THE POWER OF PROTEST

People win Round 1 in Vieques vs. U.S. Navy

By Monica Somocurcio

Tensions have been mounting across Puerto Rico for weeks. Everyone on the island sensed that a showdown with the Pentagon over the fate of the island municipality of Vieques was on the horizon.

The USS Eisenhower was cruising toward Vieques, preparing for combined military exercises. Helicopters were buzzing over scores of Puerto Ricans who had set up encampments on the military training grounds.

Units of the FBI’s Hostage Rescue Team were in Puerto Rico, evaluating the possibility of an attack on the encampments.

But on Dec. 3, the people of Puerto Rico won an important victory. The USS Eisenhower was ordered to return from its initial course toward Vieques. With increasing anxiety and popular activism, the people of Vieques and Puerto Rico as a whole had succeeded in turning back the Pentagon.

The people of Puerto Rico, including hundreds of displaced Viqueans, have been protesting the U.S. Navy’s use of Vieques for decades. Residents charge that the military exercises have damaged the environment and the landscape, caused greater rates of cancer among the local population, and destroyed fishing—the main source of income for the population.

The protests became a united demand of the entire Puerto Rican nation after David Sanes, a civilian, was killed by a runway bomb on April 19. Every sector of the Puerto Rican population—from unions to the Chamber of Commerce, from pro-anexionistas to independentistas—united around the demand: “Fuera la marina de Vieques!” U.S. Navy out of Vieques!

A temporary victory

Turning back the Eisenhower is a tremendous achievement, the first concrete sign that the U.S. government is on the defensive. This victory, however, is temporary. The Pentagon still refuses to pull out of Vieques immediately.

At the same time that he ordered the Eisenhower to change course, President Bill Clinton announced that the Navy would remain in Vieques for another five years. He also threatened to resume bombing practices in March.

Clinton also dangled a promise of $40 million in financial aid for cleaning up Vieques—if the population agrees to the resumption of exercises.

Far from softening the Puerto Rican trade representative, all day to travel the one block from her hotel to the Seattle Convention Center. And when she finally came unglued in Seattle.

The protests, moreover, were the key element in causing the WTO meeting to be a victory parade signaling the triumph of U.S. capitalism in extending its worldwide economic domination.

Instead, the meeting ended in total disaster for the Clintonites and their corporate sponsors. After three days of bitter internal fighting, it adjourned without being able to agree on even the most vaguely worded closing communique.

Why? How could all of their calculations have turned out so wrong?

The Dec. 4 Seattle Post-Intelligencer, the local morning newspaper, highlighted the answer in a headline: “WTO Meeting Collapses—Protests Continue.”

As the whole world now knows, more than 50,000 testers converged on Seattle on Nov. 30. At least 10,000 of them took part in direct action protests, endured tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets in a courageous and determined effort to achieve their goal: shut down the WTO.

More than 40,000 people joined in a very spirited march to the convention area, organized by the AFL-CIO. Many of those marchers, rather than returning to the march staging area, stayed downtown and joined the direct-action protesters.

The demonstrators’ determination was exemplary. The first day, the protesters’ numbers andリアン overwhelming the police. The opening ceremony of the WTO had to be canceled.

It was not until late afternoon—and even then with very few delegates in the hall—that it was possible to begin the first plenary session.

From the evening of Nov. 30 through the next two days, the cops expended immense amounts of gas and rounds of rubber bullets in their attempt to crush the protests.

But the protesters, mostly young people, refused to be intimidated. Thousands were repeatedly tear-gassed and pepper-sprayed. They were hit with police batons and rubber bullets.

More than 500 were jailed. But as the Seattle paper’s headline reported, the protests were still going after the WTO talks had collapsed.

The protests, moreover, were the key element in causing the WTO meeting to fail. The WTO’s basic agenda is imperialist globalization: tearing down any barriers to the penetration and domina...
Big firms get rich, GI's die

I'm not really good, but when I read the story of the air base being constructed in Kosovo, I mentally flagged the name of Brown and Root. If my memory serves correctly, that was the construction company which my brother spoke about when he returned from serv-

ing in Vietnam.

The rumor had it that the construction company, which was thriving by building structures in Da Nang so they could be blown up by VC, had a celebrity prin-

ter strategical reason other than getting rid of dis-

serving in Vietnam.

"First lady" at the time.

My brother died last month after twenty-five years of

struggling with PTSD, addiction exacerbated by the ter-

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Mumia support from Seattle to Spain

By Leslie Feinberg

Wherever the fight against injustice and inequality is joined, the demand to "Free Mumia!" is heard. That was true during the Battle of Seattle.Photograph and footage of protesters who were standing up to systematic police violence held aloft banners and placards demanding justice for the African American political prisoner. So many, in fact, that National Public Radio broadcast an entire segment on how the demand to win justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal was interwoven into the Seattle struggle.

Abu-Jamal was facing execution by lethal injection on Dec. 2—the 140th anniversary of the execution of John Brown for leading a rebellion against slavery. As word of the death warrant spread, the tide of outrage and activism rose. On Oct. 26–23 days after Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge signed the warrant—a federal judge stayed the execution. Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge signed the warrant—a federal judge stayed the execution. The FOP, which opposes Abu-Jamal’s support of Mumia Abu-Jamal’s supporters are using the grace period of a temporary stay of execution to bring his case to wider layers of the population here and around the world. As the smoke cleared in Seattle, the struggle on behalf of Abu-Jamal flared up in Philadelphia, where the judge ruled in favor of a temporary stay of execution.

Still, the conviction against Abu-Jamal for the 1981 killing of Police Officer Daniel Faulkner will not be reversed. But witnesses who testified against Abu-Jamal’s defense.

Antoine, a Haitian immigrant who the police charged with resisting arrest and assault on Dec. 7 at the Essex County Courthouse. One of the first people called to the defense when police burst into his home on Dec. 4 and chanted "Hands off the homeless". He said: "Most of the homeless people who work for their room and board. The other admitted under question by a Santiagochter of a captain in the Irvington Police Department. The other admitted under questioning by an Antoine who has been told to speak to the judge about her case.

The Justice for Max Antoine Committee can be contacted at 201-487-3748 or Justice4Max@hotmail.com.

Protesters tell mayor, cops: ‘Hands off the homeless’

By G. Dunkel

New York

"If the baby Jesus had been born in Bethlehem under Giuliani’s reign, he would have been put in foster care," is how the Rev. Al Sharpton summed up New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani’s attack on homeless families.

More than 2,000 people came out to historic Union Square Dec. 5 on a fine Sunday afternoon to protest the new rules requiring homeless people to work for their room—whether they will only get for 90 days.

The heads of families who can’t work, or refuse to, will have their children seized and placed into foster care. The heads of families who can’t work, or refuse to, will have their children seized and placed into foster care.

The conclave of homeless people came from Philadelphia to show their solidarity with the struggle for justice in New York.

Speakers made the point that they not only need shelter, but also decent jobs and the right to live with dignity.

A homeless Vietnamese vet who works, but doesn’t make enough to pay New York rents, said, “Giuliani wants you to lose your job so you can work for your bed.”

He went on to say, “Soon the largest shelter in New York will be Rikers Island.”

Rikers is the city prison.

Cops have arrested over 200 homeless people, often roughing them up. Then New York cops are notorious for their insensitivity and their racist, sexist, anti-gay and anti-poor attitudes.

Joseph Camp is a retired teacher who worked in France and Africa and lives in the Hell’s Kitchen neighborhood in Manhattan. Camp volunteers as a tutor in a homeless project. He said: “Most of the kids want to learn and work. But it’s a hard environment for anybody to learn in.”

About 100 to 200 people, including a number of families, undertook an all-night vigil in Union Square as an extended form of protest. 
NYC Ballet locks out musicians

Getting a live orchestra to accompany "The Nutcracker" has become a tough nut to crack since management at the New York City Ballet forced musicians to take the strike Nov. 23. The lockout began when the union rejected management's demands for givebacks on rehearsal and performance attendance. The musicians refused to play while talks continued, so the oh-so-refined management booted them out.

Musicians set up picket lines outside Lincoln Center—and forced the ballet's opening-night to be canceled. Since then, dancers have had to pirouette to canned music while talks continue.

"For tapes to be used in Lincoln Cen­ter is shameful," said Federation of Mu­sician spokesman Andy Weisz. "This is a place where the audience is a live music audience."

The ballet season lasts only part of the year, so musicians must depend on other engagements to support themselves. When these gigs come during ballet sea­sons, they need the flexibility to hire sub­stitutes for rehearsals and performances. The musicians' current contract does not specify how many rehearsals or per­formances they must attend. Manage­ment proposed a two-tiered system that would require a set number of appear­ances from newly hired musicians but not from veterans. The workers rejected that.

Private hospital interns can organize

In a three-to-two decision, the Na­tional Labor Relations Board ruled Nov. 29 that interns and residents at privately owned hospitals have the right to form unions under federal law. The ruling opens the door to organizing an esti­mated 100,000 interns and residents nationwide.

Hospital bosses attacked the deci­sion—undoubtedly because union repre­sentation for these doctors could end the notoriously long hours they are forced to work but reduce hours are likely to improve patient care. Labor leaders pre­dicted interns and residents at the coun­try's 400 teaching hospitals would now push for shorter hours and more reason­able work loads.

Interns and residents at public hospi­tals are not covered by the ruling. But most already have the right to unionize under state law. The decision comes at a time when the American Medical Association and many unions are stepping up organizing among tens of thousands of salaried physicians.

Organizing.com at Amazon

As the tear gas settles on Seattle streets outside Amazon.com, employees inside are engaged in an organizing camp­aign that has gone on for much of the past year. The campaign is being led by a cluster of Amazon workers—many of them young, women and workers of color—in conjunction with WashTech.

Last year WashTech published a damning report entitled "Holiday in Amazonia" that described bleak working conditions at the giant Internet book­store's customer-service centers. These conditions include workers jammed four to a cubicle, low wages that make regular overtime necessary, and top-down man­agement. Customer-service workers com­pose about 500 of Amazon's esti­mated 5,000 workers—10 percent of its work force.

"The rocketing growth of Amazon.com has left some employees...looking for the pool bay door," the report concluded. Meanwhile, a survey on working condi­tions emailed to service representatives last summer brought threatening re­sponses from inside Amazon.

"They would say stuff like, 'We're going to find you and get you.' This was a classic, by-the-book anti-union campaign flight out of the 1930s," said Gretchen Wilson, 24, of WashTech. Wilson says WashTech is working to help Amazon employees—who are doing most of the organizing—have a voice on the job.

One former Amazon employee, Richard Howard, wrote an article called "How I Escaped From Amazon.Cult" after his brief stint at the company. If the Internet is supposed to be revolutioniz­ing how business is done, Amazon.com falls far short, he noted.

"We basically did drone work and had people breathing down our necks all day," Howard said. "How revolutionary is that? The only difference is that a lot of the supervisors had pierced ears and wore leather."

AFL-CIO Policy Director David Smith says, "The attention paid to 28-year-old tech tycoon has created the illusion that they're obnoxious."

But most tech workers are like those at Amazon.com—single apartment dwellers in their 20s, working in low-paying front­line service positions. And as Amazon.com employees are showing, these work­ers are ready for union organizing.

Brooklyn coalition demands safety

Immigrant worker's death protested

By Mary Owen

New York

A coalition of community, labor, reli­gious and immigrant-rights activists gath­ered Dec. 2 in the South Williamsburg sec­tion of Brooklyn, N.Y., for a vigil to de­memorize the death of a Latino construction worker and launch an organizing campaign to confront the unsafe operations of construction contractors.

The contractor in this case, who has his­tory of violations and has since fled the country, failed to properly support the construction site where construction laborer Eduardo Daniel was killed and 10 other immigrants injured when a building they were work­ing on collapsed Nov. 23.

Organizers condemned the criminal negligence of construction contractors who run unsafe operations with no regard for worker rights or safety.

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Cuban foreign minister in Seattle

‘We must defend the poor of the planet’

By Gloria La Riva

Seattle

Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque spoke to a capacity crowd of 900 at Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Seattle Dec. 3 as the World Trade Organization conference wound up its last day.

This energetic young leader is not a typical foreign minister. As a representative of Cuba’s revolutionary government, he gave a resounding call for true justice in the world and unrelenting struggle to achieve it.

Perez Roque came to Seattle to head Cuba’s finance and trade delegation to the WTO conference. He was also sent to represent Cuban President Fidel Castro, who had originally planned to attend the WTO. For reasons of his security and the refusal of the U.S. government to guarantee him a visa, President Castro decided not to attend.

Castro said in a public communiqué, “It would soon be evident that the U.S. government was opposed to my presence at the meeting in Seattle. I was certain that the State Department would not provide me with a visa. Therefore, I did not even bother to apply. I did not wish to be subjected to this humiliation.”

Therefore, we have decided to send a delegation headed by our young and combative foreign minister, engineer Felipe Perez Roque, who has worked with me for over seven years, and is profoundly familiar with and fully shares my views and ideas on the current international situation and its potential evolution.”

Felipe Perez Roque is 34 years old—the youngest foreign minister in the world.

Before his nomination this year, he had already made his mark as an exemplary revolutionary. At the age of 21 he became president of the Federation of University Students.

While the age for admittance to the Cuban Communist Party is 30, Perez Roque was in the party’s Central Committee and the government’s Council of State at age 26.

Perez gave a dynamic speech here about “the rights of all the inhabitants of the planet” and the urgent need for profound change to eliminate hunger, unemployment and poverty.

He made it clear that Cuba’s position in the WTO debates was on the side of the oppressed.

Not only have struggles taken place in the streets, there has also been a big battle inside the Convention Center. And the Cuban delegation has been participating — in each and every one of the battles that have taken place. We have raised our voice there, defending the rights and aspirations of the peoples of the Third World, the aspirations of the poor and disadvantaged of the planet.”

To sustained applause, he read two brief statements, one by the trade ministers of the African countries in the WTO, the other by Caribbean trade officials. Both rejected the WTO deliberations as unfair and dominated by the large powers. They refused to sign any consensus forced on them by the machinations of those same forces.

‘International system is profoundly unjust’

The immense gulf between the rich and the poor was the center point of Perez’s talk. His denunciation of the obscene concentration of wealth among a handful of billionaires found an enthusiastic reception from the multinational audience of 900 people, young and old, unionists and students, veterans in the struggle and new activists.

He laid the blame for the world’s problems on the profit system. “Cuba’s opinion is that the current economic, financial and commercial system on an international level is profoundly unjust,” said Perez.

“Such a system, which extends poverty instead of education, inequality instead of access to health, which maximises profits but can’t guarantee employment, and which destroys the environment, has no future whatsoever.... The richest 20 percent of the world’s population, according to the UN, controls 86 percent of the world’s economy, 82 percent of the world’s markets, 68 percent of direct foreign investment.

“In this conference there have been debates about Internet commerce. In the U.S. and European countries, with 600 telephone lines per 1,000 inhabitants, it makes sense. But what does it mean if they have only one telephone for every 1,000 inhabitants? What meaning does it have for African countries torn by the scourge of AIDS, where today, to the shame of our species, 23 million African people are infected with AIDS, who are not getting treatment because it costs $12,000 per year? Will this conference address such issues? Will their interests be considered? Or will their representatives become speculators in a game in which they’re not allowed to participate?

“Cuba believes it is impossible for such a system to survive, in which the fortune of the 200 richest people is greater than the income of 41 percent of the world’s population. If a tax were levied on only 1 percent of the wealth of these 200 richest people, there would be enough money to educate all the children of the planet.”

The Cuban foreign minister spoke of the need for the people to resist and struggle. “Are we idealists? Yes, we are deeply so. We have the right to struggle in order to give our children a better world. Cuba believes it is possible if the available technologies and resources are used to the benefit of everybody.”

The U.S. blockade against Cuba makes a mockery of its talk about “free trade.” Perez described the severity of this 40-year-old crime against Cuba’s people. But he countered the enormous difficulties they face with an optimism that they will prevail.

“I should say the blockade against Cuba has deprived us of food and medicine. It has deprived us of access to equipment and technologies, it has created difficulties for us. But it has not been able to kill our hope. It has not been able to take our joy away from us. Today we are more optimistic than ever, we are more certain than ever that we are right, that time is on our side.

“More than ever before, solidarity with Cuba is growing in the United States and throughout the world. Millions of men and women around the world understand our struggle. They support our dreams and they express it to us daily in demanding our right to be free and independent, to build a country as Cuba wishes. The blockade against Cuba must end!”

For the next two days, the National Network on Cuba—spokespersons of the rally—held a national conference in Seattle to increase solidarity work with Cuba.

CUBA 2000

Here’s a gift for the new millennium. International Peace for Cuba Appeal has issued a beautiful black and white calendar. Each page features a full-size photo taken by well-known documentary photographer Bill Hackwell, who has traveled widely in Cuba. The calendar includes images of the famous carnival in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba’s sugar industry, its schools and hospitals and celebrations of revolutionary holidays. Proceeds from calendar sales will support the upcoming Cuba Native Trip.

Calender $10 (add $3 s&h).

Make check payable to and order from: Peace for Cuba, 2489 Mission St., No. 28, San Francisco, CA 94110.

Call 415 821-7575
The humiliation came on two fronts. Its imperialist rivals and the Third World banks and industries free access to their markets, resources, and labor. Africa and Latin America.

WTO had strong anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist elements. In the bigger, labor-overwhelmed by technologically superior capitalist country, depended on tariffs to pay the bills of the government officials—paid staff—the government officialdom—government were trying to make a bloc against U.S. capital.

The militant street protests against the WTO were openly against capitalism, at a moment when Wall Street is breaking records and the media are touting the capitalist market as the guiding light of all civilization. Undercurrents of hatred for the profit system’s inhumanity are spreading to diverse sectors of the movement. In the streets of Seattle, they converged and broke through to the surface. These demonstrations showed that global reaction inevitably breeds resistance in the midst of a great capitalist boom.

The failure of the WTO talks was a stunning blow, not only to the Clinton administration, as the New York Times reported in its lead story on Dec. 5, but to the U.S. ruling class as a whole. How did the U.S. ruling class and its paid staff—the government officials fail to anticipate what was coming in Seattle? Because in their calculations—a San Diego to Vancouver for two hours as part of the protest against the WTO—something highly underplayed by the big business press.

As in Chicago in 1968, many activists, including workers, got a major lesson on how capitalist democracy works when you

U.S. global agenda unpled

Continued from page 1

The question “Whose world?” was on many placards and signs. Many banners and posters bore anti-capitalist slogans like “Capitalism kills all life.” The Seattle protests were interpreted in many developing countries like Brazil, Egypt, Cuba and elsewhere as a take a stand with the people of Seattle against the U.S., European and Japanese imperialists.

By Jim McMahen Seattle

World Trade Organization delegates and corporation representatives have now left this city. But militant anti-WTO activists continue the struggle. They have vowed to keep until all those arrested at the week-long demonstrations are released.

On Dec. 5, hundreds of young people have occupied the plaza in front of the King County Jail—the site from which most of the 570 arrested are being released. For three nights, activists have occupied the jail plaza throughout the night, despite cold rainstorms.

The plaza is covered with plastic tarps. Many protesters are bundled up in sleeping bags.

Supporters bring donations of soup and food to a makeshift kitchen with a propane stove.

Anti-capitalist, anti-WTO signs hang from the cement walls. There is a ride board for people needing transportation to different locations across the United States and Canada.

Members of the National Lawyers Guild staff a table where they deliver testimony about the police brutality people have suffered.

On Dec. 6, members of religious and labor groups came to the jail for a support rally for the political prisoners inside. The African, gay, bi, and trans community is holding protests to protest the massive police brutality and to win the release of all the activists still being held.

As dawn broke over Seattle, the front door is in order to make announcements and read international statements of support to the crowd.

But comes up whenever another prisoner is released out the front door. All but 40 have now been released, but people are not leaving until all are freed. Those still being held are charged with serious felonies and people from other countries who risk losing their green cards or being deported.

‘Like the epicenter of an earthquake’

Many of the anti-WTO political prisoners were arrested on Dec. 1. They were picked up on buses and hauled out to a naval station where they remained for up to 15 hours without food or water.

There are many similarities between the two protests. But some of the differences are very important.

The 1968 battle in Chicago came after thousands of anti-war demonstrations. It represented a new high level for a movement that was already full of life.

The movement that came together in Seattle has also had many direct-action demonstrations: for the environment, against sweatshops and racism, for international solidarity and many other important causes. But this is its first united action.

One of the most important differences is that in 1968 the political mobilization against the war and the labor movement were far apart and suspicious of each other. The AFL-CIO head was George Meany, a super-patriotic reactionary who actually organized pro-war demonstrations and assaults upon anti-war demonstrators. Cold War politics still dominated the hierarchy of the labor movement.

The youth, who were the cutting edge of the anti-war movement, were oblivious to the exploitation of the working class because the labor leadership—with the notable exception of a few union leaders and progressive leaders—not only refused to participate in the anti-war struggle but showed open hostility to it.

There’s a strategic reason U.S. capitalism have to concern themselves with the fact that, while the youth were battling the police in the streets against corporate greed, tens of thousands of workers were marching under essentially the same slogan, animated by the same anti-corporate spirit. Many groups of workers joined the street demonstrations, including members of the Teamsters, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, and Steel Workers, among others. The ILWU shut down West Coast ports from San Diego to Vancouver for two hours as part of the protest against the WTO—something highly underplayed by the big business press.

As in Chicago in 1968, many activists, including workers, got a major lesson on how capitalist democracy works when you
challenge the ruling class. Seattle was coming together of a militantly anti-corporate, and to some extent consciously anti-capitalist, resistance movement with the workers’ movement, forging solidarity in the streets.

Clinton’s demagogy on labor standards

President Bill Clinton went on television and broadcast ‘sympathy’ with most of the demonstrators in order to derail and consciously anti-corporate, and to some extent sion and showed “sympathy” with most of Clinton’s demagogy.

In the first place, this country has plenty of child labor—in the sweatshops and in the fields, orchards and vineyards of agribusiness. U.S. capitalists are subsidized by low wages, including child labor, prison labor and super-exploited immigrant labor, from New York’s Chinatown to Los Angeles to Texas and the maquiladoras on the border. This country has the smallest percentage of unionized workers in the entire imperialist world. It has just gone through a 20-year anti-labor offensive. Millions of workers in government jobs are legally barred from organizing and the rights of labor are under attack every day. Many states have anti-strike laws. The Taft-Hartley law limits worker actions and hiring strikes. If Clinton wants to concern himself with workers’ rights, he has plenty to start with right here. Blec between Sweeney and Clinton

Even more problematical for the workers’ movement is the AFL-CIO leadership, headed by John Sweeney, has been pressuring the WTO to adopt standards tying trade to labor conditions and pressing for sanctions. He is in a bloc with Clinton on this question. Has he forgotten that Clinton was the point man in pushing through NAFTA? That Clinton, as leader of the New Democrats, shunned the labor movement and turned to the right? Clinton’s demagogy is meant to hold the AFL-CIO leadership on board for Al Gore’s. Continued on page 9

SEATTLE ‘This is what a police state looks like!’

By Key Martin

Seattle

After the WTO had to shut down because most delegates couldn’t get through protests on Nov. 30, the demonstrations continued throughout the week. Police arrested out mass arrests on Dec. 1, jailing some 500 people. National Guard troops buttressed police lines used to blockade streets for blocks around the Convention Center and posh hotels like the Four Seasons.

Pointing towards their own protests, activists chanted, “This is what democracy looks like.” Pointing toward the lines of troops and riot-clad cops, demonstrators chanted, “That is what a police state looks like.”

Big “Free Mumia” banners were visible throughout the marches. Throughout the protests here there was evidence of the growing struggle to stop the execution of this well-known African American political prisoner and win him a new trial.

Many protesters—predominantly youths—joined a Steel Workers union march to the Seattle docks on Dec. 1. The spirit of unity showed, as did a growing sense of solidarity between the youths and the unionists of all ages.

When more than 1,000 youths later marched away from the docks toward downtown, chanting “No to WTO,” they were still outside the “no protest zone.” But police assaulted them anyway.

Cops jumped off armored vehicles, firing tear gas, percussion grenades, and plastic and wooden bullets. Police also tear gassed those caught in rush-hour traffic, in stores, buses and on the streets. One 5-year-old child was in intensive care after she was trampled by those fleeing the gas attack.

Doctors and other medical workers reported that police had trashed their equipment. And they added that no emergency medical crews were dispatched, even for an elderly man in a wheelchair who was severely gassed.

Police blocked Swedish Medical Center to prevent injured demonstrators from seeking treatment.

Police forced groups of young people down streets into “pincer” traps, then tear gassed and arrested them.

The head of the Central Labor Council, Ron Judd, was on the phone with City Hall for an hour seeking the release of 50 protesters. The activists had reportedly been gassed in police custody while they were forced to lie on the ground.

Despite mass arrests, protests continued late into the night, as people continued to join marchers headed to the Capital Hill district overlooking downtown.

Residents and shop owners—including many lesbian, gay, bi and trans people who live or work in the district—described what they called a “police riot.” Witnesses said cops even beat residents who were taking out their garbage or parking their cars. They made any reporter who described their brutal work a target.

Capital Hill residents—gay and straight—marched together on Dec. 2 to protest this police violence.

On Dec. 3, a 10,000-strong labor march defied the “no protest zone.”

On Dec. 7, Seattle Police Chief Norman Stamper announced his resignation following widespread denunciations of the use of violence against demonstrators by his police department.

gle to free activists continues

But spirits remained high. Activists “decorated” the buses and sang and danced through the night.

When they were finally removed from the buses, the police repeatedly pepper sprayed and beat many of them. Many of the protesters continued to resist by refusing to give police their names or being fingerprinted. The first protestors were not released until after the WTO meeting was over—late on Dec. 3.

But reports from the jail indicate that demonstraters are exuberant and defiant, despite their hardships.

Sarah Kerr said she was demonstrating more than a mile from the WTO conference on Dec. 1. Suddenly, she recalled, “The cops pushed us back and we were surrounded. All of a sudden tear gas, percussion grenades and rubber bullets were fired at us all at once.”

“And when you get hit by a rubber bullet you have a well the size of a tennis ball on your body.”

Carol Jackson was taking pictures for People for Fair Trade at the demonstrations. The cops swept her off the street and arrested her, along with other spectators.

She spent four days in jail. “The cops weren’t there to protect the people,” Jackson explained. They were there to protect the WTO. When you think there are children in sweatshops making rugs for pennies a day around the world, I’m not hurting bad.

In fact, this struggle renews my faith in humanity!” A woman speaking at the jail-plaza stage noted that one of the women who was gassed by the cops suffered a miscarriage. Because of this and other side effects from the gas, some demonstrators and an examining doctor believe there are highly dangerous additives in the cops’ tear gas.

“Being in the anti-WTO protests was like being in the epicenter of an earthquake,” said Peter Myhre. “I saw 17-year-olds get hit by percussion grenades and they kept on fighting. Young people who had never seen tear gas before kept on demonstrating.

“This is building leaders into the next millennium. Agents for change, things are going to change.”

Youths here have become increasingly politicized. They are talking like never before about what to do about capitalist sweatshop exploitation, attacks on the environment, and U.S. imperialist aggression.

They realize that while the WTO conference is over, the struggle continues.

Young demonstrator released after spending 4 days in jail. She was jubilantly received by a protest encampment at the doors of the jail.
World AIDS Day targets greed of U.S. drug giants

On Dec. 1, protesters in cities around the world marked World AIDS Day by targeting U.S. pharmaceutical companies and the global push toward "free trade" as culprits in the spiraling AIDS pandemic. Demonstrators particularly focused on the World Trade Organization, joining those besieging the trade negotiators in Seattle and marching in solidarity elsewhere.

People took to the streets in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa; Paris, London, New York, San Francisco, Washington and other cities. Everywhere their message was the same: Health care is a human right, and should not be a commodity sold for profit.

Jaime Balboa of the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission said of both the Clinton/Gore administration and the WTO: "They have prioritized pharmaceutical lobbyists' concerns over public health. . . . The United Nations' most recent statistics indicate that 50 million people now have HIV/AIDS. We must put saving lives before corporate profits."

Ninety percent of people with HIV and AIDS live in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. According to Balboa, big pharmaceutical concerns have used the Clinton administration, the WTO and any other tool to block oppressed countries from access to lower-priced HIV medicines.

"The U.S. has also bypassed the WTO, when necessary, and exerted bilateral pressure on countries like South Africa and Thailand to keep the life-saving medicine more expensive," Balboa said.

People win Round 1 in Vieques vs. U.S. Navy

Continued from page 1

People's resistance, Clinton's announcement fueled further anger against the Navy. Many were especially insulted that Clinton's move delivered the announcement in person—not issuing it through the hated Navy Secretary Richard Danzig.

"This fight is not yet over," Vieques fisher Carlos "Pietro" Ventura said in an emotional address on Dec. 3 to the media. "To those who thought that the Navy had good intentions, I hope this serves you as a lesson. Our people do not believe in them, never have and never will. Ever since they came they have lied, because they speak about their human rights everywhere else but not in their own home."

Nilda Medina, a leader of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, the organization leading the fight in Vieques, stated that on that same evening—Dec. 3—protesters set up a permanent encampment in front of Camp Garcia, one of the military installations. She said they have blocked the front entrance since then.

"Nothing could be further from the truth. When has Clinton, or any president for that matter, sided with the oppressed against the Pentagon? Whether it is war against the people of Iraq and Yugoslavia, or against the rights of gays and lesbians in the military, Clinton has proven that he will side with the brass at every turn.

"So why has Clinton felt the need to make conciliatory gestures to the Puerto Rican people—first by releasing some of the Puerto Rican political prisoners brought some 150,000 demonstrators onto the streets of San Juan."

"The twin demands to oust the U.S. Navy from Vieques and to free the Puerto Rican political prisoners brought some 150,000 demonstrators onto the streets of San Juan."

A genuine national struggle

The struggle over Vieques has shown the world the true character of U.S. imperialism's relationship to Puerto Rico. The unrealistic demands of the oppressor nation have temporarily united all classes in the oppressed nation of Puerto Rico against imperialist arrogance.

Even the most reactionary sectors of Puerto Rican society—those that have traditionally advocated the closest relationship to U.S. imperialism—have been forced to stand in opposition to their U.S. masters. No one in Puerto Rico today can say a single word in support of the U.S. position on the Navy's occupation of Vieques and expect any respect.

The struggles to come will make it clearer who stands most firmly against U.S. domination of Puerto Rico. The question of which class can lead the struggle is being posed in its sharpest form.

Socialist Front leader Jorge Farinacci told WW: "This is the time to explain to our people that what they are experiencing now is imperialism. This is the time to show that we are in a colonial-imperialist relationship with the U.S."

Farinacci announced that the Socialist Front, which is part of the Workers World, would stage a Dec. 11 protest at the Roosevelt Roads military base, the home of the Southern Army of the U.S. Southern Command.

One thing is clear: Clinton's announcement on Vieques will not dampen the struggle in Puerto Rico. A new phase in Puerto Rico's long fight for self-determination has begun.
Iraq Sanctions Challenge III is coming in January

By Sarah Sloan

On Nov. 28, the U.S. carried out 18 bombing sorties over three northern provinces of Iraq. These are on top of the 10,000-plus combat and non-combat sorties tallied over the 10 months since the U.S. and Britain carried out a massive bombing campaign from Dec. 16 to 19, 1998.

This time, U.S. bombs hit a school in Mosul, injuring eight people, including children. Students were escaping the school building and cars parked in the surrounding area. This came less than a week after 10 civilians were wounded in another other series of sorties. The bombing continued again the next week.

The bombing is coupled with over nine years of sanctions, which have killed more than 1.7 million people—mostly children and the elderly. Washington enforces these sanctions as a source of vengeance even as it claims to champion "free trade" in the world.

All this accompanies a destabilization campaign aimed at overthrowing the government of Iraq and replacing it with a puppet regime that will do Washington's bidding.

To draw public awareness to this continuing war, as well as to show solidarity with the Iraqi people, the third Iraq Sanctions Challenge will travel to Iraq from Jan. 18 to 31. The delegation will be led by Ramsey Clark and other prominent leaders and will include up to 100 anti-sanctions activists.

They will be in Baghdad on the ninth anniversary of the beginning of the Gulf War.

The group plans to visit the school in Mosul that was bombed and document the destruction. It plans to deliver supplies collected in the U.S. to the school. It has also collected donations to purchase medicines desperately needed in Iraq, and it will visit several hospitals to witness the dire effect of the sanctions.

In previous Challenges, one last December and another the previous May, the May 1998 Iraq Sanctions Challenge took 85 activists—community and religious leaders, trade unionists and students—from 30 states to Iraq with $5 million worth of medicine that was dedicated to Iraq in defiance of the sanctions.

Many thousands of people across the U.S. and around the world have participated in this protest of the sanctions and bombing by helping to organize an Energetic Response Network, raising funds to buy medicine and medical supplies and helping to get local press coverage.

The call for the Iraq Sanctions Challenge III concludes: "We know that no amount of humanitarian aid can truly meet the needs of the Iraqi people. Only a complete lifting of the sanctions and allowing normal trade relations can bring an end to the country's catastrophic economic situation. In the spirit of the civil rights movement, we want to challenge big business. We will go to Iraq to challenge UN resolutions that result in death and destruction for Iraqi children, women and men.

"We call upon all who are dedicated to justice with us in making the Iraq Sanctions Challenge a major step toward ending the blockade against the people of Iraq."

So far, the delegation includes over 50 participants from states as diverse as Kentucky, Florida, New York, California and Michigan, as well as from Canada, Britain, Spain and Italy.

To make a contribution or to get involved with the Iraq Sanctions Challenge, contact the International Action Center at (212) 633-6646 or email iacenter@iacenter.org. Information about the Challenge can be found at www.iacenter.org.

Kuwait vs. women

Women have once again formally been denied political rights in the oil-rich state of Kuwait. On Nov. 30, the Parliament voted against a bill that would have allowed women to vote and run for office. Hundreds of men cheered after the vote was taken.

In neighboring Iraq, women have long played a prominent role in society. They vote and work outside the home. Many doctors, teachers and government workers are women.

The Western media would have us believe that the problem in Kuwait is Islamic fundamentalism. But the people of Iraq come from the same religious background as the Kuwaitis. It's not about their beliefs, it's about the empowerment that have reinforced extreme reaction in Kuwait.

It was the former colonial power, Britain, that divided the area into different countries. When it set up Kuwait, it made sure that the richest oil fields were under the control of a feudal family, the Al-Sabah dynasty, groomed to protect imperialist interests as well as its own. This dynasty enshrines male domination in Kuwait even today.

But Iraq had an anti-colonial revolution in 1958 that led to the establishment of a modern infrastructure. Iraq's refusal to knuckle under to U.S. and British imperialists might be achieved by narrow protectionist methods, which ultimately are regarded as chauvinistic in the oppressed countries. This breaks the solidarity, playing into the hands of the bosses.

The labor movement should expose this vicious, divisive maneuver, rather than trying to outmaneuver the capitalists. This requires new coalitions that can be achieved by narrow protectionist methods, which ultimately are regarded as chauvinistic in the oppressed countries. This breaks the solidarity, playing into the hands of the bosses.

The labor movement should support this vigorous, divisive maneuver, rather than trying to outmaneuver the capitalists. This requires new coalitions that can be achieved by narrow protectionist methods, which ultimately are regarded as chauvinistic in the oppressed countries. This breaks the solidarity, playing into the hands of the bosses.

From Chicago '68 to Seattle '99

Continued from page 7

Get job security is to shut out goods produced without saying. But what Clinton and Sweeney are telling the workers is that they should compete with low-priced goods produced in other countries and that they are losing their jobs because of low wages paid in other countries. The bosses and alienate their workers against one another, putting profits above all else. That is the reason, pure and simple.

If a boss lays off workers, saying he can't compete with low-priced goods produced in other countries, he can start right here. Then he could start by canceling the debt! If Clinton wants to clean up the environment, he can start right here. Then he could start by canceling the debt!

It cannot be repeated too often that no country can transcend the ceiling of its above all else. That is the reason, pure and simple.

More than a million workers took to the streets. From Chicago '68 to Seattle '99!
Mass rallies in Cuba demand U.S. return child

By Gloria La Riva

Millions of Cubans have taken to the streets of their country in protest. Yet, in the ultimate act of heartless cynicism against a child, the Cuban government in Miami has held 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez Brorot hostage and refuse to return him to his father in Cuba. Elian’s father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, is pleading for his son’s return.

The boy made national U.S. news when he was rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard on Nov. 25, after surviving two days at sea by holding onto an inner tube.

Little Elian was the victim of unscrupulous smugglers who bring Cubans from the island to Florida illegally—by raft or boat—for thousands of dollars each. The child was with his mother and nine other adults—all of whom drowned.

Elian was found in international waters. According to the U.S.-Cuba Migration Agreement of 1995, he must be returned to Cuba immediately.

International, U.S. and Cuban law all recognize the inviolable rights of the parent to his child. But the U.S. State Department—in violation of the migration agreement and international law, has given up jurisdiction to the state of Florida, saying it will be up to a Florida judge to decide the boy’s future.

Andres Gomez, director of the Antino Macroe Brigade in Miami and long-time activist for normalization of U.S.-Cuba relations, said, “The right-wing in Miami has such repressive influence that no judge will do what’s right and return him to his father. Also, the U.S. courts have absolutely no jurisdiction over this matter.”

The U.S. is a signatory of the Hague Convention of 1981, which provides for children to be expeditiously returned to their place of habitual residence. Cuba is Elian’s place of residence—it’s his home.

No one, not even the U.S. State Department contests this fact.

Under the Hague Convention terms, the State Department is obligated to intervene in the affairs of Florida on behalf of Elian in order to force the state’s compliance and return the child home.

‘Mass protests build in Cuba’

It is clear that it will take mass public pressure to free Elian from his captors.

The child’s plight has already received international attention. An overwhelming sentiment of moral indignation has swept Cuba. Millions of Cubans are marching to demand Elian’s immediate release to his father, his four grandparents, and his country.

The Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) issued an appeal to “all honest men and women of the world to protest by all available means against this infamous action and to demand the return of the boy Elian Gonzalez to his father and his relatives.”

On Dec. 5, Cuban President Fidel Castro issued a call for the formation of committees in the United States and around the world that would demand the freedom of Elian. It is clear that world opinion is with Cuba’s demand. South African Bishop Desmond Tutu, for example, spoke out strongly for the child’s return.

The intent of the 1995 U.S.-Cuba Migration Agreement was to discourage illegal immigration and provide for the permanent entry of 25,000 Cubans per year to the U.S.

However a longstanding U.S. law—the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966—gives full encouragement to Cubans to come to the United States illegally by granting them immediate permanent residency upon arrival and assistance granted to no other immigrants. But to get the residency, they must reach U.S. soil.

Cuba’s position is that Cubans may leave the island legally with an exit visa. But they must receive a U.S. visa to ensure a safe exit. The U.S. government has for years refused to issue sufficient visas. This encourages illegal and dangerous travel.

TALKIN’ ABOUT A REVOLUTION

Memory & underdevelopment

By Deirdre Griswold

Quick: poison gas

What’s the first word you think of?

Don’t be surprised if your knee-jerk response is “Iraq.” You’ve been programed to blur it out by countless articles, editorials, talk shows and the rest of the supposedly objective U.S. media for years now.

Maybe the image that pops into your mind is of Israeli’s wearing gas masks during “Desert Storm.” All that publicity about a gas attack that NEVER HAPPENED. It was to keep us looking in the wrong direction as the U.S. Air Force bombed the hell out of Iraq, killing over 100,000 people while taking virtually no casualties.

Now think again. Poison gas. People dying by the thousands, coughing, gagging, choking, their bodies clopping the street. Has it all real thing ever happened? Yes it has.

Fifteen years ago, on Dec. 3, 1984, a Union Carbide pesticide plant leaked poisonous gases into the city of Bhopal, India. This U.S.-based transnational corporation was responsible for the immediate deaths of 15,000 people. Another 500,000 people were injured by the gases.

In 1984 the worst industrial disaster in the history of the modern era. The survivors finally won a settlement of $600 each from the company, which made sure that none of its executives could be prosecuted.

Bhopal should be burned into our memories. It should be taught to every generation. It was the ultimate act of heartless cynicism against a child, the only civilized response to a child, the only civilized response to the people. The survivors know that at least as much anti-imperialist as anti-capitalist. This means that in the oppressed countries people of all classes have fought for national liberation. They knew they had to take back control of their own resources in order to develop their economies—the means of production.

They had inherited woeeful underdevelopment because of colonialism, a regime of plunder and pillage that allowed the colonial masters to build up their own industrial infrastructure.

Bhopal was proof that the imperialist corporations would cut every corner in their drive to extract super profits abroad. While the governments of the imperialist countries constantly talk about aiding development, that’s all bluff. It’s profits they’re after. The “development” they bring is roads and ports to help them bring out the raw materials.

The super-exploitation of the Third World is a day in, day out occurrence. It’s been going on for centuries. We hear of its worst features only when a monumental crime like Bhopal occurs.

U.S. imperialism in particular is determined to try and keep Third World countries from controlling their own technology. It forces organizations like the WTO, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to bear down on any country that doesn’t go along with its program of selling off state-owned industries to outside investors.

When people in a country like China see Bhopal, they say to themselves, “That can happen to us if we don’t control our own development, our own technology.”

Does this mean that accidents can’t happen anywhere? They can. But next time you hear someone mindlessly about how Third World countries can’t be trusted with high-tech, remind them that it was a U.S. firm, not an Indian or Chinese or Egyptian one, that was responsible for the worst chemical accident in the world.

Revolution for the vast majority of the people in the world means first of all getting the boot of the imperialist exploiters off their neck.
SOUTH AFRICA
Farmers union supports socialism
One of South Africa’s unions for farm workers, the South African Agricultural and Plantation and Allied Workers’ Union, opened its annual conference on Nov. 29 with calls for socialist economy. Saapawu spokesperson Bheki Ngubane explained that the call was “in line with the union’s belief in socialism as the only solution that can address the economic problems, an integral part of which is access to land resources by the majority.”

The union, which represents some 40,000 workers, met in Bloemfontein to take up organizational questions. Union leaders also discussed plans for job creation, minimum wage proposals, land grants, and other issues affecting farm workers.

The WOZA news agency reported that South African Communist Party General Secretary Blade Nzimande, African National Party Deputy President Jacob Zuma, and several leaders of the Congress of South African Trade Unions would address the conference.

The ANC, together with their allies in the SAPC and COSATU, led a broad political revolution against white apartheid rule that culminated in an ANC government in 1994. But the capitalist economy remains largely in the hands of the old white ruling class and trade unionists. Workers and farmers across South Africa are debating how to move forward toward continuing the revolution in a socialist direction.

IVORY COAST
Palm oil farmers cripple industry
Producers of palm oil in Ivory Coast marked their second week on strike on Dec. 1, with refineries across the West African country all but paralyzed. Independent farmers produce 60 percent of the continent’s crude palm oil, are demanding higher prices for their product from the industry.

Planters have set up barricades across roads in the Ivory Coast to prevent refineries from transporting raw material, according to a French News Agency report. “The situation is paralyzed,” said the head of the Palm Afrique corporation. A spokesperson for another plant, CIPPEF-CI, reported that “Our plants are operating at a minimum.”

NAMIBIA
Fishers strike
Some 86 fishers in the port town of Luderitz, Namibia, went on strike against the Lalandi Whitefish Processing Company on Nov. 29. The Namibia News Agency PANA reported that the fishers were fighting for payments for four years of underemployment. The Namibia government is the majority owner of the Lalandi Whitefish Processing Company.

The Lalandi Whitefish Processing Company is represented by the Namibia Wholesale and Retail Workers Union. Union Secretary General Aloysius Yon traveled to Luderitz to press the workers’ demands.

Company officials denied there was a strike, PANA reported. Nevertheless, company representatives met with Yon to try to ensure a speedy resolution to the “non-strike.”

RUSSIA
Dock workers, crew protest shipping thieves
Shipping companies have long taken advantage of the so-called “flag of convenience” system, where ships may avoid inspections under the flag of a country that offers incentives to ship owners. The International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) has a fighting bosses’ efforts to use these practices as part of schemes to avoid paying their workers.

In the Far Eastern port city of Vladivostok, the Russian crew of the MV SeaBreeze stopped working, charging that the company owed them some $35,000. Dock workers refused service the SeaBreeze in solidarity with the crew.

The SeaBreeze is a Russian-owned ship, it flies under the flag of Belize, a Central American country. Its previous crew also went without payment. The crew are trying to gain their money in a legal suit.

“This case is a prime example of why the ITF so vigorously pursues its campaign against the flag of convenience system,” said ITF official Stephen Cotton. “During this week of action we have received reports from all around the Asia/Pacific region of non-payment of wages, including one from New Zealand where some members of the crew aboard a fishing vessel were working for just food.”

ROMANIA
Workers protest poverty
At least 5,000 workers marched through Bucharest on Nov. 23 protesting plummeting living standards. Members of the CNSLR Pratia trade union chanted “Resignation!” and “You thieves!” outside government buildings.

“How can it be that after four years of underpayment, our government has the nerve to ask us to try to ensure a speedy resolution to the non-strike.”

INDIA
Residents, strike
Thousands of members of the Maharajah’s Association of Resident Doctors in India walked off the job on Nov. 22 demanding higher pay, according to a report posted on the Labor News Network. About 3,800 resident doctors and 1,000 interns shut down all but emergency medical care at public hospitals in Mumbai in the central state of Maharashtra.

The doctors charge that their salaries are the lowest in the entire country. They also claim that doctors working 24-hour shifts are paid less than doctors who work shorter shifts. Health and social workers tried to defuse the job action by promising to look into the salary discrepancies. But the general union meeting voted overwhelmingly to carry on with the strike until the residents received concrete proposals to pay for the raises.

PHILIPPINES
Honorary citizenship for Kim Jong-Il
The Peruvian coastal town of Huacho, some 75 miles north of the capital city Lima, is expected to become the Republic of Korea President Kim Jong-Il with a certificate of honorary citizenship. Guillermo Aguerro Reyes, governor of the Huaura province, presented the certificate and a gold medal to the DPRK’s ambassador on Nov. 26 to commemorate the eight anniversary of Kim Jong-Il’s election as Supreme Commander of the DPRK’s army.

Bhopal survivors protest
Fifteen years after one of the world’s worst industrial tragedies, hundreds of residents of Bhopal, India marched on Dec. 3 to demand justice from the U.S.-based Union Carbide Corporation. Up to 6,000 Bhopal residents were killed on Dec. 2, 1984, when poisonous gas leaked from the plant to the surrounding town. Tens of thousands were wounded.

“The plight of the gas victims is still persisting because of the slow pace of settling compensation suits and the absence of fool-proof medical treatment for the survivors,” said spokesperson Abdul Jabbar. Jabbar is a representative of the Bhopal Gas-Affected Workers’ Organization.

Gas-affected Women Workers’ Organization.

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Gas-affected Women Workers’ Organization.
**Nueva York**

Haitianos y Dominicanos juntos protestan expulsiones de la R.D.

Por Oscar Ovales y G. Dunkel

La expulsión de haitianos y dominicanos de origen haitiano de la República Dominciana ha disminuido a fines de noviembre. Sonia Pierre del Movimiento de Mujeres Dominicanas-Haitianas (MMDH) atribuye esta disminución a la conferencia anual Africana Pacifica y caribeña que se llevó a cabo en Santo Domingo.

Un haitiano que ha vivido en Brooklyn, N.Y. por más de 15 años dio una breve descripción de la manifestación de más de 100 personas frente al Consulado Dominicano cerca a Times Square el 20 de noviembre. "Es grato ver a Aristide regresar a Haití. Constant ahora estará a cargo de la industria del azúcar. Todos los trabajadores del azúcar, tanto haitianos y dominicanos que residen en el país."

Durante las tres primeras semanas de noviembre, el gobierno dominicano envió su inquisición a los haitianos y dominicanos, explicó. "Lo que el gobierno dominicano afirma que solo 4.000 personas han sido expulsadas, observadores del MMDH, quienes han estado en la frontera, alegan que la cifra real supera los 20.000.

El FRAPH es la organización paramilitar de relación entre el comercio y el ejército que regía la República Dominciana durante el gobierno de Balaguer. Los trabajadores inmigrantes recibirán cargos por trabajar en sitios peligrosos, dijo.

La coalición exige trabajos seguros después de muerte de inmigrante.

Por Mary Owen

Una coalición de activistas comunitarios de trabajo, religión y derechos pro-inmigrantes se reunieron el 2 de diciembre en el barrio Williamsburg en el condado de Brooklyn para una vigilia y para denunciar trabajos seguros. El evento tuvo lugar en el sitio donde el trabajador de construcción Eduardo Daniel de 22 años, perdió su vida y otros 10 trabajadores resultaron heridos después que el edificio en el que trabajaban se derrumbó el pasado 23 de noviembre.

"El pueblo unido jamás será vencido", este lema resonaba en inglés y en español conforme los participantes de la vigilía se alineaban en una ciudad desierta cuadra de edificios incompletos. La mayoría de ellos eran latinos.

"Los trabajadores denunciaban la negligencia criminal de los contratistas de la estructura residencial. Los trabajadores quienes podrían testificar sobre los accidentes, y más fondos para tener inspecciones de seguridad y salubridad de trabajadores quienes podrían testificar sobre los accidentes, y más fondos para tener una mayor propiedad.

Washington concedió asilo al líder del FRAPH, Toto Constant, después de que el Cardenal López Rodríguez no es solo un "príncipe de la Iglesia territorial."

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El contratista en este caso, quien tiene permiso para trabajar en el sitio donde el trabajador de construcción Eduardo Daniel de 22 años, perdió su vida y otros 10 trabajadores resultaron heridos después que el edificio en el que trabajaban se derrumbó el pasado 23 de noviembre.

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Daniel fue aplastado por bloques de cemento, barras de acero de refuerzo y otros materiales al caer los pisos superiores. Otros trabajadores fueron llevados a Bell Vue Hospital. La mayoría de ellos eran latinos.

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El comité South Side Fair Housing, representado por un grupo de trabajadores latinos, dijo que el Departamento de Edificios de la ciudad de Nueva York no ha hecho nada para corregir los problemas de la construcción en el área. Ellos prometieron protestar el 9 de diciembre al Alcalde Rudy Giuliani tendrá una reunión pública en la comunidad. Los trabajadores denunciaban la negligencia criminal de los contratistas de la estructura residencial que dirigen las operaciones. Los trabajadores quienes podrían testificar sobre los accidentes, y más fondos para tener inspecciones de seguridad y salubridad. La mayoría de ellos eran latinos.

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