001. The explosion leveled the two-story building in Ramallah, where the young victims and the targeted activist lived.

5. Parents and siblings of Bilal and Ashraf Khalil: 8 year-old Ashraf and 10 year-old Bilal were two of four other victims who were killed when Israel fired two missiles to assassinate Jamal Mansour and Jamal Salim while they were in their Press Office in Nablus City. The little boys were at their uncle's clinic, outside the residential building housing the press office is located.

6. Parents and siblings of Ahmed Qawasmeh: A Sworn eyewitness affidavit states that 15 year-old Ahmed was shot at point blank in the head by an Israeli soldier. The soldier, who had entered a Palestinian-controlled area in Hebron had been standing with his foot pressed against Ahmed's neck. He then shot him in the forehead at point blank. When a Palestinian man carried Ahmed towards the main road, the same soldier, along with others, stopped him, searched him and the injured boy at gunpoint, then allowed him to proceed.

7. Parents and Family of Ra'ed Daoud: 14 year-old Ra'ed was fatally shot with a live bullet in the chest in his hometown of Hares in the Salfit District.

8. Parents and siblings of Bashir Shalwit: 16 year-old Bashir was fatally shot with a live bullet in the chest in Qalqilya, his hometown.

9. Husband, children, and siblings of Rahme Hindi: 54 year-old Rahme (mercy) was instantly killed during the assassination of Hussein Obayat in Beit Sahour on 9 November 2000. She walking home when two missiles were fired at the activist's car driving on the same road, instantly killing him, Rahme, and another lady (Aziza Jubran).

10. Husband, children, and siblings of Aziza Jubra: 58 year-old Aziza was instantly killed on 9 November 2000 when Israeli occupation forces assassinated Hussein Obyata

NOT IN OUR SON'S NAME

Parents who lost their son at the

World Trade Center attack write letter against war

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

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

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

Copy of letter to White House:

Dear President Bush:

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Phyllis and Orlando Rodriguez

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



Don't Just Mourn, Organize Against War and Racism!

ROY ROLLIN

The now all too familiar scenes of September 11th are indeed horrific to say the least. Thousands of working people, of all races, religions and nationalities, are presumed to be dead under the ruins of what used to be the Twin Towers. However, the real tragedy of the attack is that American working people are paying a price in blood for the policies of the American government...without most of them even understanding why. Those who stare in disbelief at the ruins and wreckage at Ground Zero and ask how or why such events could happen need to recall that similar such scenes of death and destruction took place on a daily basis in Belgrade in 1999 and in Baghdad in 1991, both at the hands of the US and its allies. If hundreds of NYC's heroic fire-fighters perished at the WTC in just a few hours on September 11, think of how many suffered the same fate in Belgrade and Baghdad, where the bombing went on for months. Yet then there were no heart-rendering or soul-searching interviews with the survivors, only excuses from the perpetrators that their bombs were too "smart" to have ever caused such "collateral damage". While none of this in any way, shape or form justifies the indiscriminate mass terror that took place at the WTC, it does help to explain why such events could, in fact, take place, and why the the bi-partisan war drive now under way, if it is carried to its logical conclusion, an armed attack on America's ex-allies in Afghanistan, will only lead to more of the same at some point in the not so distant future. Almost as if to guarantee it, both Houses of Congress gave Bush what amounts to be a blank check to wage war anywhere he sees fit, going further than they did in 1964 when they passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution (based on an "attack" that never even took place) that allowed President Johnson to escalate the Vietnam war. As to be expected, Democrats not only went along with Bush, but sought to outdo him at every step of the way in saber-rattling and war-mongering. Gone is even their token opposition to Star Wars/Missile Defense and to Bush's using Social Security to finance it. Liberals will, no doubt, wring their hands in despair and say that those who fail to learn from the mistakes of the past will repeat them in the present. The truth is, however, that for America's ruling rich these are not mistakes. And that is precisely why they continue to occur over and over again, only in different parts of the world each time. For the government, they only become "mistakes" when they lose like they did in Vietnam.

In spite of all the tirades and tongue-lashings against "terrorism" by the politicians and the press, the US government has long been the world's foremost practitioner of it, especially after the US emerged from WWII as

the new top cop for global capitalism. To set the stage for what was to be the "American Century" the US dropped two atomic bombs on Japan even though they already knew that the Japanese were suing for peace. The US waged bloody wars of counter-revolution in Korea and Indochina, which they called "police actions" in which civilians were fair game every step of the way, be it on the ground or from the air. America invaded the Dominican Republic, backed a botched invasion of Cuba, and sponsored "low-intensity" proxy wars in Angola, Cambodia and in Afghanistan, where their allies included the genocidal Pol Pot regime and both the current poster boy of "international terrorism" Osama Bin Laden and his Taliban protectors. The CIA helped overthrow democratically-elected

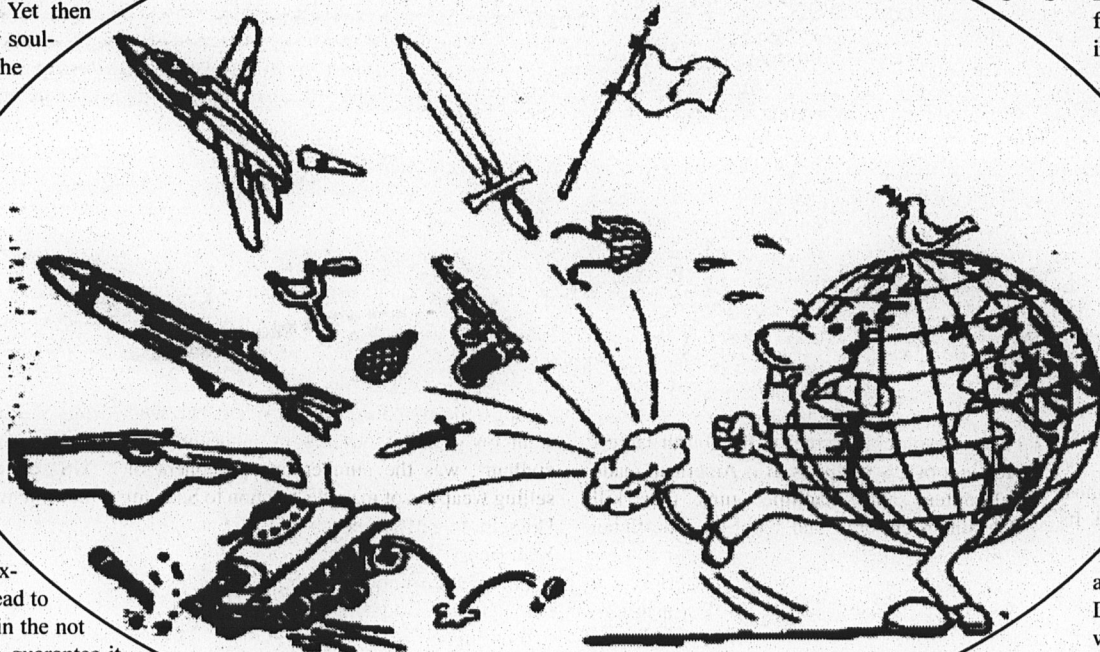
"democrats" as the Shah of Iran, the Emir of Kuwait and the Saudi monarchy but has stood behind every act of Israeli aggression against the Arab world in general and the Palestinians in particular. All so that the same bosses and bankers who exploit workers here can do the same throughout the rest of the world where it's even cheaper to do so and control the natural resources, ie, Middle Eastern oil, of the world as well. So should it come as a surprise that millions of people around the world, victims of a US dominated "global economy" echoed Malcolm X's response to the assassination of cold warrior and counterrevolutionary John F Kennedy that the chickens had come home to roost when they saw or heard about the bombings of the WTC.

For the American people, however, the outrageous acts of the eleventh have allowed the U S

seen fit to print is that deemed printable by the President.

Of course the only "freedom" both bosses parties and their pals in the WTO, IMF and World Bank have in mind is the freedom for America's ruling rich to exploit and oppress workers, to buy and sell anything and everything they can get their hands on; from raw materials to whole countries, continents and peoples. As for freedom from want; that is the right to a decent job and home, healthcare and education, a non-toxic environment...that is the last kind of freedom they have on their minds because it threatens their profits, privileges and power. Prosperity? American workers today work more hours for less money than at any time in the last thirty years, a period which has seen a steady decline in wages and living standards at the same time that profits reached record levels and inequality came to resemble that seen during the Great Depression. Bush also says that he is fighting for "justice". "Justice" like Bush administered in Texas where he sent more people to the gas chamber than anyone since Hitler (or Tom Ridge). "Justice" like that meted out to Mumia Abu-Jamal and thousands of other innocent men and women languishing on death row or to the millions of Black youth Clinton had locked up under the pretext of waging a war on drugs. If millions around the world hate the US, or rather the US government, it is because American corporate control of the world economy denies them freedom, prosperity and justice. The bumbling Bush was far closer to the truth when he spoke of leading a "crusade", for as Sidney Greenstreet pointed out to Humphrey Bogart in "Casablanca", the Crusades were above all else about loot. Were Bush and the Democrats so concerned with "justice" they would be compensating the victims and their families rather than using the money to make even more victims. And they would be worried about saving airline workers jobs rather than giving handouts to airline owners. With the economy heading even further into decline, the orgy of chauvinist hysteria that now prevails couldn't have come at a better time for what was an unpopular administration. No doubt, Bush hopes it will last to the next presidential elections; he's already talking of ten years worth! Amidst all the flag waving, who will even bother to consider that the billions Bush and the Democrats plan to spend on the war machine will be coming out of Social Security funds. Needless to say, Star Wars/Missile Defense is now a foregone conclusion, as the American people will be getting guns not butter. Not only is patriotism the last refuge of scoundrels but the same patriots who wave the flag with one hand will pick our pockets with the other.

The flip-side of all the flag-waving is anti-Arab racism, already deeply ingrained in popular culture courtesy of Hollywood. Indeed, since the collapse of the USSR, Arab "terrorists" have replaced Russian "Communists" as the number bad guys in movies and on TV. Just as Japanese-Americans



governments in Iran, Guatemala and Chile, backed coups in Indonesia, Guyana and Brazil as well and supported and trained nearly every torture chamber regime in the third world. They even aided Sadaam Hussein, previously public enemy number one, when he first came to power in the early 60's so that he could crush the Iraqi Communist Party. The CIA also murdered Patrice Lumumba in the Congo and attempted to knock off Cuba's Fidel Castro on numerous occasions throughout the sixties. During the 1980s and 90s alone, the US invaded Lebanon, Grenada, Panama and Somalia and bombed Libya, Iraq, the Sudan, Afghanistan and Yugoslavia. They have been blockading Cuba for almost forty years and their sanctions against Iraq have left as many as 500,000 children dead. Currently the US is backing the Columbian military and its death squads in their war against the revolution there and US Navy continues to bomb Vieques despite the overwhelming desire of its population that they stop and get out as soon as possible. Insofar as the Middle East goes, the US not only has backed such

government to posture as defenders of "good vs. evil"; as victims rather than victimizers. They have helped to rally large segments of the American population behind a government that many rightly regarded as not only being hostile to their interests but downright illegitimate, as it wasn't even elected in the first place. Bush and his buddies claim that the terrorists, who ever they may be, all envy our "freedom" and "prosperity". Yet at the same time they talk of "freedom", they are ready to take away as many of our freedoms as they can by empowering their secret police with further powers of surveillance; picking up where Clinton left off with his "anti-Terrorism" and "effective death penalty" legislation. Needless to say these will be directed first and foremost at suppressing whatever domestic dissent that arises in opposition to their war drive. In this they are being egged on by the pundits of the press, which from the start has been talking of "trading freedoms for security". For the "mainstream", "responsible" and "free" press, owned lock, stock and barrel by the same people who own the politicians, the only news

were made to pay for Pearl Harbor by being rounded up into concentration camps during WWII, Arab-Americans are now being scapegoated for the attacks on the WTC. Many have been already attacked; at least four have been killed. And racist violence has not been "limited" to Arabs; anyone even looking like one has become a suspect to the xenophobic mind-set. Is this the kind of "freedom" America fights for? To ask the question is to answer it. Yet the Arab-American community has as much to do with the likes of Bin Laden as those killed at the WTC had to do with those in the White House. Besides Bin Laden, like his Taliban protectors, if they are even responsible for this horrific action, were the creations of the US in their counter-revolutionary cold-war crusade against the USSR in Afghanistan. Both were the recipients of huge sums of money out of the pockets of American taxpayers, money that could of, and should have, gone to meet the needs of American workers and poor instead...only the then Democrat-controlled congress was no less gung-ho then they are today as a minority looking to outdo Bush in war-mongering. And the author the last big act of terrorism on American soil, Timothy McVeigh, was not only American born and bred, but mastered mass murder in the US Army under the command of Colin Powell and Dick Cheney in George Bush Sr.'s war against Iraq.

"America United" is now the cry on all the politicians and pundits' lips. But "national unity" is just a scam to hoodwink working people into supporting Bush's drive towards war. The American people have nothing to gain and everything to lose in doing so. Workers, not their bosses, will pay for any war and needless to say they will fight and die in it as well, especially now that the generals are willing to accept casualties. If and when the smoke clears "terrorism" will still be around, regardless of what happens to Bin Laden, for the simple reason that the underlying causes of

it will still be around; continued imperialist exploitation of the world's workers and wealth with all the resentment that that entails. And so too will the rising unemployment, falling wages and living standards, homelessness, racism and police brutality, sexism and homophobia that run rampant in America today. All the flag-waving and breast-beating

workers blood. Workers may fall but profits will rise; the only stocks to do well the day the markets re-opened were "defense" related.

Yet in spite of all their best efforts to stir up support for war, the press is complaining that those who bore the brunt of the attack, the people of New York, are not as gungo-ho as they should be. Those workers who rushed to

precisely those feelings that competitive capitalism tries hardest to suppress. The thousands of youth who attended peace vigils and anti-war teach-ins and who demonstrated in the streets against war in addition to defending the Muslim community against racist attacks have shown much the same spirit; indeed they have carried it a step further by giving it a political face. So too have unions like 1199 and UE which passed anti-war resolutions.

If and when that spirit is extended to embrace class struggle politics, as was beginning to happen with the Battle of Seattle, a different US will be possible, a socialist America where solidarity with workers around the world becomes the rule rather than the exception. That kind of America will no longer be a target, at least not of the exploited and oppressed internationally. But if that is to even have a chance of happening opponents of imperialism and racism cannot and must not remain silent and inactive. Not to stand up to the war drive is to be swept up in it. We must tell the truth no matter how unpopular that truth may be for many to hear. Already the mainstream reformists and trade union tops have called off the anti-IMF/World Bank demonstrations scheduled for the end of the month under the guise of showing respect for the dead. AFL-CIO chief Sweeney even gave Bush a green light to go ahead with his war drive. But unless we begin to organize a massive and united anti-war movement, linked to the ongoing struggles against globalization (for imperialism leads to war like fall leads to winter), against racism, police brutality and the death penalty there will be many more dead to mourn for.



in the world won't put a single scrap of food on the table or a roof over anyone's head. So while the pundits can claim that "everything has changed" the fact is that nothing fundamental has or will change in so far as the US being a country of by and for then rich, whose rulers will fight to the last drop of

donate blood, food and other relief supplies to the victims, who came from all over to try to rescue those trapped in the rubble and, who, in the case of the firefighters, even gave their lives to do so, showed by their actions that another America exists, that of solidarity and self-sacrifice, of co-operation and caring;

U.S. Is Biggest Arms Dealer In the World

LEV BRONSTEIN

U.S. talk about stopping terrorism is nothing but shameful hypocrisy intended to fool the American people. The U.S. produces the most weapons of mass destruction in the world. Its annual military budget of some \$350 billion is more than the budgets of all the other industrialized nations combined. It is not content with producing the most weapons; it is the biggest dealer of weapons of mass destruction in the world. From 1993 to 1997 under Clinton, the U.S. sold, approved, or gave away \$190 billion in weapons to virtually every nation on earth. In turn the arms industry gave the Democratic Party nearly \$2 million for the 1998 elections. The U.S. also has no problem in selling arms to undemocratic states known for human rights violations like Saudi Arabia, Colombia and Indonesia to name a few. At the same time the US defense industry laid off 795,000 workers between 1992-1997. General Dynamics made a deal with Turkey, another human rights violator, to supply 160 F-16 planes with the condition that most of the planes be built in Turkey. Lockheed Martin similarly is planning to build facilities in Central Europe for the building of fighter planes. At the same time US taxpayers have been forced to pay over \$856 million to cover the cost of defense corporation mergers. The Lockheed/Martin Marietta merger cost US taxpayers \$405 million alone. Another nasty practice of the US arms establishment is the arming of both sides of a conflict. This was the case during the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s but also includes US Nato allies Greece and Turkey who engage in skirmishes in the island

of Cyprus. Israel plays prominently in US policy in the Middle East as a way of "securing energy resources". Israel is the fourth largest recipient of US weapons. It is American made helicopters and machine guns that kill Palestinian children and blow up Palestinian homes in Israeli occupied territories. Palestinian and Arab hatred of America may have something to do with this. Israel in turn resells arms to other countries most notoriously South Africa when apartheid was still in place but also China who the US accuses of violating human rights. Israel is ranked the 7th largest arms dealer in the world. What the US government calls the Near East (18 North African and Persian Gulf states) is named by the Grimmet report as the "largest purchasing region in the developing world". Iraq, which Bush Sr. went to war with for producing weapons of mass destruction, was a major recipient of weapons of mass destruction from the US. When US led allied forces bombed more than 30 chemical and biological weapons facilities in Iraq, much of the deadly toxins released into the upper atmosphere only to fall back down on the heads of US forces were manufactured with the generous support of US firms and top US politicians. Indeed just a year before the US attacked Iraq for being a "rogue state" Pentagon officials invited key Iraqi military technicians to a special conference in Portland, Oregon that amounted to a crash course in how to detonate a nuclear bomb. According to a 1990 report, "The Poison Gas Connection," produced by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, at least 18 US companies contributed to the build up of the Iraqi chemical weapons arsenal. Hewlett-

Packard, Honeywell and Sperry/Unisys were amongst these. Indeed George W's father, who went on to kill thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians, was the number one proponent of selling weapons of mass destruction to Saddam Hussein. In a 1992 speech on the House floor, Rep. Henry Gonzalez baldly stated, "The Bush administration deliberately, not inadvertently, helped to arm Iraq by allowing US technology to be shipped to Iraqi military and to Iraqi defense factories. Throughout the course of the Bush administration, US and foreign firms were granted export licenses to ship US technology directly to Iraqi weapons facilities despite ample evidence showing that these

The Clinton administration joined in the cover-up and officially ended the investigation. Throughout the 1980s it was well known by US officials in the Reagan and Bush administrations that Saddam Hussein was gassing Kurds in his own country and Iranian soldiers in the war with Iran but enthusiastically helped him to build his arsenals. The so-called Gulf War syndrome refers to a myriad of illnesses that have resulted from exposure to chemical and biological agents during Bush Sr.'s subsequent war against Saddam Hussein. Gulf War veterans have filed a multi-billion dollar class action lawsuit in federal court in Galveston, Texas, against companies that supplied Iraq with dual use technology. Among the companies named are Bechtel, M.W. Kellogg, Dresser Industries, and Interchem Inc. Not only the US but also other NATO allies - Germany, Austria, UK and Italy were also heavily involved in supplying Saddam Hussein with "unconventional" weapons. It is a matter of some great urgency that the US public

Gulf War veterans have filed a multi-billion dollar class action lawsuit in federal court in Galveston, Texas, against companies that supplied Iraq with dual use technology.

factories were producing weapons." He stated further, "The president misled Congress and the public about the role US firms played in arming Iraq." Gonzalez conducted a 27-month investigation into Bush Sr.'s shady dealings with Saddam Hussein. He found that more than \$5 billion had been funneled through the Atlanta based Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) to the Iraqi's almost half of which was directly used for Iraq's arms build up. The Bush administration attempted to stymie the Justice Departments investigation into the banks dealings to cover up its involvement.

is fully aware of the deadly games that their politicians and companies play in order to secure profit and power. By using the flag to whip up patriotism the politicians send US working class youth to war, to kill and be killed, with and by US weapons, for the further enrichment of the billionaire capitalists. Clearly the struggle of the US working class is not with other workers and poor people abroad but with the lying profiteers that create war right here in the US.

Reason and Thought Under Attack

V.J.

These are dark days in the U.S.. Terror bombings and sinister rumours of more death and destruction within and outside our shores occupy the psyche of many ordinary people. Fear is a natural response to the events of September 11th. However fear is also the raw material for demagogues who would like to exploit peoples emotions. This fear that has gripped the U.S. is manifesting itself in several important ways. Fear of some unknown murderous force is fueling racism across the country. Dark skinned people or foreign looking people are being lumped together as some sort of potential "enemy within". Anti-immigrant sentiment and racial profiling are the stuff of mainstream thinking in the respectable media and amongst respectable people of society. Fascist and white supremacist elements in society as well as simply psychologically unbalanced people are using this mass fear as a way of murdering and maiming innocents simply because they constitute the "other". The "other" has been broadly illdefined by the Bush administration and the Congress as Muslims. Despite occasional statements to the contrary, condemning racist attacks and so forth, the main thrust of the rhetoric coming out of the halls of power in the U.S. is that Muslims are collectively responsible. Thousands of FBI and other government agents are scouring Muslim and Arab neighborhoods arresting people without evidence. Bush and Congress have disclosed to the public that "war has been declared" and that is is a "global war against terrorism" and that this war if of "undetermined length" and will require the "ending of states" that are alleged to harbor terrorists. A great deal of such

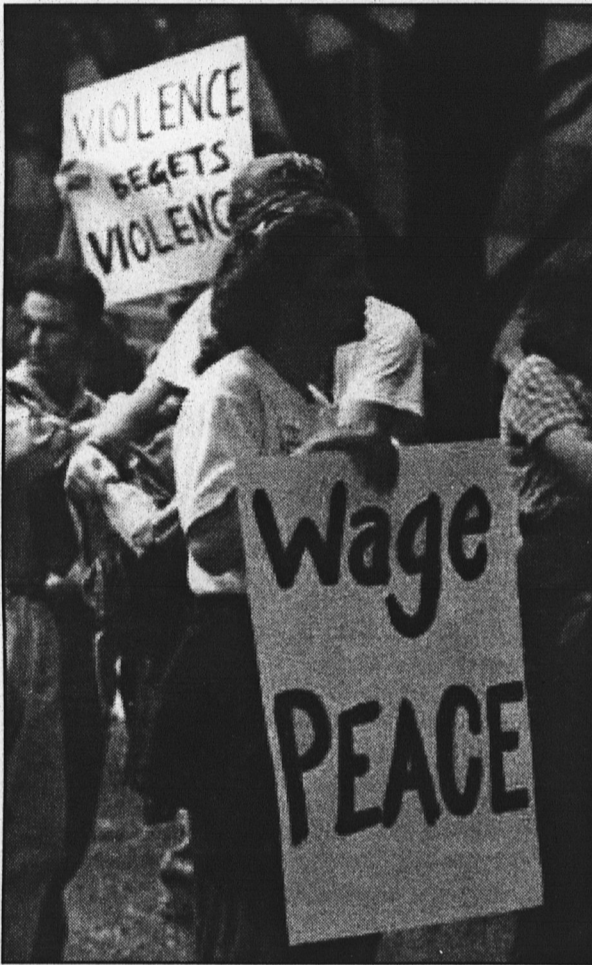
Let our memorial to the innocents lost be our determination that no more innocents will die here or anyplace else in the world. Let us put an end to nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction worldwide. We cannot be the biggest arms dealer and arms stockpiler and arms user in the world and expect others to do differently. Let us set the example of peace and social justice by bettering our own society.

ominous but very vague rhetoric is streaming out of the halls of power. Osama Bin Laden has been singled out as the arch terrorist who organizes terror activity worldwide from some mountain hideout. The problem here is that much is being said and done, in short preparation for war, without any clear explanation to the public about who the enemy is and what the enemy demands. The rule of law an important democratic principle is being cast aside because this is the time for war. An undefined enemy could in other words be anybody, any state, any group, etc. This sets up a dynamic which could lead us

down the road to the undermining of the very democratic principles for which we are being asked to possibly sacrifice our lives for. The enemy is perceived as Arab Muslims today, North Koreans tomorrow and Cubans the day after. It is the logic of inquisition and witch hunting. Everybody stands to lose. The word Terrorism itself is being bandied about irresponsibly, demagogically without any attempt to define its origins its existence and how it could be done away with. Power answers terror with terror. Those of us who value human life and do not wish to be caught in between this terror war must demand clearer answers and for that there has to be the room to discuss amongst ourselves as a country the issue of terror and violence. It is this room to think and discuss the important life and death issues before us that has become virtually non-existent in the popular media. The government of Republicans and Democrats themselves set up this totalitarian mentality by stating their unity of purpose in pursuing war without a thorough discussion and examination of the facts. For fear of losing public support for this war, a monolithic face is presented to the public. We are told only what they determine we need to know. They are content to leave us emotional and vulnerable rather than informed and self determining. Echoes of Hitler's Germany and Stalinist police

states are finding their way to our shores. There is an unspoken code of speech and behaviour that is establishing itself across the land. We must all be distraught, we must all brandish flags, we must all rally behind the president, we must not question what it is that has happened to us. It is enough to know that a terrible calamity has befallen us and now we need to feel very patriotic and allow the President to deliver us from this evil. Can we question why the policeman who killed an unarmed black man in Cincinnati was not indicted despite massive anger within the black community there? No,

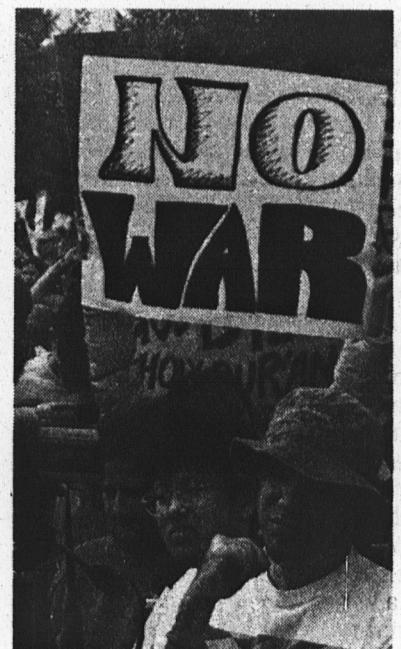
the police are heroes. Forget Amadou Diallo, Abner Louima, Rodney King and the countless other victims of police terror. Can we question the mass layoffs by Fortune 500 companies that is wreaking even more pain throughout the land? No, this is not the time, this is the time for war. Can we question Mayor Giuliani for his policies that have created



an even more racially and economically polarized city? No, we can't because he is a hero. In fact he doesn't even need to follow city law concerning elections because he is a hero. Our right to privacy on our telephones, internet and so forth are being whisked away. But we can't really question it because we are at war. As a person of color can you question being unjustly attacked verbally, physically or legally? Well, you gotta understand this is war there will be some misfortune. New Yorkers are legend for speaking their mind but not these days. We must all be quiet and wave flags.

The Orwellian reality we live in today is marked by a total disruption of the apparent vis a vis the real. Appearance is more important than truth, in fact it is truth. As long as we wear a flag, make a donation, sing the national anthem tearfully, we are good and true. It does not matter if we as a nation are blindly paving the way for more horrors. For all those mysterious unknowns there is faith in God and faith in Country. It was a similar mix of such mystical fallacies that led the German people down the road of further disaster.

In these dark times the torch of reason, the flame of democratic debate, discussion and information is extremely vital. Thought is more important than it has been in the U.S. for a long time. The lack of any wars or horrors like September 11th happening on our soil had allowed us to become complacent and perhaps even callous to the suffering of others. If anything is impressed upon our minds now after this tragedy it is the vulnerability and great value of human life. We grieve for our lost loved ones and friends and even if we knew no one there we understand that it could have been anyone of us - Christian, Muslim, Jew, Hindu, etc. Let us use this great emotion to illuminate our minds rather than cloud it. Let our memorial to the innocents lost be our determination that no more innocents will die here or anyplace else in the world. Let us put an end to nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction worldwide. We cannot be the biggest arms dealer and arms stockpiler and arms user in the world and expect others to do differently. Let us set the example of peace and social justice by bettering our own society. This road is not easy there are the billionaire capitalists in our own society who profit from arms, proliferation and global injustice. We must give them an ultimatum as well as those who use their weapons or follow their policies. Put the \$350 billion a year on building weapons of mass destruction to build schools, hospitals, provide jobs, eradicate poverty, homelessness and every other unnecessary degradation human beings are forced to suffer here and around the world. It is only through this struggle and not war that we can bring about peace and brotherhood throughout the world.



10 Reasons Why There Is Terrorism

1. The U.S. government has been using our tax dollars to finance and arm terrorists like the Taliban and Osama Bin Laden in the name of fighting communism.
2. Big Oil Companies try to take control over other peoples resources to gain greater profits.
3. U.S. policy gives \$6 billion dollars of American tax payer money to Israel to maintain an illegal occupation over the lands of Palestinians.
4. The U.S. has military bases in other countries all over the world.
5. U.S. agencies like the CIA supports the covert and overt murder of trade unionists, peasant leaders and other popular figures around the world.
6. U.S. foreign policy has been hijacked by a tiny corporate elite of billionaires who only care about profits and are willing to kill anyone who stands in their way.
7. The U.S. military has bombed and killed people in Iraq, Yugoslavia, Sudan, Afghanistan and Somalia just in the last 10 years.
8. U.S. policy has been trying to starve people through embargoes on Iraq, Cuba, North Korea, Libya, Afghanistan.
9. The U.S. is the biggest maker and seller of weapons of mass destruction in the world including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.
10. The U.S. creates resentment in people all over the world for acting like they own the world.

10 Reasons Why We Should Oppose War

1. War will not bring back to life the innocent killed.
2. Killing innocent people in another country is an insult to the memory of the innocents lost in this country.
3. War will not bring peace but possibly retaliation against more innocent people in the U.S.
4. War is in the interests of the Big Oil Companies and Big Military Companies not of ordinary working class Americans.
5. War will not destroy terrorism but will make it grow.
6. War will hurt innocent women, children and the elderly not the terrorists.
7. War will fuel more racism and poverty in the U.S.
8. War will allow Bush and Congress an excuse to take away our constitutional rights.
9. War will not make the world safer.
10. War will not solve the great inequality and suffering in the world but only make it worse.

FACT SHEET

U.S. Military Budget Still the World's Largest, and Growing

By Christopher Hellman
-Senior Analyst

Hungary	\$0.8
Sudan	\$0.4

July 16, 2001

Last of the Big Time Spenders:

Selected Countries	Military Budget
United States	\$343.2 Bill
Russia*	\$56.0
Japan	\$45.6
China*	\$39.5
United Kingdom	\$34.5
France	\$27.0
Germany	\$23.3
Saudi Arabia	\$18.7
Italy	\$16.0
Brazil*	\$16.0
India	\$15.9
South Korea	\$12.8
Taiwan	\$12.8
Turkey	\$7.7
Canada	\$7.6
Iran	\$7.5
Australia	\$7.1
Israel	\$7.0
Spain	\$7.0
Netherlands	\$6.2
Greece	\$3.3
Pakistan	\$3.3
Poland	\$3.2
Norway	\$2.9
Kuwait	\$2.6
Belgium	\$2.5
Egypt	\$2.5
Denmark	\$2.3
Syria	\$1.8
Portugal	\$1.6
Iraq*	\$1.4
North Korea	\$1.3
Yugoslavia	\$1.3
Czech Republic	\$1.2
Libya	\$1.2
Vietnam	\$1.0
Cuba*	\$0.8

Figures are for latest year available, usually 2000. Expenditures are used in a few cases where official budgets are significantly lower than actual spending.

* 1999 Funding

Table prepared by Center for Defense Information.

Sources: International Institute for Strategic Studies, Department of Defense

"For 45 years of the Cold War we were in an arms race with the Soviet Union. Now it appears we're in an arms race with ourselves."

Admiral Eugene Carroll, Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.) Deputy Director Center for Defense Information

Prepared by the Center for Defense Information

Ph: (202) 332-0600/Fax: (202) 462-4559

Enjoy Coke...Or Die

Coca Cola Sponsors Death Squads In Colombia

Coca Cola, the world renowned soft drink maker, with its happy jingles, is accused of hiring death squads to kill trade union organizers in Colombia. The evidence of its links to right-wing paramilitary groups and the murder of several trade union leaders is so strong that even an American union, the United Steel Workers of America (USWA), has filed a lawsuit against Coca Cola. Coca Cola is a multi-billion dollar transnational corporation (TNC) with factories and distribution centers all over the world. The sugary sweet syrup in the red and silver can that is its leading product is ubiquitous in all parts of the world. Before this the only crime Coca Cola could be accused of was spreading a nutritionally worthless and even harmful product all over the world. Now murder is being added to its portfolio. Colombia is the most dangerous country in the world for trade unionists with over 9000 organizers having been murdered over the past 10 years. Right wing paramilitary groups are routinely used by Colombian companies and foreign TNCs to murder trade unionists who try to organize workers. Coca Cola has been identified as a company that

engages in such practices by the Colombian trade union movement for some time. The U.S. government gave \$1.4 billion in military aid to the Colombian government last year despite the massive human rights abuses committed and tolerated under its reign. The U.S. has done nothing to put pressure or prosecute Coca Cola for murdering trade unionists. Instead the U.S. is giving billions of US tax payer money to a government that is known to be supported by big cocaine dealers and whose military is connected to death squads. Ironically the U.S. gave this money in the name of "waging a war on drugs". The real intention of U.S. policy is to eradicate the socialist peasant armies that have developed in the Colombian countryside to defend the poor and landless against Colombia's big coca growers, cattle ranchers and their paramilitary death squads. The U.S. government carries out these policies without informing the American people causing people abroad to hate America and people within America to become susceptible to retaliation.

BACKLASH AND BACKTRACK



EDWARD SAID

For the seven million Americans who are Muslims (only two million of them Arab) and have lived through the catastrophe and backlash of 11 September, it's been a harrowing, especially unpleasant time. In addition to the fact that there have been several Arab and Muslim innocent casualties of the atrocities, there is an almost palpable air of hatred directed at the group as a whole that has taken many forms. George W Bush immediately seemed to align America and God with each other, declaring war on the "folks" — who are now, as he says, wanted dead or alive — who perpetrated the horrible deeds. And this means, as no one needs any further reminding, that Osama Bin Laden, the elusive Muslim fanatic who represents Islam to the vast majority of Americans, has taken centre stage. TV and radio have run file pictures and posted accounts of the shadowy (former playboy, they say) extremist almost incessantly, as they have of the Palestinian women and children caught "celebrating" America's tragedy.

Pundits and hosts refer non-stop to "our" war with Islam, and words like "jihad" and "terror" have aggravated the understandable fear and anger that seem widespread all over the country. Two people (one a Sikh) have already been killed by enraged citizens who seem to have been encouraged by remarks like Defence Department official Paul Wolfowitz's to literally think in terms of "ending countries" and nuking our enemies. Hundreds of Muslim and Arab shopkeepers, students, *hijab*-ed women and ordinary citizens have had insults hurled at them, while posters and graffiti announcing their imminent death spring up all over the place. The director of the leading Arab-American organisation told me this morning that he averages 10 messages an hour of insult, threat, bloodcurdling verbal attack. A Gallup poll released yesterday states that 49 per cent of the American people said yes (49 per cent no) to the idea that Arabs, including those who are American citizens, should carry special identification; 58 per cent demand (41 per cent don't) that Arabs, including those who are Americans, should undergo special, more intense security checks in general.

Then, the official bellicosity slowly diminishes as George W discovers that his allies are not quite as unrestrained as he is, as (undoubtedly) some of his advisers, chief among them the altogether more sensible-seeming Colin Powell, suggest that invading Afghanistan is not quite as simple as sending in the Texas militias might have been, even as the enormously confused reality forced on him and his staff dissipates the simple Manichean imagery of good versus evil that he has been maintaining on behalf of his people. A noticeable de-escalation sets in, even though reports of police and FBI harassment of Arabs

and Muslim continue to flood in. Bush visits a Washington mosque; he calls on community leaders and the Congress to damp down hate speech; he starts trying to make at least rhetorical distinctions between "our" Arab and Muslim friends (the usual ones — Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia) and the still undisclosed terrorists. In his speech to the joint session of Congress, Bush did say that the US is not at war with Islam, but said regrettably nothing about the rising wave of both incidents and rhetoric that has assailed Muslims, Arabs and people resembling Middle Easterners all across the country. Powell here and there expresses displeasure with Israel and Sharon for exploiting the crisis by oppressing Palestinians still more, but the general impression is that US policy is still on the same course it has always been on — only now a huge war seems to be in the making.

But there is little positive knowledge of the Arabs and Islam in the public sphere to fall back on and balance the extremely negative images that float around: the stereotypes of lustful, vengeful, violent, irrational, fanatical people persist anyway. Palestine as a cause has not yet gripped the imagination here, especially not after the Durban conference. Even my own university, justly famous for its intellectual diversity and the heterogeneity of its students and staff, rarely offers a course on the Qur'an. Philip Hitti's *History of the Arabs*, by far the best modern, one-volume book in English on the subject, is out of print. Most of what is available is polemical and adversarial: the Arabs and Islam are occasions for controversy, not cultural and religious subjects like others. Film and TV are packed with horrendously unattractive, bloody-minded Arab terrorists; they were there, alas, before the terrorists of the World Trade Center and Pentagon hijacked the planes and turned them into instruments of a mass slaughter that reeks of criminal pathology much more than of any religion.

There seems to be a minor campaign in the print media to hammer home the thesis that "we are all Israelis now," and that what has occasionally occurred in the way of Palestinian suicide bombs is more or less exactly the same as the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. In the process, of course, Palestinian dispossession and oppression are simply erased from memory; also erased are the many Palestinian condemnations of suicide bombing, including my own. The overall result is that any attempt to place the horrors of what occurred on 11 September in a context that includes US actions and rhetoric is either attacked or dismissed as somehow condoning the terrorist bombardment.

Intellectually, morally, politically such an attitude is disastrous since the equation between understanding and condoning is profoundly wrong, and very far from being true. What most Americans find difficult to believe is that in the Middle East and Arab world US actions as a state — unconditional support for Israel, the sanctions against Iraq that have spared Saddam Hussein and condemned hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis to death, disease, malnutrition, the bombing of Sudan, the US "green light" for Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon (during which almost 20,000 civilians lost their lives, in addition to the massacres of Sabra and Shatila), the use of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf generally as a private US fiefdom, the support of repressive Arab and Islamic regimes — are deeply resented and, not incorrectly, are seen as being done in the name of the American

people. There is an enormous gap between what the average American citizen is aware of and the often unjust and heartless policies that, whether or not he/she is conscious of them, are undertaken abroad. Every US veto of a UN Security resolution condemning Israel for settlements, the bombing of civilians, and so forth, may be brushed aside by, say, the residents of Iowa or Nebraska as unimportant events and probably correct, whereas to an Egyptian, Palestinian or Lebanese citizen these things are wounding in the extreme, and remembered very precisely.

In other words, there is a dialectic between specific US actions on the one hand and consequent attitudes towards America on the other hand that has literally very little to do with jealousy or hatred of America's prosperity, freedom, and all-round success in the world. On the contrary, every Arab or Muslim that I have ever spoken to expressed

mystification as to why so extraordinarily rich and admirable a place as America (and so likeable a group of individuals as Americans) has behaved internationally with such callous obliviousness of lesser peoples. Surely also, many Arabs and Muslims are aware of the hold on US policy of

the pro-Israeli lobby and the dreadful racism and fulminations of pro-Israeli publications like *The New Republic* or *Commentary*, to say nothing of bloodthirsty columnists like Charles Krauthammer, William Safire, George Will, Norman Podhoretz, and AM Rosenthal, whose columns regularly express hatred and hostility towards Arabs and Muslims. These are usually to be found in the mainstream media (e.g., the editorial pages of *The Washington Post*) where everyone can read them as such, rather than being buried in the back pages of marginal publications.

So we are living through a period of turbulent, volatile emotion and deep apprehension, with the promise of more violence and terrorism dominating consciousness, especially in New York and Washington, where the terrible atrocities of 11 September are still very much alive in the public awareness. I certainly feel it, as does everyone around me.

But what is nevertheless encouraging, despite the appalling general media performance, is the slow emergence of dissent, petitions for peaceful resolution and action, a gradually spreading, if still very spotty, relatively small demand for alternatives to more bombing and destruction. This kind of thoughtfulness has been very remarkable, in my opinion. First of all, there have been very widely expressed concerns about what may be the erosion of civil liberties and individual privacy as the government demands, and seems to be getting, the powers to wire-tap telephones, to arrest and detain Middle Eastern people on suspicion of terrorism, and generally to induce a state of alarm, suspicion, and mobilisation that could amount to paranoia

resembling McCarthyism. Depending on how one reads it, the American habit of flying the flag everywhere can seem patriotic of course, but patriotism can also lead to intolerance, hate crimes, and all sorts of unpleasant collective passion. Numerous commentators have warned about this and, as I said earlier, even the president in his speech said that "we" are not at war with Islam or Muslim people. But the danger is there, and has been duly noted by other commentators, I am happy to say.

Second, there have been many calls and meetings to address the whole matter of military action, which according to a recent poll, 92 per cent of the American people seem to want. Because, however, the administration hasn't exactly specified what the aims of this war are ("eradicating terrorism" is more metaphysical than it is actual), nor the means, nor the plan, there is considerable uncertainty as to where we may be going militarily. But



Israeli's harass a Palestinian woman. Is this what we want to see happen in America?

generally speaking the rhetoric has become less apocalyptic and religious — the idea of a crusade has disappeared almost completely — and more focused on what might be necessary beyond general words like "sacrifice" and "a long war, unlike any others." In universities, colleges, churches and meeting-houses there are a great many debates on what the country should be doing in response; I have even heard that families of the innocent victims have said in public that they do not believe military revenge is an appropriate response. The point is that there is considerable reflection at large as to what the US should be doing, but I am sorry to report that the time for a critical examination of US policies in the Middle East and Islamic worlds has not yet arrived. I hope that it will.

If only more Americans and others can grasp that the main long-range hope for the world is this community of conscience and understanding, that whether in the protection of constitutional rights, or in reaching out to the innocent victims of American power (as in Iraq), or in relying on understanding and rational analysis "we" can do a great deal better than we have so far done. Of course this won't lead directly to changed policies on Palestine, or a less skewed defence budget, or more enlightened environmental and energy attitudes: but where else but in this sort of decent back-tracking is there room for hope? Perhaps this constituency may grow in the United States, but speaking as a Palestinian, I must also hope that a similar constituency should be emerging in the Arab and Muslim world. We must start thinking about ourselves as responsible for the poverty, ignorance,

CONTINUED ON PG 10

MUSLIM AMERICAN STUDENT SPEAKS OUT AGAINST THE WTC ATTACKS AND WAR

GHANIM KAHLIL

AS A MUSLIM, I AM DEEPLY HURT AND SHOCKED ABOUT THE ATTACK ON THE WORLD TRADE CENTER. THIS ATTACK IS A SHAMEFUL DISPLAY OF HOW LOW SOME HUMAN BEINGS CAN GO. HUNDREDS OF MUSLIMS WHO WORKED IN THE WTC ALSO PERISHED. THE QUESTIONS ARE: WHY DID THIS HAPPEN? WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? WHAT CAN POSSIBLY TURN HUMAN BEINGS INTO FANATICS WHO CAUSE SO MUCH DESTRUCTION TO CIVILIANS? WHY HAVE THESE FANATICS TARGETTED AMERICA?

THE TRAGEDY

The attack on the WTC is indeed an attack on sanity and innocence. Humans are creatures of a dual nature (evil and good). The evil in us seems to have no bottom, but also, the good in us seems to have no top. Most of us are a mixture of both, but on occasion we witness people who are very good, as well as, people who are very evil. This nature is present in all of us regardless of our sex, religion or ideology, color, and culture. The attack on ordinary civilians, who do not at all govern or influence much of what goes on in the world, is truly evil.

THE REACTION

Other than shock and frustration, we are angry and full of vengeance. The people who suffer most are the ones who have lost their family and friends, and of course, the children. The rest of us can only sympathize and help them. We can only do so much, and Allah takes whomever He wants whenever He wants. To Him we owe thanks and to Him we turn for forgiveness. Many leaders all over the world have reacted positively to these attacks, pledging help one way or another. Let us hope that we can overcome hatred and violence, by practicing in times of emergency, what we preach in the times of peace.

THE CAUSE

The causes of these attacks are numerous. I believe that American foreign policy is one of them. We live in a "Super Power". "Super Powers" have the means and the motives to secure resources necessary to remain a "Super Power" in various parts of the world. "Super Powers" are also in competition with each other. In the 19th century, we were in competition with England. In most of the 20th century it was communist Russia. Now it seems to be China and in some cases, various European nations. Oil has been in great demand since it replaced coal. Much of the world's oil is located in the Middle East. And this is one reason why this region is a ground for competing nations. Muslims mostly occupy the Middle East. Many of them are sincerely religious, but most of the leaders are not. America is a secular nation. Secularism breaks life into two categories, (the sacred and profane). In Islam, life is sacred, and secularism is rejected as being rebellious to Allah. America has a history of supporting secular Middle East leaders and opposing religious ones. This has alienated the masses of Muslims in those nations. The US has also supported dictators like the Shah of Iran, who tortured and killed many innocent people. It

gave weapons to Iraq, so it could fight a brutal war with Iran. It supports the lavish Saudi regime. It supported King Hussein of Jordan, who massacred his own people. It promised Kurdish leaders help in time of military need, but backed out at the last minute, leaving many innocent Kurds to be slaughtered by their enemies. It gave aid to the Afghani's to fight the Soviets, but left the most immoral people in charge, which then fought each other and destroyed many towns and villages. The Allies slaughtered many Iraqi soldiers in the Gulf War who were either retreating or had surrendered. The US and UN sanctions on Iraq have caused thousands of children, women, and men to die each month for almost a decade. It also gives Israel Billions each year to keep the Palestinians oppressed and displaced as refugees. Many of the Muslims who live in the Middle East, North Africa, Central and South and East Asia, have in one way or another been negatively affected by America's involvement in their nations. Many Muslims of these nations have organized themselves and created Islamic organizations dedicated to reviving Islam. Naturally, America pressures nations to keep these movements in check, lest they unite and take power. All this has created a very Anti-American sentiment. In every religious society, there are fanatics or extremists. They believe in a cause and use violence to achieve their goals. Fanatical Muslims constitute less than 1% of the 1 billion Muslims in the world, but grab 99% of the attention in our media. These fanatics are the ones responsible for the heinous attack on the WTC. They are the ones America is now after, but it will kill many civilians to get to them.

GENERALIZATIONS AND STEREOTYPES

We are taught from an early age to generalize and stereotype people who are different from what we define as Americans. Movies, TV shows, magazines, books, and even cartoons display negative images of different cultures and races. To make it worse, elementary and high school textbooks, are full of orientalist bias towards non-Western civilizations. Its no wonder many Americans graduate with high marks but remain uneducated about other peoples of the world. The ignorant are the most weak, when it comes to anger and controlling the ego. These are the ones who use generalizations and stereotypes to justify their baseless views about the world and its problems.

THE BACK LASH

Already, some Americans have vented their anger upon Muslims, Jews, Hindu's, and Sikhs, who live in the US. Intolerance is rising as the media reports news about Arab terrorists. Because nationalism sometimes turns into fanaticism, anyone who falls outside the "proper" norm of being American becomes a target and scapegoat for America's problems. Now that part of the American way of life has been violated, fury mixed with ignorance and extreme nationalism will dominate the minds of some, who will express it through threats and violence. Is this not a shame? Our responsible leaders, (such as President Bush, other politicians and some news people), have resorted to using terminology, (such as "Crusade", "Dead or alive" and "Evil doers"), which takes us back to the days when tolerance and intelligence, was very low, so people committed a great number of injustices

towards different races, cultures, religions, and peoples. As it is the job of many of our politicians and journalists to hate-talk, we the American people, must put things into proper perspective, identifying the misuse of power, (where ever it may be), and spreading the more intelligent and sober view of tolerance towards all Americans, even ignorant ones.

TERRORISM AND ISLAM

Islam is a way of life, which includes in its system all the aspects life including defense of the Islamic community. Islam justifies war for basically two reasons. One is to defend its community from attack. The other is to stop oppression. Targeting civilians is un-Islamic. Many people mention the Islamic term 'Jihad' and translate it as 'Holy War'. This is a false interpretation. Jihad means 'to strive' or 'to struggle'. To climb a mountain is a type of jihad. To make a living is a type of jihad. Naturally, war is also a type of jihad. Terrorism, however, is not a type of jihad, because it targets innocent people. It ignores the rules of war dictated by the Holy Qur'an. For instance, this verse:

**"Fight in the way of Allah against those who fight against you, but begin not hostilities. Verily! Allah loves not aggressors."
(2 : 190)**

STRIKING BACK AT THE ENEMY

Everyone is talking about getting revenge. What is more important is seeking justice by punishing those responsible. The two differ. Revenge is based on the ego. Justice is based on the love of peace. The criminals in this case don't have a nation or infrastructure we can strike at that will eradicate them. The nations, which we believe they may be hiding in, are the homes of innocent human beings who have no power or influence over the decisions or plans of these criminals. However, the fanatics in our society (men and women who seek the destruction of other people to satisfy their anger) wish to bomb entire cities of people, where we 'think' the criminals might be hiding. Can we do this and still maintain the myth that we are a civilized people? I think not. Whatever the US government decides to do, should be well planned and the least barbaric.

News coverage is very biased as always, and has portrayed Muslims in countries such as Pakistan, as being very "fundamentalist", which simply means that they are sincere Muslims, who reject secularism. The term "fundamentalism", as many Westerners use it, is purposely implied to mean "fanatic" or "extreme". This is a very distorted way of looking at Muslims practicing their faith in far away countries. Since these Muslims are too far away for us to observe them, we are ignorant of their circumstances and conditions. We rely upon the media, who don't give us an accurate picture of what a group of people are truly like, anywhere in the world. Instead, we get a summarized version of the complex life of a foreign people, who the average American knows extremely little about. Misinformation flourishes in this manner, and it did again recently, as the media have shown us. Many Pakistani Muslims don't want America or any nation to attack the Afghan people, simply because they are well aware of the terrible poverty they live in. The recent history of Afghanistan must be studied to understand

why Muslims oppose any harm coming to the ones who live there.

US strategy should be well thought out and based on hard evidence. Its hard to trust America's involvement in other places, especially when there is a history of human rights violations and the use of "secret evidence" to lock up innocent people of Arab descent on US soil. Nonetheless, when a nation is attacked in the manner that the US was attacked; retaliation of some sort is appropriate and necessary. How to retaliate is the question. I believe we should use an international force, to eradicate terrorist groups, who have been involved in killing innocent people, but only, if we have hard evidence. A joint force will ensure that no violations of human rights are committed and at the same time, compel the nations which have terrorist groups in their midst to cooperate. With the assistance of many nations, we can help each other instead of destroying each other, which would create more hate and violence.

OTHER NATIONS

Many nations are in a very difficult position, because they rely on the US and other "super powers" for different types of aid or support. They also have their own problems, which they are struggling to overcome. All nations should give support to their neighbors when it comes to poverty, health, and natural disasters. This way, we transgress the boundaries of politics, winning over the people of other nations. We are all the same race anyway; why not act like we are for once. It seems that the US is always in the business of forcing other nations to comply with them. If any nation doesn't agree with them on certain issues, they cut off aid and sometimes bring sanctions. The US also violates the Geneva Convention and International Law when it invades other nations under the pretext of defending America.

IDENTIFYING TERRORISTS

As far as eradicating terrorism is concerned, we first must define who are really terrorists, and who are in a struggle for freedom. Let us remember our struggle with England and how we achieved victory. There are numerous Islamic peoples who are fighting for their freedom to practice Islam (Kashmir and Chechnya). There are other nations in the world who have Islamic organizations and parties who wish to implement Islamic Law. Some of the governments of these nations oppress them politically and sometimes violently. This is against the principles of justice. Islam requires that Muslims keep struggling until justice is achieved. As long as the Muslims don't resort towards killing innocent people, they cannot be called terrorists.

LEGITIMATE CONCERNS

Many people, Muslims and non-Muslims, feel that the US defines its own justice and forces it on other communities of the world. For example, it's foreign policy causes grief and death in some Muslim nations, (Iraq and Afghanistan), but then demands that other nations assist them in fighting "terrorism". Muslims who see the injustices of US foreign policy can't in good conscience submit to any US demands. President Bush proclaims boldly and arrogantly, that either every nation must support the US or face political, economic, diplomatic, and military consequences. To any person with common sense, this type of talk is

continued on next page

COLLEGE VOICE WHO WE ARE

The College Voice (CV) is a publication committed to the interests of working people. The working class is composed of all those people who own nothing but their ability to perform manual or mental labor and are forced to sell it for a wage. As students at CUNY, we recognize that we are a part of the multi-racial, multi-national working class of New York City. The severe attacks that CUNY has undergone are mirrored by the endless assaults on the jobs, wages and living standards of working people, as well as by the attacks on trade union, democratic and civil rights.

We oppose the poisonous divisions fostered on the basis of race by the bosses, who make black and white workers fight each other for the crumbs off their table...even though it is the workers who produce all the wealth.

We oppose the systematic attempts to reduce women to a defined "feminine" status, that serves to legitimize the special oppression they face as women and the additional exploitation they undergo as workers.

We oppose the vicious attacks on immigrant workers, who are the most vulnerable victims of the bosses job market, and who are thus used to drive all workers wages down.

We oppose every form of bigotry, on principle, as unbecoming our species and recognize that the fight for human liberation will be achieved only in the course of combating these divisions.

We oppose the use of the environment as a source of short-term profit and plunder by the ruling rich regardless of the consequences for the majority of the world's population.

The CV recognizes that it is the capitalist system, based upon the private ownership of the means of producing the wealth, that is fundamentally responsible for the fantastic hardship and misery that the vast majority of our species undergoes across the globe...in the midst of plenty.

The CV recognizes that this contradiction, far from being some "natural" condition, is one maintained by the armed power of the capitalist state (army, cops and courts) and ideological apparatus (media, church and schools) of the capitalist class that insures the domination of the few over the many; of the bosses, who produce nothing and appropriate everything over the workers, who produce everything but appropriate nothing.

The CV recognizes the possibility and the burning necessity for creating a society in which the productive forces are democratically organized through the cooperative association of workers and production is based on human needs instead of private profits in harmony with the environment.

The CV recognizes the necessity for creating a revolutionary party of working class, based upon a program of militant mass action and class struggle politics, that will organize internationally against world capitalism and its multi- and transitional corporations and fight for a socialist revolution against them.

The CV seeks to engage all those who are committed to fighting exploitation and oppression in common action against the common enemy...capitalism.

Driving While Black, Flying While Brown:

CONTINUED FROM PG 2

tragic events of September 11, are now being sculpted into an excuse to rip away peoples civil liberties, (which are supposedly guaranteed under the United States constitution), spread the wrath of capitalism and infiltrate anti-globalization/anti-war activist organizations. This war is falsely be waged in the name of *all* Americans. Working people are paying for this war, these same working people are swiftly becoming unemployed, and their jobs are being replaced with sweatshop workers soon to be in Afghanistan. More money is being filtered into the already enormous military budget. That tax money is being taken out of education and social welfare so that the government can spill more innocent blood in our name. The only way to stop terrorism is for America to give up its mission of globalizing capitalism. Oil companies profits are the reason Iraqi children are killed and Palestinians live under occupation. There is no difference in Afghanistan. Terrorism is the symptom of a very sick foreign policy that places profit over people. This war machine is looking for more than Osama Bin Laden, it is looking for a new place to plant "U.S. Interest". The tyranny of the Taliban will be replaced with the tyranny of capitalism under the guise of "ending terrorism" and "spreading humanitarianism." Working people, poor people, people of color and all oppressed people have the responsibility and the power to stop this cycle of violence. This war should not be fought or bankrolled in our name, with our money.

MUSLIM AMERICAN STUDENT SPEAKS OUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

called bully talk. It only creates more hatred for the US. In Islam, Muslims are forbidden to help non-Muslims against other Muslims. That is like killing your own family. Yet, all the US government cares about is their own desire to accomplish its goals.

I am concerned, that the US will target Muslim organizations and parties, who wish to establish an Islamic government and rule by Islamic Law. The US is under no obligation to present the evidence needed to target and destroy Muslims they label as terrorists nor are they under an obligation to provide the media accurate information concerning the different types of military actions they will undertake. This gives the US almost absolute authority in violating whatever rights human beings have, simply because they have the power to. The US government cannot be trusted. I say this because they have the power to censor the media and have a history of violating human rights. In general, no government can be

trusted unless it shows respect to human life.

CONCLUSION

The attack on the WTC killed innocent people. The retaliation will most likely kill more innocent people. The common people of the world are not as free as they think they are. We are all the prisoners of a political world bent on economical struggle and strife. We may sleep well most of our days, even though some of the governments we support oppress human beings we are not close enough to observe dying. All we really have is our family and friends. Beyond this, we have no power to help correct the problems selfish and evil leaders helped create. The lessons we have learned from history, is that oppressed people, (including those who have their loved ones killed by terrorist attacks), shall one day abandon their loyalty to the corrupt leaders, and search for the truth themselves. What they find will revolutionize the world.

BACKLASH AND BACKTRACK

CONTINUED FROM PG 11

illiteracy, and repression that have come to dominate *our* societies, evils that we have allowed to grow despite our complaints about Zionism and imperialism. How many of us, for example, have openly and honestly stood up for *secular* politics and have condemned the use of religion in the Islamic world as roundly and as earnestly as we have denounced the manipulation of Judaism and Christianity in Israel and the West? How many of us have denounced all suicidal missions as immoral and wrong, even though we have suffered the ravages of colonial settlers and inhuman collective punishment? We can no longer hide behind the injustices done to us, anymore than we can passively bewail the American support for our unpopular leaders. A new *secular* Arab politics must now make itself known, without for a moment condoning or supporting the militancy (it is madness) of people willing to kill indiscriminately. There can be no more ambiguity on that score.

I have been arguing for years that our main weapons as Arabs today are not military but moral, and that one reason why, unlike the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, the Palestinian struggle for self-determination against Israeli oppression has not caught the world's imagination is that we cannot seem to be clear about our goals and our methods, and we have not stated unambiguously enough that our purpose is coexistence and inclusion, not exclusivism and a return to some idyllic and mythical past. The time has come for us to be forthright and to start immediately to examine, re-examine and reflect on our own policies as so many Americans and Europeans are now doing. We should expect no less of ourselves than we should of others. Would that all people took the time to try to see where our leaders seem to be taking us, and for what reason. Scepticism and re-evaluation are necessities, not luxuries.

EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

EDITORS: Renee Marhong,
Ayman Elsayed, Kih-Hoon Kim

STAFF: Alberto Daniels,
Jonathan Bolarinwa

Contributors: Roy Rollin,
Ghanim Khalil, Leslie-Ann
Alvaradous, Dione Mclaughlin,
V.J.

Design & Production: Ayman
Elsayed, Renee Marhong

Know us: The College Voice
is a monthly journal published
by the students of the College
of Staten Island.

Visit us: Our office is located
at 2800 Victory Boulevard,
Room 1C-230, Staten Island,
NY 10314

Sue us: Opinions expressed
are those of the writers and
not necessarily shared by
anyone else.

The College Voice is a
member of the Columbia
Scholastic Press Association,
The Associated Collegiate
Press and the College Media
Advisor

Voice: 718.982.3091

Fax: 718.982.3098

E-mail

reneegade51@hotmail.com

RETALIATION

HOWARD ZINN

The images on television have been heartbreaking. People on fire leaping to their deaths from a hundred stories up. People in panic and fear racing from the scene in clouds of dust and smoke. We knew that there must be thousands of human beings buried alive, but soon dead under a mountain of debris. We can only imagine the terror among the passengers of the hijacked planes as they contemplated the crash, the fire, the end. Those scenes horrified and sickened me.

Then our political leaders came on television, and I was horrified and sickened again. They spoke of retaliation, of vengeance, of punishment. We are at war they said. And I thought: they have learned nothing, absolutely nothing, from the history of the twentieth century, from a hundred years of retaliation, vengeance, war, a hundred years of terrorism and counter-terrorism, of violence met with violence in an unending cycle of stupidity.

We can all feel a terrible anger at whoever, in their insane idea that this would help their cause, killed thousands of innocent people. But what do we do with that anger? Do we react with panic, strike out violently and blindly just to show how tough we are? "We shall make no distinction", the President proclaimed, "between terrorists and countries that harbor terrorists". Will we now bomb Afghanistan, and inevitably kill innocent people, because it is in the nature of bombing to be

indiscriminate, to "make no distinction"? Will we then be committing terrorism in order to "send a message" to terrorists?

We have done that before. It is the old way of thinking, the old way of acting. It has never worked. Reagan bombed Libya, and Bush made war on Iraq, and Clinton bombed

We need to imagine that the awful scenes of death and suffering we are now witnessing on our television screens have been going on in other parts of the world for a long time, and only now can we begin to know what people have gone through, often as a result of our policies.

Afghanistan and also a pharmaceutical plant in the Sudan, to "send a message" to terrorists. And then comes this horror in New York and Washington. Isn't it clear by now that sending a message to terrorists through violence doesn't work, only leads to more terrorism?

Haven't we learned anything from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Car bombs planted by Palestinians bring air attacks and tanks by the Israeli government. That has been going on for years. It doesn't work. And innocent people die on both sides.

Yes, it is an old way of thinking, and we

need new ways. We need to think about the resentment all over the world felt by people who have been the victims of American military action. In Vietnam, where we carried out terrorizing bombing attacks, using napalm and cluster bombs, on peasant villages. In Latin America, where we supported dictators and death squads in Chile and El Salvador and other countries. In Iraq, where a million people have died as a result of our economic sanctions, And, perhaps most important for understanding the current situation, in the occupied territories of the West Bank and

Gaza, where a million and more Palestinians live under a cruel military occupation, while our government supplies Israel with high-tech weapons.

We need to imagine that the awful scenes of death and suffering we are now witnessing on our television screens have been going on in other parts of the world for a long time, and only now can we begin to know what people have gone through, often as a result of our policies. We need to understand how some of those people will go beyond quiet anger to acts of terrorism.

We need new ways of thinking. A \$300 billion dollar military budget has not given us security. Military bases all over the world, our warships on every ocean, have not given us security. Land mines, a "missile defense shield", will not give us security. We need to rethink our position in the world. We need to stop sending weapons to countries that oppress other people or their own people. We need to decide that we will not go to war, whatever reason is conjured up by the politicians or the media, because war in our time is always indiscriminate, a war against innocents, a war against children. War is terrorism, magnified a hundred times.

Our security can only come by using our national wealth, not for guns, planes, bombs, but for the health and welfare of our people - for free medical care for everyone, education and housing guaranteed decent wages and a clean environment for all. We can not be secure by limiting our liberties, as some of our political leaders are demanding, but only by expanding them.

We should take our example not from our military and political leaders shouting "retaliate" and "war" but from the doctors and nurses and medical students and firemen and policemen who have been saving lives in the midst of mayhem, whose first thoughts are not violence, but healing, not vengeance but compassion.

INEVITABLE RING TO THE UNIMAGINABLE

JOHN PILGER INTERVIEWING NOAM CHOMSKY

If the attacks on America have their source in the Islamic world, who can really be surprised?

Two days earlier, eight people were killed in southern Iraq when British and American planes bombed civilian areas. To my knowledge, not a word appeared in the mainstream media in Britain.

An estimated 200,000 Iraqis, according to the Health Education Trust in London, died during and in the immediate aftermath of the slaughter known as the Gulf War.

This was never news that touched public consciousness in the west. At least a million civilians, half of them children, have since died in Iraq as a result of a medieval embargo imposed by the United States and Britain.

In Pakistan and Afghanistan, the Mujadeen, which gave birth to the fanatical Taliban, was largely the creation of the CIA.

The terrorist training camps where Osama bin Laden, now "America's most wanted man", allegedly planned his attacks, were built with American money and backing.

In Palestine, the enduring illegal occupation by Israel would have collapsed long ago were it not for US backing.

Far from being the terrorists of the world, the Islamic peoples have been its victims - principally the victims of US fundamentalism, whose power, in all its forms, military, strategic and economic, is the greatest source of terrorism on earth.

This fact is censored from the Western media, whose "coverage" at best minimises the culpability of imperial powers. Richard Falk, professor of international relations at Princeton, put it this way: "Western foreign policy is presented almost exclusively through a self-righteous, one-way legal/moral screen (with) positive images of Western values and innocence portrayed as threatened, validating a campaign of unrestricted political violence."

That Tony Blair, whose government sells lethal

weapons to Israel and has sprayed Iraq and Yugoslavia with cluster bombs and depleted uranium and was the greatest arms supplier to the genocidists in Indonesia, can be taken seriously when he now speaks about the "new evil of mass terrorism" says much about the censorship of our collective sense of how the world is managed.

One of Blair's favourite words - "fatuous" - comes to mind. Alas, it is no comfort to the families of thousands of ordinary Americans who have died so terribly that the perpetrators of their suffering may be the product of Western policies. Did the American establishment believe that it could bankroll and manipulate events in the Middle East without cost to itself, or rather its own innocent people?

The attacks on Tuesday come at the end of a long history of betrayal of the Islamic and Arab peoples: the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the foundation of the state of Israel, four Arab-Israeli wars and 34 years of Israel's brutal occupation of an Arab nation: all, it seems, obliterated within hours by Tuesday's acts of awesome cruelty by those who say they represent the victims of the West's intervention in their homelands.

"America, which has never known modern war, now has her own terrible league table: perhaps as many as 20,000 victims."

As Robert Fisk points out, in the Middle East, people will grieve the loss of innocent life, but they will ask if the newspapers and television networks of the west ever devoted a fraction of the present coverage to the half-a-million dead children of Iraq, and the 17,500 civilians killed in Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. The answer is no. There are deeper roots to the atrocities in the US, which made them almost inevitable.

It is not only the rage and grievance in the Middle East and south Asia. Since the end of the cold war, the US and its sidekicks, principally Britain, have exercised, flaunted, and abused their wealth and power while the divisions imposed on human beings by them and their agents have grown as never before.

An elite group of less than a billion people now take more than 80 per cent of the world's wealth. In defence of this power and privilege, known by the euphemisms "free market" and "free trade", the injustices are legion: from the illegal blockade of Cuba, to the murderous arms trade, dominated by the US, to its trashing of basic environmental decencies, to the assault on fragile economies by institutions such as the World Trade Organisation that are little more than agents of the US Treasury and the European central banks, and the demands of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in forcing the poorest nations to repay unrepayable debts; to a new US "Vietnam" in Colombia and the sabotage of peace talks between North and South Korea (in order to shore up North Korea's "rogue nation" status).

Western terror is part of the recent history of imperialism, a word that journalists dare not speak or write. The expulsion of the population of Diego Garcia in the 1960s by the Wilson government received almost no press coverage. Their homeland is now an American nuclear arms dump and base from which US bombers patrol the Middle East.

In Indonesia, in 1965/6, a million people were killed with the complicity of the US and British governments: the Americans supplying General Suharto with assassination lists, then ticking off names as people were killed. "Getting British companies and the World Bank back in there was part of the deal", says Roland Challis, who was the BBC's south east Asia correspondent.

British behaviour in Malaya was no different from the American record in Vietnam, for which it proved inspirational: the withholding of food, villages turned into concentration camps and more than half a million people forcibly dispossessed.

In Vietnam, the dispossession, maiming and poisoning of an entire nation was apocalyptic, yet diminished in our memory by Hollywood movies and by what Edward Said rightly calls cultural imperialism.

In Operation Phoenix, in Vietnam, the CIA

arranged the homicide of around 50,000 people. As official documents now reveal, this was the model for the terror in Chile that climaxed with the murder of the democratically elected leader Salvador Allende, and within 10 years, the crushing of Nicaragua.

All of it was lawless. The list is too long for this piece. Now imperialism is being rehabilitated. American forces currently operate with impunity from bases in 50 countries. "Full spectrum dominance" is Washington's clearly stated aim.

Read the documents of the US Space Command, which leaves us in no doubt. In this country, the eager Blair government has embarked on four violent adventures, in pursuit of "British interest" (dressed up as "peacekeeping"), and which have little or no basis in international law: a record matched by no other British government for half a century.

What has this to do with this week's atrocities in America? If you travel among the impoverished majority of humanity, you understand that it has everything to do with it.

People are neither still, nor stupid. They see their independence compromised, their resources and land and the lives of their children taken away, and their accusing fingers increasingly point north: to the great enclaves of plunder and privilege. Inevitably, terror breeds terror and more fanaticism.

But how patient the oppressed have been. It is only a few years ago that the Islamic fundamentalist groups, willing to blow themselves up in Israel and New York, were formed, and only after Israel and the US had rejected outright the hope of a Palestinian state, and justice for a people scarred by imperialism.

Their distant voices of rage are now heard; the daily horrors in faraway brutalised places have at last come home.

John Pilger is an award-winning, campaigning journalist.

ISRAELI TERRORIST OCCUPATION : MADE IN U.S.A.

AYMAN EL-SAYED

For the past year Palestinians have suffered from Israeli terrorism. The Israeli state has killed over 500 Palestinians, bulldozed Palestinian built homes, gunned down youth in the streets, fired helicopter missiles at homes and cars and worst of all they are still expanding their settlements.

This terrorism is tolerated and accepted by the U.S. government which has funded Israeli terrorism. This is because Israel is an ally and a strategic partner in dominating the Middle East and it's rich resources. Palestinian lives are worth nothing to America, but when an Israeli dies it is a crisis and an "act of terrorism"

Israel with 100% backing and help from the United States, has made Palestinian and neighboring Arabs lives miserable. This misery has turned into anger and a will to resist.

Occupation is one of the worst forms of terrorism. What does Israel or America expect when they occupy someone else's home? They occupy, kill, maim and expect good greetings and "peace".

The second Intifada, or the continuation of those who say don't question U.S. foreign policy and the U.S. support of Israel are not helping in stopping terrorism but in fact are helping escalate it.



the first, (because the Intifada never ended in the first place), has changed the world's point of view and support of Israeli terrorism.

People all over the world recognize the oppression of the Palestinian people and their right to return and self-determination. People in America ask "why do they hate us?", while the Palestinian's ask also "why does America hate us and support Israel?"

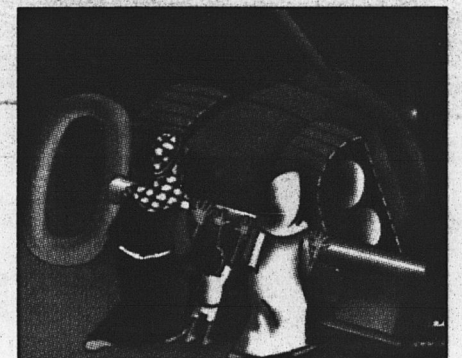
Americans are not the first or only people to face terrorism, Palestinian people have suffered from Israeli terrorism for the past 53

years and still face it under the bloody hands of Ariel Sharon who has a history of killing Palestinians. Sharon massacred thousands of Palestinians in the Sabra and Chatila refugee camps in his invasion of Lebanon in 1982. He is a war criminal that the United States government recognizes, supports and funds. Survivors of the massacre have lodged a complaint against Sharon in a Belgian court.

The U.S. government must stop it's support of Israeli terrorism if it truly wants to stop terrorism from occurring in it's homeland.

Israel has lost much support from the American public and is now using this tragic attack on the World Trade Center to kill Palestinians and call them terrorist and to justify its policies.

Palestinians and all people of the oppressed world must receive justice or terrorism will grow whether we like it or not. We need to understand why terrorism exists and happens in order to stop it from happening in the future. Those who say don't question U.S. foreign policy and the U.S. support of Israel are not helping in stopping terrorism, but in fact are helping escalate it. To understand the roots of the problem or the motives is not justifying any terrorist attacks but simply trying to deal with facts and reality to learn from the past and from these incidents to avoid them in the future. If you do not want to question US foreign policy and support of Israel, you can bomb Afghanistan all you want and will accomplish nothing but more terrorism and hatred.



The Massacre by the U.S. Military during the Korean War

KOREA INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL

FINDS U.S GUILTY OF 19 COUNTS OF WAR CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST KOREA

KIH-HOON KIM

There was a historic event at the Interchurch Center of Riverside Church in New York City last June 23rd. It was called 'The Korea International War Crime Tribunal'. The tribunal was convened to consider whether U.S. troops had committed war crimes during the Korean War. Present at the meeting were a large delegation composed of South Korean survivors of U.S led military attacks, Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and former South Korean Supreme Court Justice Jung-Soo Byun as chief prosecutors, the jurists from 17 countries that were involved in the War, and approximately an audience of 600. All present were horrified when survivors

described U.S. atrocities.

These witnesses had been forced to keep silent for a half-century. Thousands of people were imprisoned in South Korea for the crime of telling the truth about the Korean War under the National Security Law. They have had to swallow their suffering in silence. It became "han" which means in Korean, suppressed grief and rage over a long period of time. Finally, they had the chance to share their "han" by testifying at this tribunal. I volunteered to make a video of the testimony, and spent a week taping the eyewitnesses.

Soon Gun Lee, who had been a young girl when she lost her mother and her brothers to the war, told of being bombed by U.S planes.

For fifty years, she hadn't been able to speak about the pain she had suffered. "We were taking refuge in a place by the guidance of U.S. troops. We all were wearing white to be recognizable. When U.S planes showed up, we raised the South Korean Flag to welcome them, but were surprised by bombs. I saw a lot of bodies that were torn up. My mother and my brothers were dead". She sobbed out her "han".

The Associated Press, citing U.S. veterans,

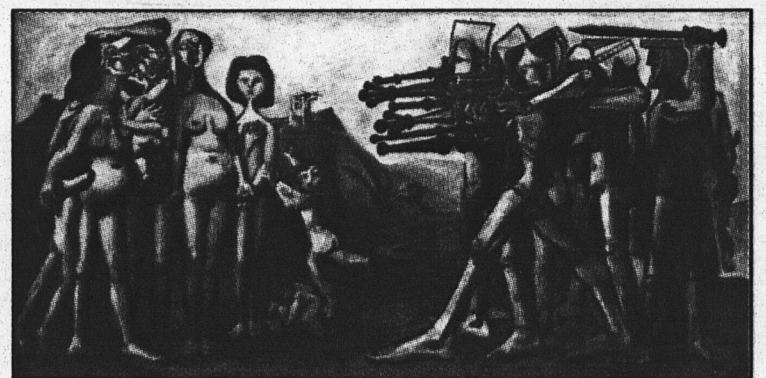
Korean survivors and declassified documents, reported that U.S. pilots and troops killed more than 300 civilians at *Nogun-ri*, South Korea, in late July 1950. (The New York Times and Washington Post both ran the report on their front pages on September 30, 1999.)

Since this report, other reports of the killing of noncombatant civilians have been given, amounting to at least 37 cases from the southern part of Korea.

More than 2.5 million Korean civilians were attacked by the U.S. military during the Korean War. Hundreds of thousands of children, women, and elderly people are believed to have been massacred as a result of orders from the top U.S. military leadership.

We are horrified to face the truth about the Korean War often called the "forgotten War". Sometimes, we don't want to face facts that are difficult to accept. Some people might neglect the truth and believe only what they want to believe. However, I'll never forget the truth about the Korean War and the survivors' *han* - their suppressed grief and rage, because I never want this tragedy to happen again in any other countries as well as Korea.

We must remember the innocent victims of the terrorism on September 11th and try to prevent the massacre of innocent civilians. Andy baker, a rescue worker who had been



Picasso painting depicting massacres in Korea



Evidence of more than 160 instances of U.S.-led military attacks on more than 2.5 million Korean non-combatants during the Korean War have surfaced.- Washington Post, June 13, 2000

near WTC when the buildings collapsed, said, "I lost many fellow workers in Ground Zero... Do you know what a war looks like? I know exactly what a war looks like because I saw it in Ground Zero. I want this tragedy to never ever happen again not only in my country but any other countries. War is not the answer!" He is still working in Ground Zero, today. Although the U.S. bombing against Afghanistan appears to us as little more than small flashes in a dark blue TV screen, we need to know the reality of Afghanistan could be the Ground Zero that shocks us all. War does nothing but make "han".