

# FIGHT BACK!

## News and Views from the People's Struggle

www.fightbacknews.org

50 cents

May 2010

Vol. 13 No. 2

# Fight for Immigrant Rights Legalization Now!

By staff

**Washington, D.C.** - An estimated 200,000 immigrants and their supporters gathered here, March 21 in the largest demonstration for immigrant rights in recent years. The mainly Latino protesters filled more than three blocks of the national mall. There was tremendous excitement and energy among the protesters, who were united in demanding legalization for all workers and an end to deportations and raids. Many protesters brought hand-made signs and banners that expressed their frustration with immigration policies.

The massive outpouring of support for the rights of undocumented workers brought together people from across the country. Scores of buses came from Chicago, including a contingent from Teamsters Local 743. Hundreds of students with Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA) joined the rally. A popular chant was “¡Obama, escucha, el pueblo esta in lucha!” (Obama, listen, the people are in the struggle!)

Commenting on the protest, veteran Chicano activist Carlos Montes stated, “The rally is important because it draws attention to the increased suffering of the millions of immigrants, especially those from Mexico and Central America. It comes at an important time where immigration reform legislation is being discussed in the U.S. Congress. The rally puts pressure on President Obama and the U.S. Congress to take action now - this spring - we cannot wait another year.”



Immigrant rights struggles across the country demand, “Legalization now!”

## The Fight for Immigrant Rights in 2010: Year One of the New Administration Saw Change but not Progress

*Fight Back! Commentary*

One year ago Chicanos, Mexicanos and Central Americans celebrated the end of the eight years of Bush administration. In addition to launching two wars and ushering in the greatest financial crisis since the Great Depression, the Bush administration stepped up repression against immigrants. Raids and deportations of workers by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) doubled, redoubled and then doubled again under Bush. The Bush administration implemented the notorious 287(g) program, where ICE teamed up with local police and sheriffs allowed racists such as Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio to harass Chicanos, Mexicanos and Central Americans. The October 2006 “Secure Fence Act” stepped up the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border, contributing to the deaths of more and more immigrants trying to enter the United States.

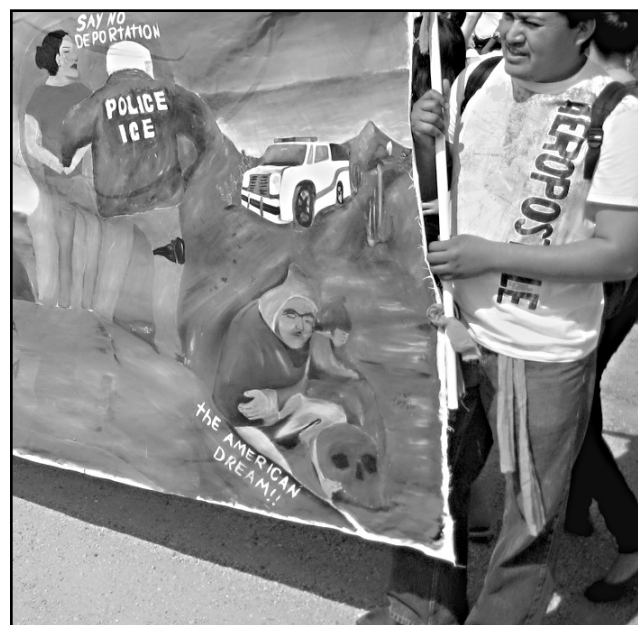
In December of 2005, the House of Representatives passed the Republican-backed HR 4437 that would have further criminalized the undocumented. In response, the Chicano, Mexicano and Central American communities erupted in

militarization of the border and opposition to any guest worker program. Chicanos, Mexicanos and Central Americans made up the vast majority of protesters, as the struggle for legalization is part of the Chicano people's long struggle for equality and self-determination. They were joined by significant numbers of other Latinos and labor unions, as well as African, Arab and Asian Americans and others whose communities had large numbers of immigrants.

The politicians responded to these protests in two ways. In the House of Representatives, Illinois Democrat Luis Gutierrez and Arizona Republican Jeff Flake teamed up to submit the STRIVE act. STRIVE was a combination of good (expanding legal immigration) and

bad (more criminalization of the undocumented) policy. On the key issue of legalization, it had too many barriers. The Senate Immigration Reform Act, largely written by Massachusetts Democrat Ted Kennedy and Arizona Republicans John McCain and John Kyl and backed by President Bush, was even worse. The

*Change, continued on page 8*



Banner at the march for immigrant rights in Washington D.C. on March 21. No deportations!

massive protests in March of 2006, another example of their aspirations for equality. These street protests swelled into the millions on May 1, 2006 in Los Angeles, San José, San Diego, Chicago, Milwaukee and in almost every major city and in many smaller cities across the country. These protests demanded legalization for the undocumented, an end to raids and deportations, stopping the

## INSIDE

**Chicago: GEO  
claims victory**

**Page 3**

**Kidd Fights for  
Home**

**Page 3**

# International Women’s Day Celebrated in Minneapolis

By staff

Minneapolis, MN - 50 people gathered here March 7, to celebrate International Women’s Day. The event, organized by Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO), included speeches, a showing of the film *The Eyes of the Rainbow* - a documentary about Assata Shakur - and brief toasts from trade union, anti-war, student and welfare rights organizers.

Leaders of FRSO and the FMLN Committee of Minnesota spoke at the program.

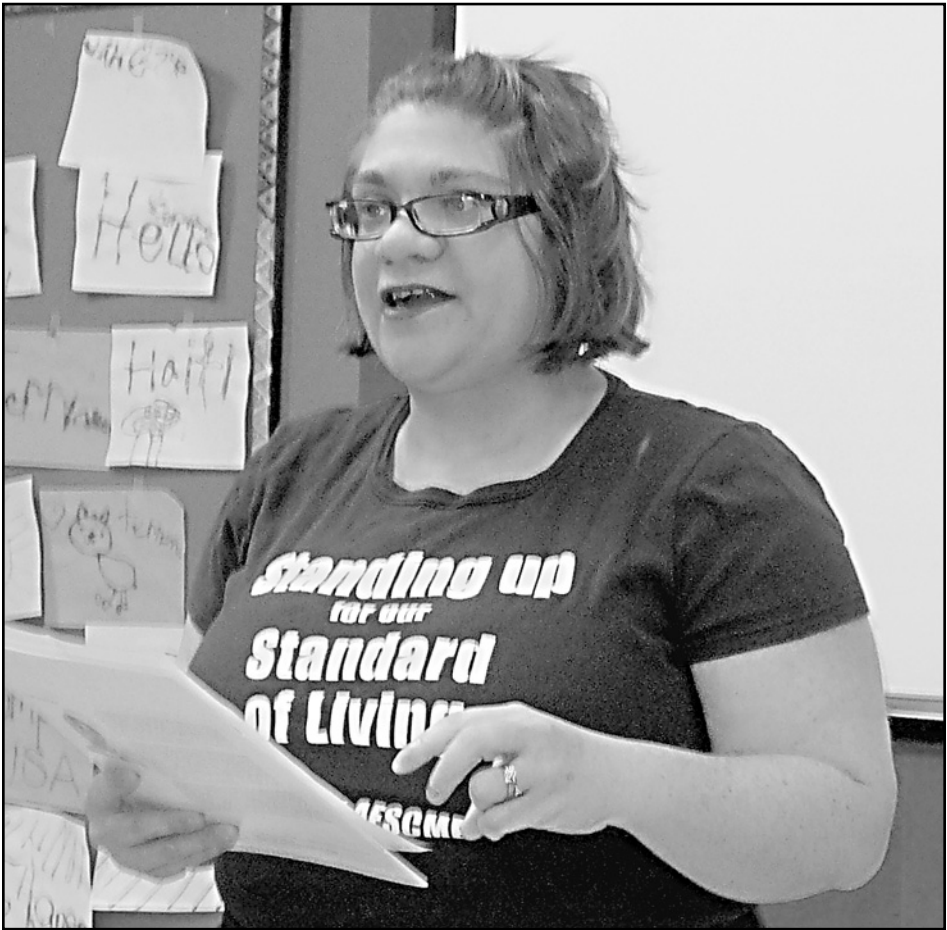
Angella Kahn, a member of Freedom Road Socialist Organization and the Welfare Rights Committee, welcomed people to the event, noting the great contributions women have made to the people’s struggle.

Jess Sundin, of FRSO stated, “International Women’s Day is a day to stand up and fight back, to demand full equality in society, and to take our place in the forefront of people’s struggles. On International Women’s Day we should raise the special demands of women for equality in society and the demands of work-class women and women of color must be at the center

of our agenda. At the same time, International Women’s Day should celebrate the special contributions of women to the people’s struggles on all fronts. We make up half of the population. Society can’t be transformed without the full participation and leadership all working-class women.”

Sundin continued, “The histories of class and national liberation struggles are the histories of women. Women who have fought not only to improve their own lives for today, but also oppose capitalism and imperialism - women who are revolutionaries and socialists. Many have been brutally repressed by the powerful. They’ve paid with their lives and their freedoms. It should not be a crime for a woman to stand up and fight. This is why the international communist movement, 100 years ago, did not hesitate to create an international holiday to recognize our place in the people’s struggles.”

Sundin concluded, “We will fight not only for our class, and for the liberation of oppressed peoples and nations, but also for real equality for women, both within our movements and in society at large. Long live International Women’s Day!”



Jess Sundin speaks at Minneapolis International Womens Day event.

# Contribute to *Fight Back!* - May Day fundraising drive

Dear Readers:

On May Day, demonstrations will take place across the country demanding “Legalization now” for undocumented workers. Thousands of issues of *Fight Back!* will be distributed at those protests. Each edition of this newspaper is goes out to workplaces, communities and campuses all over the country. Almost every month, activists step forward to begin the distribution of *Fight Back!* in a city where it has not been circulated before.

We want to do more of this, and to do so, we could use your help. Shipping, printing and mailing all cost money. By contributing to our May Day fundraising drive you can join us in the effort to make sure that *Fight Back!* gets into the hands of workers who are walking the picket lines in Alabama or Chicago, who are marching for immigrants rights in LA, or standing up to police brutality in Florida.

the people’s struggle. Our reporters are not sitting on the sidelines waiting for things to happen. And we promise they are not neutral or unbiased. The reporters and staff of *Fight Back!* are the ones who organize demonstrations and help lead strikes and protests. All of them are biased - towards you. They are part of the movements of working and oppressed people and they do everything they can to oppose the rich and powerful that run this country. And this shows up in the perspective from which they write.

In addition to the print edition of *Fight Back!*, we have an online edition that is updated on a nearly daily basis. We hope all of our readers check this out and we hope all of you send some cash our way.

Together, we can reach more people with a message of struggle.

Sincerely,

Every issue of this newspaper brings you coverage from the front lines of

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

CONTRIBUTE

Circle Contribution Amount:

\$25.00

\$50.00

\$100.00

Other \$

Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

Send contribution to:

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

## 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 ‘even-handed’ 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

## SUBSCRIBE TO FIGHT BACK!

Keep up with the people’s struggle

\$5.00 for 5 issues - Individuals

\$25.00 for 5 issues - Institutions

Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

Send subscription request to:

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



# UIC GEO scores victory

By Joe Iosbaker

On April 5, the members of the Graduate Employees Organization (GEO) at the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) prepared for a strike. Their bargaining committee went in for a last-ditch session with a federal mediator and the team from management. After 13 hours at the table, the GEO scored a significant victory, emerging with a tentative agreement that protects tuition waivers and increases job security. They also won two years of raises to their minimum stipends and an increase in the university's contribution for health insurance.

Gemmel, communications officer for the GEO.

**Fight Back!:** Why was the GEO preparing to strike?

**Gina Gemmel:** We were preparing to strike because the UIC administration had not guaranteed tuition waivers for graduate employees. The proposal we had received from them would have allowed individual departments to set tuition waiver policy, which would open up the possibility of departments granting only partial waivers or waivers only to certain types of students. We wanted to ensure that every

*Fight Back!* caught up with Gina

*UIC GEO, continued on page 4*



*Fight Back! photo by Kim Defranco*

"Tax the rich, stop cuts to poor and working people" reads a banner on the opening day of Minnesota's legislative session.

## Opening day of MN Legislature: Protest Demands Tax the Rich, No Cutbacks, Foreclosure Moratorium

By staff

**St. Paul, MN** - About 100 people gathered here Feb. 4 on the steps of the Minnesota State Capitol for a protest that coincided with the opening of the Minnesota State Legislature. The Minnesota Coalition for a People's Bailout organized the protest. Standing at the top of a giant banner reading, "Tax the rich, no cuts to poor and working people," Angel Buechner of the Welfare Rights Committee led the chant, "Hey politicians, here's the fix - tax the rich! Tax the rich!"

Linden Gawboy, of the Minnesota Coalition for a People's Bailout, gave the first speech, stating, "The MN Coalition for a People's Bailout has legislation for a People's Agenda. We demand jobs or income now. If this state does not do the right thing and give us jobs - we need income. We want unemployment benefits extended. We want a moratorium on the five-year limit on welfare. We want the creation of a public works program to put people to work now. We call for no layoffs, no furloughs and no attacks on wages, for state and University of Minnesota workers and for all workers. Now is the time to be protecting jobs, instead of putting more people in the unemployment lines."

She continued, "We are sick of seeing destruction that foreclosures and evictions cause in our communities. We call for a moratorium on home foreclosures and on evictions from foreclosed properties." Many participants at the rally held signs calling for a moratorium on foreclosures and evictions.

Mick Kelly, of the Minnesota Coalition for a Peoples Bailout said, "The economic crisis continues to hit poor and working people hard. Every month more jobs are lost and more homes hover on the brink of foreclosure. We are bringing the message to the politicians at the capitol that this is an emergency and something has to be done." He continued, "The rally is in support

of House File 2604, which will place a moratorium on foreclosures and evictions of renters from foreclosed properties while the economic crisis is still hitting so many families." Both HF2604 and its senate companion, SF2242 were introduced Feb. 4.

Charlene Wilford of the Welfare Rights Committee told the crowd, "To those politicians who just don't get it, we say, 'Get out here.' Talk to the moms who have been surviving on \$437 per month. Talk to the homeowners who have given their blood, sweat and tears over the years, only to find themselves facing foreclosures by greedy banks. Talk to families whose unemployment insurance and welfare have hit their time limits." The Welfare Rights Committee and the Coalition are promoting legislation that will place a moratorium on the five-year time limit on public assistance.

Trade unionists played a big role in the rally. Phyllis Walker, the president of AFSCME 3800 said, "We need to extend unemployment insurance in Minnesota. The homes of many of our union members are in jeopardy because their spouse is out of work and they cannot keep up the mortgage without unemployment payments." Nearby, members of her local held the union's banner.

Other labor leaders speaking at the rally included Bernie Hess, of the United Food and Commercial Workers and representatives of the SEIU Local 26, whose janitors had recently authorized a strike.

Other speakers included representatives from the coalition's youth, student, tenant, anti-war and immigrant rights member groups.

Deb Konechne of the Minnesota Coalition for a Peoples Bailout says that the coalition will undertake all-out mobilizations to fight for justice at the capitol this legislative session.



Press conference at Michael Kidd's home demands Aurora Loan Service negotiate.

## Stop Foreclosures: Fight begins to get 'Justice for Michael Kidd'

By staff

**Minneapolis, MN** - Friends, neighbors and other supporters joined the Minnesota Coalition for a People's Bailout at the home of Michael Kidd, April 9. Kidd has been fighting to keep his home for over a year. He has had enough of the mortgage servicer, Aurora Loan Services, stalling, changing terms, 'forgetting' about past agreements and items faxed and mailed several times and apparently refusing to negotiate in good faith.

Michael Kidd is an independent trucker. In 2004 he put down \$45,000 cash and got a regular, fixed-rate mortgage. Because of the recession, his trucking business slowed. Last year, he tried to renegotiate the terms of his mortgage so his payments would be more affordable - with the expectation, based on the terms of the federal Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), that the home's current value to be taken into account.

In 2004, when Kidd bought the house, it was valued at \$190,000. Now it is valued between \$65,000 and \$90,000. Aurora, in direct contradiction the federal HAMP program, is not offering to refinance the home at its 'net present value.'

Mick Kelly, of the Minnesota Coalition for a People's Bailout, puts it bluntly: "Michael Kidd is being robbed. Aurora is pressuring him into taking a bogus deal that only makes Aurora richer. They are basically turning his house into an ATM for the banks."

Michael Kidd and many others who have lost homes on the north and south sides of Minneapolis are examples of the racial disparities in home foreclosures and remodifications. As an African American born and raised in North Minneapolis, Kidd says he could have moved away, but chose to stay and build his community. "I am not just speaking for me, but for thousands in my situation," said Mr. Kidd. "There are empty homes all around this neighborhood. We don't need any more."

The Minnesota Coalition for a People's Bailout joins Michael Kidd in demanding that Aurora come to the table, follow the rules of the HAMP program and renegotiate the mortgage at the home's current value.

"Give Mr. Kidd a deal he can afford," says a statement from the Minnesota Coalition for a People's Bailout for a Peoples Bailout.



# Tuscaloosa: Crimson Ride bus drivers get first contract

By Jenae Stainer

**Tuscaloosa, AL** - After a week in and out of work and negotiations, Crimson Ride bus drivers at the University of Alabama have successfully achieved their first contract with First Transit. The agreement was reached at approximately 2:30 a.m. on March 8, after several hours at the bargaining table. The negotiating process stalled several times, which led to the Crimson Ride drivers' strike on March 1. After a few hours on the picket line, First Transit agreed to come back to the table, but once again these negotiations went nowhere. On March 7, they returned to the table once more, threatening the drivers with a lockout and scab buses if no agreement was reached.

Mario Harmon, ATU Local 1208 Financial Secretary, said that the drivers would vote on the contract the evening of March 8. "It's a good first contract and it improves our situation a great deal. There are some things we want to work toward in future con-



Tuscaloosa Crimson Ride Drivers on the picket line. Getting a first contract can be a real battle anywhere. It is especially hard in the anti-union South.

tracts, but this is a good contract," he said. He mentioned that their main priorities were to improve the drivers' wages as well as provide them with a just cause clause to give them more job security.

Leading up to the strike, Students for a Democratic Society in Tuscaloosa and the Network to Fight for Economic Justice have supported the drivers. There was a successful call-in day to university president Dr. Witt on Feb. 17 demanding that the school put pressure on First Transit to provide the drivers with a fair contract. Since then they have continued to call in, and students have offered on-the-ground support through flyer-ing on campus, holding a rally and joining the drivers on their early morning picket line.



Fight Back! photo by Kim DeFranco

**Die-in at the State Capitol to protest devastating cuts to low-income Minnesotans.**

## 'These cuts would kill' Die-in at MN Governor Pawlenty's office

By staff

**St. Paul, MN** - Tombstones and bodies filled the halls outside the Governor's office here, March 23, as participants in a 'die-in' demonstrated against the effects of Governor Pawlenty's proposed cuts in health and human services. Members of the Welfare Rights Committee and the Minnesota Coalition for a Peoples Bailout, along with other social justice groups, joined the protest.

Joanne Gonzalez and Angel Buechner spoke at the press conference before the action, explaining the potential devastation of Pawlenty's cuts and spoke out against further cuts that are being proposed by Democrats in the House of Representatives.

According to Kim DeFranco, of the Welfare Rights Committee,

"Pawlenty's proposed budget cuts are the most hurtful, illogical, inhumane and criminal to date. If these cuts are passed in this 2010 legislative session, it would bring more harm and devastation to many families that are already struggling. As we continue face severe economic crisis, there is a need more than ever for the very programs that Pawlenty is proposing to cut! Pawlenty is leaving office, but first he is trying to sink Minnesota."

While the event started as a die-in, it soon morphed into loud and defiant chanting and drumming. For nearly 30 minutes, the capitol building rang with, "Hey hey! Ho ho! Pawlenty's cuts have got to go!" Security guards eventually shut the doors to the governor's reception room, only to have to witness dozens of tombstone-shaped signs that protesters pushed underneath the door.

## 'The most powerful tool we have is collective action'

UIC Geo, continued from page 3

graduate employee currently receiving a waiver would continue to receive one so they would be able to finish their degrees at UIC.

We were also concerned about skyrocketing tuition differential fees. These fees vary in amount, in some cases reaching up to \$11,000 per year. We knew that a big, visible action like a strike was one of the best ways to make the university hear our voices.

**Fight Back!:** What had been done to prepare for the strike?

**Gemmel:** Throughout the year, the GEO has held events to both send a message to the administration about the issues we care about and to get our membership involved in the fight. Two of our biggest events were a work-in on the ground floor of University Hall in December and a rally with SEIU members and other members of the UIC community in January.

In order to prepare concretely for the strike, the GEO spent time visiting grad students in departments all over campus to explain the issues and listen to their thoughts on a potential strike. We prepared logistically with picket line schedules and by training GEO members to be picket line captains. Finally, we made our intention to strike if we were not able to settle our contract in mediation known to the campus community through our "Ready to Strike" posters and buttons, with which our membership flooded the UIC campus.

**Fight Back!:** What are the key parts of the agreement?

**Gemmel:** The key parts of the agreement are the guarantee of our tuition waivers and language that will allow for more transparency in tuition differ-

ential policy. We now have a guarantee that graduate employees will not be surprised by any reductions or cuts to their existing tuition waiver benefits, without which, in most cases, students would not be able to afford graduate study. We have also received a guarantee in our contract that the university will discuss tuition differential fees with the GEO, answering questions that have previously been ignored, such as where the money from these fees goes and who exactly determines their implementation and increases.

Other important agreements included guarantees that graduate employees would be paid on time, greater job security through stronger language regarding appointment and re-appointment criteria, a 2% increase to the minimum stipend in the 2010-2011 and 2011-2010 academic years, and an increase in the university contribution to health care costs from \$100 to \$250 per year.

**Fight Back!:** What are the lessons for the other workers on campus?

**Gemmel:** The biggest lesson from our year-long fight for a fair contract is that the most powerful tool we have to make sure workers are protected is collective action. The most movement we saw at the bargaining table happened in the mediation session after the university received our intent to strike notice, and of course, we were able to get our contract settled after our massive rally outside the site of mediation last Monday. When the university knows that we can collectively act to disrupt normal operations, they are compelled to listen.

The GEO's slogan is "UIC works because we do," and this slogan can really be applied to workers all over campus. When we show the administration how essential we are to the success of UIC, they must listen.



# Justice for Kofi! Gainesville students protest police shooting

By Jared Hamil

**Gainesville, FL** - Over 400 angry protesters - a coalition of students, local residents and university professors - rallied and marched, March 16, to protest the racist police shooting of Kofi Adu-Brempong.

Adu-Brempong is an international graduate student from Ghana who was shot in the face by a University of Florida policeman. After receiving a call from a neighbor concerned that Adu-Brempong was screaming, due to stress over his studies and his immigration status, campus police stormed his apartment, tased him three times and then shot him in the face with an assault rifle.

To add to the outrage, the University of Florida police charged him with a felony for 'resisting arrest with violence.'

Gainesville Area Students for a

Democratic Society (SDS) led the campus action. Beginning with a rally and speakers at Turlington Plaza, the mass of protesters marched through campus to the Board of Trustees in the Emerson Hall Alumni Building. The Board of Trustees governs the entire university. Since the building was closed to the public, the protesters pulled the doors open, pushed past security and took over the building.

They presented the board with a list of demands, including dropping all charges against Kofi Adu-Brempong. The other important demand is the firing of Keith Smith, the officer who shot Kofi in the face. In 2008, Keith Smith was given a verbal warning for throwing eggs and harassing African Americans in the local community.

As the students settled in, waiting to see how the Board of Trustees would

*Adu-Brempong, continued on page 4*



**Gainesville SDS leads demonstration demanding justice for Kofi Adu-Brempong, who was shot in the face by campus police.**

By Brad Sigal

**Saint Paul, MN** - The struggle for immigrants to be able to get drivers licenses in Minnesota is gaining steam. The group leading the struggle is Mujeres en Liderazgo (Women in Leadership), a grassroots group of Latina immigrant women. They want the Minnesota legislature to allow anyone who lives in Minnesota to get a drivers license, regardless of their immigration status.

A bill has been introduced in the state legislature, House File 1718, which will have its first hearing on March 10. Mujeres en Liderazgo has built a coalition to support the bill, along with various other immigrant rights activists and supporters. They are mobilizing to go the capitol to show the massive community support for the bill at the March 10 hearing.

According to Jovita, an organizer of Mujeres en Liderazgo and also a member of the Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Coalition (MIRAc), "We are organizing for drivers licenses because it's an important need for our community. When we started, we did a survey in the community and the majority of people said this was a big need. So many people are stopped by the police

while driving, and since they don't have a license they get their car impounded and have to pay a huge fine to get it back. They also get a ticket, and sometimes are taken to jail. The majority of immigrants work far away so if they lose their car they can't get to work and also lose their job. People drive with the constant fear of losing their car, or of getting taking to jail and having their family separated."

Immigrant workers in the Twin Cities are largely forced to drive to work because many work evening and overnight shift jobs, when there are no buses or trains running. Many immigrants also work in suburbs that aren't accessible by public transit in jobs like construction, hotels, restaurants, office and retail cleaning, warehouses and small factories. Additionally, the number of immigrants living in greater Minnesota in smaller towns has skyrocketed. Many small towns have little or no public transit, forcing immigrants who live in greater Minnesota to drive to get to work too.

Racial profiling and discrimination makes the situation worse. Police frequently pull over Latino drivers because of racial profiling, not because they've done anything wrong. According to an ACLU report, a statewide racial profiling study commissioned by the Minnesota legislature "found significant evidence of racial profiling in traffic stops across the state. According to the study, African American, Latino and American Indian drivers were all stopped and searched by law enforcement at greater rates than white drivers, though contraband was found more frequently among white drivers."

States are not forced to restrict drivers licenses to only U.S. citizens by federal law; each state sets its own policies for issuing drivers licenses. A number of states only require proof that the individual lives in the state to get a drivers license. Immigrants who drive without a drivers license have not had

the opportunity to take the drivers test and officially learn the rules of the road in the state. And without a drivers license they can't get car insurance either.

The House hearing for the drivers license bill on March 10 is the first step the drivers license bill takes toward becoming state law. It faces many more obstacles because powerful politicians in the state oppose any immigrant rights proposal. But Mujeres en Liderazgo is committed to continuing the struggle until victory. According to Jovita, "We will do it. We have to keep pressuring the legislators, keep struggling. There are examples that have passed here like the separation ordinance. And there is the struggle for the Dream Act too, and other fights for equality that have gone on for years. We will see change."

To find out more about the 'Drivers Licenses for All' campaign, see the MIRAc website: <http://mirac1.wordpress.com>

## Selma, Alabama 1965 Bloody Sunday March commemorated

By staff

**Selma, AL** - Thousands gathered here, Sunday, March 7, to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the 1965 Bloody Sunday civil rights march - during which women and children crossed over the Edmund Pettus bridge and were brutally attacked by police.

Jesse Jackson was among this year's

speakers. He pointed out to the crowd that while the banks got a bailout, it is Alabama that needs a bailout.

Leaflets supporting the struggle of Tuscaloosa's Crimson Ride drivers were warmly received by the participants.





# Campuses rocked by education rights protests March 4

By Kati Ketz

Thousands of students, workers and faculty at over 100 campuses in at least 39 states participated in a national day

public education. Professors have brought their classes to the protests, people have been bringing food at water, workers have been taking their furlough days to protest."



**UCLA students and staff marched into Murphy Hall, the campus administration building, to demand, "Chop from the top."**

of action on March 4. One demand was that administrators and chancellors must quit raising tuition and fees. Another demand was that these administrators cut the salaries of the highest-paid administrators instead of the lowest-paid staffers on campus. Many of the protests opposed layoffs. Actions ranged from walkouts and marches, to occupations and shutdowns, to teach-ins and movie showings.

At the University of California-Los Angeles, where cuts have been especially severe, over 300 students staged a sit-in at the administration building, where the chancellor refused to come out and meet with the protesters. Eric Gardner from UCLA Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) said during the protest, "We don't accept the explanation that their hands are tied by the crisis. There are a lot of things they can do right now to alleviate the situation for students and workers, but they refuse - so we are confronting them and will continue to do so, today and in the future. Our struggle is not over yet. We make this university run, so they cannot ignore us for long."

Charla Schlueter from UCLA SDS reported from the protest. "Five hours later, students are still here protesting the cuts with spirit. Later tonight, there will be a march with both UCLA and high school students demanding an end to the furloughs, and no more pink slips for high school teachers [who are expecting 5000 more pink slips this spring]. This whole day has been incredible - I have never seen so much unity amongst students, workers and professors working together to defend

Schlueter continued, "The most inspiring moment to me was when a group of visiting grade school kids came to the protest and talked about how nobody in their family has had the opportunity to attend college. That's when I realized that if we don't fight this now, then those children might never get that opportunity."

Protests happened across California. At UC-Davis, police were firing rubber bullets into the ground as students tried to take over Interstate 80 in a dramatic effort to force the administration to listen to their demands. UC-Berkeley had a rally of hundreds and blocked the campus's main gates. Students at UC-Santa Cruz held a day-long strike, blocking intersections starting at 5:00 a.m. and shutting down the university for the day. Students held a rally chanting, "Whose university? Our university!"

At the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a peaceful speak-out and march to the chancellor's office ended with the police arresting 18 people, including the student body president and a member of the press. 16 of those were later charged. Police were overheard saying, "Let's go arrest some hippies," and demanding that protesters put away cameras and video equipment.

Rachel Matteson, an SDS member and a leader of the UWM march, was one of the arrested students. She said of the protest, "All of the arrests were completely unjust and unnecessarily forceful. I was pepper-sprayed in the mouth and kicked repeatedly in the shins

before being arrested - my throat is still burning hours later. However, all the arrested students were in high spirits and chanting in our cells. Everybody here is ready to come to the next protest, because this fight is not over. I am proud to have been arrested for standing up for our right to education."

Students at Syracuse University in New York held a sit-in at Bird Library to demand an end to cuts in workers' benefits and a tuition freeze. They have more than 1000 signatures on a petition they are going to present to administrators. SDS member Mariel Fiedler says, "We figured we would do something at the library because we saw it as symbolic and action-oriented. The sit-in is the culmination of everything."

In Maryland, over 700 students, mostly high-school students, marched to a juvenile detention center, stopping at the state school board where more stu-

amount of people there, and is looking forward to next steps to pressure Governor O'Malley to invest in students and young people.

Steph Taylor from the University of Minnesota SDS said about their protest, "Over 400 students, staff and faculty rallied at the University of Minnesota demanding the administration take a pay cut before laying off thousands of workers, forcing furloughs on faculty and staff or raising students' already inflated tuition and fees. After the rally SDS led the masses into the student union and out into the streets chanting, 'Fund education, not administration!' The University's regents will be meeting next week to discuss the state of the university in this trying economic time and SDS plans to be there with our banners and voices to demand a say in how our university is run and to keep the student movement growing."



**Students at Skyline Community College in California's Bay Area came out in large numbers to oppose cuts .**

dents joined to rally with them. Students demanded the state divert \$100 million from the juvenile detention center to education-based jobs. Once at the detention center, 15 youths and adult allies initiated an occupation of the building that lasted for over an hour. Activist Chris Goodman from the Baltimore Algebra Project said that he was excited about the protest and the

In Chicago there was a forceful protest of over 250 people at the University of Illinois-Chicago who came out to defend education and fight for fair contracts. Chanting, "Chop from the top!" and "Whose university? Our university!" students, members of SEIU Local 73, the Graduate Employees Organization and faculty joined in unison against the administration placing



**UC students gathered to fight for education rights. Cuts to higher education prevent working class students from attending the college.**

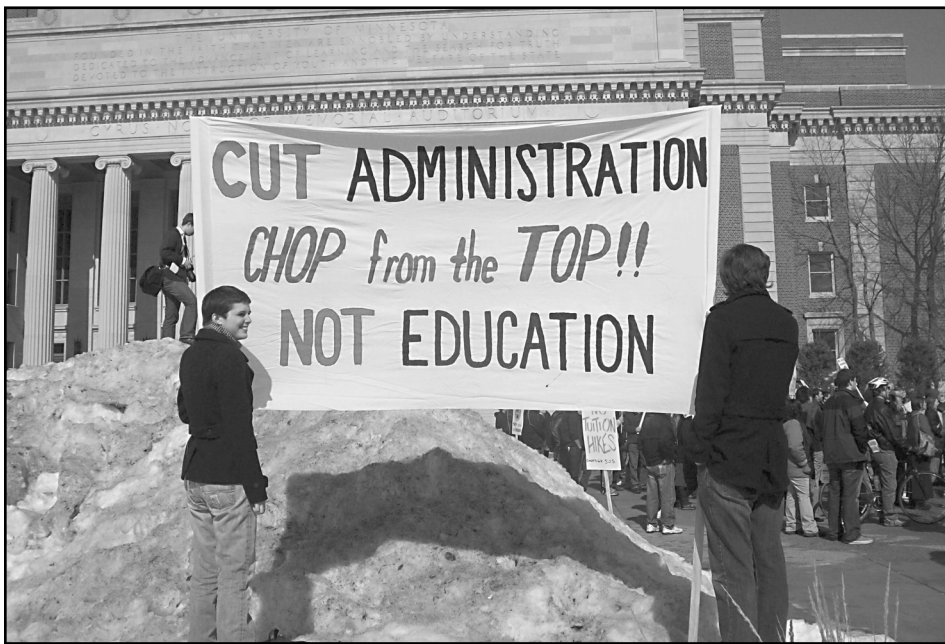


# Education

the budget crisis on their backs. “This is the first step toward more militant actions,” says Kait McIntyre, a student at UIC and member of Chicago SDS. “Today we showed that you can’t put this on the backs of students and workers and you can’t cut our diversity centers without a fight.”

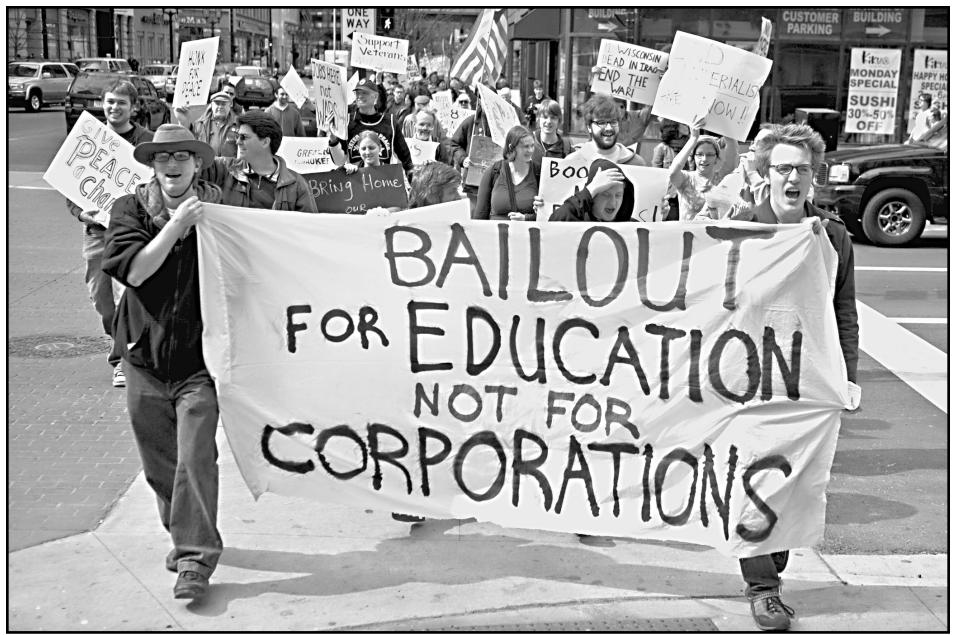
These protests received international attention and solidarity from students

around the world who are also striking and fighting for their right to education. Student groups in the Philippines issued a solidarity statement: “We Filipino youth raise our fists in solidarity with you in the continuing struggle to end the foreboding annual budget cuts and tuition increases. We must join our hands in resisting the onslaught of imperialism against our education and the youth’s future.”



*Fight Back! photo by Kim Defranco*

At the University of Minnesota, students, staff, graduate students and faculty united against cuts to higher education. The real solution is to chop from the top. This demand was echoed from California to New York on March 4.



**Milwaukee Students march for education rights and an end to university administration threats against protesters.**

## Milwaukee students tell university: Stop threatening education rights protesters

*By Daniel Ginsberg-Jaeckle*

**Milwaukee, WI** - On March 11, over 70 students, professors and teachers assistants picketed outside the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee chancellor’s office, as several organizers met inside with the chancellor to demand that he drop the threat of academic punishment for the 16 student protesters who were arrested during the March 4 National Day of Action for Education Rights.

“15 police in riot gear were inside the building protecting the chancellor,” noted Students for a Democratic Society organizer Rachel Matteson.

“We won two basic demands today, which were to have the chancellor participate in a public forum about the demands of the UWM Education Rights Campaign and to have more investigation into the excessive use of police force on March 4, but the academic punishment of the protesters is still uncertain and the much larger struggle for student and worker rights must continue.”

Many students report that Chancellor Santiago had ready three SWAT vans, two police wagons, 20-30 police in riot gear and six cops on horseback - all hidden behind the university dormitories.

# Thousands rally In D.C. to protest occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq

*By Kosta Harlan*

**Washington, D.C.** - About 10,000 demonstrators filled Lafayette Park across from the White House to demand an end to the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. March 20 marked the seventh anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, while the occupation of Afghanistan is now in its eighth year. A broad range of organizations mobilized for the demonstration, organized by the International ANSWER Coalition. Military veterans, student groups, trade unions, Arab American organizations, church congregations and many other groups brought thousands of people into D.C. for the rally.

Addressing the crowd at the rally, Natasha Morgan from Students for a Democratic Society talked about the education rights movement and the anti-war movement. “When we say fund education not occupation,” Morgan said, “we mean an end to all military research and corporate ‘defense’ research in the university, an end to military recruitment and an end to the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We want money for schools, not for occupation.”

Morgan stated, “SDS demands an end



**Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) at March 20 anti-war protest.**

to the imperialist wars and the occupations in Afghanistan and Iraq and we organizing every day towards that end.”

Speakers emphasized the importance of supporting the demand for

self-determination - the right for oppressed countries to determine their own affairs - and the need to keep putting pressure on Washington to end the occupations. Many speakers called for an end to the U.S.-backed occupation of Palestine.

Others called for a halt to the drone strikes and a strong South Asian contingent held banners and signs denouncing the drone attacks in Pakistan that have killed hundreds of civilians. At the end of the march, at least eight people were arrested when they attempted to place mock coffins draped in Iraqi and Afghan flags on the White House lawn.

Military veterans gave a powerful condemnation of the occupation and two speakers with Military Families Speak Out and Iraq Veterans Against the War ripped their dog tags and badges off of their uniforms and threw them off the stage, in a symbol of their rejection of the immoral, unjust and criminal occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Many of the protesters were youth and new to the anti-war movement and are committed to rebuilding a broad movement to force the United States to withdraw from Afghanistan and Iraq.



# EDITORIALS

## May Day 2010: Time to Build the People's Fight Back!

By Freedom Road Socialist Organization

May 1 is International Workers Day, a day to celebrate the struggle of the working class and oppressed peoples and nations against exploitation and oppression. All around the world, millions of people will be marching against the capitalists' policies of austerity and war. In the socialist countries, like Cuba, China and Democratic Korea, the achievements of working people will be celebrated. Here in the United States, May 1 is also a day of struggle for immigrant rights. This May Day, cities across the country will see a renewed spirit of activism as the undocumented and their supporters take to the streets in this fight for justice full equality.

While the bankers' obscene bonuses are back, unemployment is still in double digits. Across the globe, the big capitalists, the politicians that they own and the corporate media are saying that now is the time for workers to tighten our belts so that the 'economy' - that is, their profits - can continue to grow. From Greece to Spain and from California to Illinois, governments are slashing spending on social services, raising taxes on working people, cutting government workers' pay and cutting schools and college.

The United States government is trying to rally support for escalating and expanding war. Tens of thousands of troops have been sent to escalate the war on Afghanistan, while a 100,000 foreign soldiers still occupy Iraq. The U.S. is threatening Iran, deepening its military involvement in the Philippines and Columbia and looking to expand U.S. military presence in Mexico.

But working and oppressed people are fighting back. In Greece, there have been general strikes against the that government's policies of austerity. Here in the United States, the SK Tool workers struck and won back their health insurance benefits that their bosses had tried to take away. In the heart of the non-union South, bus drivers at the University of Alabama were able to win a union contract with the Amalgamated Transit Union.

On campuses throughout California and across the country, another fight-back has grown. Budget cuts, outrageous CEO-like salaries for top administrators and tuition increases brought thousands of students, faculty and workers to protest. With slogans of "Chop from the top," "Tax the rich," and "Books not bombs," the fight for education has targeted campus administrators, pro-business politicians from both parties who want to cut taxes for the rich and big business while cutting school spending and the guns-not-but-ter policy in Washington D.C.

In March, tens of thousands of people rallied for immigrant rights in

Washington D.C. and other cities. In communities across the country, Chicanos, Mexicanos, Central Americans, other Latinos, Asians, Africans and Arabs are losing patience with politicians' promises and are demanding "Legalization now!" and "Stop the raids and deportations!"

Around the world, resistance to U.S. domination is growing. Countries want independence, nations want liberation and people want revolution. Countries such as China and Brazil stood up to the United States at international conferences on climate change and are opposing U.S. efforts to isolate Iran. National liberation struggles of the Afghani, Iraqi and Palestinian people continue against occupation by the United States, Israel and NATO countries. The revolutionary struggles of the people of Columbia, India, Nepal and the Philippines keep landing new blows against reactionary feudal and state-capitalist forces that are allied with efforts of multinational corporations to exploit their labor and natural resources.

A year ago, many people had hope for 'change.' They had voted for a change from the Bush administration's policies of war and laissez-faire or free

markets that saw the rich get richer, while the poor went off to fight and die halfway around the world. But today, with the escalation in Afghanistan and an even bigger military budget, it is becoming clearer and clearer that the war policy continues with the Democrats in charge. The free market economic policies have changed, but not for the people. Instead, the big banks, auto companies and drug companies are getting bailed out while millions of homes are foreclosed, millions of people are out of work for longer and longer and millions have either no or substandard health insurance.

There has been no action on the Employee Free Choice Act that would allow workers to beat back anti-union companies. The military's discriminatory 'don't ask, don't tell' anti-gay policy is still in place. And there has been no action on the promise of immigration reform. For the rest of this year, the Democrats are going to be more concerned with getting reelected than following through with their promises to help working and oppressed people.

The right wing is trying to rebound from their election defeat in 2008 with their tea parties. But their claim to patriotism is but a cover for politics of

hypocrisy and hate. As they rail against "government health care" (which many of them enjoy in the form of Medicare), their racism, sexism and homophobia are exposed. But their extremism is backed and protected by powerful Republican and corporate interests who see them as a way to turn the country back to the right.

The people's fightback has to take on the conservative, pro-business Democrats and the right-wing, reactionary Republicans who both serve the interests of big business and the capitalist system. The way to do this is not mainly by electing 'better' Democrats or even progressive third party politicians, but by organizing our work places, communities and campuses to fight for jobs or income, housing and education.

We must fight back with the same spirit as that of the U.S workers who struck on May 1, 1886 for the eight-hour day. We need to learn from the struggle of workers and oppressed people in other countries, and show our support for them. Ultimately we will need to replace the current capitalist system, that brings economic crisis and war, with a socialist system that can meet people's needs.

Long Live International Workers Day!

Legalization, Not Raids and Deportations!

Jobs or Income Now! Stop the Foreclosures and Cuts to Schools and Services!

Bring the Troops Home Now: End the War and Occupation in Afghanistan and Iraq!

## Stop Raids and Deportations All Out for May Day!

*Change, continued from page 1*

Immigration Reform Act would have eliminated family reunification visas and, instead of legalizing the undocumented, would have made them and their families into guest workers. Neither bill passed, as they were opposed from both the left and the right.

Since 2006 the protests on May 1 have gotten much smaller and have taken place in fewer cities, but continue, along with protests of the injustices that undocumented and other immigrants face. Thousands of workers have marched in Southern California to protest their firing under the new ICE audits, which target businesses that hire the undocumented. Protests have erupted at events featuring Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano (who oversees ICE and the Border Patrol), with more than a thousand turning out in Santa Clara, California October 2009. College students have protested racist and anti-immigrant speakers and are continuing to organize support for efforts to legalize and provide equal access for undocumented students.

A year ago the new Obama administration promised action on immigration reform in its first year. But bogged down by the escalation of the war in

Afghanistan and the bailout of Wall Street, the only other issue really tackled was health care reform. Facing growing impatience from the community and obvious neglect by the administration, Congressperson Gutierrez introduced a "Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security And Prosperity" or CIR-ASAP last December. This bill was backed by the Congressional Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, Black and Progressive caucuses, and is much better than the old STRIVE act. It expands legal immigration, offers legalization of the undocumented with fewer hoops, rolls back some of the worst ICE policies (such as the 287(g) program), and doesn't have a guest worker program.

The editors of *Fight Back!* think that support for the CIR-ASAP can help to rebuild the mass movement that is key to meaningful immigration reform. We support reform that genuinely improves the lives of poor and working people. While the bill is not perfect, it would benefit millions of undocumented and their families, as well as help the millions of Mexicans, Filipinos and others who are forced to wait up to 20 years to reunite their families. One problem with the bill is that it would expand the government e-

verify screening of workers. The biggest danger, though, is not the bill itself (which is relatively good), but having people fall into the 'something is better than nothing' and 'we have to follow what the Democratic politicians tell us to do' attitudes. This will only lead to immigration reform that is more support for big corporations and filled with right-wing attacks on immigrants. One can only look at what happened to health care reform, where big health insurance corporations fought to make the law benefit them more than working people.

The key is to continue to organize and mobilize the grassroots among Chicanos, Mexicanos and Central Americans for legalization, stopping the firings and deportation of undocumented workers, increasing legal immigration and opposing a guest worker program. We must continue efforts to build a broad united front including allies such as labor and other oppressed nationalities. The struggle for legislation needs to be combined with militant protests and continued mass mobilizations for May 1.

All out for May 1, 2010!  
Stop the workplace firings and deportations!  
Support the CIR-ASAP!



# Electric shock 'trial': Sickening violation of human rights of Ricardo Palmera

By staff

Tom Burke, spokesperson for the National Committee to Free Ricardo Palmera, urgently requests, "Help and aid from Americans, Colombians, and the international community to stop a crime." Professor Palmera is being put on trial in Colombia while held in solitary confinement in the U.S. He is being forced to wear prison clothes, shackled at the hands and feet and then chained together around the waist, with the ever-present threat of electrical shock if he moves too quickly. This 'trial' is a violation of Professor Palmera's dignity and his rights as a prisoner of war. Tom Burke says, "There is nothing fair or just about the trials and imprisonment of this brave Colombian freedom fighter Ricardo Palmera. Ricardo Palmera should be set free."

Professor Palmera is held by the U.S. government in solitary confinement, under inhumane conditions in the Florence, Colorado Supermax prison. Tom Burke says, "We need friends and sympathizers to support freedom for professor Ricardo Palmera (popularly known in Colombia as Simon Trinidad). We denounce the wrongs committed against Ricardo Palmera by the U.S. and Colombian governments, along with the abuses and violations of human rights."

Following four unfair trials in Washington D.C., including one where Chief Judge Hogan was forced to step down after cheating with U.S. Prosecutor Ken Kohl, Professor Palmera is now the victim of a new judge, named Montado, sent by the corrupt Colombian government of President Uribe.

In a public denouncement, Ramiro Orjuela Aguilar, Palmera's Colombian lawyer said "Ricardo Palmera is in chains, with electric shock equipment attached to his body that paralyzes him if he moves abruptly. This is the third time this happened in front of the 'virtual' courts of Neiva." The Colombian government is accusing Palmera of planning a FARC guerrilla attack that killed six travelers and injured six more on May 7, 2000.

"Ricardo Palmera is handcuffed, with his feet shackled, and then chains running between his hands, waist and feet" says the Lawyer Orjuela Aguilar. "He is taken to the courtroom with a machine that shocks him. They attach equipment to his body so if Ricardo moves too much, then it shocks him with enough voltage to paralyze him. During the trials, he cannot move easily enough to see the documents in front of him," the lawyer explained.

Ricardo Palmera was one of the negotiators in the discussions for

peace between the Colombian government of Andres Pastrana (1998-2002) and the guerrilla organization FARC-EP that ended in San Vicente del Caguan, in Caqueta, Colombia.

Following these negotiations in 2002, Palmera was illegally detained in Ecuador by U.S. intelligence agents, then extradited, put on trial, and imprisoned by the U.S. government. Palmera went to Ecuador to meet James Lemoyne, a UN official working for the prevention and resolution of internal conflicts, including the 60-year-old social and armed conflict in Colombia.

Next Palmera faced four trials in Washington D.C. Two of the trials were repeated because the American juries refused to convict Palmera. The U.S. State Department demanded new trials, until Palmera was found guilty of one charge - membership in the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). During the four trials Palmera was proud to say and explain why he belongs to the FARC, the largest rebel guerrilla army in Latin America. However, the U.S. government defines FARC as a criminal conspiracy.

There is nothing normal about Ricardo Palmera's case: the UN official was not allowed to testify in his trials, Palmera is held in solitary confinement, the U.S. press cannot interview him, he cannot make phone calls, he is not allowed to interact with other humans, to breath fresh air, nor to see the sky. The National Committee to Free Ricardo Palmera recently denounced the U.S. Bureau of Prisons for not allowing Professor Palmera to read letters sent by his American supporters.

Instead of allowing a peaceful negotiation to the 60-year-old armed conflict, the U.S. is choosing war. The U.S. government is abusing the U.S. court system in an effort to criminalize the national liberation struggle of the Colombian people. Tens of thousands of Colombian revolutionaries are not criminals. Solidarity is necessary and urgently needed. The National Committee to Free Ricardo Palmera urges friends and sympathizers to denounce U.S. authorities for these violations against this brave fighter for peace, justice, and the Colombian people. Free Ricardo Palmera!

"Free Ricardo Palmera" letters can be addressed to: Eric Holder, the U.S. Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001

To contact the National Committee to Free Ricardo Palmera write to [info@colombiasolidarity.org](mailto:info@colombiasolidarity.org) or call Tom Burke 773-844-3612.



Chicago activists protest Israeli apartheid.

## Chicago solidarity activists tell mayor: 'No business as usual with Israel'

By staff

**Chicago, IL** - About 20 protesters marched at 7:00 a.m., March 3, outside the Palmer House Hilton, in opposition to an official Sister Cities relationship between the City of Chicago and the municipality of Petach Tikva in Israel. The event was organized by the Palestine Solidarity Group-Chicago (PSG) in response to the Annual International Business Breakfast keyed by Mayor Daley.

The Palestinian Solidarity Group rejects use of the Sister Cities program to normalize Israeli apartheid, demanding that Israel instead be held accountable for its human rights violations. PSG also protests the relationship between the Petach Tikva Sister Cities program and Israeli governmental institutions and other organizations that have played a role in the colonization of Palestinian land and the continued dispossession of the Palestinian people.

PSG was joined by activists from Voices for Creative Nonviolence and the International Anti-Zionist Network. "Mayor Daley, choose a side - cut ties with apartheid!" and "Petach Tikva is no sister of Chicago!" were amongst the picketers' chants.

Petach Tikva symbolizes the dispossession and colonization of the Palestinian homeland. The first Jewish-only settlement in historic Palestine, known in Israel as the 'mother of all settlements,' Petach Tikva is built on the remains of depopulated Palestinian villages whose descendants are denied the right to return home. Petach Tikva is an officially segregated city where Palestinian citizens of Israel are subjected to institutional racism and an apartheid legal system. Petach Tikva is also home to one of the largest interrogation and detention centers in Israel, where Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip are illegally transferred for interrogation and routinely subjected to torture.

## Justice for Kofi

*Adu-Brempong, continued from page 5*

respond, tension rose inside the boardroom. After a half hour, a trustee came out to speak to the protesters. Following his lead, the students proceeded to give speeches about stopping police brutality and continuing the fight for Adu-Brempong. An hour later, the protesters decided the demands of the coalition were clearly received by the board and left the building.

Then the protesters marched to the Tigert Hall Administration Building for another rally, targeting University President Bernie Machen. Unfortunately President Machen was "out of town." The students chanted, "Justice for Kofi!" and "No justice, no peace! No racist police!"

Fernando Figueroa, of Gainesville

SDS spoke: "We will not let up until we gain justice for Kofi. We are taking a stand against police brutality and racism on our campus and throughout the country." Figueroa continued, "It is astounding to see so few reporters covering the point-blank shooting of an African man in the face here. This is the same campus where you could not walk ten feet without bumping into a reporter or TV crew following a white student's famous 'Don't tase me bro!' incident."

Late in the afternoon, the student protesters attended a student government meeting to demand a resolution calling for a grand jury investigation of the racist cop. With some persuasion, the resolution passed. With protests heating up in Gainesville, the Coalition for Justice Against Police Brutality vows to continue the fight for Kofi Adu-Brempong.



# EDITORIAL

## Primero de mayo 2010 Hora de luchar

Por Freedom Road Socialist Organization

El primero de mayo es el día internacional de los trabajadores, un día para celebrar la lucha de la clase trabajadora y de los pueblos y las naciones oprimidas en contra de la explotación y la opresión. En todo el mundo millones de personas marcharan en contra de las políticas de miseria y guerra de los capitalistas. En países socialistas como Cuba, China y Corea Democrática, celebraran los logros de la clase trabajadora. Aquí en Estados Unidos, el primero de mayo también es un día de lucha para los derechos de los inmigrantes. El primero de mayo este año, muchas ciudades verán un espíritu de lucha renovado de los trabajadores indocumentados y sus aliados luchando en las calles por la justicia y la igualdad.

Aunque el nivel de desempleo permanece arriba del 10%, los bancos han regresado a su mismo estilo de pagarse ellos mismos los bonos grandes. En todo el planeta los capitalistas, sus políticos y los medios capitalistas dicen que ahora los trabajadores tienen que vivir con menos para que 'la economía' o mejor dicho sus ganancias puedan seguir creciendo. Desde Grecia hasta España y desde California hasta Illinois, los gobiernos están recortando sus presupuestos, recortando lo que gastan en servicios sociales, aumentando los impuestos para los trabajadores, recortando los salarios de los trabajadores públicos y recortando los presupuestos de las escuelas y las universidades.

Estados Unidos está intentando ganar apoyo para seguir escalando y expandiendo la guerra. Han mandado decenas de miles de tropas para aumentar la guerra contra Afganistán, mientras que 100,000 soldados extranjeros siguen ocupando a Irak. Estados Unidos está amenazando a Irán, profundizando su involucramiento en la política interna de las Filipinas y de Colombia y buscando expandir su presencia militar en México.

Pero los trabajadores y la gente oprimida está resistiendo. En Grecia, han hecho dos huelgas generales en contra de la política de austeridad del gobierno. Aquí en Estados Unidos, los trabajadores de SK Tool fueron de huelga y ganaron en una batalla sobre los beneficios de salud que su empleador les había intentado quitar. En el corazón del sur del país donde no hay muchos sindicatos, los conductores de buses de la Universidad de Alabama lograron ganar un contrato con el sindicato Amalgamated Transit Union.

En los colegios y universidades a través de California y en todo el país, ha crecido otra lucha. Recortes presupuestarios, salarios al nivel de ejecutivos de corporaciones grandes de los administradores universitarios, y aumentos de la cuota escolar han

provocado un movimiento de protesta de estudiantes, profesores y trabajadores universitarios en la calle. Con consignas como "corte los de arriba no

Alrededor del mundo, la resistencia en contra de la dominación estadounidense está creciendo. Los países quieren independencia, las



La lucha por los derechos de los inmigrantes es un componente clave de la lucha del primero de mayo.

abajo", "que paguen los ricos" y "libros sí! bombas no!", la lucha por la educación ha puesto en blanco los administradores universitarios, políticos pro-negocio de los dos partidos quienes quieren recortar impuestos para los ricos y negocios grandes mientras recortan presupuestos de las escuelas. También este movimiento se ha enfocado en la política de Washington DC de aumentar fondos para guerra y cortar fondos para las necesidades del pueblo.

En marzo, decenas de miles de personas marcharon en Washington



Protesta exige un alto a las ejecuciones hipotecarias y las evicciones.

D.C. y en otras ciudades del país para los derechos de los inmigrantes. En comunidades en todo el país, los Chicanos, Mexicanos, centroamericanos y otros Latinos, Asiáticos, Africanos y Árabes están perdiendo paciencia con las promesas incumplidas de los políticos y están exigiendo 'legalización ya' y 'alto a las redadas y deportaciones.'

naciones quieren liberación, y el pueblo quiere revolución. Países como China y Brasil mostraron oposición a los Estados Unidos en conferencias internacionales sobre el cambio climático y están oponiéndose a los esfuerzos estadounidenses para aislar a Irán. Las luchas para la liberación nacional en Afganistán, Irak y palestina siguen en contra de ocupaciones hecho por Estados Unidos, Israel y OTAN. Las luchas revolucionarias del pueblo de Colombia, India, Nepal y las Filipinas siguen dando golpes en contra de gobiernos reaccionarios de carácter feudal y capitalista que están aliados con las corporaciones multinacionales para explotar su labor y sus recursos naturales.

Hace un año, muchas personas esperaron 'cambio.' Habían votado para un cambio de las políticas de la régimen de Bush de guerra y del libre mercado que enriquecieron a los ricos y mandaron a los pobres a pelear y morir en el otro lado del mundo. Pero con le estalación de la guerra contra Afganistán y un aumento al presupuesto militar, hoy queda más claro que nunca que la política de guerra sigue con los Demócratas en poder. Las políticas económicas del mercado libre han cambiado, pero no a favor del pueblo sino que a favor de los bancos grandes, compañías de autos y drogas quienes están recibiendo rescates del gobierno mientras millones de trabajadores pierden nuestras casas a la ejecución hipotecaria, millones de personas permanecen sin trabajo mas y mas tiempo y millones siguen sin seguro medico.

Los Demócratas no han hecho nada para aprobar la propuesta de ley

"Employee Free Choice Act" que permitiría que los trabajadores se sindicalicen mas fácilmente para luchar en contra de compañías anti-unión. La política anti-gay de 'no preguntar, no decir' en el ejercito todavía aplica. Y no han tomado acción sobre la promesa de una reforma migratoria. El resto de este año los Demócratas se van a preocupar más por su propia reelección que cumplir sus promesas para ayudar a los trabajadores y los oprimidos.

La derecha está intentando recuperarse de su derrota electoral en 2008 con su movimiento de 'Fiestas de Te' ("Tea Parties" en ingles). Pero su patriotismo solo sirve para esconder sus políticas de hipocresía y odio. Mientras gritan en contra de 'salud del gobierno' (lo cual muchos de ellos ya disfrutaban con Medicare), su racismo, sexismo y homofobia quedan expuestos. Pero su extremismo está apoyado y promovido por intereses Republicanos y corporativos muy poderosos quienes analizan que este movimiento de "Tea Parties" es la manera de redirigir el país hacia la derecha.

La lucha del pueblo tiene que enfrentar a los Demócratas conservadores y pro-negocios, y también los Republicanos derechistas y reaccionarios, ambos de quienes sirven los intereses de las compañías grandes y el sistema capitalista. La manera de luchar no es principalmente de intentar elegir 'mejores' Demócratas o políticos de un tercer partido más progresista, pero a través de organizar nuestras comunidades, compañeros de trabajo y escuelas para luchar por trabajos o ingresos, hogares y educación.

Tenemos que luchar con el mismo espíritu que los trabajadores quienes hicieron huelga el 1 de mayo 1886 exigiendo un día del trabajo de solo 8 horas. Debemos aprender de la lucha de los trabajadores y los oprimidos en otros países y mostrarles nuestro apoyo. Últimamente tenemos que reemplazar el sistema capitalista actual que solo trae crisis económica y guerra, con un sistema socialista que puede realizar las necesidades del pueblo.

Tenemos que luchar con el mismo espíritu que los trabajadores quienes hicieron huelga el 1 de mayo 1886 exigiendo un día del trabajo de solo 8 horas. Debemos aprender de la lucha de los trabajadores y los oprimidos en otros países y mostrarles nuestro apoyo. Últimamente tenemos que reemplazar el sistema capitalista actual que solo trae crisis económica y guerra, con un sistema socialista que puede realizar las necesidades del pueblo.

**¡Que viva el Día Internacional de Trabadores!**

**¡Legalización Sí!  
¡Redadas y Deportaciones No!**

**¡Trabajo o Ingreso Ahora!  
¡Alto a las ejecuciones hipotecarias y a los recortes a escuelas y servicios!**

**¡Que Regresen las Tropas a Casa Ya: Alto a la Guerra y Ocupación en Afganistán y Irak!**



# Anuncian marcha para el 1 de mayo en Minneapolis

Por Anh Pham

Minneapolis, MN - El 2 de abril, activistas del movimiento inmigrante anunciaron el plan para una marcha grande el 1 de mayo, el Día Internacional del Trabajador. La marcha empezará a las 2:00 pm en el parque Martin Luther King en la calle 41 y la avenida Nicollet. Los organizadores de la marcha dicen, “La lucha por una reforma migratoria comprensiva esta en un momento clave y vamos a hacer todo lo posible para tener la marcha mas grande que sea posible este año para exigir la legalización e igualdad para todos. Los políticos en Washington DC están debatiendo sobre la reforma

migratoria. AHORA es el momento para decir qué clase de reforma queremos: una legalización real para todos, derechos laborales e igualdad, y un fin a las redadas, deportaciones y a la discriminación.”

La marcha en Minneapolis esta organizado por MIRAc, Asamblea de Derechos Civiles, Mujeres en Liderazgo, Centro Interfe para Justicia Laboral, Mujeres Levantando Mujeres, y el Comité FMLN-Minnesota. Mas organizaciones estan sumandose al esfuerzo diariamente, tanto grupos inmigrantes como organizaciones de trabajadores y otros grupos activistas progresistas.

# Marcha para derechos de inmigrantes

Legalización, continúa de página 12

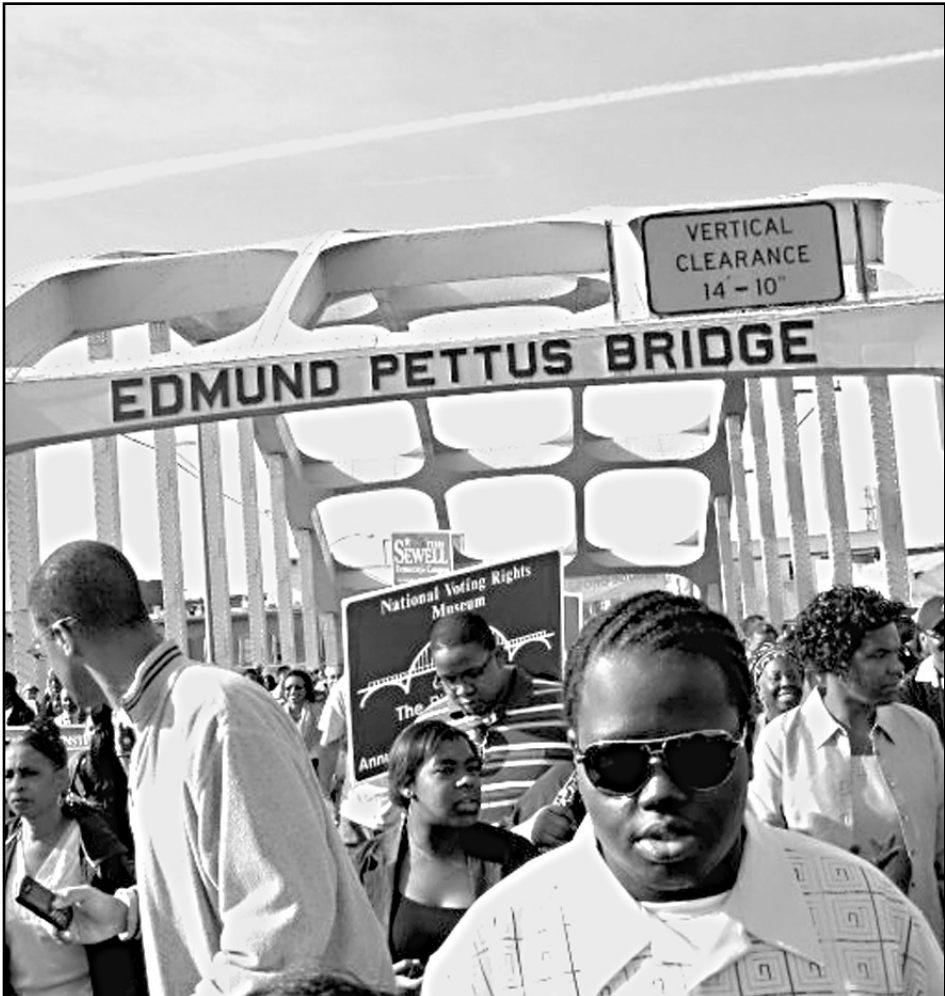
Gutiérrez presentó la propuesta de ley “Reforma Integral de Inmigración para la Seguridad y Prosperidad de América” o CIR-ASAP. Este proyecto de ley fue respaldado por los congresistas latinos, los congresistas de Asiáticos y de las islas del Pacífico, los congresistas afroamericanos y los progresistas en el congreso. Esta propuesta de ley es mucho mejor que la ‘Acta STRIVE’. CIR-ASAP expandiría la inmigración legal, ofrece la legalización para los indocumentados con menos obstáculos, revierte algunas de las peores políticas del ICE (como el programa 287 (g)), y no tiene un programa de trabajadores huéspedes.

Los editores de ¡Lucha y Resiste! creemos que el apoyo a la CIR-ASAP puede ayudar a reconstruir el movimiento de masas que es la clave para una reforma consecuente de inmigración. Apoyamos reformas que realmente mejoran la vida de la gente pobre y obrera. Aunque la propuesta de ley no es perfecta, beneficiaría a millones de indocumentados y sus familias, así como también ayudaría a los millones de mexicanos, filipinos y otros que se ven obligados a esperar hasta 20 años para estar reunidos con sus familias. Un problema con la propuesta de ley es que ampliaría el programa del gobierno “E-Verify” de selección de los obreros. El mayor peligro, sin embargo, no es la propuesta de ley

(que es relativamente buena), pero que la gente caiga en el “algo es mejor que nada” y las actitudes de “tenemos que seguir lo que los políticos demócratas nos dicen.” Esto sólo conducirá a una reforma migratoria que es más a favor de las grandes corporaciones y llena de ataques derechistas contra los inmigrantes. Uno sólo puede mirar lo que ocurrió con la reforma de salud, donde grandes empresas de seguro de salud han luchado para que la ley beneficiará a ellos mismos más que a los obreros.

La clave es continuar organizando y movilizandó la base de los chicanos, mexicanos y centroamericanos para ganar la legalización, para detener los despidos y la deportación de trabajadores indocumentados, y para ampliar la inmigración legal y oponer a un programa de obreros huéspedes. Debemos continuar los esfuerzos por construir un amplio frente unido que incluya a los aliados así como el movimiento de trabajadores y los movimientos de otras nacionalidades oprimidas. La lucha para aprobar una ley de reforma migratoria tiene que ser combinada con protestas masivas en la calle y con movilizaciones masivas de las masas el 1 de mayo.

**¡Todos a movilizarse el 1 de mayo 2010!**  
**¡Alto a los despidos y a las deportaciones!**  
**¡Apoyo a la propuesta CIR-ASAP!**



Marcha conmemora la original marcha del 1965 del “domingo sangriento”

# Marcha del domingo sangriento de 1965 conmemorado en Selma

Por Redacción

Selma, AL – Miles de personas reunieron aquí, un domingo 7 de marzo para conmemorar el 45 aniversario de la marcha del "Domingo Sangriento" por los derechos civiles en 1965 en la que mujeres y niños intentaron cruzar el puente Edmund Pettus y fueron brutalmente atacados por la policía.

Jesse Jackson fue uno de los oradores de este año. Dijo a la multitud que, mientras los bancos tienen un plan de rescate, es Alabama que necesita un rescate.

Folletos apoyando la lucha de los conductores de buses "Crimson Ride" de Tuscaloosa, Alabama fueron muy bien recibidos por los participantes.

## ¡LUCHA y RESISTE! QUIÉNES SOMOS

¡Este periódico existe para construir la lucha del pueblo! Reportamos y damos análisis sobre unas de las batallas centrales en las que se encuentra la gente trabajadora y de bajos ingresos.

No somos neutrales en nuestro informe. Estamos opuestos a la explotación, discriminación, y opresión. Sostenemos que la clase de la gente rica, que manejan la economía y el gobierno de este país, no están calificados para gobernarnos. Apoyamos a todos los movimientos que denuncian su poder y privilegio.

Los escritores y empleados de *¡Lucha y Resiste!* son activistas y organizadores en

sindicatos, en comunidades de bajos ingresos, movimientos de nacionalidades oprimidas, en Universidades, y en otros movimientos populares. Esperamos recibir sus artículos, cartas comentarios, y críticas. Algunos de los que trabajamos para mantener este periódico somos miembros de Freedom Road Socialist Organization. Los artículos representan las perspectivas de la gente y organizaciones que los escriben. Por el momento, *¡Lucha y Resiste!* es publicado cinco veces al año.

Para contactarnos, escriban:

*Fight Back/¡Lucha y Resiste!*  
P.O. Box 582564  
Minneapolis, MN 55458

### Subscríbase a ¡Lucha y Resiste!

Manténgase informado sobre la lucha popular

\$5.00 por 5 ediciones - Individuales  
\$25.00 por 5 ediciones - Instituciones

Nombre \_\_\_\_\_  
Dirección \_\_\_\_\_  
Ciudad \_\_\_\_\_  
Estado \_\_\_\_\_ Código Postal \_\_\_\_\_

Envía este formulario con el pago a:  
**¡Lucha y Resiste!**, P.O. Box 582564, Minneapolis MN 55458



# ¡LUCHA Y RESISTE!

## Noticias y Perspectivas de la Lucha del Pueblo

50 centavos

Mayo 2010

Vol. 12, No. 4

## Inmigrantes exigen justicia ¡Legalización ya!

### En el primer año de la nueva administración hubo cambio pero no progreso

Editorial de ¡Lucha y Resiste!

Hace un año, los chicanos, mexicanos y centroamericanos celebraron el fin de ocho años de la administración de Bush. Además de lanzar dos guerras y provocar la mayor crisis financiera desde la Gran Depresión, la administración de Bush intensificó la represión contra los inmigrantes. Las redadas y deportaciones de los obreros por el Servicio de Inmigración y Aduanas (ICE) se duplicó, y luego se duplicó nuevamente con Bush. El gobierno de Bush implementó el programa conocido como 287(g), en el que ICE trabaja junto con la policía local y permite que racistas como el alcalde Joe Arpaio de Arizona hostigue a los chicanos, mexicanos y centroamericanos. La ley de octubre de 2006 “Secure Fence Act” intensificó la militarización de la frontera con México, contribuyendo a la muerte de más inmigrantes intentando entrar a los Estados Unidos. En

San José, San Diego, Chicago, Milwaukee y en casi todas las grandes ciudades y en muchas ciudades pequeñas en todo el país. Estas protestas exigieron la legalización de los indocumentados, un fin de las redadas y deportaciones, y un fin a la militarización de la frontera y oposición a cualquier programa de ‘obreros huéspedes’. Los chicanos, mexicanos y centroamericanos constituyeron la gran mayoría de los manifestantes, por que la lucha por la legalización es parte de la larga lucha del pueblo chicano por la igualdad y la autodeterminación. A ellos se unieron un



Movilizaciones de inmigrantes exigiendo legalización e igualdad han crecido este año.



Inmigrantes exigen sus derechos.

diciembre de 2005, la Cámara de Representantes aprobó la ley HR 4437 que hubiera criminalizado a los indocumentados aun más. En respuesta, las comunidades chicanas, mexicanas y centroamericanas estallaron en protestas masivas en marzo de 2006, un ejemplo más de sus aspiraciones a la igualdad. Estas protestas callejeras aumentaron hasta llegar a los millones el 1 de mayo de 2006 en Los Ángeles,

número importante de otros latinos y miembros de sindicatos, así como africanos, árabes, asiático-americanos y otros, cuyas comunidades tienen un gran número de inmigrantes.

Los políticos respondieron a las protestas de dos maneras. En la Cámara de Representantes, el demócrata de Illinois, Luis Gutiérrez, y el republicano de Arizona, Jeff Flake, se unieron para presentar el ‘Acto STRIVE’. STRIVE fue una combinación de cosas buenas (expansión de la inmigración legal) y cosas malas (más criminalización de los indocumentados) y sobre la cuestión clave de la legalización la propuesta de ley tenía demasiados obstáculos. La Ley de Reforma de la Inmigración en el Senado, en gran parte escrito por el demócrata de Massachusetts Ted Kennedy y los republicanos de Arizona John McCain y Jon Kyl y

apoyado por el presidente Bush, fue aún peor. La Ley de Reforma de Inmigración hubiera eliminado los visados de reagrupación familiar y en vez de la legalización de los indocumentados, les hubiera convertido a ellos y sus familias en ‘obreros huéspedes’. Esta propuesta de ley no fue aprobada ya que la izquierda y la derecha se oponían a ella.

Desde 2006, las protestas del 1 de mayo se han vuelto mucho más pequeñas y han tenido lugar en menos ciudades, pero siguen, junto con las protestas en contra de las injusticias que se presentan a los inmigrantes indocumentados. Miles de obreros se han manifestado en el sur de California para protestar en contra de su despido debido a las nuevas auditorías de ICE, que afectan a las empresas que contratan a los indocumentados. Las protestas han surgido en los eventos con la secretaria de Seguridad de las Fronteras, Janet Napolitano, (que supervisa el ICE y la Patrulla Fronteriza), con más de un mil protestando en Santa Clara, California en octubre 2009. Los estudiantes universitarios han protestado los altavoces racistas y anti-inmigrantes y siguen organizando para apoyar a legalización y para ganar la igualdad de acceso para

los estudiantes indocumentados.

Hace un año la administración nueva de Obama prometió acción sobre la reforma migratoria en su primer año. Pero inundado con la escalada de la guerra en Afganistán y el rescate de Wall Street, la única otra cuestión que se aborde realmente era la reforma de salud. Ante la creciente impaciencia de la comunidad inmigrante y la negligencia obvia por la administración, el diciembre pasado el congresista

Legalización continúa en página 11

## ADENTRO

**Primero de mayo 2010:  
hora de luchar**  
– página 10

**Marcha del domingo  
sangriento del 1965  
conmemorado en  
Selma, Alabama**  
– página 11