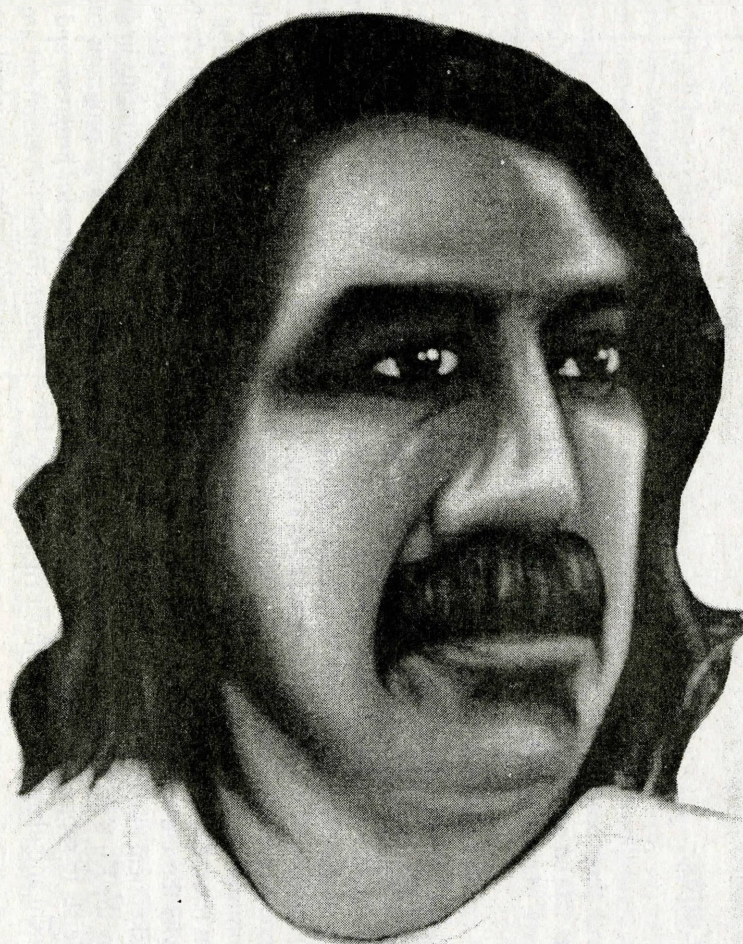


**Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education**

# **TURNING THE TIDE**

**Volume 12 Number 3    Fall 1999    \$2/newsstands**

**In this issue: Puerto Rico\* Shut Down the WTO!\* ARA  
Mumia\* Exchange on Zionism\* Big Mountain\* Police Brutality**



***Free Peltier!***

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## PART's Perspective:

# Puerto Rican Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War Released

## Que Viva Puerto Rico Libre!

The forces of liberation and decolonization, and the campaign to free political prisoners and prisoners of war held by the U.S., have won a tremendous victory. Eleven Puerto Rican political prisoners and prisoners of war were released from U.S. prisons in September, under a conditional clemency by President Clinton. We must savor the victory, and also deepen our understanding of how it was won and how it can be built on.

Edwin Cortes, Elizam Escobar, Ricardo Jimenez, Adolfo Matos, Dylcia Pagan, Alberto Rodriguez, Alicia Rodriguez, Ida Luz Rodriguez, Luis Rosa, Alejandrina Torres, and Carmen Valentin, were justly welcomed as heroes and patriots by the Puerto Rican people. Each was greeted by family members and supporters as they

But much remains to be done. Puerto Rican political prisoner Juan Segarra Palmer, who also accepted Clinton's conditional "clemency," must serve 5 more years. Antonio Camacho Negron, previously paroled and then returned to prison for refusing to abide by parole restrictions, is still imprisoned, having declined Clinton's offer to forgive a fine. So is Oscar Lopez Rivera, serving a 55-year sentence, who rejected Clinton's offer to serve 10 more years prior to release. POW Carlos Alberto Torres, serving a 70-year sentence, was described by the White House as the leader of the "Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional," (FALN) and denied even a conditional clemency offer. Jose Solis, recently imprisoned in an FBI frame-up, was apparently not considered for clemency. Also still behind bars is Haydee Beltran, arrested with a number of the others. She had asked that her case not be included in the campaign to free political prisoners and POW's, but clearly the campaign to win the freedom of the Puerto Rican independentistas remaining in captivity must now include her. And the eleven who were released still face illegitimate restrictions on their ability to associate with each other and with other leaders of the Puerto Rican independence movement such as Rafael Cancel Miranda, one of the Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners released unconditionally by Pres. Jimmy Carter 20 years ago.

### WHY AND HOW THE VICTORY WAS WON

Despite the conditions, the release represents a breakthrough in the struggle to gain recognition that the U.S. holds political prisoners and P.O.W.'s. "We think this is an unprecedented, historic moment," said attorney Jan Susler, who represented the prisoners and won them an unprecedented conference call to discuss Clinton's offer. "[T]he president of the United States ... recognize[d] that men and women who have dedicated their lives to the freedom of their country deserve to be free... to participate in the political, legal process to shape the future of their country." What's more, the fact that Clinton took this action in the face of concerted political opposition not only from the Republicans but also from members of his own party and cabinet, even his wife, demonstrates that the issue of the prisoners is situated in the colonial political realities of Puerto Rico.

The victory is due, first of all, to the prisoners themselves, who have struggled to maintain their principles, their unity and their connection to the independence struggle from behind the walls far almost 20 years. The unceasing struggle to free the political

prisoners and POW's which has been carried out since the capture of some of them in Evanston Illinois almost two decades ago also deserves tremendous credit. That campaign built on the 1979 success of the movement to free the Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners, Cancel Miranda, Lolita Lebron, Irvin Flores and others, for whom some of the current prisoners campaigned in the years before their own captivity. In particular, the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War persevered in the face of condemnations of the FALN as terrorists, COINTELPRO operations against it by the FBI, occasional political divisions among Puerto Rican independentistas in the U.S., and all other obstacles. Certainly other forces also played a key role, particularly the forces in Puerto Rico itself who made the prisoners household words and symbols of Puerto Rican identity.

What probably pushed the campaign for release over the top was the convergence of the issue of the freedom fighters' unjust captivity with the demand to get the U.S. Navy out of the Puerto Rican island of Vieques. Both issues, intimately connected to the colonial domination of Puerto Rico by the U.S., achieved near-unanimous support among the Puerto Rican people after decades of patient agitation, led by independentistas. Puerto Ricans of all party affiliations and positions on the status question were increasingly militant in their demand that their freedom fighters and national symbols be released and that the U.S. Navy stop bombing Vieques and return the land to Puerto Rican control. When Puerto Rican boxer Felix "Tito" Trinidad won the welterweight boxing title from Oscar de la Hoya, a man at his shoulder was waving a flag with the slogan "*Paz Para Vieques*" -- *Peace for Vieques*. Faced with this unanimity on both issues among Puerto Ricans, Clinton was forced to conclude that the cost to the U.S. in Puerto Rico of not acting was greater than any political price he might pay in the U.S. for granting clemency.

Several other factors also reinforced this calculation for Clinton. First of all, support was building on both issues in the U.S. itself, based on the sentiments of the large displaced Puerto Rican community. Other Latino organizations and political figures in the U.S., along with virtually every office holder of any political affiliation in Puerto Rico, signed on to the campaign to release the Puerto Rican prisoners. Rev. Jesse Jackson and other significant political figures responded to the campaign against the US military in Vieques after the Navy killed a civilian in its bombing, and the use of so-called 'depleted' uranium ordinance was

emerged from prison gates for the first time in as much as 19 years. The campaign had united even Puerto Ricans who identified with commonwealth and statehood parties behind the demand for freedom for the independentistas. Prior to their release, over 100,000 people marched in San Juan to demand that Clinton eliminate the unjust and insulting conditions he was placing on their release.

An ecstatic crowd celebrated the released freedom fighters when they arrived in Puerto Rico. As TTT was going to press, the prisoners were scheduled to appear together at a rally in Lares on September 23, commemorating the Grito de Lares, the call for Puerto Rican independence from Spain. This act further challenged and obviated some of the unjust restrictions Clinton imposed in his clemency offer.

revealed. Internationally renowned people such as Bishop Desmond Tutu and the UN itself endorsed the call to free the Puerto Rican prisoners. Clinton realized that frustrating this campaign ran the risk of pushing the Puerto Ricans further towards the camp of pro-independence struggle and opening further fissures in the U.S. itself in favor of de-colonization for Puerto Rico.

Rather than any calculation about the political value of the release for Hillary in a US Senate run, what probably made up Clinton's mind was the re-emergence of armed struggle on the island. The recent period has seen organizing from clandestinity, connected to struggles over Vieques and the mass, worker-led movement and general strike against privatization of the phone system. Clinton's fear of *NOT* releasing the prisoners was well-founded in the political climate in Puerto Rico.

This fear on Clinton's part reflects the importance of understanding that the U.S. is an empire, with all the vulnerabilities that empires have. Every empire in history has crumbled to dust because it is impossible to sustain indefinitely the domination over colonized people. Control over Puerto Rico has been a strength of the US empire, such as projecting its military strength into the Caribbean, but it is turning into a weakness. This becomes an insoluble contradiction. The US corporate efforts to privatize the Puerto Rican telephone system led to a general strike initiated by the telephone workers union. The mobilizations over that issue, along with Vieques and the prisoners' release, has led to the re-emergence of armed struggle and organization in clandestinity in Puerto Rico. For Emperor Clinton, these were worrisome developments.

### WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE

First of all, we must support and defend the released prisoners in their efforts to participate in and advance the struggle for Puerto Rican independence. "The FBI and Justice Department have said point blank that the president should not have granted clemency," Jan Susler said. "Because they have showed us their hand and showed us they will not be unbiased, objective law enforcement, we have taken it upon ourselves to mobilize protection for the prisoners and watchdog groups who will be watching the people responsible for enforcing the conditions." This protection must extend to the organizations such as CUCRE in Puerto Rico (Community United Against Repression) and NCFPRPPPOW's and Pro-Libertad in the U.S. that have campaigned to free them.

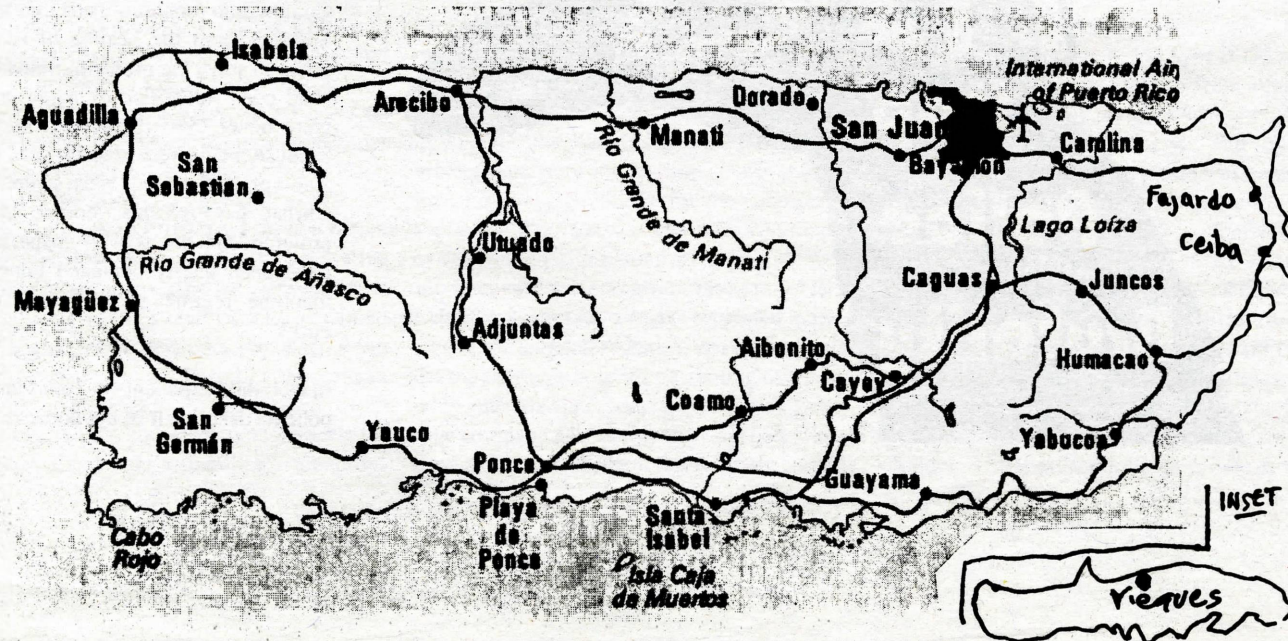
Second, we must re-double our efforts to free the remaining imprisoned freedom fighters. Zenaida Lopez said her brother Oscar "was in total agreement" with the decision of the 11 others to take the conditional clemency. Lopez directly told Ricardo Jimenez to "go home." But he and the other remaining Puerto Rican prisoners must now become a focus of the struggle. And that struggle must be even more intimately connected to the decolonization and self-determination of Puerto Rico. Clinton was forced to act because of the strength of the Puerto Rican movement and its allies. But he was able to pick and choose whom he would release and what conditions he would try to impose because there has not been a significant, widespread anti-colonial movement in the U.S. agitating against the empire and in favor of independence for Puerto Rico. It is the U.S. flag which flies illegitimately over Puerto Rico: the U.S. military, particularly the Navy, which illegally occupies Puerto Rico, and therefore it is the U.S. people who must step forward to oppose U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico.

This is not only out of a sense of obligation, but out of an understanding that the oppressive power that the U.S. government and corporations exert in Puerto Rico is the same power that victimizes, oppresses and exploits people inside the U.S. as well. In an empire, there are no citizens, only subjects. Defeating the empire in Puerto Rico will help liberate us all.

Finally, we need to understand and apply the anti-colonial, anti-imperialist lessons of the successful campaign to free many of the Puerto Rican political prisoners and POW's. The campaign was fundamentally grounded in the colonial case of Puerto Rico and attracted adherents out of campaigns to confront the colonial conditions and indignities experienced by the Puerto Rican people in their homeland and in the U.S., so that the prisoners came to represent the dignity and pride of the Puerto Rican people. Can this be applied to other cases? Absolutely. The unjust imprisonment of Leonard Peltier, for example, must be connected to the U.S. government's forced relocation of Navajo and Hopi at Big Mountain, to the continuing racism and oppression in South Dakota and Nebraska against the Sioux, to struggles over native sovereignty in New York and California.

The case for Mumia Abu Jamal should not be reduced only to challenging the unjust conviction of one man, but to the opposing the racist death penalty and the colonial nature of the criminal justice system. After all, Mumia himself has always stood against the racist prison system and against the death penalty as a whole. Just as the Puerto Rican political prisoners and the campaign to free them helped sustain and advance the movement for Puerto Rican independence in the face of state repression, the Black liberation movement can reassert itself by struggling to free Mumia and its other political prisoners in the context of fighting today's struggles against oppression. The struggle to free Mumia must extend to all political prisoners, particularly to other imprisoned members of the Black Panther Party and targets of COINTELPRO. After all, it was on the basis of Mumia's membership in the Black Panther Party and his life-long commitment to Black liberation that he was targeted for the death penalty. Mumia's case must be tied to the battle against police brutality and the use of the police as an occupying army in communities of color. After all, it was police brutality against Mumia's brother and the police shooting and mistreatment of Mumia himself that marked the situation that resulted in Mumia's frame-up for the death of a cop. Such connections will not weaken or isolate the campaign to save Mumia's life, but lay a firm foundation for its success.

### Puerto Rico





# COMMUNITY CONTROL OF POLICE OR OUT-OF-CONTROL POLICE STATE

by  
Michael Novick

L.A. killer cop David Mack got caught robbing banks. His ex-partner, L.A. killer cop Rafael Perez, got caught stealing cocaine from the LAPD evidence locker and selling it on the street. That cocaine had been logged in by L.A. killer cop Frank Lyga (a white undercover cop who killed off duty Black cop Kevin Gaines). Perez's current partner, killer cop Nino Duren, gave perjured testimony about gang violence that enabled L.A. District Attorney Gil Garcetti to obtain a controversial gang injunction against Latino youth in the Rampart Division where these killer cops worked.

But now that this nest of vipers has been exposed, Perez has cracked and begun blowing the whistle and police and federal investigators are digging how high and how wide the culture of violence and cover-up extended.

As we go to press, we know that Perez has admitted shooting an unarmed,

handcuffed man, Javier Ovando, in the head, and that his partner Duren covered it up with a planted 'drop' gun and rock cocaine. We know that Perez has admitted that another incident, in which cops shot Jose Perez, wounded a witness, Salvador Ochoa, and killed Juan Manuel Saldana, was also dirty, with police covering up that the victims were unarmed with perjured testimony and 'drop' guns.

We know that L.A. killer cop Brian Hewitt, involved in that incident, has been fired along with a fellow cop, for the bloody beating of Ismael Jimenez in a Rampart station interview room and its subsequent coverup.

We know that Duren invented stories of mad-dog gang killers armed with semi-automatic weapons to help the D.A. convince a judge to grant an unprecedented injunction limiting the rights of association of Latino youth. And the disclosures are still pouring out daily!

Yet even as organizing against police abuse and brutality grows, the drum beat of police beatings and murders continue. In San Jose, in the face of growing protests, police have shot and killed 8 people in nine months. After 1000 people marched in the Inland Empire to protest the Riverside police killing of Tyisha Miller, nearby San Bernardino sheriffs shot and killed three people in as many weeks. In Compton, El Monte police shot and killed an unarmed grandfather after they smashed in the doors to his home in a 'mistaken' drug raid. In Los Angeles, in the wake of extensive protests of the shooting death of Margaret Mitchell, a homeless Black woman, the notorious "SIS" death squad killed two more men after a robbery. In San Diego, police shot and killed a former NFL star, Demetrius DuBose, in an incident that has raised charges of racism.

The problem is hardly restricted to California. In New York, where the killing of Amadou Diallo was met by a massive campaign of civil disobedience, police responded by killing nine people in the month of August alone. In Florida, prison guards beat to death a man on Death Row. In Chicago, police shot and killed Black people in two different traffic incidents on the same night. In Las Vegas, two men who were then cops, Christopher Brady and Ron Mortenson, were found guilty of a 1996 hate crime. According to the US attorney, the two conspired to harass and intimidate Hispanics, resulting in their shooting to death Daniel Mendoza, 21. And the list could go on and on, big cities and small towns, victims, Black, Latino, Asian, white, Native American.

What is most remarkable is that these new atrocities and disclosures come in the face of alleged efforts at police 'reform,' in the face of a growing political movement focusing on stopping such racism and abuse, in the face of a supposed commitment by Janet Reno and Clinton's Justice Department to "restore trust in the police" by investigating and prosecuting excessive force. This persistence should push us to deepen our understanding of how intractable and systemic this problem is. But it should also make us sharpen our analysis and understanding of the basis of police abuse. And it should challenge us to come forward with more effective solutions and organizing strategies that can deal with a problem of this enormity. On October 22nd, tens of thousands of people will march against police brutality in cities across the country. But what will we do on October 23rd? How can we materially affect the strategies and operations of the police?

How should we build the unity of popular forces than can really deal with this problem?

It is the reality of colonialism, of the police delegated to act as an occupying army in communities of color, and as an internal border guard for more privileged communities, that forms the base upon which cases like the currently exposed L.A. scandals must be understood. The tens of thousands of unjustified, often unrecorded traffic stops of Blacks and Latinos, carried out by departments across the country, lead to racially disparate arrest rates, racially disparate shootings and killings, racially disparate trials, convictions and sentences.

The gang injunctions obtained with perjured testimony by the L.A. District Attorney, were simply the new court-sanctioned version of the old "Operation Hammer" program of massive "gang" sweeps of Black and Latino youths, marked by 30,000 "pre-emptive" arrests by the LAPD.

Such programs and methods aim to criminalize a whole generation of Black and Latino youth simply for their 'demographic profile.' Yet these crimes of racial status are forming the basis for the three strikes incarcerations that are locking increasing numbers away for the rest of their lives even as crime rates continue to fall.

It is not necessary for all cops to be bad guys for the system to function in this way. It is not necessary for every cop to be a killer cop. It is only necessary to the system that the bad cops, the killer cops, be allowed to do their work unmolested for protracted periods of time. That way, on the streets, at any given time, the people they patrol do not know whether the particular cop they see is one of the so-called 'bad apples.' This is the use of state terror to cow the population into obedience.

The problem is not only police misconduct, but police conduct. In New York, the cops boast about the fact that arrest rates continue to rise even as crime rates drop. Last year in NYC, for the first time, police made more arrests than there had been reported crimes -- 20,000 more! Those officers who join to serve the communities are often broken down or driven out by the harsh realities of colonialism. The officers for whom the temptations and corruption of power prove too strong are protected by the blue wall of silence and by the system until they become too much of an embarrassment, and then they are disowned. But the system goes on, training others to take their place.

Good cop and bad cop is in fact a strategy of policing and of interrogation, in which officers take turns playing the parts, to exert physical or psychological domination over the people they are dealing with. The good cops do not function to keep the bad cops honest: they are simply a necessary part of the equation of control, the carrot that works in tandem with the stick. This is similar to the torture techniques taught by the US military and CIA to repressive Latin American militaries. Effective torture requires not simply the application of pain, but the provision of relief.

Nor are reforms, like the Christopher Commission proposals made in response to the outrage about the beating of Rodney King, going to solve the problem. Some of the exact "bad cops" identified by name in that report were never even removed from the LAPD, because the powers-that-be need that kind of element in the mix. What's more, the main Christopher reforms, community oriented policing and the post of Inspector General, have been utterly defanged under the clean machine regime of LAPD Chief Bernard Parks.

In fact, the proponents of community oriented policing describe it as the domestic equivalent





# **DEMONSTRATE TO STOP POLICE BRUTALITY, REPRESSION, and the CRIMINALIZATION of a GENERATION**

**OCTOBER 22ND**

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of psychological operations in the military, the effort to control the thinking of the population and the enemy to your advantage. In other words, it is more of the same militarization of the police that marks the colonial approach!

Policing in the U.S. has functioned increasingly on a militarization model since the Black rebellions of the 1960's, when local police forces were overwhelmed, and the National Guard and regular Army forces were called in to cities across the U.S. The rulers vowed never to be caught short again. They unleashed COINTELPRO as a domestic counter-insurgency dirty war against Black revolutionaries such as in the Black Panther Party, and they began to provide military weaponry, training and centralized strategic planning to police departments under the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). This process has continued unabated. Frank Morales, a New York community activist, spelled out the extent of recent militarization of the police in an article in the Summer 1999 issue of Covert Action Quarterly. "The Clinton administration extended the police-military connection by mandating that the Department of Defense (DOD) and its associated private industries form a partnership with the Department of Justice (DOJ)," Morales wrote in CAQ. The program, entitled, "Technology Transfer From Defense" calls for the transfer of military technology to domestic police organizations. Previous direct transfers of this sort had been made only to friendly foreign governments. Morales concludes that this Clinton directive "ensures the formalization of direct militarization of the police."

A recent round of organizing on the issue of police abuse was directed at getting Clinton to speak out on the problem and Attorney General Reno to act on it. Yet Morales reports that Reno, speaking to members of the defense, intelligence, and industrial communities under Clinton's program in November 1993, welcomed her guests, "to the kind of war our police fight every day. [L]et me challenge you to turn your skills that served us so well in the Cold War to helping us with the war we're now fighting daily in the streets of our towns and cities across the nation." Shortly after Reno issued this challenge, DOD and DOJ entered a five-year partnership to formalize joint technology sharing and development efforts for law enforcement and those military operations

unrelated to war. Areas of shared military technology included "devices to detect concealed weapons," to avoid Fourth Amendment limitations against unreasonable searches. Another shared technology is in the area of "virtual reality training, simulation, and mission planning."

Such training has been provided, according to Morales, by Firearms Training Systems, Inc. (FATS), which, since 1984, has specialized in customized firearms training and psychological conditioning of police forces in the U.S. and foreign military organizations, including the armies of Singapore and Italy, the U.S. Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps, and the BATF, FBI, and LAPD. The President and CEO of FATS is Peter A. Marino, who was formerly the Director of the Office of Technical Services of the Central Intelligence Agency. Morales provides documentation that nearly half of the hundreds of para-military police units in the U.S. have trained with active duty military experts in special operations, while another 30 percent trained with police officers who had special operations experience in the military.

Morales quotes FATS own description of the nature of its simulation training. "You've got him in your sights. Drawing a gun, he turns, you fire. A life and death situation? Not if it's a simulation system from Firearms Training Systems (FATS).... the leading worldwide producer of interactive simulation systems designed to provide training in the handling and use of small and supporting arms." FATS developed its first video simulation system for police and military application in 1985. Since, Morales reports, they have sold more than 2,200 systems in over 30 countries.

FATS simulation systems, according to its manufacturer, "enable users in law enforcement agencies and the military the ability to train in highly realistic scenarios through the integration of video and digitalized projected imagery and modified, laser emitting firearms that retain the fit, function and feel of the original weapon.... The FATS simulator evaluates each officer on a series of judgment, accuracy and reaction time exercises.... Using video or computer images projected onto a screen, the simulator's easy to use menu guides the user through a series of training exercises, which include appropriate use of deadly force." The company also boasts that "FATS systems used by law enforcement agencies are a viable

defense tool against liability lawsuits relating to alleged uses of excessive force. The reason: officers training on FATS systems receive the most realistic training available to law enforcement personnel." An important selling point to departments that have been plagued by lawsuits for wrongful deaths caused by their officers!

Recently, Morales reports, FATS Inc. contracted with the Office of Naval Research to produce a commercial version of the Weapons Team Engagement Trainer (WTET). They will work directly with potential military and law enforcement customers to develop a commercial version of the system. The training simulators link large, video projection, digital audio technology, and infrared (IR) location sensors to provide realistic training experiences to combat and law enforcement personnel in place of traditional marksmanship exercises. The long piece by Morales is available in Covert Action Quarterly, at 1500 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. URL: <http://www.covertaction.org>

Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, a former Army Ranger and paratrooper, and author of "On Killing," says that "modern training uses what are essentially B.F. Skinner's operant conditioning techniques to develop a firing behavior in the soldier. This training comes as close to simulating actual combat conditions as possible." Grossman asserts that operant conditioning is "the single most powerful and reliable behavior modification process yet discovered in the field of psychology, and now applied to the field of warfare." He explains that behavioral engineering geared to producing better killers is relatively recent.

According to Grossman, it has been demonstrated that "in World War II, 75 to 80 percent of riflemen did not fire their weapons at an exposed enemy, even to save their lives and the lives of their friends." But by the Vietnam War, the non-firing rate was closer to 5 percent. This was accomplished through a process of desensitization, denial and indoctrination. "The method used to train today's U.S. Army and USMC soldiers is nothing more than an application of conditioning techniques to develop a reflexive quick-shoot ability," Grossman concludes, and now these methods are being used to train street cops in waging war in our cities. No wonder we are seeing killings in which cops

empty their weapons into anyone perceived as a threat! The problem behind these shootings is not 'lack of training,' as liberal police reformers assert. The training is one source of the problem!

How can we begin to make a dent in this police state regime? Remember the message of the Black Panther Party -- the people's spirit is greater than the man's technology. The strength of the police rests not fundamentally on their armaments but on their political support. Only by directly changing their anti-democratic, colonial role can we begin to erode that support.

We need to wage a pro-active campaign not only to denounce atrocities after they happen, but to organize a community base to take on the power of the police. We need to build the call for a special prosecutor to handle complaints of police abuse. Beyond that, we need community control of the police. We need elected boards that set policies, hire and fire top police administrators, and oversee the discipline of officers. We elect the people who control our schools; why not the people who control our cops?

We can take a step in this direction by creating local assemblies for community control of police, a kind of shadow police commission that can begin the agitate and organize around a program of de-militarization of the police, that can provide a place for people to bring their complaints and reports, and for officers who are repelled by the role they have been assigned by the rulers to come and blow the whistle.

Other measures are needed. We certainly need to publicize the systemic nature of the atrocities, to protest the killings, beatings and injustice and to pressure the system to hold killer cops accountable. We can expand the network of CopWatch projects out on the streets observing police procedures and acting as a prevention measure against brutality. We need to build mechanisms of community self-defense. One contribution PART is making to this process is the e-mail distribution of cases of police abuse and examples of the people's resistance to anti-abuse activists around the U.S. If you'd like to get on the list, email us at:

[part2001@usa.net](mailto:part2001@usa.net).



**Militant gays and lesbians take to the streets, wagging their fists at authoritarianism.**

## **Filipino Gays Join Anti-Dictatorship Movement in Philippines**

The Progressive Organization of Gays in the Philippines (Progay-Philippines) and Gays United to Wipe Out American Military Presence in the Philippines (GUWAPO) called on gays and lesbians to join the broad anti-dictatorship movement under the auspices of the September 21 Committee, to march on the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila to oppose the resurgence of authoritarian rule under the Estrada regime. GUWAPO and Progay rallied sexual minorities to join the multi-sectoral protest rallies in major cities in the Philippines scheduled for Tuesday, September 21.

Atadero knows first-hand about the potential for political repression in his country. He was illegally arrested and became a political detainee during the former Marcos dictatorship. He noted a number of danger signs of the rebuilding of a dictatorial police state, such as the increasing bullying of citizens during rallies. He cited the rebuilding of CAFGUs — right-wing para-military organizations — in the barrios and pointed out that this development, along with arrests of suspected political enemies of the president by the police, are chillingly similar to the months before martial law was declared by Marcos.

Michael Bismar, president of the GUWAPO, was scandalized by the return of Marcos-style

extravagance by President Estrada and his entourage at a time of economic hardship throughout Asia, when the funding is drawn from the taxes paid by the increasingly impoverished masses of Filipinos. "The hot cars for Estrada's Cabinet members and the rampant cronyism remind us of Imelda's thousands of shoes and excessive jewelry," Bismar remarked.

"While the prices of oil and other basic commodities are rising beyond our means, it pains me to know we now have an administration teaching people to gamble in order to solve the country's financial crisis," he added.

Oscar Atadero, secretary-general of Progay-Philippines, issued a statement saying that "the rights of gays and other sexual minorities are threatened." He attributed this to the obvious political maneuvering of the party in power to edge out even the rival faction of the ruling classes.

"If Estrada is harassing his own party-mates who disagree with his stand on charter changes, what more the ordinary gays and other poor sectors of society, when he has succeeded in railroading through his political and economic reforms?" Atadero asked.

Meanwhile, a Filipina lesbian group called "Lesbond" also prepared to march against the dictatorship on September 21. They were scheduled to rally in Baguio together with the Innabuyog Women's Federation and Tongtongan ti Umili-BAYAN.

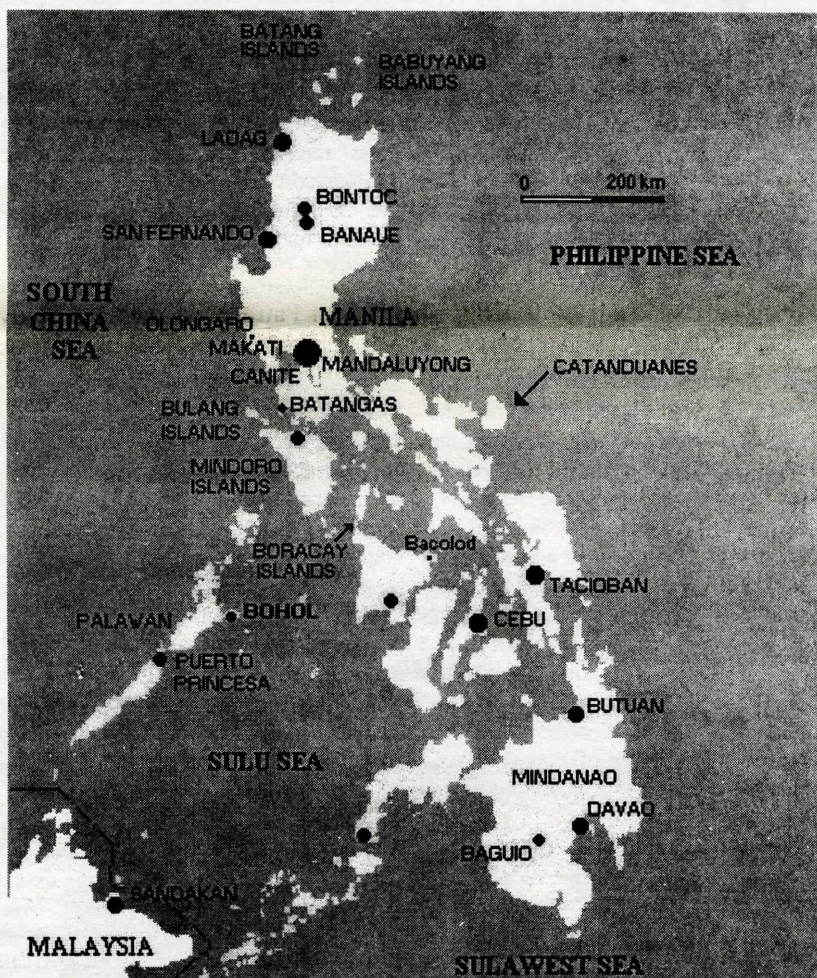
Calling themselves "makabayang biyanang" or nationalist lesbians, feminist lesbian poets from the city, tomboy farmers from the Mountain Province and butch workers from the factories are on the war path against charter change, cronyism and the rising tyranny of the US-backed and directed Estrada regime. Meanwhile, Progay-Davao and the Pink Collective of Gay Campus Writers were also

scheduled to spice up the September 21 Committee movement in Southern Mindanao.

The Progressive Organization of Gays in the Philippines (Pro-Gay) is a national mass organization of Filipino gay men seeking the liberation of gays through genuine national freedom and democracy in the Philippines. It also links with other gay-friendly heterosexual groups within as well as outside the Philippines.

Visit the Pro-Gay Homepage at [http://members.tripod.com/~progay\\_philippines/](http://members.tripod.com/~progay_philippines/)

Map of the Philippines



## **GABRIELA-Network, US-Philippines women's solidarity organization The Purple Rose Campaign**

GABRIELA-Network, a US-Philippines women's solidarity organization, is launching the Purple Rose Campaign, a nationwide effort that seeks to raise awareness about sexual violence and human rights abuses against women. The campaign aims to get people in the U.S. to commit to opposing the traffic in women, and to make a promise not to patronize the sex trade. A "Purple Rose" pin will symbolize this oath. Over the past ten years, GABRIELA-Network has organized women throughout the United States and empowered people to pro-actively change

Building on these successes, GABRIELA-Network currently is launching the Purple Rose Campaign, which will include a series of educational activities and mass actions against violence towards women, prostitution, the mail-order bride industry, and labor export! GABNET implements the Purple Rose Campaign as part of its ongoing effort to bring attention to the global trafficking of women and the devastating effects of globalization on the lives of the Filipino people, particularly women and children.

Filipina women's lives are in grave danger. As they strive to make a living for their

families, many women are pushed into the sex trade. They suffer extremely exploitative work conditions; emotional, physical and sexual abuses; and violence, including murder. We in the US must take an active role in bringing an end to the conditions that force women into these dangerous situations. Many of the policies that create these conditions originate from here. We must raise our own and each other's consciousness, and act on that consciousness. Taking part in the Purple Rose Campaign is a first step.

GABRIELA-Network, Los Angeles will conduct a local Purple Rose Campaign as

and improve policies and programs to ensure the welfare of all people. Two recent successes have been the development of a Filipino Community School, a summer program housed at the Philippine American Library that teaches children 4 to 9 years of age about a variety of topics, from history and geography to arts and culture; and a series demonstrations against promoters of the sex tourism industry, in conjunction with other US women's and student organizations, which effectively shut down some of their web sites.

part of an international effort. We are holding a Purple Rose Ball, a benefit dinner to raise money for the efforts to end trafficking of women. The Purple Rose Ball will be held on Friday, October 22, 1999 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. All proceeds from the Purple Rose Ball will go to the Philippines to set up legal, medical, and social services for women who are victims of violence, such as trafficking. Please make your reservation or sponsor an ad in the souvenir program today. See ticket and ad prices below.

Contact GABRIELA-Network, Los Angeles at (213) 307-3696 or e-mail [lazigr1@ucla.edu](mailto:lazigr1@ucla.edu)

or [nenrile@ucla.edu](mailto:nenrile@ucla.edu). We recognize that while we may have been in the United States for many generations, our ties across the Pacific are strong and lasting. We thank you for your support and solidarity.

The Purple Rose Ball Program Committee  
GABRIELA - Network, Los Angeles

You can mail your reservation to GABRIELA - Los Angeles P.O. Box 3032 Cerritos, CA 90703-3032 Please include name, address, and which ticket (drawing, \$75, or student/senior) Drawing Ticket (raffle and dinner included)- \$100 Dinner - \$75 Students and Senior prices - \$50