

News and Views from the People's Struggle

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Protest RNC Special Edition



Vol. 11 No. 4

RNC Protests: Four Days To Change The World Out of Iraq Now, Demand Peace Justice and Equality

Freedom Road Socialist Organization welcomes everyone coming from near and far to protest the Iraq War, the Republican agenda and to advance the demands for peace, justice and equality on Sept. 1 in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Like you, we oppose four more years of occupation, war, repression and racism.

We are here to build the movements for social justice and peace, to get the U.S. out of Iraq now and stop the Republicans from putting McCain in the White House. We want to put an end to Bush's never-ending 'war on terror,' along with putting and end to inequality and oppression at home and the occupation of sovereign countries by the armies of empire abroad.

Our voices will be heard loud and clear on the streets when Bush addresses the RNC convention Monday night. We think the March on the RNC Sept. 1, along with all the other protests, will help to defeat McCain and make him a footnote in high school history books. We will march with you and tens of thousands of others. We will make history. Our protests will be the front-page photo in many newspapers around the world. The Republicans came to Saint Paul to hide from the American people, but



Sept. 1 will mark the first day of protests to stop the war and oppose the Republican agenda. www.protestrnc2008.org has information on all four days of action.

we will not let them rest easy. Every day of this convention we plan to confront and oppose the Republicans, McCain and his wealthy backers. We say, "Stop the war! Stop McCain!"

The Republicans blame everybody but the class of billionaires who run this

country for the problems we face. They will spew their hate filled rhetoric inside the Xcel center - which they have fortified like a bunker. They are terrified of working, oppressed and progressive people of all kinds advancing an agenda of real change - change that puts the people and our needs first

and says to hell with the elite and corporate profits.

Our protests will be outside, in the open air. They will let the world know our demands for a just society. Our movements will demand money for Welcome, continued on page 1

The Eyes of the World Will Be On St. Paul Interview with Jess Sundin, an organizer of Sept. 1 anti-war protest at RNC

Fight Back! interviewed Jess Sundin, protests are the only way we can not only for ourselves, but for all the All three of the major national anti-war one of the main organizers of the Sept. 1 anti-war protest. She has helped to lead the Coalition to March on the RNC and Stop the War, active in the Twin Cities-based Anti-War Committee and is a member of Freedom Road Socialist Organization.

Fight Back!: What is the significance of the protests at the RNC?

Jess Sundin: The eyes of the world will be on Saint Paul during the week of the Republican convention. If all they see is the proceedings inside the Xcel Center, then we have failed. Protests in the street are the way to give voice to the millions dead in Iraq, to the hundreds of thousands homeless after the disaster in New Orleans or from foreclosures in every community across the country. The

answer the Republican agenda and demand an end to policies that wage war, deepen poverty and fuel racism.



Jess Sundin, Minneapolis, MN

Sept. 1 through 4 in Saint Paul, the world will see us demanding a real change, they will see us standing up for peace, justice and equality,

world's peoples.

Fight Back!: As a leader of the Coalition to March on the RNC and Stop the War, could you describe the efforts that have been made to unite so many groups for the Sept. 1 demonstration?

Sundin: The vast majority in this country are against the war and Fight Back!: Where do you think the occupation in Iraq. In addition to anti-war activists, we have student groups, labor unions, immigrant rights organizations, low-income community groups and many others who oppose the war because it is wrong, but also see the heavy costs their own communities pay while it continues. More than 120 organizations from across the U.S. are marching together under one banner: "Stop the war."

coalitions will march together on Sept. 1, along with the leaders of the biggest immigrants rights organizations in the country, from Los Angeles and Chicago. The coming together of these two movements is a power force. This unity is what we need in the face of a war and economic crisis that are destroying more lives every day.

anti-war movement should be going in the period ahead?

Sundin: As the DNC and the RNC kick off the election season, we in the anti-war movement need to be very vocal and visible with our demand: "U.S. out of Iraq now." Over the next two months, wherever Obama or McCain appear, the anti-war move-

Sundin, continued on page 2

OUT NOW

Welcome, continued from page 1

human needs, not for war and occupation. We demand universal health care, money for public education, housing for the homeless, jobs for the unemployed and money and justice for all those who suffered during Hurricane Katrina. We can never forgive or forget how Bush and the Republicans left low-income African-American people stranded on bridges while the floodwaters rose.

We demand and end to racist discrimination. We support immigrants' rights and demand legalization and full equality for all. We defend women's right to choose and control their bodies. We want Gays and Lesbians to be able to marry and have all the rights of other Americans. And we will support workers and unions fighting for a fair wages and benefits, and oppose even more tax cuts for corporations and for the rich. We support homeowners and renters being evicted from their homes while the bank and mortgage bosses continue to make millions. Our marches and protests will reflect our diversity and our unity.

Freedom Road Socialist Organization aims to end capitalism - a system that is based on inequality, exploitation and oppression. Our vision is for peace, unity and socialism. We know this system we live under cannot deliver what we want. We know the politicians of both parties are bought and paid for by the rich. This system is based on empire, dominating peoples of other countries, while exploiting and oppressing people here at home.

The time has come to unite all who we can to defeat the main enemy in front of us at this time. McCain's idea of occupying Iraq "for 100 years" cannot become reality. Our aim is to express the just demands of hundreds of millions of Americans, uniting with the oppressed and exploited around the world, to build a movement that will do away with not just the Republicans, but also the wealthy class that rules this country.



Free subscription to Fight Back! for all RNC

Sisters and Brothers,

protesters

Fight Back! is a newspaper that exists to build people's struggle. Every issue carries up-to-date news of about the fight of working and oppressed people to end injustice of every kind. If you're sick and tired of the direction that this country is heading in, we have a special opportunity for you. We are offering a free one-year subscription to Fight Back! to everyone who shows up to protest at the Republican National Convention.

www.antiwarcommittee.org 612.379.3899 — info@antiwarcommittee.org

Over the past two years, Fight Back! and our online news service has car-

ried more that 50 articles on the plans for anti-war protests at the RNC. When the largest anti-war coalitions in the U.S., along with more that 40 other organizations came together in February, 2008, planning the Sept. 1 anti-war protest, *Fight Back!* was there and provided in-depth coverage. In the battle to get march permits, *Fight Back!* reporters have been on hand every step of the way. In the next issue, there will be extensive coverage or what takes place on the streets of Saint Paul Sept. 1 - 4.

Organization; Living Wage Avengers;

SDS - Univ. of Minnesota; Welfare Rights

Committee; Youth Against War and Racism

And we can promise that our coverage will not be 'balanced,' 'impartial' or 'even-handed.' It will be just the opposite. We are partisans, along with every person who comes to Saint Paul to reject the war on Iraq and rest of the Republican agenda. We are going to support everyone who speaks out for peace, justice and equality.

If this is the delivered to you have not we have ever Mick Kelly, For the editor

Arguably John McCain and the Republicans will do an excellent job of vilifying themselves, but this newspaper will follow up on that and do our best portray them as what they are. They are corrupt servants of rich and one of the two parties of big business, which has visited disaster after disaster on people from New Orleans to Baghdad.

capacity to raise the social cost of the

war and challenge the war-makers here

at home.

Reporters for *Fight Back!* include activists in factories and offices, campuses and communities. Our reporters have met with the Iraqi resistance, traveled to occupied Palestine and visited the FARC in the jungles of Colombia.

If this is the kind of news you want delivered to your door, take us up on our special subscription offer. After all you have nothing to lose, and together we have everything to win.

Mick Kelly, For the editors and staff of *Fight Back!*

WHERE WE STAND

This newspaper exists to build the people's struggle! We provide coverage and analysis of some of the key battles facing working and low-income people.

We are not 'neutral' or 'evenhanded' in our coverage. We are opposed to exploitation, discrimination and oppression. We hold that the rich class of people, who run the economy and government of this country, are unfit to rule. We support all movements that challenge their power and privilege.

The writers and staff of *Fight Back!* are activists and organizers - in the trade unions, low-income community, oppressed

nationality movements, on the campuses and in other people's movements. We welcome articles, letters, comments and criticisms. Some of us working to put out this paper are members of Freedom Road Socialist Organization.

Articles represent the views of the people and organizations that author them.

For the time being, *Fight Back!* is being published five times a year

To contact us, write:

FIGHT BACK! P.O. Box 582564 Minneapolis,MN 55458

info@fightbacknews.org

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Standing up at the RNC Voices from the protest

I am marching on the RNC to unite with thousands of people who will be there to expose the Bush-McCain politics of war, racism and anti-immigrant



Carlos Montes, **Latinos Against War**

attacks. I am marching to represent the Chicano-Mexicano people's struggle for self-determination and equality. Our struggle has a long history of resis-

tance to U.S. oppression of our land, culture and economic and political power. We as Chicanos stand in solidarity with the people of Iraq in their fight against U.S. occupation. The RNC agenda represents a pro-corporate anti-people politic. It is also an agenda that promotes the increased attacks and oppression against Chicanos and Mexicanos in our own homeland in the Southwest U.S. and other major cities.



Anh Pham, Anti-War ers; espe-Committee, MN

When I first started was amazhow much it mattered to other antiwar protestcially those

who protest-

ed the U.S. war in Viet Nam War, to have me - a Vietnamese American woman join them. When I had the chance to go to Palestine after the start of the second intifada, I was deeply moved and inspired by the Palestinian people's struggle for the right of return and an end to the occupation. They saw their struggle as part of a whole movement against injustice worldwide. Drawing inspiration from them and others that I know are in the struggle with me, I march on the RNC to say no to the Republican agenda, no to racism and to any agenda that seeks to oppress the many to serve the needs of the few.



Steff Yorek, Freedom **Road Socialist Organization**

I am march-RNC to stop the war in Iraq and to defeat the Republican agenda. U.S imperialism is devastating the Iraqi people. John McCain is an

advocate of war and occupation. A movement in this country to oppose the war and defeat McCain will help the Iraqi people free themselves. I am also marching to stop the devastation that capitalism is causing here at home. Homelessness and hunger are rising and New Orleans is still a disaster three years later. The rich care nothing about the people of this country and the Republicans are a big part of that.

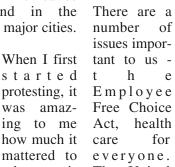


Hatem Abudayyeh

As a Palestinian Arab who was born and raised in this country, I have seen nothing but death, destruction and catastrophe for my people in Palestine, the

rest of the Arab world and here

in the U.S. Although these U.S. government policies have been consistent throughout both parties' administrations, this past era has possibly been the most devastating in generations for Palestinians and Arabs. So we must all march on the RNC, demand an end to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, demand self-determination, the Right of Return and liberation for the Palestinian people, and demand an end to all U.S. aid to Israeli occupation and colonization.





very rich country and everyone in America should have health care. Fair trade. Full equality for everyone - all workers in America should be treated fairly regardless to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or where they were born. We believe in affirmative action. The next president needs to support affirmative action as well as enact an affirmative action program. End the war - the human cost and the cost to America's economy are far too great.

The Poor People's Contingent at the I'm attending the mass protests of the RNC march is very important because it's time that we let these beasts in

office hear

w h a t

America is

really think-

ing. We are

being poor,

hungry,

stressed and

dying

tired

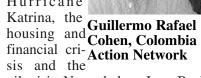


Juzel Sanders, Welfare because **Rights Committee**

we're living off of they feel is 'fare.' We have a chance to make history in more ways than one.

This is the time that we all have to stand together and fight. It's time for a change and only we can make that change, so let's stand and march for us. Make them understand that we need money for human needs, not for war!

past June, President Bush said he had to hanmany disasters, referring to Hurricane



oil crisis. Nevertheless, I say Bush and the Republicans have been a great disaster for Latin America, especially promoting Plan Colombia and war against the poor. In his support for the corrupt, narco-trafficking President of Colombia, Bush said, "President Uribe has done everything we asked for and more." We do not want more of the same, so we are protesting the Republicans and McCain in Saint



Jacob Flom, member Iraq Veterans against the War, Milwaukee Wisconsin

and support the majority of Americans who opposed to h Republican agenda. As a veteran experienced the costs of the ongoing occupations

RNC to join

of Iraq and Afghanistan. I saw friends and co-workers die, commit suicide, receive debilitating injuries and suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), drug abuse and alcoholism. The massive amount of suffering experienced by the Iraqis, soldiers and their families made me look deeper into the root causes for war. The occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan are not wars on terrorists, but occupations designed and executed to fill the pockets of American corporations.



Tuscaloosa AL

Our chapter of Students for Democratic Society (SDS), like many other chapters across country, will

Chapin Gray, SDSbe skipping classes make

long trek to Saint Paul to face the Republicans head on. We're determined to show McCain that we refuse to be silenced by the increased repression we face from our own schools in this post 911 era and that we as students are a powerful force in the antiwar movement who will continue to fight to end the occupation of Iraq.

WAR, SOCIALISM AND THE PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE

A conference on imperialism and how to end it.

Sponsored by Fight Back! Newspaper October 18, 2008, Minneapolis MN

Over the last six years there has been an upsurge in the people's struggle in the United States: The growth of a mass anti-war movement not seen since the fight against the war in Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s; the emergence of an immigrant rights movement and the largest struggle for equality since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s; and a growing fight back against foreclosures, job cuts and cuts in health care, education, welfare and a growing economic crisis.

Fight Back! has covered these struggles and sees the growth of the people's struggle calling for a higher level of understanding of our common struggle against imperialism - a system based on giant corporations that cross the globe in search for ever-greater profits, and these corporations' control of our government and use of military force to achieve their goals. Fight Back! is sponsoring this conference so that activists can share their experiences and learn more about imperialism and how we can fight to end it and replace it with a system of socialism, where people's needs, not corporate profits, are the basis of society.

Join us on Saturday, Oct. 18 in Minneapolis, Minnesota for

this important conference on imperialism and how to end it. At the conference there will be workshops and discussion that brings together activists from the anti-war, immigrant rights, the labor, oppressed nationality, student and lowincome movements. There will be presentations from some of the leaders of these movements and from Freedom Road Socialist Organization. We will also be talking about how to build a revolutionary media that an serves the people, grassroots organizing, bringing together a broad united front of different forces, building a revolutionary organization and the direction for the people's struggle in 2009.

For more information, contact *Fight Back!* at:

Fight Back! P.O. Box 582564 Minneapolis, MN 55448

email us at:info@fightbacknews.org We look forward to seeing you in October!

LUCHA Y RESISTE!

Noticias y Perspectivas de la Lucha del Pueblo

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Edición Especial Manfestación RNC

Vol. 11, No. 4

Cuatro días para cambiar el mundo EEUU fuera de Irak ya! Exigimos paz e igualdad!

Les damos una bienvenida de parte de Freedom Road Socialist Organization a todas y todos los que han venido de cerca y desde lejos para protestar en contra de la guerra en Irak, protestar la agenda republicana, y avanzar las demandas de paz, justicia e igualdad el 1 de septiembre en San Pablo, Minnesota. Como ustedes, nosotros estamos en contra de cuatro años más de ocupación, guerra, represión y racismo.

Estamos aquí para construir los movimientos para la justicia social y la paz, para exigir el retiro de las tropas estadounidenses de Irak, y para parar a los republicanos en su intento de llevar a McCain a la casa blanca. Queremos un fin a 'la guerra sin fin contra el terrorismo,' queremos acabar con la desigualdad y la opresión dentro de los Estados Unidos y también queremos un fin a la ocupación de países soberanos por los ejércitos del imperio.

Cuando Bush hable la noche del lunes 1 de septiembre en la convención republicana, vamos a levantar nuestras voces en la calle para que nos escuchen claramente. Creemos que la marcha en contra de la RNC el 1 de septiembre, juntos a las otras protestas, va a ayudar a derrotar McCain y dejarle casi olvidado en los libros de la historia. Vamos a marchar juntos contigo y con decenas de miles de personas, haremos historia. En muchos periódicos del mundo las fotos de nuestras protestas van a

estar en la portada. Los republicanos vinieron a San Pablo intentando esconderse del pueblo estadounidense pero no les permitiremos descansar ni un momento. Todos los días durante la convención republicana enfrentaremos a los republicanos, a McCain y a los ricos que le apoyan. Por eso decimos "¡Alto a la guerra! ¡Paremos a McCain!"

Los republicanos culpan a todo el mundo por los problemas que enfrentamos excepto la clase de billonarios que maneja este país. Van a estar hablan-

odio dentro del Xcel Center. Han fortificado el Xcel Center como que fuera un búnker. Tienen mucho miedo de los trabajadores, de la gente oprimida y la gente progresista avanzando una agenda de cambio real – un cambio que pone el pueblo y nuestras necesidades primero y dice 'al diablo con los ricos y las ganancias corporativas.'

Nuestras protestas se harán afuera, al aire libre. Vamos a expresarse al mundo nuestras demandas para una sociedad justa. Exigimos más dinero para las necesidades humanas, no para la guerra y la ocupación. Exigimos un sistema de seguro medico universal, dinero para educación pública, hogares para la gente sin hogar, trabajos para los desempleados y dinero y justicia para todas y todos los que sufrieron durante el huracán Katrina. Nunca

podremos olvidar ni pera los afrodespués

donar el hecho de que Bush y los republicanos dejaron americanos de bajo ingreso olvidados en New Orleans mientras subió el agua de la inundación

huracán. Exigimos un fin a la discriminación racista. Apoyamos los derechos de los inmigrantes y exigimos la legalización e igualdad completa para todos y todas. Defendemos el derecho de la mujer para controlar su sistema reproductivo y controlar su propio cuerpo. Queremos que la gente gay y lesbiana tenga el derecho de casarse y que tenga todos los derechos de los demás estadounidenses. Apoyamos a los traba-

oponemos a los recortes de impuestos para las corporaciones y los ricos. Apoyamos a los dueños y arrendadores de casas y apartamentos que las autoridades están botando de sus hogares mientras los bancos siguen ganando millones de dólares. Nuestras marchas y protestas van a reflejar nuestra diversidad y unidad.

Freedom Road Socialist Organization lucha por el fin del capitalismo – un sistema basado en la desigualdad, la explotación, y la opresión. Nuestra visión es para la paz, la unidad y el socialismo. Sabemos que el sistema en el que vivimos no nos puede dar lo que queremos. Sabemos que los políticos de los dos partidos son comprados y pagados por los ricos. El sistema capitalista se basa en el imperio y la dominación de los pueblos de otros países mientras explotan y oprimen la gente dentro de los Estados Unidos también.

Ya llegó la hora de unirnos todos los que podamos para derrotar al enemigo principal en este momento. No podemos permitir que la idea de McCain de ocupar Irak 'por 100 años' llegue a ser una realidad. Nuestro objetivo es expresar las demandas justas de los cientos de miles de estadounidenses, uniéndonos con los oprimidos y explotados en todo el mundo, para construir un movimiento que acabará con no sólo los republicanos sino también con la clase rica que manda en este país.



Volante para el contingente pro-inmigrante de do con sus la marcha contra la RNC el 1 de septiembre

Los ojos del mundo estarán puestos en San Pablo Entrevista con Jess Sundin, organizadora de protesta anti-guerra 1 de sept.

Jess Sundin: El mundo estará mirando hacia San Pablo durante la semana de la Convención Republicana. Si sólo vieran lo que está pasando adentro del Centro Xcel, nosotros habríamos fracasado. Las protestas en las calles darán una voz a los millones de muertos en Irak, a los cientos de miles de personas que han quedado sin casas después del desastre en Nueva Orleáns o por que sus casas fueron hipotecadas en todas las comunidades del país. Las protestas son nuestra vía para responder a la agenda republicana y exigir un fin a las políticas que fomentan la guerra, la pobreza y el racismo. Durante los días 1 al 4 de septiembre en San Pablo, el mundo nos verá exigiendo un verdadero cambio, nos verá exigiendo paz, justicia e igualdad, no sólo para nosotros, sino para todos los pueblos del mundo.

tancia de las protestas contra la la Coalición para marchar en contra de Chicago. La unidad de estos dos reaccionaria, pro-guerra, de pobreza, Convención Republicana Nacional? la Convención Republicana y la guerra, movimientos es poderosa. Esta unidad desigualdad y racismo, de la agenda puedes describir los esfuerzos que han hecho para unir a tantos grupos para la manifestación el 1 de septiembre.

> Sundin: La gran mayoría de gente en este país está en contra de la guerra y la ocupación de Irak. Hay grupos antiguerras. grupos estudiantiles, sindicatos, organizaciones pro-inmigrantes, grupos comunitarios de bajo ingreso y muchos más se que oponen a la guerra por lo que está pasando en Irak, pero que también pueden ver los costos de la guerra afectando a sus propias comunidades. Más de 120 organizaciones de toda la nación marcharán juntos bajo la misma bandera: Alto a la Guerra.

> Las tres grandes coaliciones nacionales contra la guerra marcharán juntos el 1 de septiembre, unidos con los líderes de las organizaciones pro-inmigrantes

es lo que necesitamos para enfrentar la guerra y crisis económica que destruyen más y más vidas cada día.

jadores y sindicatos en su lucha por salarios y beneficios justos, y nos

¡Lucha y Resiste!: ¿Cuáles son los próximos pasos para el movimiento anti-guerra?

Sundin: Con las convenciones de los demócratas y los republicanos y la llegada de las elecciones, el movimiento anti-guerra tiene que ser fuerte y visible con nuestra demanda: Estados Unidos Fuera de Irak Ahora. En donde sea que aparezcan Obama o McCain, el movimiento anti-guerra debe estar allí con un mensaje para terminar la ocupación de Irak. Debemos enfrentar a McCain con manifestaciones fuertes.

El día de las elecciones es importante que votemos en contra de John

¡Lucha y Resiste!: ¿Cuál es la impor- ¡Lucha y Resiste!: ¿Cómo lidereza de más grandes del país, de Los Ángeles a McCain, de la agenda republicana que está en contra de los inmigrantes, las mujeres y los homosexuales. Un voto en contra de McCain nos dará mejores condiciones en la lucha para un cambio social. La elección es un referéndum de la ocupación de Irak y nuestros votos son importantes.

> Sin importar el candidato que gane la presidencia, necesitamos seguir construyendo un movimiento anti-guerra en las calles de cada ciudad y pueblo de los Estados Unidos. La marcha contra la guerra el 1 de septiembre representa un desafío importante a la guerra en contra de Irak. Tenemos demandas claras, unidad dentro del movimiento anti-guerra y con otros movimientos de gente trabajadora y oprimida. Necesitamos esta unidad para hacer crecer el movimiento y su capacidad de oponerse a la guerra y los que hacen la guerra aquí en este país.