Imposing a police state

Anna Pha

The assault on democratic rights continues. Last week the Abbott government, with the support of Labor gagged debate and rushed through Parliament the Foreign Fighters Bill (see page 3). This is the second in a series of “counter-terrorism” bills. The third bill on data retention was introduced on October 30, with more legislation foreshadowed.

In the same week the Victorian state Coalition government released details of another bill to set up a permanent police taskforce to specifically police building workers and their union. It includes giving police the power to secretly enter and search people’s homes.

Forty-three groups have signed a letter to Attorney-General George Brandis warning that the case has not been made for the need for the so-called Foreign Fighters Bill. They include human rights, civil liberty, Muslim, refugee, legal, privacy and women’s groups, and a number of academics.

Apart from the parliamentary Labor Party, there seems to be little support for this legislation. Labor leader Bill Shorten has ignored dissenters within Labor ranks, proving to ASIO and the CIA that Labor poses no threat to their operations or goals.

The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, whose journalist members face 10-year jail sentences if they do their job, was a signatory to the letter and is fighting the legislation. The Australian Council of Trade Unions has so far remained silent, even though the new laws affect their members. Some of the definitions are so broad that they could be applied to areas well beyond terrorism.

For example, under the Foreign Fighters Bill anyone who engages in a “hostile activity” or “in subverting society” in a foreign country is considered to have committed a security offence. This is regardless of intent and whether the actual behaviour is connected to national security or terrorism.

Manufacturing a crisis

Over the past four to six months the Abbott government with the help of the media has diverted public attention away from the horror budget to the supposed threat of terrorism and domestic extremists. They have fostered fear and hatred of Muslims and equated Islam with terrorism in many people’s minds.

ASIO increased its security risk rating to high, meaning that a terrorist attack was imminent. The media (social and conventional) have run with gratuitous images of blood and gore. We are warned that terrorism is at our doorstep.

The flood of propaganda has seen Muslim women assaulted and many fearing to go outdoors. There have been calls to ban head coverings, and for a short period women wearing them were to be segregated in a secure area in Parliament House.

Along with the threat of the so-called Islamic State, itself a product of the West and reactionary Arab states, this propaganda drive paved the way for the introduction of harsh, anti-democratic legislation and the sending of forces to Iraq.

The bills continue a pattern which emerged in the former Howard government’s anti-terror legislation when ASIO’s powers were extended. In fact they go further, in breaching fundamental legal principles and also raise questions of constitutionality. This pattern includes:

• reversal of onus of proof
• retrospective issuing of search warrants
• bypassing the judicial system
• curbing basic freedoms of association and travel
• arbitrary detention
• no right of appeal
• no public unaccountability
• punishment far outweighs the nature of the alleged offence.

Raft of legislation

The Senate passed the National Security Legislation Amendment Bill (No 1) 2014 on September 25, with the full support of the Labor Party and the Palmer United Party Senators. It became law on October 2. (See “ASIO powers: Big Brother gets bigger”, Guardian, #1658, 01-19-2014)

This was followed by the Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Bill 2014 which was introduced on September 29 and passed by both Houses by October 30.

The Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2014 was introduced to Parliament on October 29, and has been referred to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security for inquiry and report by November 17.

Federal Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull introduced the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Bill 2014 on October 30.
On October 24, China and 20 other countries signed a memo-
randum of understanding to establish the Asian Infrastructure
Investment Bank (AIIB), which is expected to be
up and running by the end of 2015. The bank will be based in
Shanghai, but it is open to 20 countries including Vietnam,
Thailand, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Qatar, Oman, the Philippines, Pakistan, Nepal,
Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Malaysia,
Thailand and Indonesia. Nine other countries in the South
region, European countries and Australia were also invited to become
founding members but have not joined.

The ADB is final and to join is causing consterna-
tion in ruling class circles and within Labor Party ranks. It appeared that
Australia was going to join and play a role. Treasurer Joe Hockey
suggested that the move with a focus on can be big and big business
interests. Cabinet, according to media reports, backed him.

That was until some behind-the-scenes lobbying by the US and
Foreign Minister Julie Bishop’s meeting with Cabinet’s National
Security Committee which opposed joining on strategic grounds.
So Bishop, whose loyalty is
first and foremost with US interests,
in particular, the US and the ADB’s war plans for China, advised Cabinet Australia should not join for
strategic reasons. Hockey was rolled to the horror of a number of business leaders. The Australian government refused to sign, making
excuses about governance and lack of transparency. The US also
deliberately lobbied Japan, Indonesia and South Korea.

The AIIB poses a serious challenge to the US plans for global
financial domination. China and India, in particular, over the de-
cades since the Bretton Woods institutions were established in 1944, have increased their wealth considerably but like other “developing”
countries failed to get reforms and appropriate recognition at the
European and US dominated International Monetary Fund (IMF),
and World Bank. Likewise the Japanese-headed Asian Development
Bank needed reform. These banks attached political and economic conditions to their loans which increased poverty and often resulted in
economic failure, requiring more loans. The banks served the interests of the US, Japanese and European corporations. The US bloc
continues.

It is not surprising that there have been a number of moves to
establish alternative international banks that operate on a more just
basis. The US, European and Japanese headed International Monetary
Fund (IMF) and Bank, and the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and
South Africa) established the New Development Bank, also known as the
BRICS Bank or the IBRD. It consists of the New Development Bank, with US$50 billion in initial capital to
finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects, and the
Consortium Reserve Arrangement (CRA), with US$100 National Security
Committee which opposed joining on strategic grounds.
So Bishop, whose loyalty is
first and foremost with US interests,
in particular, the US and the ADB’s war plans for China, advised Cabinet Australia should not join for
strategic reasons. Hockey was rolled to the horror of a number of business leaders. The Australian government refused to sign, making
excuses about governance and lack of transparency. The US also
deliberately lobbied Japan, Indonesia and South Korea.

The AIIB poses a serious challenge to the US plans for global
financial domination. China and India, in particular, over the de-
cades since the Bretton Woods institutions were established in 1944, have increased their wealth considerably but like other “developing”
countries failed to get reforms and appropriate recognition at the
European and US dominated International Monetary Fund (IMF),
and World Bank. Likewise the Japanese-headed Asian Development
Bank needed reform. These banks attached political and economic conditions to their loans which increased poverty and often resulted in
economic failure, requiring more loans. The banks served the interests of the US, Japanese and European corporations. The US bloc
continues.

It is not surprising that there have been a number of moves to
establish alternative international banks that operate on a more just
basis. The US, European and Japanese headed International Monetary
Fund (IMF) and Bank, and the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and
South Africa) established the New Development Bank, also known as the
BRICS Bank or the IBRD. It consists of the New Development Bank, with US$50 billion in initial capital to
finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects, and the
Consortium Reserve Arrangement (CRA), with US$100 National Security
Committee which opposed joining on strategic grounds.
So Bishop, whose loyalty is
first and foremost with US interests,
in particular, the US and the ADB’s war plans for China, advised Cabinet Australia should not join for
strategic reasons. Hockey was rolled to the horror of a number of business leaders. The Australian government refused to sign, making
excuses about governance and lack of transparency. The US also
deliberately lobbied Japan, Indonesia and South Korea.

The AIIB poses a serious challenge to the US plans for global
financial domination. China and India, in particular, over the de-
cades since the Bretton Woods institutions were established in 1944, have increased their wealth considerably but like other “developing”
countries failed to get reforms and appropriate recognition at the
European and US dominated International Monetary Fund (IMF),
and World Bank. Likewise the Japanese-headed Asian Development
Bank needed reform. These banks attached political and economic conditions to their loans which increased poverty and often resulted in
economic failure, requiring more loans. The banks served the interests of the US, Japanese and European corporations. The US bloc
continues.

It is not surprising that there have been a number of moves to
establish alternative international banks that operate on a more just
basis. The US, European and Japanese headed International Monetary
Fund (IMF) and Bank, and the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and
South Africa) established the New Development Bank, also known as the
BRICS Bank or the IBRD. It consists of the New Development Bank, with US$50 billion in initial capital to
finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects, and the
Consortium Reserve Arrangement (CRA), with US$100 National Security
Committee which opposed joining on strategic grounds.
So Bishop, whose loyalty is
first and foremost with US interests,
in particular, the US and the ADB’s war plans for China, advised Cabinet Australia should not join for
strategic reasons. Hockey was rolled to the horror of a number of business leaders. The Australian government refused to sign, making
excuses about governance and lack of transparency. The US also
deliberately lobbied Japan, Indonesia and South Korea.

The AIIB poses a serious challenge to the US plans for global
financial domination. China and India, in particular, over the de-
cades since the Bretton Woods institutions were established in 1944, have increased their wealth considerably but like other “developing”
countries failed to get reforms and appropriate recognition at the
European and US dominated International Monetary Fund (IMF),
and World Bank. Likewise the Japanese-headed Asian Development
Bank needed reform. These banks attached political and economic conditions to their loans which increased poverty and often resulted in
economic failure, requiring more loans. The banks served the interests of the US, Japanese and European corporations. The US bloc
continues.

It is not surprising that there have been a number of moves to
establish alternative international banks that operate on a more just
basis. The US, European and Japanese headed International Monetary
Fund (IMF) and Bank, and the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and
South Africa) established the New Development Bank, also known as the
BRICS Bank or the IBRD. It consists of the New Development Bank, with US$50 billion in initial capital to
finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects, and the
Consortium Reserve Arrangement (CRA), with US$100 National Security
Committee which opposed joining on strategic grounds.
So Bishop, whose loyalty is
first and foremost with US interests,
in particular, the US and the ADB’s war plans for China, advised Cabinet Australia should not join for
strategic reasons. Hockey was rolled to the horror of a number of business leaders. The Australian government refused to sign, making
excuses about governance and lack of transparency. The US also
deliberately lobbied Japan, Indonesia and South Korea.

The AIIB poses a serious challenge to the US plans for global
financial domination. China and India, in particular, over the de-
cades since the Bretton Woods institutions were established in 1944, have increased their wealth considerably but like other “developing”
countries failed to get reforms and appropriate recognition at the
European and US dominated International Monetary Fund (IMF),
and World Bank. Likewise the Japanese-headed Asian Development
Bank needed reform. These banks attached political and economic conditions to their loans which increased poverty and often resulted in
economic failure, requiring more loans. The banks served the interests of the US, Japanese and European corporations. The US bloc
continues.

It is not surprising that there have been a number of moves to
establish alternative international banks that operate on a more just
basis. The US, European and Japanese headed International Monetary
Fund (IMF) and Bank, and the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and
South Africa) established the New Development Bank, also known as the
BRICS Bank or the IBRD. It consists of the New Development Bank, with US$50 billion in initial capital to
finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects, and the
Consortium Reserve Arrangement (CRA), with US$100 National Security
Committee which opposed joining on strategic grounds.
So Bishop, whose loyalty is
first and foremost with US interests,
in particular, the US and the ADB’s war plans for China, advised Cabinet Australia should not join for
strategic reasons. Hockey was rolled to the horror of a number of business leaders. The Australian government refused to sign, making
excuses about governance and lack of transparency. The US also
deliberately lobbied Japan, Indonesia and South Korea.

The AIIB poses a serious challenge to the US plans for global
financial domination. China and India, in particular, over the de-
cades since the Bretton Woods institutions were established in 1944, have increased their wealth considerably but like other “developing”
countries failed to get reforms and appropriate recognition at the
European and US dominated International Monetary Fund (IMF),
and World Bank. Likewise the Japanese-headed Asian Development
Bank needed reform. These banks attached political and economic conditions to their loans which increased poverty and often resulted in
economic failure, requiring more loans. The banks served the interests of the US, Japanese and European corporations. The US bloc
continues.
Foreign Fighters Bill: wide open to abuse

Anna Pha

The Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Bill 2014 is expected to be given Royal assent and become law this week. “The rapid resurgence in violent extremism and the participation in overseas conflicts by some Australians present new and complex security challenges for our nation,” Attorney General George Brandis said in his Second Reading speech.

“The ongoing conflicts in Syria and Iraq are adding to this challenge and the number of Australians who have sought to take part, either by directly participating in these conflicts or providing support for extremists fighting there, is unprecedented.”

But the provisions have far wider scope than just dealing with foreign fighters and violent extremism. They amend 20 Acts including social security.

In a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security about the Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Bill, the Australian Lawyers Alliance (ALA) said that the new laws threaten the independence of the judiciary, introduce retrospective warrants and more than triples the period an individual can be detained without others being notified.

“Fundamental to our rights as citizens is the right to be free. The power to detain without warrant, without charge, without access to legal advice is normally reserved for dictators and tyrants. No free society unnecessarily cedes to its govern- ment powers of detention without review,” their submission said.

The Bill amends the arrest threshold for foreign incursion and terrorism offences to allow the police to arrest individuals on reasonable suspicion, rather than reasonable belief. Currently an organisation can be listed as a terrorist organisation if it is directly or indirectly counsels or urges the doing of a terrorist act, directly or indirectly provides instruction on the doing of a terrorist act, or directly praises the doing of a terrorist act.

It introduces a new offence of “advocating terrorism” which applies to individuals “promoting terrorism”. The offence carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.

“Declared area offence”

The Bill creates a new offence of “entering a declared area overseas” where terrorist organisations are active. The onus of proof is reversed with the suspect required to prove they had a legitimate reason for travelling to the area. The offence carries a life sentence.

Possible legitimate purposes include providing aid of a humanitarian nature, making “bana fide” visits to family members, appearing before a court or performing a domestic or foreign government duty or a duty for the United Nations.

The Minister determines which areas are declared as no-go-zones. Customs’ detention powers will be expanded where the officer has reasonable grounds to suspect (not believe) that the person is intending to commit a Commonwealth offence, or is a threat to national security or the security of a foreign country.

The powers to collect and use personal identifiers of citizens and non-citizens both arriving and departing from Australia are also expanded. The Bill allows for the collection of biometric and other data of people entering and leaving the country. ASIO will also be able to recommend the cancellation of a visa of a person who is offshore, who ASIO suspects might be a risk to security. ASIO could also request suspension of Australian passports and seize foreign passports (the property of a foreign government)?

People who are suspected of preparing for or participating in a foreign incursion receive punishments ranging from life imprisonment to fine, never been found guilty and could be innocent.”

Unprecedented surveillance

Under the legislation, the content of every single phone call, every single text message, email or online communication will available to be accessed by security agencies such as ASIO or the Australian Federal Police. Something which is already occurring.

“The revelations following the experience of whistle-blowers such as Edward Snowden show us that our data is routinely misused by security agencies in the pursuit of their goals,” Barns said.

Nothing about Branis or other government ministers has said justifies such extreme, fascist laws. The new laws will not make Australia a safer place or protect national security and our civil and democratic rights.
Act Now! Stop closure of women’s refuges

The Baird government policy forces women back into the very same violent situations they have tried to flee!

Golden Dawn does not reach Australian shores — for now

The planned visit to Australia in October of two Golden Dawn members of the European Parliament has fallen through – at least for now.

Golden Dawn is an extreme right-wing neo-fascist party in Greece that has used the Greek financial crisis in recent years to drive the European Union-imposed austerity measures that have disastrously affected many Greek people and the party’s secret ties with Greek plutocrats and state police and security agencies, to rapidly become a serious political force in Greece. Its presence in Australia and recent elections provide a stark warning of similar movements here to come out of the woodwork. Golden Dawn MP Ilias Kasidiannis has confirmed that the party’s goal is to establish Golden Dawn Australia. His visit was widely reported as the “illegal incursion” of Golden Dawn parliamentarians and to give expression to “nationalists supporting nationalists (and) patriots helping patriots.”

On that occasion however, a much larger community-union counter demonstration successfully thwarted the Australian extreme right’s organising effort and the rightists fled. The most immediate cause for Golden Dawn’s postponing its October visit in this instance is probably its parliamentary group’s preoccupation with an impending trial for a raft of criminal offences for which it is currently being prosecuted – including murder, weapons offences and attacks on immigrants, left-wing activists and gay people. However the proposed Golden Dawn visit generated fierce opposition throughout the Greek community in Australia and guaranteed that the Golden Dawn MPs would have had a tough reaction on their arrival here – even if the Abbott government had allowed the visit – and this has also been a significant factor in the cancellation of the Golden Dawn tour.

Within days of the visit being announced in early September, leaders of the Greek community throughout Australia, along with the Australian Council of Trade Unions and a number of ethnic and religious peak organisations released a statement that called on all Australians to unite to “demonstrate their detestation of the message of hatred and the violent politics being propagated by groups like Golden Dawn.”

When the Greek media in Australia exposed Golden Dawn’s use of (an unregistered) charity to raise funds in Australia for Golden Dawn in Greece – fund raising abroad being a tactic Golden Dawn has resorted to as its ability to raise funds in Greece has become increasingly restricted – the Australian chapter’s leader was forced to declare within a few days of being ousted that Golden Dawn had stopped fund raising in Australia because of the pressure of community opposition. The Communist Party of Australia actively worked to build opposition to the Golden Dawn visit and its ongoing presence in Australia. The CPA Secretariat declared that “The Australian people should never allow our country to become the breeding ground of violence, divisions and hatred” or “the source of financial support for fascist activities abroad.” (see Guardian #186 September 17, 2014).

Greek CPA members especially, have actively informed the Greek community of the proposed visit and encouraged demonstrations of opposition. The CPA Secretariat statement was translated into Greek and widely circulated, by email and in pamphlet form, while the Guardian newspaper with the statement was also widely circulated.

The effort of Golden Dawn to extend its presence and resource itself from Australia – and the reaction it stirred – shows we must watch not only for the malevolent presence of groups such as Golden Dawn entering Australia, but for similar home-grown groups building their influence among a disaffected and disempowered electorate, using groups like Golden Dawn as a precedent and a support.

Above all, Communists must make all effort to expose the true causes of the growing crises within contemporary society and point to the correct solutions to overcome them, which are solutions in the interest of the great majority of working humanity, that is, socialist solutions. 

On that occasion however, a much larger community-union counter demonstration specifically cater to women fleeing domestic violence. Imagine a situation where women with their children escaping violent homes can only seek refuge in shelters that also house large numbers of men, many with their own problems with alcohol and mental illness.

Services for women are not just being degraded. Refugees are actually closing down – meaning fewer beds for women – and in many cases their children – seeking shelter.

“Go Home, Stay Home”

Closure of refuges, their absorption into generalist services contracted out to large religion-based corporations, suits the Liberal-National’s party “Go Home, Stay Home” philosophy towards women.

The closure or transfer of refuges out of the hands of the communities that established them, into the corporate sector is in itself an assault on grass-roots democracy and discourages communities from building institutions of self-management.

The Baird government policy forces women back into the very same violent situations they have tried to flee! This is a society where, on average, every week in NSW a woman dies at the hands of a violent partner.

Act now! Save women’s services!

On November 27 the NSW Parliament will be debating the government’s “Go Home, Stay home” laws and tendering processes. Women in the defence of women’s refuges are calling for a “Convergence on NSW Parliament” on that day to get the community’s message to the politicians as they debate the government’s reactionary laws.

Meantime, weekly meetings and other events are happening to build the campaign. To find out more see: nswihavetours.com.au

Our diverse and increasingly stressed community needs independent, community-run, specialised women-only services. To maintain these:
• Long term funding for independent, women’s only services must be guaranteed
• Competitive tendering for welfare sector services that inevitably go to giant “charity” organisations must stop

Defending women’s refuges is an immediate and urgent priority. Yet it’s just one step in addressing the violence, discrimination and other forms of oppression toward women that permeates a society based on exploitation, violence and war.

Women cannot gain full equality and respect unless we are full economic citizens and can fully participate in the workforce, with equal pay and job opportunities and freely available childcare, so we can go to work.

Otherwise, women are a reserve army of low paid workers in part-time, vulnerable, jobs, depending on a partner or social welfare for the survival of our children and ourselves.
**Questioning the value of the Australia/US alliance**

Nick Deane

The government is preparing the 2015 Defence White Paper. As part of the process, the public was invited to make submissions last August. The consultation period ended on Wednesday October 29.

The Marrickville Peace Group, which wrote submissions to the 2009 and 2013 Defence White Papers, has responded to the call for submissions to the 2015 DWP with a 5,000-word document.

A synopsis of MPG’s submission follows. The full text can be read on the Department of Defence’s website (www.defence.gov.au/Whitepaper/ReadSubmissions.asp). It is number 71 on the list.

“Questioning the value of the Australia/US alliance” is the title of a document the Marrickville Peace Group has submitted as part of the public consultation process in preparation for the 2015 Defence White Paper.

In its submission, the group points out that Australia’s defence policy currently rests on the premise that the US alliance is indispensable. The group questions this very premise. It argues that the alliance, so far from offering Australia protection or security, has needlessly led the country into wars and actually increases the chances of us becoming involved in more conflicts.

The submission takes the invasion of Iraq in 2003 as illustration of a pattern followed in earlier wars, in all of which Australia fought in countries that posed it absolutely no military threat. It characterises Australia as being so totally dependent on the US and on US-made policy in the region, the US “pivot” to the Asia Pacific is increasing tensions, especially between Japan and China. It points out that the Abe government is explicitly becoming involved (as an enemy of China) because of the closeness of the US and on US-made policy in the region, the US “pivot” to the Asia Pacific is increasing tensions, especially between Japan and China.

The submission argues that, rather than increasing stability in our region, the US “pivot” to the Asia Pacific is increasing tensions, especially between Japan and China. It points out that the Abe government is explicitly becoming involved (as an enemy of China) because of the closeness of the US and on US-made policy in the region, the US “pivot” to the Asia Pacific is increasing tensions, especially between Japan and China.

The submission highlights the role of Major General Richard Burr, a senior Australian army officer, who currently holds the position of Deputy Commander of the US Army in the Pacific. The general was reportedly photographed in Mongolia during joint US/Mongolian exercises, wearing his Australian uniform. Australia’s involvement in the guidance of weaponised US drones and the role of Pine Gap are also raised – as is Australia’s connection with NATO and its purchase of expensive (US-made) weapons systems. Even Australia’s position on nuclear arms is brought into question, where it is argued that Australia deliberately thwarted an initiative calling for the elimination of all nuclear weapons, because of the alliance.

The group concludes by expressing the view that the US alliance compromises Australia’s independence and threatens regional stability, whilst the “defence establishment” can do nothing but make it tighter and closer, as evidenced by each succeeding AUSMIN conference.

The submission ends with a question that it says is more vital than the alliance itself. Using and old-fashioned term, it asks:

“Where is the wisdom in Australia being so totally dependent on the US and on US-made policy in the matter of its strategic defence?”

marrickvillepeacegroup.org

---

**US President Barack Obama meets Australian troops at the conclusion of his visit to RAAF Base Darwin.**

Thousands of people in Australia are volunteers – it’s part and parcel of everyday life. Volunteers’ contribution to society is great and much appreciated. However when Tony Abbott launched his new “Prime Minister’s Community Business Partnership” which is supposed to bring together government, community and business leaders to develop strategies to “foster a culture of philanthropy and volunteering” the main thrust was not the interests of the community but rather how companies, trusts and foundations are not to be “burdened” by obstacles and red tape. “What we need are partnerships with the state and federal governments to be able to scale successful programs up,” said Nicola Forrest, the wife of Andrew “Twiggy” Forrest who thinks that people in this country are extremely “welfare dependent” and that their income should try are extremely “welfare dependent” and that their income should actually be “burdened” by obstacles and red tape. “What we need are partnerships with the state and federal governments to be able to scale successful programs up,” said Nicola Forrest, the wife of Andrew “Twiggy” Forrest who thinks that people in this country are extremely “welfare dependent” and that their income should try are extremely “welfare dependent” and that their income should try are extremely “welfare dependent” and that their income should try are extremely “welfare dependent” and that their income should try.
The following is an edited excerpt from The Electronic Intifada associate editor Nora Barrows-Friedman’s new book, In Our Power: US Students Organise for Justice in Palestine, which will be published on November 4. Reprinted by special permission of Just World Books. All requests to reprint elsewhere should be directed to: justworldbooks.com.

An important movement led by young college students is taking shape across the United States, amplifying the voices of the sanctions (BDS) movement. They challenge themselves and each other on the definition of solidarity, and dare to speak up and out about one of the most important human rights issues of our time.

The most important fact about the BDS movement is building from campus to campus, and each year there are more chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) on campuses across the United States. The growth of this student movement underscores an important shift in the global conversation about Palestine is changing. Perhaps it’s because Israel’s political intransigence and its reputation as a rogue occupier are now more widely known on the world stage. Perhaps it’s because people are seeking out unfettered news vital to our national security as a matter of corporate-controlled media.

Or perhaps it is because civil society has come to understand the importance of forced displacement and apartheid is a universal issue of justice and human rights.

Whatever the constellation of reasons, the conversation about Palestine is changing.

Rapid expansion

Between 2004 and 2011, I regularly travelled to Palestine as a reporting assistant for the Pacifica Network and later a contributor to independent and international print publications. But my work at home as a staff editor and reporter for The Electronic Intifada compelled me to focus on the anti-colonial struggles of the Palestinian people instead of supporting Palestinians so silenced and underrepresented is paramount to me.

“I think it’s really important as solidarity activists and members of Students for Justice in Palestine in our own communities and see that what we’re fighting against far away in Palestine is also targeting our communities across the country and family members,” said Gabriel Schivone, a long-time SJP activist at the University of Arizona and member of the national organising committee. Schivone has taken part in countless protests over the years, including an important sit-in in October 2013 against the Obama administration’s rampant detention and deportation of undocumented persons.

Immigrant rights activists and members of Students for Justice in Palestine barricaded themselves at the entrance to a federal courthouse in Tucson, Arizona, where buses carrying migrant detainees pull up. Others, including Schivone and other SJP and immigrant justice activists, locked their bodies to the buses themselves.

Schivone for Justice in Palestine stated that the coordinated action was called to stop Operation Streamline — “the mass prosecution and deportation of undocumented persons, whose families are being torn apart, whose livelihoods are being taken away from them,” she said. “It is happening to immigrants and undocumented persons in the United States under the Obama administration and the Arizona State government “is an injustice,” Mustafa added. “At SIP we know that injustice too well, especially as Palestinians. We need to link our struggles together. Solidarity is important. This is a direct action based on the experience of communities whose families, brothers and sisters, and comrades are coming out to support this action. We support it one hundred percent.”

Embodyment

Schivone’s work in documenting the impact of US-Mexico border policy has led her to uncover not just the political connections between the struggles of Indigenous and migrant peoples in the United States and Palestine, but the classist, militarist and racist connections as well. She started off by explaining that he sees the intersection in himself.

“I am an embodiment of it,” he added. “My family’s history is one of white supremacy. I am an embodiment of it, I am a European immigrant from Italy. And my mother was born in Sonora, in Mexico. And when they married, my mother moved in with my dad and they got a house out of the El Hoya, which is a Chicana, Mexican-American neighborhood, or barrio, here and it was during ‘white flight,’ and they went to a sprawling urban new white development neighborhood. I don’t know that process. I would grow up in public school not wanting to learn the language [Spanish] and rejecting half of myself.”

It took some time, but with guidance from an older politically radical sister, Schivone embraced her identity. “For a long time, I felt that — I was starting to work with the migrant rights group No Mas Muertes [No More Deaths], that perceptive on my family background became a [pillar] of my political life. But then I started, I attended the 2013 National SJP conference at between both concerns – Palestine, SJP, student organising on the one hand, and humanist and human rights work at the border on the other.”

But he realised that there is no reason why they should be divided when the same fundamental ways that they’re connected. “So I started connecting them,” he said, “looking at ways that they’re connected analytically and more deeply in structural forms.”

Out of the clearest way United States and Israel exemplify their shared values Beginning with the walls both countries have constructed to keep others out. At the US-Mexico border, which stretches from California to Texas, the US government’s expanding practices of border militarisation have profoundly affected the US government and involved levels, and Israel has stepped in to not just share the technology it has field-tested on Palestinians, but to predict from this project as well.

In March 2013, one of the two leading contractors for Israel’s wall in the West Bank, an Israeli company named Elbit Systems, won its second contract – worth USD$1.55 million – to provide surveillance systems and technology to the US Department of Homeland Security. Elbit’s first contract with the US government provided 450 unmanned drones to the Arizona Border Patrol in 2004.

“Seeing it first hand”

In 2011, Schivone started organising tours to the border wall with other SJP members, Palestinian, Jewish, white European and Chicano backgrounds, “just observing, seeing it first hand.” Rebeil remarked. “Both have to deal with the border wall in other words, looking at the border wall. I think it’s really important as solidarity activists and members of Students for Justice in Palestine who have been part of this movement. It’s important to talk about this, linking it to other struggles.”

One of the clearest ways the United States and Palestine are connected is the illegal and oppressive occupation policies and actions coveted as well.

The US government’s expanding practices of border militarisation have profoundly affected the US government and involved levels, and Israel has stepped in to not just share the technology it has field-tested on Palestinians, but to predict from this project as well.

In March 2013, one of the two leading contractors for Israel’s wall in the West Bank, an Israeli company named Elbit Systems, won its second contract – worth USD$1.55 million – to provide surveillance systems and technology to the US Department of Homeland Security. Elbit’s first contract with the US government provided 450 unmanned drones to the Arizona Border Patrol in 2004.

“Seeing it first hand”

In 2011, Schivone started organising tours to the border wall with other SJP members, Palestinian, Jewish, white European and Chicano backgrounds, “just observing, seeing it first hand.” Rebeil remarked. “Both have to deal with the border wall in other words, looking at the border wall. I think it’s really important as solidarity activists and members of Students for Justice in Palestine who have been part of this movement. It’s important to talk about this, linking it to other struggles.”

One of the clearest ways the United States and Palestine are connected is the illegal and oppressive occupation policies and actions coveted as well.

The US government’s expanding practices of border militarisation have profoundly affected the US government and involved levels, and Israel has stepped in to not just share the technology it has field-tested on Palestinians, but to predict from this project as well.

In March 2013, one of the two leading contractors for Israel’s wall in the West Bank, an Israeli company named Elbit Systems, won its second contract – worth USD$1.55 million – to provide surveillance systems and technology to the US Department of Homeland Security. Elbit’s first contract with the US government provided 450 unmanned drones to the Arizona Border Patrol in 2004.

“Seeing it first hand”

In 2011, Schivone started organising tours to the border wall with other SJP members, Palestinian, Jewish, white European and Chicano backgrounds, “just observing, seeing it first hand.” Rebeil remarked. “Both have to deal with the border wall in other words, looking at the border wall. I think it’s really important as solidarity activists and members of Students for Justice in Palestine who have been part of this movement. It’s important to talk about this, linking it to other struggles.”

One of the clearest ways the United States and Palestine are connected is the illegal and oppressive occupation policies and actions coveted as well.

The US government’s expanding practices of border militarisation have profoundly affected the US government and involved levels, and Israel has stepped in to not just share the technology it has field-tested on Palestinians, but to predict from this project as well.

In March 2013, one of the two leading contractors for Israel’s wall in the West Bank, an Israeli company named Elbit Systems, won its second contract – worth USD$1.55 million – to provide surveillance systems and technology to the US Department of Homeland Security. Elbit’s first contract with the US government provided 450 unmanned drones to the Arizona Border Patrol in 2004.
BERLIN: A long, warm, coldless autumn made some wonder whether climate change might cancel winter this year in a reversal of the reversed summer two centuries ago in a year called “1800-and-froze-to-death.” But now I can read that the weather will change after all. Northern blasts may soon be here.

Perhaps economically as well? Two French economists are clearly more thanWindow's 43 percent French budget deficit, above the European Union’s 3 percent limit, and with President Hollande’s popularity soaring, they are thinking of a deal: If Germany would invest 50 billion euros in projects to reduce Europe’s ailing economy, France would cut its budget by 50 billion euros.

But German leaders slumped down such a trade-off, tightly clutching their austerity plans. Sigmar Gabriel, Merkel’s Minister of Economy, at least according to his membership card, also a Social Democrat, said more private investments by France in areas like research were better than “flash-in-the-pan schemes.” France should rather see about cutting its deficit, say by slicing up more labor, as French workers who hold the better cards, Monsieur le ministre some ate crow: “I wasn’t doing anything,” he whined. “It was just a suggestion.”

For Sahra Wagenknecht, however, vice-chair of the GDR party in the Bundestag, it was truly tragic “when it doesn’t even occur to a Social Democratic economics minister that some-thing’s missing from the investments in infrastructure and education could be made if only taxes on the upper class were increased.” That could be a means to go one step to head of a threatening downturn with a further growth of poverty in Europe, even in relatively prosperous Germany.

But back to the subject of crow. I’m not referring here to the giant swarms of rooks, a European species of crow, which always spend autumns and winters in Germany (it’s the South Londoners, to them) and every evening soar dramatically to their feeding grounds in fields in north London or Ken- ten Park, then spread out in the morning to dig for food on every larger lawn. Hitchcock fans and many others fear or hate the dark-feathered birds. I welcome them here and am reminded of the many thousands of human migrants, fleeing from hunger or bloody homelands (often in northern Africa or the Near East), hoping to find food and shelter here, at least temporarily, but also feared or hated by the ignorant.

Tough politics

But “eating crow” has nothing to do with these tough rooks, but rather with tough poli-tics in the east German state of Thuringia. In September elections there, the Social Democrats came first (33.5 percent), but a tiny party, the GDR related PDS, ended in 1990. For the past five years they shared power with the Social Democrats (SPD) as junior partners. But for the latter, alas, the partnership was very unpleasant, costing them a third of their voters and the bitter result, a palpity 12.4 percent, offered no hope of new power. For the SPD leaders this deal with just a one-seat majority, but did not like the idea.

And so, instead, in second place, was the LEFT party with 28.2 percent. Now if the Social Democrats and the little Greens party, who at times joined hands with the LEFT in 2009, they could also win a majority of exactly one seat between them, here again enough to rule the roost. Was that a “lesser evil”? Where does eating crow come in? Twice on this point, I’ve been asked about the relationship between the SPD and the LEFT, always in eastern Germany and always with the SPD stronger and the LEFT as junior partner; one such in Brandenburg is currently being run. But this time, for the very first time, the LEFT would be on top so the minister-president then would be their man, Bodo Ramelow, 58, a West German labour official who moved eastwards after the Wall came down.

Thus the despaired, castigated, reviled LEFT’s party would finally be brought up there in the Upper House in Berlin (Bun- desrat) with the 15 other state bosses. Could such odd bedfellows, who used to see themselves from this “offspring of the party which once ruled East Germany?” Some people object to the high Ger-main woman who has ruled the roost till now and would thus be degraded, with her fellow CDU deputies, to the chiller seats in the opposition section of the legislature (and right next to the right-wing NPD, self-declared for “Germany’s right wing”) and “unjust states”? Opponents of such termi-nology warn that whenever leaders of the LEFT program.

Just and unjust

Where are the lines between “just states” and “unjust states”? Opponents of such termi-nology warn that whenever leaders of the LEFT do eat crow new demands are made to grovel even lower and swallow even more. They insist that the entire exercise, stressed most by the once rebellious Greens, really aims at equating the GDR with the Nazi state and discredit-ting its main feature, which was not twisted or mis-manned in many ways, was basically an attempt to abolish war, exploitation and poverty, to build socialism. This explains the many attacks against the LEFT party; these should remain its goal. And, these mili-tants insist, one compromise can easily lead to another and yet another, just as it once did with the Greens and, a long, long time ago, with the SPD.

Are these critics too fearful, too radical? Isn’t it worth taking a chance with this new alliance, balancing delicately on a single seat majority in the legislature, hence always threat-ened by blackmail attempts, but with hopes of demonstrating what the LEFT can do when it leads in at least one of Germany’s 16 states? The future is not now full of sunshine; two big storms are raging on. The left-wing strikes – airline pilots and railway engineers – have been a warning sign.

Is militancy rising? Can the LEFT join – or even lead? A large leftist party in Germany is a source of tasks and other weightless expedi-tion all over Europe – if it defies the dangers and remains a fighting party. At the moment it looks as if a risk will be taken. Will it succeed? Is the alternative to the SPD? It is the SPD. It is the SPD. It is the SPD. It is the SPD.
China and India are backing a 21 country US$100 billion Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), member states conveyed EU rejection of all unilateral measures directed against Cuba which negatively affect the interests and thereby violate completely accepted rules of international trade.

China and India have launched a World Bank rival

The United Nations General Assembly rejected on October 28 for the 23rd consecutive year on a Cuba resolution calling upon the United States to end its economic blockade of the island. The results highlight US isolation in the diplomatic community; 188 UN nations voted “Yes,” and only two, the United States and Israel, rejected the resolution. The Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Micronesia, island-nations in the Pacific allied to the United States, abstained.

The tally was similar to that of 2013, which also reflects the support that the resolution has received over the years, according to UN data. Analysts have noted that the US economic embargo has created a “boomerang effect,” with the Cuban economy suffering its due.

The resolution, which is non-binding, calls on all UN member states to “impose an immediate end to the United States bilateral embargo and all associated coercive measures.” The US embargo was imposed after the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion. The 55-year-old embargo is considered illegal by international law and has been condemned by the UN General Assembly for decades.

The resolution was first introduced by Cuba in 1992 and has been adopted by the UN General Assembly every year since. It is one of the most important resolutions adopted by the UN and has been supported by the vast majority of member states.

The US government has always maintained that the embargo is justified because of Cuba’s violations of human rights and its support for terrorism. However, the resolution’s advocates argue that the embargo is a violation of the right to self-determination and has had negative consequences for the Cuban people.”

Nevertheless, according to both the NAC/IBF game in which the US and Cuba cooperate to show the world that they are working together for a better future. The Gross eater’s report, Gross’ larger task was anti-government subversion. The US embargo, despite all the fuss, both the United States and Israel do engage commercially with Cuba. Pressure from US agricultural and food processing businesses induced Congress in 2000 to authorize cash-to-food sales to Cuba. That year, since then has ascended into the bilateralism.

The Israeli-financed Grupo BM company, headquartered now in Panama, has sponsored joint-venture projects with Cuban partners. Its “Jagüey Grande” citrus plantation in Matanzas province became an export powerhouse for Cuban agriculture. And rental income from office buildings of its “Miramar Trade Centre” presumably still flows to Israeli investors.

“Olivia’s view seems to be dis- counting that sentiment in the US Declaration of Independence paying honour to “a decent respect to the opinions of mankind.”

So Gross called upon CU to free jailed US contractor Alan Gross. After all, he stated, Gross was only "facilitating Internet access for Cuba’s small Jewish community."

People’s World

Blacklisted workers won’t back down

BRITAIN: Anti-blacklisting campaigning reached its peak last week to demand an apology from a notorious blacklist, who denied work to a pipefitter because he had given the Morning Star a quote 22 years previously.

Carillion head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.

Carillon head of employment relations Liz Keates is the target of the third day of a "Crocodile Tears Tour" of notorious blacklisting managers organised by trade union GMB, which represents construction workers among other trades.

She has been named in Parliament as a blacklist, as well as the database which revealed the extent of the practice in the building trade. Names her as con, in blacklist, a whopping 139 workers.
Re-examination of police violence

Tony Pecinovsky

ST LOUIS: It has been roughly 80 days since the tragic and criminal killing of Michael Brown, an African American teenager who had recently graduated from high school and was about to start college. Brown was shot to death by Darren Wilson, a Missouri police officer, while – as eye witnesses claim – attempting to surrender with his hands up. Since Mike Brown’s killing on August 9, thousands of protesters – local, regional, and national – have shined a much-needed spotlight on the life and death consequences of police brutality and violence directed largely at men of colour.

Protesters have also brought to the foreground the militarisation of our neighbourhoods and the unwarranted, unjustified misuse of police force that has literally taken aim at our constitutional right to peacefully assemble. Furthermore, the use of rubber bullets, tear gas, concussion grenades, pepper-spray and police batons specifically and overwhelmingly in communities of colour has only served to dramatically demonstrate the racist nature of police repression.

Undoubtedly, the multi-racial solidarity exemplified during the numerous peaceful protests when compared to the Ferguson police force visually serve as a stark reminder of the very real racial disparities in a city that is nearly 70 percent African American. The Ferguson police consist of 50 white and three Black officers.

Obviously, we should not assume – and I am not arguing – that every white police officer in Ferguson is racist. I don’t think it is helpful to speculate on the motivations of rank-and-file officers regarding race and racism.

Nor do I think we should ignore the working-class character of a very difficult and dangerous profession, or the stresses and frustrations inherent in it.

AFLO-CIO President Richard Trumka remarked to the Missouri AFL-CIO, “We should not deny Darren Wilson or any other police officer his or her rights on the job or in the courts.” However, he added, “Racism, unfortunately, is part of our inheritance as Americans... and played a role in Brown’s killing. I do not envy the work of police officers...”

Re-examination of police violence

and as union members they struggle collectively to win decent benefits, health care and pensions.

Additionally, they face the daily possibility of violent confrontation and potential death. For this reason, police officers are given considerable leeway when it comes to the use of force, which makes the circumstances surrounding Mike Brown’s death and the possible prosecution of Darren Wilson much more than a local police concern. It is a national, public concern.

In fact, understanding the complex circumstances that led to Brown’s death should help us better understand the use of deadly force – in general – as a pernicious and vile form of institutional racism that transcends individual motivation or intent.

Regardless of Darren Wilson’s personal motivations and fears, the institutional racism that effectively barred African Americans from the police force in Ferguson, as well as the fact that police officers are statistically more likely to use deadly force against African Americans than against white suspects inevitably led to the racist, inappropriate use of deadly force and the murder of Mike Brown.

This tragic scenario is unfortunately repeated in countless communities across our country, often with the same tragic and criminal results.

Police training is another issue of concern, as officers should be taught to employ any and all means – short of endangering themselves or others – to de-escalate potentially violent situations.

Mike Brown’s killing isn’t just a local tragedy. It is symptomatic of a larger, on-going disease that infects our society at large, and is therefore a national concern.

Furthermore, the taking of Mike Brown’s life shouldn’t be seen as just a local crisis. It has national implications, as this specific, unjustified use of deadly force wounds and criminalises people of colour generally. Therefore, it is a national crime.

We should purposefully and intentionally highlight institutional racism at work – racism that has in its local incarnation created a deep chasm between a majority African American community and a majority white police force – and organise to create institutional mechanisms by which this racist disparity can be rectified immediately and democratically.

Institutional mechanisms, like a civilian review board with power, could have a huge impact on the inappropriate use of force, as it will bring public pressure to bear in an institutional capacity and hold police publicly accountable. Additionally, the immediate creation of laws that will serve to protect both civilians and officers.

Undoubtedly, the solutions to the crime of institutional racism within the police are multifaceted and complex. Officers’ rights to union and/or legal counsel, as well as grievance procedures are only a small part of the equation. As workers are contractually bound and must be taken into account, protection of their extended. To be clear, solutions that weaken police officers’ capacity to collectively bargain not only endangers officers’ lives, but also endangers the people they are supposed to serve and protect.

No-matter what the forensic evidence from Wilson’s car tells us, no-matter what the grand jury may eventually decide, no-matter how long the protests continue – in Ferguson and elsewhere – one basic, fundamental question regarding the killing of Mike Brown has to be addressed: Was the use of deadly force by officer Darren Wilson justified?

Collective faith in our most sacred civil liberties and civil rights hinges on the answer to this question. As far as I am concerned, according to the available facts and eye witness accounts, deadly force was not justified. Mike Brown was unarmed and in-reheit with his hands-up. Officer Wilson’s life was not in imminent danger, nor were the lives of bystanders. Regardless of any other facts that may serve to muddy this discussion, these facts are clear.

Should one police officer have the right to be judge, jury and executioner?

Darren Wilson should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

We should frame Mike Brown’s murder as both tragic and criminal.

In short, all of these issues – and I am not arguing – that every white police officer in Ferguson is racist. I don’t think it is helpful to speculate on the motivations of rank-and-file officers regarding race and racism.

On October 20, the annual conference of the Eastern Regional Organisation for Public Administration (EOROPA) was held in Hanoi, under the theme of “public administration and governance in the context of regional and global integration”. At the meeting, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung announced that institutional reform would be a priority of Vietnam’s socio-economic development till the year 2020. He said that civil servants were the key to increasing efficiency of the state administrative system, along with ensuring accountability of finances and transparency. He added that Vietnam now was developing a healthy and effective state administrative system through the process of reform.

On October 21, two Japanese Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) ministers, Industry Minister Obuchi Yoko and Justice Minister Matushima Midori resigned due to misusing political funds and receiving gifts from voters. This phenomenon is very common in the LDP, its Defence Minister Eto Akinori, Agriculture Minister Nishikawa Koya and Welfare Minister Shiozaki Yasushisa have all been involved in similar scandals in the past two years.

Sixty-nine domestic and foreign coffee companies and 178 coffee agents attended Laos’ first Coffee Festival in Champassak province. The coffee sector made a vital contribution to Lao economy; the promotion of growing and exporting coffee beans is one of the government strategies that is set to reduce poverty. In 2013, according to Lao Coffee Association, Laos exported 30,000 tones of coffee beans worth more than A$73 million.

On October 29, more than one million Hong Kong people signed a petition, supporting police action for restoring social order that had been undermined by Occupy Central. According to the Alliance for Peace and Democracy, 1,097,176 signatures had been collected, 829,032 were from streets and the rest were from the internet. The alliance spokesperson, Robert Chow, demanded Occupy Central return roads to the people, obey laws and resume order. He said that “this (the massive support for the petition) proves that more and more Hong Kong people have begun to fight against Occupy Central.”
Sheer hypocrisy

Question: Which politician is the following quote from in his maiden speech in Canberra in 2008.

“From my faith I derive the values of loving kindness, justice and righteousness, to act with compassion and to acknowledge our common humanity and to consider the welfare of others; to fight for a fair go for everyone to fulfill their human potential and to remove whatever unjust obstacles stand in their way... Desmond Tutu put it this way: ‘We expect Christians... to stand up for the truth, to stand up for justice, to stand on the side of the poor and the hungry, the homeless and the naked, and when that happens, then Christians will be trustworthy believable witnesses.’ These are my principles.”

Answer: Our very own Minister for Kindness and Compassion – Scott Morrison (otherwise known as the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection)

T Southern Brisbane

Stop illegal fishing

We need your help to stop stolen seafood from entering the US market. Stolen seafood makes its way to the US because of illegal fishing practices occurring around the world.

In June, we spoke out and told President Obama he must give our oceans the same protection he deserves. He listened and created the US Presidential Task Force to help address how we can combat illegal fishing.

The Task Force will submit recommendations to President Obama in December that outline a way the US can track where seafood comes from and how it is caught so that we can eliminate the sale of stolen seafood in US markets.

We must make sure the right recommendations are made for a new regulation in the US that helps stop this global problem as this will be the basis for the President’s decision on how to implement the solution.

Illegal fishing is very harmful for many reasons. It’s one of the main causes of over-fishing. It threatens marine ecosystems. It puts food security and regional stability at risk. And it’s linked to major human rights violations and even organised crime.

By speaking up, you will help bring attention to an important issue. You will also be a part of a solution to stop illegally caught seafood from entering the US. If we are to help save our oceans, we must move toward a fully traceable seafood supply chain.

Michelle Kurucz
World Wildlife Fund

Gasfield-free Northern Rivers

A Northern Rivers region free of unconventional gas mining has moved one step closer as the NSW Labor Party extends its policy to ban gas mining in the region to cover the Clarence electorate.

This is a very important policy step by the NSW Labor Party, and we commend John Robertson for his announcement.

We’re very pleased that the Labor Party has listened to the community and acted. It is a wise policy that recognises the risks that unconventional gas mining poses to land, water and communities.

This commitment brings a Gasfield-free Northern Rivers one step closer to becoming a reality.

With both the Labor Party and the Greens now committed to protecting the region from invasive gasfields, all eyes are turning to the National Party.

Will they continue to ignore the overwhelming wishes of the community and allow unaccountable mining companies to undermine our democracy?

We’re calling on them to wake up and take urgent action to cancel the gas licences in the Northern Rivers region.

The voters of the region are demanding action, and it is time that the National Party acted in defence of our health and our communities – for good.

Georgina Wood
Lock the Gate Alliance

SUPPORT THE CUBAN 5
Support event outside US Consulate

Martin Place, Sydney
Wednesday November 5, 5pm
Come and support the Five.
Organised by Sydney Central Branch, CPA
Further info Maria 0431 276 434

Community Party members and sympathisers taking part in unity procession – 1951.

Community is not kind to capitalism. That’s real, genuine history I’m talking about, a scientific analysis of facts including economic factors, social movements and political ideas. Not the sort that credits all human potential and to remove whatever unjust obstacles stand in their way... Desmond Tutu put it this way: ‘We expect Christians... to stand up for the truth, to stand up for justice, to stand on the side of the poor and the hungry, the homeless and the naked, and when that happens, then Christians will be trustworthy believable witnesses.’ These are my principles.”

Capitalism, as I say, doesn’t come off too well in any objective consideration of history in the last 200 years, so the people whose job it is to promote the system simply rewrite history to make the outcome more favourable to themselves. It’s an old dodge and capitalism’s apologists are being used with unashamed gusto, especially in the 90s years since the October Revolution changed the relationship of global class forces forever.

The post-war period usually identified as the Cold War saw the rewriting of history reach new heights as it became important to denigrate or outright deny the achievements of socialism, especially its role in the defeat of Fascism. With the overthrow of socialism in Russia, in 1989, the floodgates were opened: it became important once again to rewrite the history of the Revolution, of Collectivisation, of the struggle against imperialist espionage and sabotage before WW2.

In Australia, our history has been rewritten time and again as right-wing academics and “think-tanks” attempt to overturn the pro-people position that developed in the 19th century with the strong support of the “bushman’s bible”, The Bulletin. The history of the convict system, the activities of the bushrangers, the struggles on the gold-fields and the anti-squatter struggles of the free selectors have all been rewritten. Even more rewriting has been done to 20th century history, with major targets for revision being the response to WW1, the anti-conscription campaigns, the Great Depression, the development of unionism and the fight against Fascism in this country before WW2, Australian participation in the International Brigade in Spain, and of course, Australian capitalism’s sorry record in the post-war period.

The single figure who encapsulates that sorry record has to be Pig Iron Bob Menzies, founder of the Liberal Party and the man who tried to make membership in the Communist Party a criminal offence. The Murdoch press, radio jocks and reactionary politicians have all combined recently to push the line that Menzies was “the greatest Prime Minister we ever had”, a statement of such gross historical inaccuracy it beggars belief that any responsible person could actually say it.

Menzies spent the 1930s praising “Mr Hitler” and his actions in Germany “on behalf of the German people”. Fiercely anti-Communist, he was committed to the same policy towards the Axis powers as Britain’s notorious appeasers. After Japan invaded China, waterside workers reacted with such as pig iron for shipping Japan (where it would have been made into armaments for use against the Chinese people).

Menzies enacted special legislation to force the wharves to load the iron, an act of such extraordinarily reactionary political bias (not to mention appalling short-sightedness) that it earned him the nick-name “Pig Iron Bob” for ever after.

Described by at least one Labor politician of the time as, essentially “a Nazi”, Menzies wholeheartedly supported Britain’s Chamberlain government and its policy of appeasement, of trying to get Nazi Germany and militarist Japan to eliminate the Bolshevik scourge once and for all by invading the USSR from both directions. When Hitler invaded Poland and Britain had to at least appear to defend that country, to which it had treaty obligations, Britain declared war on Germany as appeasement was abandoned in favour of the “phony war” tactic. Australia followed suit.

As Attorney General, Menzies’ chief contribution to the war effort was to use wartime powers to declare the Communist Party illegal on June 15, 1940. Eventually declared unconstitutional, the ban was not lifted until the beginning of 1942, by which time Menzies and his mates were long out of office, replaced by the Curtin Labor government.

Menzies did not get back into government until 1949, when the Libs used a lying scare campaign to grossly misrepresent Labor’s bank-nationalisation policy as an attempt to appropriate the people’s savings. Once back in power, this time as PM, Menzies used dirty tricks such as spy scares, along with support from the ultra-reactionary Catholic political party the DLP, to keep himself in office. His very right-wing agenda, of course, also ensured that he had the whole-hearted support of the capitalist media.

When Menzies came to government in 1949, the Australian people owned all sorts of public enterprises. These restricted profiteering in and gave stability to a diverse range of industries. The government owned airlines, petroleum refining companies, engineering companies, all manner of manufacturing enterprises as well as having a dominant position in the electronics field.

Menzies however hated the very concept of public enterprises and went out of his way to destroy them.

When the private airline company ANA (owned by a consortium of ship-owners) failed to compete successfully against the government-owned TAA, it was bought by tracking magnate Reg Ansett, a close friend of Menzies. The latter promptly introduced a rule that all federal government departments had to share their use of planes for passengers and freight equally between the government’s own airline and Ansett’s.

A committed imperialist and royalist, Menzies embarrassed even other royalists by his gross sycophancy towards Queen Elizabeth with his “I only saw her passing by” speech. Royals however like that kind of stuff, and Menzies was duly rewarded with the Order of the Garter and the title Warden of the Cinque Ports. The title was a historical relic, harking back to England’s imperial past when she still controlled a chunk of the Continent. But just as the title was now an outdated fossil, so also was Menzies, the personification of reactionary politics, despising workers and their organisations, and quite content to send young Australians to war for monarch and empire.

He was a fossil whose followers had deep pockets and powerful media interests, and they kept him in the top job for many years. No wonder he was contemptuous of democracy.
Training captive wild animals to do tricks, whether by using food rewards or harsher methods, is frowned on nowadays, so much so that any form of animal training for circus acts is viewed with suspicion. Which is a pity, for not all animal acts were cruel, by any means. But if getting elephants to bowl or swimming, hunt and breed in the open ocean. Yet they are routinely captured and imprisoned in relatively tiny pools where they have to perform tricks to entertain the customers of the multi-billion dollar sea-park industry. Everyone knows that dolphins are intelligent animals. So too are so-called Killer Whales, with the added cachet that they have to perform tricks to enter-

Every year 65 million animals are raised and slaughtered for their meat. That's nine animals for every person on Earth. In this eye-opening documentary Michael Mosley reveals the damage livestock farming is doing to the planet. Livestock have a massive impact on the environment. Nearly a third of the planet's ice-free land surface is devoted to raising the animals we eat or milk. Thirty percent of the crops were grown to feed livestock. The latest UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN FAO) estimates suggest that livestock are responsible for 14.5 percent of man-made greenhouse gas emissions – the same amount produced by the entire world's cars, planes, trains and boats put together.

In Michael Mosley: The Truth About Meat (SBS ONE Monday, October 18 at 7.35pm) British television journalist Dr Michael Mosley investigates what sort of meat we should be eating and whether there is an eco-friendly way to raise it.

Summit Entertainment, producers of the Twilight films, did not agree with the vision of the original Twilight movie, so they replaced her with Chris Weitz, who had directed the first film in the projected Golden Compass fantasy saga. Ironically, Phillip Pullman’s book and its film version ran into fierce criticism from Christian groups angered by Pullman’s opposition to established religion. No second film was made. Weitz was not given the job of directing any of the later Twilight films either.

The second Twilight film is New Moon (ABC2 Wednesday, November 12 at 8.30pm). Trying to protect Bella from his vampire family, Edward persuades the Cullens to abruptly and mysteriously leave Forks. Bella is devastated and lapses into deep depression. She is eventually rescued from this state by Jacob, her Quileute Indian friend, but he is guarding another secret regarding “mythical” creatures in Forks, and his behaviour causes Bella almost as much angst as Edward’s.

Eventually, a massive misunderstanding (partly caused by Jacob) results in Edward going to Italy to let the Volturi vampire clan kill him, while Bella and her sister race to rescue him.

New Moon has a much brighter colour palette than the predomi-

Every Thursday 6:30 pm 'til 8:15 pm
Harold Park Hotel
Cnr Wigram Rd & Ross St Glebe

Charles Bradley 02 9692 0055
clbradley@lapac.net.au
www.politicsinthepub.org.au

Subscription to
The Guardian

12 months: $100 (GST incl.) $110.50
6 months: $55 (GST incl.) $60.50
NAME:
ADDRESS:
POSTCODE:

Pay by Cheque or money order
(Payable to "The Guardian Publications Australia Ltd")

Phone in details on 02 9699 8644
Or send to: Guardian Subscriptions
74 Buckingham St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010

or by credit card: Mastercard Visa $20 minimum on cards
Card#: ____________________________

Amount: ____________________________
Expiration Date: ____________________
Date: ________________________________
Signature: __________________________

THE POLITICS OF AIDS IN THE 21ST CENTURY – A FORGOTTEN EPIDEMIC
Neal Blewett, Dr, Former Labor Health Minister when Australia lead the world in response to the AIDS crisis;
Alan Brotherton, Director, Policy Strategy & Research at ACON;

November 27

THE ONGOING DISGRACE OF HOMELESSNESS: WHY NEITHER LABOR NOR THE COALITION GETS IT?
Michael Moore, CEO Homeless NSW;
Sister Anne Jordan, President, Cana Communities;

November 20

REGULATING THE REGULATORS AND WORKPLACE BULLYING – WHEN THE BULLYING REGULATOR FAILS TO TAKE CARE OF ITS OWN
David Kees, Greens MLC, NSW Parliament;
Anne Gardner, General Secretary Public Service Association;

November 6

WHERE IS THE ALP LEFT & WHAT DOES IT STAND FOR?
John Graham, Assistant General Secretary, NSW Branch, ALP;
Steven Jones, Federal Member for Throsby, and Shadow Assistant Health Minister;
Sally McManus, Australian Secretary Australian Unions (NSW & ACT);

THE POLITICS OF AIDS IN THE 21ST CENTURY – A FORGOTTEN EPIDEMIC
Neal Blewett, Dr, Former Labor Health Minister when Australia lead the world in response to the AIDS crisis;
Alan Brotherton, Director, Policy Strategy & Research at ACON;

Every Thursday 6:30 pm 'til 8:15 pm
Harold Park Hotel
Cnr Wigram Rd & Ross St Glebe

Charles Bradley 02 9692 0055
clbradley@lapac.net.au
www.politicsinthepub.org.au
The October Revolution was part of a process

Rob Gowland

The October Revolution was not in any way an isolated event. It was at all times part of a continuum, part of a process. Its origins can be traced back to the ferment of ideas thrown up by the American and French Bourgeois Revolutions. In the decades that followed those two signal events, there were more upheavals and revolts, notably in France and Britain in the 1830s. In 1831, a strike by iron workers in Merthyr Tydfil, against redundancies, rising prices and bailiffs, led to several thousand workers demonstrating and – for the first time in Britain – marching behind the Red Flag.

In the following decade – 1848 – there was revolution all over Europe. Two years later, the diggers at Ballarat revolted against the harsh and repressive regime imposed on them by British officialdom and colonial bigwigs. The diggers built a stockade at Eureka and declared their intention to defend their rights. The colonial ruling class crushed the revolt, but the people sided with the diggers and it was not long before they had won almost all their demands.

Meanwhile, imperialism was not sitting idle either. Britain and Russia fought a war in the Crimea for control of the Black Sea and Russia’s lucrative trade in raw materials. A few years later, and the capitalist North of the USA fought a major war with the confederate South, because the relations of production in the slave-owning South were more comfortably feudal than in the industrious North. The Great Powers had seized all over the “undeveloped” world in the previous 200 years now assumed even greater importance: as sources of raw materials for the colonial powers’ industries and as markets for the products of those industries.

However, Germany and Austria-Hungary were short of colonies while Britain and France, the two largest colonial empires, were disillusioned to share. In 1905, Japan attempted to establish an eastern empire by seizing part of Russia’s Siberian possessions. The Tsar’s government sent a large fleet from the Baltic and the Black Sea half way round the world to engage the Japanese at Port Arthur. Ill-led and ill-equipped, the Tsar’s navy suffered a devastating defeat.

Shock at the magnitude of the defeat and the loss of life sparked a revolution within the Russian Empire. It was mostly short-lived, however – except in the South where Stalin managed to maintain a resistance against the Tsarist regime for the next two years.

During the period of imperial expansion, its outspoken opponent the socialist movement also grew. The socialist or social-democratic parties, all of which claimed in one form or another to follow the teachings of Marx, were grouped in the Second International. They were vehement in their expressed opposition to war for capitalist profits.

Nevertheless, as the empires took sides in railroads for a war to redistribute the world’s colonies and markets, the various European socialist parties were found wanting. When war ultimately broke out, most of those supposedly socialist parties abandoned their previous positions and joined in the chorus of patriotic shouting, enthusiastically voting war credits for their various imperialist governments.

Only two parties held out. Lenin’s Bolsheviks in Russia and Karl Liebknecht’s Spartacists in Germany. Lenin was so disgusted by the ideological betrayal by the leaders of the various social-democratic parties that he declared that in future he would no longer identify himself as a social-democrat, but instead would be known as a Communist.

The Great War destroyed a generation and reached all parts of the globe. Popular opposition to a war for markets manifested itself very early, in the famous – and spontaneous – Christmas Truce. Later it was seen in the frequent mutinies among French troops on the Western Front and the repeated defeats in Australia of attempts to introduce conscription.

But only the Bolsheviks seriously undertook to try to turn the war from an imperialist war into a war against imperialism. By 1917, the disasters that had befallen the hapless armies of the Tsar and his aristocratic generals, combined with the timely and well-organised propaganda of the Reds had made mass opposition to the war into a tangible, even potent, force.

Soldiers’ committees were springing up everywhere; troops were deserting the front in droves and heading either home to their farms or to Petrograd to demand that something be done to end the war. The ruling class tried to promise and lies, ditching the Tsar and installing a capitalist government, telling the people that everything would be all right now that they had “democracy”.

The Bolsheviks saw through this ruse and the ruling class then tried to crush them. Lenin had to go into hiding. However, the revolutionary process continued and developed. By November (October in the old calendar) Lenin judged that it was now or never. The Provisional Government, still intent on fighting the war against Germany, was arrested and the workers took control of Petrograd.

The Revolution quickly spread to other Russian cities and towns. Unlike in Petrograd, where it had been largely bloodless, the revolution in Moscow was hard fought and bloody. The Revolution also spread quickly to other countries. During 1918, it broke out in Germany and Hungary. The Kaiser fled to Holland, the emperor Franz. Joseph was deposed. The German troops occupying parts of Russia tied red ribbons to their caps, sling their rifles over their shoulders with the barrels pointing to the ground and began heading home. In Hungary, the Communist Bela Kun established the Republic of Councils (i.e. Soviets), and in France mutinies mushroomed.

A badly frightened imperialism, anxious to have loyal troops to send against “the scourge of Bolshevism”, moved abruptly to stop the world war. A hasty armistice was agreed to so that troops could be freed to crush the revolutions in Hungary, Germany and Russia. All three were invaded, but Russia – helped by her sheer size – was able to hold out and eventually defeat the Intervention.

But it was already too late for imperialism. The genie of revolution was out of the bottle. The power of the people had been demonstrated as never before. Soon, a new society was being successfully tried out.

Imperialism has ever since been trying to convince us that socialism failed. It did not. The fact that the Revolution succeeded and Socialism succeeded is why imperialism is at pains to convince the world’s people that both is the future.

For the imperialists know that socialism is the future.

Sydney Celebrate THE GREAT OCTOBER REVOLUTION

From 6:30pm Friday November 7
74 Buckingham Street Surry Hills
$5 entry: Speakers, Delicious food
More Info 02 9699 8844 (Tom or Linda)