

After cease-fire, Israeli forces begin pullout from Lebanon

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

August 16—As the Israeli rulers fell short of their goal of breaking the back of Hezbollah's militias through their month-long invasion of Lebanon, the United Nations Security Council on August 11 unanimously approved a cease-fire resolution. The U.S.- and French-sponsored document establishes a military force to police southern Lebanon in conjunction with an equal number of Lebanese troops. Some of the 30,000 Israeli troops that invaded have reportedly begun to leave the country and turn over villages to UN troops already there.

During their assault Israeli forces killed nearly 1,100, wounded 3,700, and drove about 1 million people from their homes.

From the moment the cease-fire took effect August 14, however, thousands of refugees began to return to their homes in southern Lebanon, the center of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) assault. This took place in spite of the IDF's initial refusal to lift its threat to attack any vehicle on the road south of the Litani River, about 18 miles north of the Israeli border.

"There is a massive movement of tens of thousands if not more toward the south and toward the southern suburbs of Beirut, too," Bashar Abu-Sayfan, a

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UK cops arrest two dozen for 'terrorist plot'

BY XERARDO ARIAS

EDINBURGH, Scotland, August 15—In overnight raids in London, High Wycombe, and Birmingham August 10, British police arrested 24 people under the Terrorism Act 2000 for alleged involvement in a "terrorist plot" to blow up transatlantic flights. The majority of those arrested are British citizens of Pakistani origin.

One of those arrested has since been released without being charged. The rest can be kept behind bars for 28 days without charges. Their assets have been frozen by the Bank of England, which published on its website the names of 19 of those arrested. Their personal details have been featured in the media across the country.

An article in the August 10 issue of the London Times said the police made the arrests after an international surveillance operation that monitored meetings, travel, spending, and expressed aspirations of a large group of people. The spying operation reportedly began in December 2005, triggered by the capture of a British national in Pakistan.

British prime minister Anthony Blair

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Chicago conference calls actions for immigrant rights

September rallies to demand legalization, end to deportations



Militant/Christian Castro

National Immigrant Rights Strategy Convention took place August 11–13 in Chicago

BY ERNEST MAILHOT

CHICAGO, August 13—The three-day National Immigrant Rights Strategy Convention concluded here today. Several hundred delegates took part. Organizers announced that 600 people had registered. They included representatives of immigrant rights groups, trade unions, and other organizations backing legalization of immigrants. A good number of students and other youth attended.

Delegates voted to back actions for immigrant rights already called for the first week of September, around Labor Day weekend. They also approved a call for

Build mobilizations for immigrant rights
 — editorial, p. 9

nationally coordinated actions September 30, before Congress adjourns prior to the November elections, to demand immediate legalization of undocumented immigrants. Delegates also agreed to press the demand for a moratorium on workplace raids and deportations at all

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Socialist Workers in New York file for ballot status

BY ANDREA MORELL

ALBANY, New York—“We oppose the anti-working-class campaign around ‘homeland defense’ that Democrats and Republicans are pushing in the name of ‘fighting terrorism,’” said Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in New York. “The U.S. rulers are trying to get us to accept restrictions on political rights and a stepped-up military presence in civilian life. The target of such measures will be the unions and the struggles of working people.”

Calero was responding to a reporter's question at a news conference held here August 15, before he and other socialist candidates headed to the state board of elections office and turned in 30,000 signatures—double the requirement—to place the Socialist Workers ticket on the ballot.

The event was reported on in the Syracuse *Post-Standard*, New York *Newsday* and the Albany *Times-Union*, and

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Day laborers in partnership with AFL-CIO

BY RÓGER CALERO

The AFL-CIO and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) announced August 9 a new partnership between the two organizations. The purpose is to improve wages and working conditions of day laborers, largely undocumented immigrants, seeking daily work in cities and towns across the United States.

NDLON is an umbrella group of some 40 worker centers across the country. The centers assist day laborers, who look for all kinds of work—from landscaping to house cleaning and repairs—in organizing to confront superexploitation and abuse by the employers and fight for livable wages.

A day after the deal with the AFL-CIO was announced, the Laborers' International Union said it will begin next year recruiting day laborers as full-fledged union members for construction jobs, the Associated Press reported. The union, which left the AFL-CIO last year to join the Change to Win federation, represents

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U.S. appeals court upholds convictions of five framed Cuban revolutionaries

BY PAUL PEDERSON

On August 9, the full 12-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed an earlier ruling of a three-judge panel of the same court and upheld the convictions of the Cuban Five. The decision came exactly one year after the three-judge panel had thrown out the convictions of the five Cuban revolutionaries and ordered a new trial.

The court had ruled Aug. 9, 2005, that the defendants were denied a fair trial because of “the ‘perfect storm’ created by pretrial publicity surrounding this case, the pervasive community sentiment, and the government's closing arguments.” The U.S. government, which won convictions for the five men in 2001 based on frame-up charges that included conspiracy to commit espionage for the government of Cuba, appealed last year's ruling.

In reversing the 2005 decision the full court of appeals concluded that Miami-Dade County—where the five were tried amidst a media barrage that had labeled them guilty with the regular presence in the courtroom of Cuban-Americans opposed to the Cuban Revolution—“is a widely diverse, multi-racial community

of more than two million people. Nothing in the trial record suggests that twelve fair and impartial jurors could not be assembled by the trial judge to try the defendants impartially and fairly.”

The five men—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González—were in Miami on an internationalist mission from the Cuban government to collect information on ultrarightist groups of Cuban-Americans

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Former airline worker in Chicago resists deportation 4

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British forces expand NATO operations in Afghanistan

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON—Following weeks of intensive fighting, the head of NATO forces in southern Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. David Richards, a British officer, announced August 12 a new offensive against Taliban forces. Under the plan, the imperialist military alliance will move Afghan army units in to defend locations NATO forces had previously been trying to hold. This would free up NATO troops to mount “search and destroy” missions in areas held by the Taliban, which ruled the country until the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

Commenting on the scale and intensity of the fighting, Richards said: “This sort of thing hasn’t really happened so consistently, I don’t think, since the Korean War or the Second World War. . . . This is persistent, low-level, dirty fighting.”

Since May, British troops in the country’s Helmand province have fought 25 major battles in which they have killed about 700 Taliban, the August 6 *Telegraph* reported.

Imperialist forces occupying three outposts in the northern part of the province are reportedly being attacked every day by Taliban fighters. “There is a little bit of Rorke’s Drift about this and if we are not very, very careful we could have a disaster on our hands,” said Major Charles Hayman. He was referring to attempts in 1879 by British colonialists in South Africa to hold a garrison under attack by local Zulus.

In response, Gen. Michael Jackson, head of the British Army, said his forces were “getting stuck in” to the Taliban. NATO forces are using Royal Air Force Harriers and U.S. A10 fighter jets to drop 500 pound laser-guided bombs.

The governor of the Helmand says his

administration does not function in two of the province’s 12 districts and government officials can only travel freely in central areas.

Ten British soldiers have been killed in the area in the past two months, according to BBC News. Preparing public opinion for further deaths, Air Chief Marshal Jock Stirrup said, “We knew we were going to take casualties.”

“We’re here for the long haul,” Richards added.

With NATO taking command since the beginning of August of forces previously led by the U.S. military, the Atlantic military alliance is now engaged in its biggest combat operation outside Europe in its history. Some 18,000 troops are operating under NATO command in Afghanistan.

British forces recently began upgrading their materiel for further combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, replacing Land Rovers, which are vulnerable to roadside bombs or rocket-propelled grenades, with Vector vehicles that are more mobile and durable.

Toronto: Communist League candidates join protest, oppose Ottawa’s support of Israeli war



Militant/John Steele

TORONTO—Some 2,000 people marched from the Israeli to the U.S. consulate here August 12 to demand an end to Tel Aviv’s murderous assaults in Lebanon and Gaza. Michel Dugré and Beverly Bernardo (center with glasses and foreground), the Communist League candidates for Toronto city council in wards 12 and 14, respectively, joined the action—the third since the war on Lebanon began. The two candidates and their supporters received a warm response as they distributed a campaign flyer that condemned Ottawa’s support for the Israeli war and called for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of Canadian, U.S., and other imperialist armed forces from Iraq and Afghanistan.

—BEVERLY BERNARDO

Report exposes torture by Chicago police

BY ILONA GERSH

CHICAGO—A 300-page special prosecutor’s report was made public here July 19. The report details scores of cases between 1971 and 1992 about men, mostly African-American, who were arrested and tortured by the police on the South Side of Chicago in an effort to extract confessions.

“Four years ago I called for a special prosecutor. They came out with this report that cost \$8 million to \$10 million and took four years to write,” Mary Johnson, a member of the Illinois Coali-

tion Against the Death Penalty, said at the August 4 Militant Labor Forum here. “It doesn’t say anything that’s new to us. And it doesn’t call for prosecution.”

Evidence in the report reveals that Police Lieutenant Jon Burge and those under his command beat suspects, shocked their genitals with electricity, put plastic bags over their heads, stuck guns in their mouths, and inflicted radiator burns on the victims.

The special prosecutor detailed how Burge could be convicted of aggravated battery, perjury, and obstruction of justice in the torture of three African-Americans. An additional 1,452-page report takes up another 145 cases, in half of which Special Prosecutor Edward Egan says he “believes” torture took place, but that there isn’t enough evidence to prove it.

Burge, who was in the military police in Vietnam in the 1960s, became a Chicago cop in 1970. As the police commander accused of overseeing the torture by cops on the night shift, he was fired in 1993. He is now living in Florida

on a \$40,000 pension from the city of Chicago. Some city officials are pressing for the termination of his pension.

While the report found evidence of abuse, it concludes that no charges can be filed because the statute of limitations has run out. Attorneys for the People’s Law Office, however, say that new charges can be brought for a continuing cover-up, including racketeering, conspiracy, or obstruction of justice.

Five federal lawsuits are pending against Burge today. Former death row inmates pardoned in 2003 by former governor George Ryan, when enough evidence of torture came to light, have filed four of these suits.

“People ask me how this can happen,” said Johnson, whose son Michael was tortured in 1972. “First of all, my son is Black. And I’m his mother. I’m poor. They call us minorities. But working people are the majority. Some of us are getting frustrated and angry. That’s why the government is throwing us a few crumbs of truth. They are scared of us.”

THE MILITANT

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Some 30,000 march in Chicago July 19 for legalization of undocumented immigrants.

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Cease-fire in Lebanon

Continued from front page

Palestinian refugee in Beirut, told the *Militant*. "People do not want to abandon their homes, their land, their villages. In reality this has meant that the Israeli siege of the south has been broken by the thousands of returning villagers."

Israeli officials said IDF forces killed five men in southern Lebanon on the first day of the cease-fire, claiming they were approached by groups of armed men, the *Washington Post* reported.

The IDF assault began July 12 following the capture by Hezbollah of two Israeli soldiers. The group offered to release them in exchange for freedom for some of the thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners held by Tel Aviv.

The UN resolution demands the "unconditional release" of the Israeli soldiers, but only calls for "settling the issue of the Lebanese prisoners detained in Israel."

For the first two weeks the IDF carried out a murderous air war but was unable to prevent Hezbollah from firing thousands of rockets into Israeli territory. Tel Aviv reports that as of today 116 Israeli soldiers and 43 civilians have died in the war.

The ink on the UN resolution had hardly dried when the Israeli government tripled the number of its troops in southern Lebanon. By pouring 30,000 soldiers into the area between the two countries' border and the Litani, Tel Aviv planned to strike further blows at Hezbollah militias prior to the deployment of the Lebanese army and UN "peacekeepers."

The Israeli air force also intensified its bombings. On August 12 it targeted the highway leading to the Arida border crossing in northern Lebanon, reported the Associated Press. AP described the

crossing as "the last official border post open for humanitarian convoys and civilians fleeing the country." In the southwest, Israeli jets hit power plants in the major coastal cities of Sidon and Tyre, knocking out power for the population.

The UN Security Council resolution, sponsored by Washington and Paris, legitimizes the Israeli invasion. While calling for "the immediate cessation by Hezbollah of all attacks," it only calls on Tel Aviv to halt "offensive military operations."

The resolution also authorizes 15,000 troops for UNIFIL, the UN force of 2,000 soldiers that has been present in southern Lebanon since 1978. Once a cease-fire takes hold, the resolution "calls upon the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL...to deploy their forces together throughout the South and calls upon the Government of Israel, as that deployment begins, to withdraw all of its forces from southern Lebanon in parallel." The expanded UNIFIL—expected to include troops from France, Italy, Turkey, and elsewhere—is supposed to operate with 15,000 Lebanese soldiers.

The resolution calls for the establishment below the Litani of "an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and of UNIFIL"; "no foreign forces in Lebanon without the consent of its Government"; "no sales or supply of arms and related materiel to Lebanon except as authorized by its Government"; and, "disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon."

Hezbollah officials joined with other members of Lebanon's cabinet in approving the resolution on August 12. "We will

10,000 in D.C. protest Israeli attack on Lebanon



Militant/Tim Mailhot

WASHINGTON—Waving Lebanese and Palestinian flags, some 10,000 protesters marched around the White House to oppose the U.S.-backed Israeli assault on Lebanon and the Gaza Strip. A large number of Lebanese youth and others of Arab descent, who rode buses from as far as Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio, put their stamp on the action. Moussa Faraj, 20, a college student from Livonia, Michigan, said he had never traveled so far for a political demonstration. "I was only 13 years old when Israel left Lebanon. Now I'm more alert to what is happening." The Israeli government's actions weren't about rescuing the two soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah fighters, he said, but rather that "they want to control all of the Middle East."

—SETH DELLINGER

not be an obstacle to any decision taken by the Lebanese government," Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised speech. (See article below for background on Hezbollah.)

Divisions in Lebanon, Israel

Although it has approved the UN resolution, the Lebanese cabinet is reportedly divided over Hezbollah's militias in the south. Defense Minister Elias Murr announced that Lebanese troops would arrive at the Litani within days. He then, however, told Lebanese television, "The army is not going to the south to strip

Hezbollah of weapons and do the work Israel did not." Because of Hezbollah's cooperation with the government, he said, "as soon as the Lebanese army arrives in the south there will be no weapons but those of the army."

Debate has sharpened within Israeli ruling circles because of the IDF's inability to deliver a knockout blow to Hezbollah.

Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert told parliament August 14 the "war on terrorism" was strengthened by the invasion of Lebanon. "No longer is a terror organization allowed to operate within Lebanon, as the long arm of the axis of evil, which reaches out from Tehran and Damascus," he said.

Following Olmert, former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu attacked the government. "There were many failures, failures in identifying the threat, failures in preparing to meet the threat, failures in the management of the war, failures in the management of the home front," said Netanyahu, who linked his charges to the Israeli pullout from Lebanon in 2000 and Gaza in 2005.

Ari Shavit, a leading columnist in the Israeli daily *Haaretz*, described the UN Security Council resolution as "the French proposal for a cease-fire and unconditional surrender to Hezbollah." Shavit fumed that "the day Nasrallah comes out of his bunker and declares victory to the whole world, Olmert must not be in the prime minister's office."

After Nasrallah said Hezbollah had emerged victorious from the war, U.S. president George Bush responded in an August 14 press conference, "How can you claim victory when at one time you were a state within a state, safe within southern Lebanon, and now you're going to be replaced by a Lebanese army and an international force?"

In a sign of Tel Aviv's uncertainty over the future and an indication the conflict may flare up again, Israeli jets dropped leaflets over Beirut in the last hours before the cease-fire took effect, saying: "Hezbollah has brought you many achievements: destruction, displacement, and death. Can you pay this price a second time? Know that the Israeli Defense Forces will return and work with the required force against any terrorist act that will be launched from Lebanon."

Georges Mehrabian in Athens, Greece, contributed to this article.

Hezbollah: a bourgeois party modeled on Tehran

BY PAUL PEDERSON

In a recent opinion piece published in the *New York Times*, Robert Pape, a political science professor at the University of Chicago, compared Hezbollah, the organization in Lebanon targeted in the recent Israeli assault, to the "multidimensional American civil-rights movement of the 1960s."

The Workers World Party presented a similar portrait of the group, saying in an August 10 statement that Hezbollah has "rallied the forces fighting against Zionist expansionism" and "taken up the mantle of the resistance to U.S. imperialism."

Other middle-class radicals protesting Tel Aviv's bloody invasion of Lebanon have presented similar views.

But these are not accurate portrayals of Hezbollah, or Hizb'Allah, the "Party of God."

Hezbollah is a bourgeois political party, not a religious group, with extensive capitalist investments. Its primary goal is to set up an "Islamic Republic" in Lebanon, modeled on the government of Iran, its main backer. It was founded in the early 1980s by a group of Shiite

clerics working with the government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Iran. These clerics remain the central leaders of the group.

Khomeini's government came to power after the 1979 Iranian revolution

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CALENDAR

Actions for Immigrants' Rights

ARIZONA

Phoenix

September 4

Rally at 9:00 a.m. at the State Capitol building at 1700 West Washington St. Sponsored by the *We Are America Coalition*.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

September 2

March for Immigrant Rights. Gather at 12 noon at Olympic and Broadway, march to City Hall. Sponsored by the *March 25 Coalition*.

Wilmington

September 4

L.A. Labor Day and Solidarity March. Gather 10:00 a.m. at Broad and E Street. March and rally at Banning Park.

San Francisco

September 4

Labor Day Mobilization for Workers and Immigrant Rights. March and rally. Gather at 10:00 a.m. at downtown Civic Center on Grove St. and Polk St. (Two blocks from Civic Center BART Station). For more information contact the *Regional Unity Coalition*. Tel.: (510) 839-7580.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

September 1-4

Four-day March for Justice for Immigrant Workers. Gather in Chinatown at 12:00 p.m., march to House Speaker Dennis Hastert's office in Batavia, IL. Afternoon rally on Sept. 4. For more information contact *March 10 Movement*. Tel.: (877) 762-7242.

TEXAS

Houston

September 4

Gather at 10:00 a.m. at Herman Square on Milam St. and Congress St.; March to City Hall. For more information contact *Michael Espinosa, La Nueva Raza*. Tel.: (832) 277-3903

WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 7

March to Demand Legalization for All. Gather at 4:00 p.m. at 7th Ave. and Constitution. March to Washington Monument. Buses coming from along the East Coast. For more information contact *DC Amigos del Barrio or National Capitol Immigration Coalition*. Tel.: (301) 431-4185.

Free the Cuban 5

NEW YORK

September 12

Gather at Times Square 4:00 p.m. March to Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza (E. 47th St. and 1st Ave.) For more information contact (718) 601-4751, or email freethethecubanfive@hotmail.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 23

Gather at U.S. Justice Department at 11:00 a.m. and march to White House. For more information, contact *National Committee to Free the Cuban 5* at: (415) 821-6545. Email: freethethefive.org

visit www.freethethefive.org

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Auckland

'The Case of Leon Trotsky'—a New Edition of this Classic Book. Speaker: Patrick Brown. Fri., Aug. 25, 7:00 p.m. Donation: \$3. 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu (upstairs, above laundromat). Tel.: (09) 276-8885.

