

THE ORGANIZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY USA NATIONAL OFFICE

APRIL 2009

Mobilize on March 20th !

**END THE
OCCUPATION!
TROOPS OUT
NOW!**

SOCIALIST PARTY USA

WWW.SOCIALISTPARTY-USA.ORG

On Saturday, March 20, 2010, there will be a mass National March & Rally in D.C. The Socialist Party will march together to say "No Wars and Occupations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine! We demand funds so that every person can have a job, free and universal health care, decent schools, and affordable housing.

Join us in DC and in other cities on March 20th!

The Organizer is the newsletter of the Socialist Party USA National Office. Subscriptions are free to members and sustainers. For bulk copies contact the SPUSA National Office at 339 Lafayette St. #303 New York, NY 100012. The Editor is Greg Pason, National Secretary.

Socialist Party USA Response to Obama's "Surge" in Afghanistan

On December 1st, President Obama has announced that he will send 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan. The justification is paper thin. Far from creating security, the occupation itself has created a state of lawlessness in Afghanistan. The fraud ridden reelection of the puppet Karzai regime has put popularity for the US mission in Afghanistan through the floor, and further inflamed anger in the middle east. Far from building Afghan sovereignty, Obama's policy is to deepen support for an illegitimate regime with tight associations with oil companies, drug lords, and warlords. Americans are waking up to the fact that, like the occupation of Iraq, this occupation isn't making us any safer, nor is it bringing development, democracy, security, or women's rights to Afghanistan. Rather, it is killing Afghan civilians and U.S./ NATO troops while stealing badly needed funds from housing, jobs, healthcare, and climate protection.

Even before the election, Obama refused to counter McCain's assertion that the surge in Iraq had worked. Instead he said US policy should turn toward Afghanistan. One year into his administration and we are on course to double the number of troops in Afghanistan from Bush Administration levels.

The anti-war movement is slowly and painfully learning several important lessons. First that these occupations do not represent the mistaken policies of a peace-loving government, but rather are to a global system emanating from Washington that can only be addressed in their entirety. And second, the Democratic Party will not move one inch toward a less belligerent policy.

These wars are about seizing natural resources, expanding unregulated markets, and dominating the middle east militarily, politically, and economically, vis a vis our competitors in Europe and Asia. These motivations are not unique to one country or region of the world; nor were they unique to the Bush administration. Rather, these factors characterize a decades old global US imperial project. Rather than enjoying a much sought after "peace dividend" after the Cold War, US military spending and curtailments on civil liberties continued unabated.

From this understanding we can see how deeply radical a true peace movement must be. An antiwar stance ought to be a point of unity among a variety of movements, from climate change to health care; workers rights to civil rights. This broad unity must be matched by a firm commitment to uncompromising struggle. We can expect that every angle of non-violent force must be fully leveraged in order to impose such radical changes on how the US ruling establishment conducts business.

Lastly, we should recognize that some elements of the establishment may be split away from supporting direct military confrontation in favor of "smarter" more efficient levers of domination. The withdrawal of troops from any theater of conflict would signal a major victory in terms of lives saved and the morale of peoples' struggles everywhere.

Continued on next page

Afghanistan continued...

But the peace movement must go further to address military spending and the power of those who own the war industry, or else we can expect the unending threats and interventions around the world to continue. We must not tolerate occupations like that suffered in Palestine, which is underwritten with US sponsorship. While we make the immediate demand of "troops home now from Iraq and Afghanistan," we must also lay the foundation for a movement that can dismantle US militarism and demand real alternatives.

As this new phase of imperial expansion unfolds under the leadership of the Obama administration, the Socialist Party USA stands ready to struggle for an antiwar movement that respects the right to self-determination of the Afghan people; a movement that is democratic and inclusive; a movement that involves the participation of broad sectors of society; and finally, a movement that is truly independent of the partisan interests of the Democratic Party and the capitalists they represent.

2010 SOCIALIST PARTY USA NATIONAL ORGANIZING CONFERENCE



AUGUST 14-15th

**Neighborhood House Community Center
29 S. Mills St. Madison, WI
Mark your calendars- more info soon!**

The Organizer

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Remember Rachel Corrie

By Billy Wharton, co-chair Socialist Party USA



socialists throughout the world draw political strength from.

March 16, 2010 -- Today marks the anniversary of the tragic death of International Solidarity Movement (ISM) activist Rachel Corrie. On March 16, 2003, Corrie was killed by an Israeli Defense Force (IDF) bulldozer while non-violently resisting the destruction of a Palestinian home. Her death came to symbolize the daily violence faced by Palestinians in the occupied territories as well as the spirit of international solidarity that democratic

Rachel Corrie was so moved by the struggle of the Palestinian freedom struggle that she took leave from Evergreen State College and joined the ISM in Palestine. After spending a few weeks in the Gaza Strip, Corrie described the Palestinians as "surrounded by murderous towers, tanks, armed 'settlements' and now a giant metal wall". House demolitions and military incursions by the IDF intensified throughout early 2003. ISM activists and their Palestinian counterparts countered this repression with daily acts of heroic non-violent direct action by placing their bodies in front of bulldozers and heavily armed military units.

On March 16, 2003, acting under the pretense of eliminating guerilla hideouts and smuggling tunnels, the IDF attempted to destroy the house of Palestinian pharmacist Samir Nasrallah. Rachel Corrie, along with several other ISM activists, formed a human shield in front of the house. Witnesses from the ISM, in a report compiled by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, testified that the IDF bulldozer driver could clearly see Corrie, who was dressed in the standard ISM fluorescent vest, yet proceeded to crush her to death with the blade of the bulldozer.

Corrie's death became an international news event that helped to shed more light on the daily brutality of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Many more Palestinians have died since 2003. Most perish in anonymity – nameless and face-less victims of a never-ending cycle of occupation and repression. They are known only to family members who are left to bury and mourn them, wondering how many more victims there will be. While Corrie's death drew international outrage, the loss of life on the part of Palestinians is seldom recognized.

Still Rachel Corrie's life and sacrifice should be commemorated. It gives testimony to the capacity of youth in the United States take action in support of greater freedom and justice in the world. Too often, young people accept the position created for them by late capitalism – to live empty lives centered on consumption with no hope for political change. Rachel Corrie became an active participant in history and her death contributed to the continuing struggle for Palestinian freedom.

She reminds us that Americans have a special responsibility to help end the conflict between Israel and Palestine. We can continue the work of Rachel Corrie by raising the demand for an immediate end to all US aid to Israel. As she said so clearly in an email to her parents: "I am in the midst of a genocide which I am also indirectly supporting, and for which my government is largely responsible."

Remember Rachel Corrie by supporting the creation of a new foreign policy built upon socialist values of international solidarity and peace.

For news, statements, meeting announcements and more, check out the Party's website at: www.socialistparty-usa.org. Also check out the webzine at: socialistwebzine.blogspot.com