

Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Worldwide Demonstrations Demand, "Free the Five Now!"

Workers' Weekly condemns the shameful decision of the Atlanta Court of Appeals which upheld the convictions

of the five Cuban anti-terrorists unjustly imprisoned in US jails. On June 4, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta issued another negative decision

in the case of the five Cuban anti-terrorists who are being unjustly held in US prisons for their role in gathering information about the activities

of violent anti-Cuban groups operating in southern Florida. In its judgment, the court dismissed almost entirely the

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Bush's Visit to London:

NO TO THE CRIMINALISATION OF DISSENT! OPPOSE POLICE BRUTALITY!



Demonstrators confront the police blockade of Whitehall

Over 2,500 people protested in Parliament Square on June 15 in defiant opposition to George Bush's visit to London. The demonstration represented the stand that the US president be held accountable for the

atrocities of war crimes and crimes against humanity that US imperialism and its armed forces have committed across the world. People also were taking a stand against the "anti-terror" laws that have been introduced undermining the popu-

lation's civil liberties and which are an assault on the rights and freedoms of the people, an attack on the rights of all. In fact, this enshrinement of arbitrary state power was highlighted as police banned the march down Whitehall past

Downing Street, where Gordon Brown was hosting the US President, from going ahead.

The pretext that demonstrators

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Call

**No to Detention without
Charge or Trial!
End Control Orders!
Release All Subject to
Indefinite Detention!
No Deportation to
Torture!**

THE HUNGER STRIKE OF STATELESS PALESTINIAN REFUGEE MAHMOUD ABU RIDEH is highlighting the inhuman and racist treatment by the British state of those detained under the so-called "anti-terror" legislation. Mahmoud is in a critical condition in a London hospital after being on hunger strike for well over a month. He has been the subject of a control order under the unjust, racist and medieval "anti-terror" legislation. Like scores of other men detained without trial since the 2001 legislation, he has not been charged with any offence,

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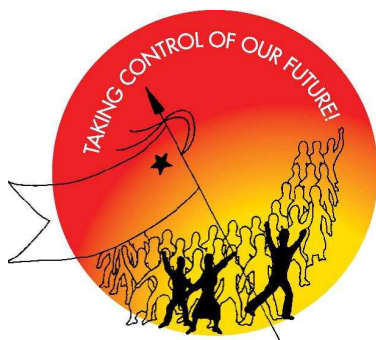
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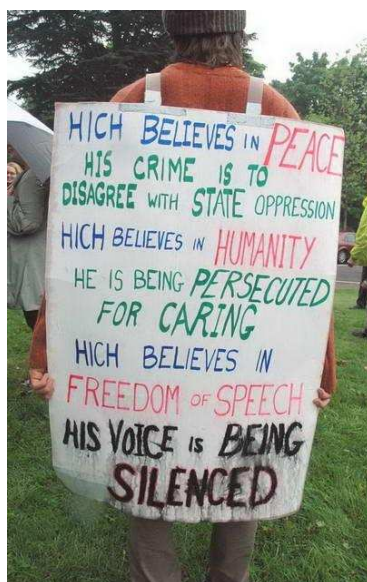
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YOUTH+STUDENT

page of the
**Workers'
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No "war on terror" in the universities! Free Hicham Yezza!

Hicham Yezza, a 30-year-old employee at the University of Nottingham and anti-war activist, is currently released on bail, at the time of going to press, after being held in detention while a judicial review of a decision to deport him is being carried out, following his arrest under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent release without charge. As the website freehichamyezza.wordpress.com, set up to publicise the campaign to prevent his deportation, explains:

"Hicham has lived in Nottingham for 13 years while he studied for undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and worked at the university, where he has built up a large network of close friends. The huge campaign to prevent his deportation is a testament to this. He served as a member of the University Senate for two terms (2004-5) and on the Student's Union Executive Committee, was President of the Arabic Society, was the editor of the influential *Voice* magazine for international students, and is the long-time editor of *Ceasefire* magazine, a political journal [magazine of the Nottingham Student Peace Movement]. He was a prominent member of the artistic group 'Al-Zaytouna', and weeks before his arrest performed the leading role in a feature play at Nottingham Arts Theatre. Numerous references have been collected from reputable profes-

sors and prominent members of the local and national community that testify to his integrity and strong roots in the city. He lives and works in Nottingham and has shown every intention of fighting his case, as he thinks he has excellent grounds to remain in the UK.

"His deportation follows his arrest under the Terrorism Act 2000. This occurred after Rizwaan Sabir, a student acquaintance who was studying political Islam emailed a copy of an Al Qaeda training manual he was using for his research to Hich as Rizwaan couldn't afford to print it. After the document was seen, the police were called. They arrested Hich and Rizwaan, searched their homes, seized their computers and interrogated friends and family. Both were released without charge and the university has subsequently been forced to admit that the documents were legitimate research material.

No respect for human life

"Despite his innocence, Hich was immediately re-arrested under immigration legislation on charges which he sought legal advice and representation over. However, on Friday, May 23, his solicitor was told that Hich was being deported and he was moved to a detention centre. It is clear from Hicham's legal documentation that there could be no reason to disallow him bail and push for

his removal before his set trial date, except that the immigration services are determined to remove him without allowing him due process.

"The circumstances of Hich's initial arrest sparked widespread protest from students and academics, and extensive critical media coverage. Many people have drawn a link between this and the authorities' hurried attempts to remove him from the country. Regardless of whether this is a politically motivated action or not, it is clear that he has not been given the chance to argue his case in court, which he has perfectly happy to do."

In a statement on May 24, Hicham said, "The Home Office operates with a Gestapo mentality. They have no respect for human dignity and human life. They treat foreign nationals as disposable goods – their recklessness and cavalier attitude belongs to a cavalier state." He contrasted the massive support he received with "the faceless, brutal, draconian tactics of the Home Office".

Judicial review

At a march of some 500 university employees and students in Nottingham *For Academic Freedom and Against Deportation* on May 28, Alan Simpson, Labour MP for Nottingham South, said to the university authorities, "How ashamed you should be of yourselves. How ashamed that you

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**Demonstration on May 28**

cannot come to the defence of one of your staff." On the terror legislation, he said, "We would live in a society where we fear each other and that is what the treatment of Hicham and Rizawaan actually demonstrates."

On May 30, an application to the High Court was issued seeking a judicial review of the decision to deport Hicham. The removal directions were cancelled by the Home Office and an application was made for his release while his case is reconsidered. Following this cancellation order on his deportation, he was unjustly incarcerated, and was transported between five different detention centres in the two-and-a-half weeks since his re-arrest.

Serious developments

In the last such relocation, he was forcibly moved. The website explained at the time: "Hicham had been categorically refusing to be hauled around the country from detention centre to detention centre like a piece of luggage. In the early afternoon of Monday, June 2, Hicham told supporters who are in contact with him that the authorities were threatening to forcefully move him. We have since lost contact with Hicham, which suggests that he has in fact been forcefully relocated to the detention centre at Dover. This is obviously quite a worrying development in terms of Hicham's well-being and supporters now hope that they will be able to re-establish contact soon and determine the exact nature of the situation."

This arrest and re-arrest is a serious development in the ongoing state-organised attack on Muslims. It is both a warning to

Muslims and to academics engaged in research: researching subjects like political Islam, or investigating the facts and circumstances of the "war on terror" is to tread a fine line, while to be a Muslim and a leading figure in the people's movements is to come under the utmost suspicion. As the website points out, "Hich's case has attracted an unusual amount of attention due to the nature of his original arrest, but, in a political climate increasingly hostile to migrants, the horrific way he has been treated by the immigration authorities is all too common. This week alone, two asylum seekers living in Nottingham, Mary-Jane Mutetsi and Amdani Juma have been detained." Amdani is a supporter of the Free Hich campaign. For more information, see friendsofamdani.wordpress.com

No to state terror!

The singling-out of Hicham Yezza is also to be seen in the context of what is being pushed in universities in terms of isolating "extremism", bringing universities into the "war on terror" and even attempting to control what research can be done towards this aim. The response can only be that our security lies in defending the rights of all. The response of the staff, students and wider community has been admirable. They have been organising meetings, talks, marches, cultural events and other actions. Youth, students and all progressive people must continue to organise to put a stop to the state terror against Muslims. No "war on terror" in the universities!

Review **The Beauty of the Art of the Interned**

Harmit Athwal, www.irr.org.uk June 19, 2008



An astonishing exhibition has been launched in central London of poetry, pottery, paintings, crafts, pictures, photographs, cartoons – all created by men detained under anti-terror laws in the UK.

Appropriately held at Together, a national charity supporting people with mental health needs, this is an eclectic mixture of works, all created by men arrested, detained and psychologically punished by the war on terror. It aims to highlight "the mental health concerns and the hidden human tragedy taking place, all in the name of security".

The exhibition contains information on those unidentifiable men, who can only be referred by initials such as "G" or "B", and their experiences of the British state's system of indefinite detention without trial. Despite such brutalising experiences the art created (much of it in Long Lartin and Belmarsh maximum secure jails) is singularly beautiful. The thought, imagination and patient work invested in creating such pieces is hard to reconcile with the government's view that these men are some of the most danger-

ous and callous in the UK today.

The cartoons are thought provoking and funny, the poetry sad but still hopeful. The copy of Guernica is eye-catching, the ship, train and other mementoes for loved ones made painstakingly from matchsticks are touching. But the intricate painted pottery is the most amazing of all. What is surprising is that such delicacy can come from such tortured minds. The men who created these pieces are still held in prisons, psychiatric hospitals or detained at home under virtual house arrest, their liberty restricted by control orders – all suffering the effects of indefinite detention without trial – as are their families'.

In a touching gesture, all those at the opening night of the exhibition were given hand-crafted cards made by the men as thank-yous for attending. On that evening, families and friends of the artists, lawyers, writers, journalists, campaigners, heard speeches from Moazzam Begg, Victoria Brittain, Cerie Bullivant, Gareth Peirce, Terry Waite and poetry read by Manjinder Virk and Yvonne Ridley.

Captivated: The Art of the Interned

Capreisoners and Together present a unique art exhibition, comprising the works of those men detained without trial in Britain.

Friday 20 June – Friday 4 July 2008
9.00am - 5.00pm

Together, 12 Old Street, London, EC1V 9BE. (Nearest Tube: Barbican)

For more information email: elpeaceandjustice@yahoo.co.uk

For "Interview with a Man Held Indefinitely without Trial under the 'Anti-Terror' Laws 2001 and 2005", see: *Workers' Weekly*, October 6, 2007, or visit website of RCPB(ML)

No to Detention without Charge or Trial! End Control Orders!

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nor have his solicitors been shown any evidence of why he is alleged to be a "security risk". He endured three and a half years in prisons and psychiatric hospitals before being subject to the control order some three years ago.

Mahmoud had come to Britain and claimed asylum after being tortured in Israeli prisons. He was granted indefinite leave to remain in November 1998. His family, including his six children, are British citizens. He has been refusing food in support of his demand to be allowed to leave this country for Syria or for his control order to be removed.

The detention without charge or trial, not just for 42 days but indefinitely, is an outrageous affront to the very conception of a modern society and the rule of law. These so-called "suspects" who the state demands must choose between deportation to torture or indefinite incarceration, continue to be the subject of state repression with no mechanism of redress, or any opportunity to answer any charges before a court of law.

Workers' Weekly calls on broad sections of society to reject these medieval and anti-human practices of the state carried out in the name of "security". The guarantee that such barbarities will be ended is for wide sections of the people to fight that the rights of all be upheld. The collective security of society will not be safeguarded and guaranteed in reality in any other way. Grounded in this principle, the fight of all justice-loving people to end detention without charge or trial, and for the human and just treatment of all, including those seeking asylum or fighting against deportation or the violation of their rights, will continue until the fight meets with success. There is no time to lose!

See review of the art exhibition "Captivated: The Art of the Interned" on page 3.

The Dark Plot against Cuba

Photos on right: Mass demonstration towards the main square in Havana, Cuba, on May Day

Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Pérez Roque gave a press conference on May 22, 2008, in which he called upon the US government to stop avoiding the questions about what has been brought to light about the sordid links between anti-Cuban terrorism in Miami, US diplomats accredited in Havana and the groups of US mercenaries that operate in Cuba. He said that US diplomats accredited in Havana, particularly the Head of the US Interests Section in Havana, have been facilitating contacts and the movement of money between terrorist Santiago Álvarez and mercenary groups operating in Cuba.

The government of the United States has not denied these accusations and has avoided answering questions regarding the illegal conduct of its officials, who have been caught red-handed, acting like the vulgar envoys of a terrorist who, to top things off, is serving a jail sentence in the United States.

When asked the direct question: "Is there any policy that prevents US diplomats from being a means of delivering cash to those who may be dissidents in Cuba?" the reply of Mr McCormak, the State Department spokesperson, was: "I'm not aware of the mechanics or the regulations that guide it."

Then, this is put to him: "The accusation from the Cubans is that the head of the Interests Section has been delivering cash from private US groups" – they refer to a terrorist cell, which resorts to violence, to a man who is imprisoned in the

United States, as "private groups" – "to the political opposition in Cuba" – they call what we have seen in the course of these days, these mercenaries brawling among themselves, thirsty for money, a "political opposition". When told that Cuba claims the Head of the Interests Section is involved in this, the spokesperson replies: "I don't know the specifics of this. I am not aware of the mechanics."

With such evasive answers, with a stammering tone, did the authorised spokesperson and State Department official respond to the accusations.

When the Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Thomas Shannon, was asked about this matter, he replied: "The United States has a well known policy of humanitarian assistance to the Cuban people (...) And we will continue that practice and policy."

The Vice-Minister for Latin America has but evasive answers and ready-made phrases to offer. But, in addition to leaving the question unanswered, the Assistant Secretary of State's response is brutally cynical. To say that they have a "well known policy of humanitarian assistance to the Cuban people", speaking on behalf of a government that has taken the policy of blockade on Cuba and the persecution of the Cuban people to insane levels, that has tried to asphyxiate Cuba, to kill its people through hunger and disease, to say they have a well known policy of humanitarian assistance shows a complete lack of scruples. In the end, he offers no answer.

Then the US Interests Section comes along, and distributes a communiqué which Washington, as expected, asks it to send out. What does the communiqué

issued by the Interests Section, which doesn't show its face, say?

"We permit US private organisations to do so as well." It is understood that the "doing that as well" implies "as the Head of our Interests Section has done".

"This assistance has no political purpose, but is intended to address the day-to-day needs of families who are struggling to survive in the current system."

Unprecedented facts

The serious accusations have not been fully answered. This matter is serious, and there is the need of a public appearance and an answer to public opinion.

It is also cynical that the same government that, under blockade law and all its regulations, deprives Cubans residing in the United States of the right to send their relatives in Cuba remittances, that this same government should act, through its diplomatic agents, as an intermediary, such that terrorists like Santiago Álvarez and his accomplices are able to send money to Cuba, in this case not to their relatives but to mercenary elements, with the aim of promoting subversive activities in Cuba, in support of its blockade policy and aggression, which have nothing to do with humanitarian assistance, money to pay for the services of salaried and mercenary agents. It is the height of depravity that the same diplomatic agents responsible for monitoring the policy which prevents Cubans living in the United States from sending money to their relatives in Cuba should be the carriers, the envoys, the transporters of money destined to mercenary groups in Cuba. It is an unprecedented fact, really, in the annals of Cuba's diplomatic relations.

Three key elements stand out among the many facts that have



been published: First, the participation of diplomats from the US Interests Section in Havana in the remittance of money, by the notorious terrorist Santiago Álvarez, who lives in the United States, serving a jail sentence there, to mercenaries in Cuba, mercenaries implementing US policy in Cuba. They acted not only as envoys but also, even, as moneylenders in tight situations. That is to say, the Head of the Interests Section gave the mercenaries a cash advance to cover their expenses, in anticipation of getting that money back from Santiago Álvarez.

US and mercenary elements

The second and very serious fact is that these mercenary elements in Cuba, in exchange for the money they received from Santiago Álvarez through US diplomats, helped Santiago Álvarez, who is in jail in the United States, when he stood trial, to secure a reduction of his sentence for possession of an arsenal of weapons destined to violent actions against Cuba. They gave him documents, which they sent him from Havana, which have allowed this terrorist to present himself as a benefactor of the human rights cause, someone who "supports groups in Cuba that struggle for human rights", and not a terrorist. This has allowed him to have his conviction reduced.

There is a document from Mrs Carmen Machado to Mrs Martha Beatriz Roque, in which Carmen Machado – a close collaborator of terrorist Santiago Álvarez – writes the following:

"I wanted to ask you a favour,"

– this is addressed to Martha Beatriz. "If it's not possible, don't be embarrassed and don't worry, because our Friend" – Santiago Álvarez – "will understand. I need a letter from you, signed by you, that confirms the relations we've maintained with the Juridical Rescue Foundation, of which" – that support and those relations – "as you know, the main collaborator is Santiago Álvarez." We need a letter where you state this.

"The letter would be addressed to Judge James Cohn" – the Judge who's reviewing this man's case. "This is the judge who is going to have the last word as regards how long a sentence our Friend is going to get and the person who can reduce it to what he was promised". Santiago Álvarez was promised a reduction of his sentence and, to do this, the judge needs a letter which states that Santiago aided Cuba-based mercenary groups that struggle – according to the United States – for human rights. "This letter would only be read by the lawyers" – the terrorist's lawyers, "our lawyers", she writes, "and by Judge Cohn." The prosecution, which represents the State, would neither have access to nor read the letter.

That is to say, Cuban mercenaries write a letter to help a convicted man get his sentence reduced. To do this, they get the help of the US Interests Section in Havana, and they keep the prosecution, which in turn represents the State, in the dark, so that it knows nothing of the letter, which only the judge and defence attorneys can read. "The aid that we have offered you and other relatives of

political prisoners, and those we have still to help. That would give his actions legitimacy in the eyes of this trial of his." Santiago's trial, that is.

"Please, if this is possible, I would be eternally grateful to you."

They request this from her. And Mrs Roque and other mercenaries in Cuba write the letter and send it.

Then, there is this other document, in which Martha tells this woman: "I must inform you that there is a serious problem with the document I wrote and sent you with respect to the money received." Received from whom? From Santiago Álvarez. "The young woman from the Roosevelt Centre" – there, in the US Interests Section – "misplaced the original with my signature. As you can imagine, if she works at the Interests Section she also works for Cuban State Security." The Cuban Foreign Minister said that he didn't understand this association and accusation levelled at the woman. The mercenary adds: "I informed Michael Parmly of this and they told me they were going to think of what to do", to find the letter whose original copy was lost. They've used the copy there, but the original is nowhere to be found. "It is a serious problem, because State Security will surely bring the original, or a whole ream of documents, to light on the Round Table programme." She adds: "I wanted you to know this and to tell my friend, of whom I am also proud". Because he had sent her a message expressing how proud he was to see how she was fighting to have his sentence reduced.

The Cuban Foreign Minister emphasised the seriousness of this issue: American diplomats in Havana have colluded with mercenaries in the service of the United States there in Cuba, together with a judge in Florida and the defence lawyers, to reduce the sentence against the terrorist Santiago Álvarez, using a document produced and sent via the US Interests Office and its mail system.

I therefore believe, he said, that the United States government should own up to this new arrangement, to this set-up whereby Cuban-born terrorists operate in cahoots with US diplomats and US mercenary groups in Cuba; a set-up that moves money around, conspires against justice and works for the forces of subversion against Cuba. This is a second element; Cuba expects a thorough investigation by Washington of this serious matter, and Cuba expects the results of that investigation to be made public.

Illegal conduct

There is a third element, which had come to light that week: the illegal conduct of the US Interests Office in Havana in encouraging, funding, organising, directing and monitoring in detail, in depth. It monitors, directs, funds and organises the carrying out of provocative activities by mercenary elements in Cuba aimed at destabilising order. There are three very serious aspects that implicate American diplomats in Havana.

Also demonstrated has been the mercenary character of these so-called dissident groups, their

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NO TO THE CRIMINALISATION OF DISSENT!

Bush's Visit to London:

NO TO THE CRIMINALISATION OF DISSENT! OPPOSE POLICE BRUTALITY!

Riot police brought in to carry out violence



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would be more likely to carry explosives was made to suggest that it was the protesters who intended violence. The decision to close Whitehall and deny the people their right to protest was taken under the pretext of maintaining Bush's safety under pressure from US security. However, no attempt to uphold demonstrator safety was made as the police wielded batons and antagonised protesters using tactics of intimidation to try and provoke a fight.

The rally in Parliament Square went ahead in defiance of the original ban, in opposition to the attempts to criminalise dissent, and to demand that war criminals be held accountable for their crimes against humanity and that Bush and Blair be brought to justice.

The brutality of the police as they blocked Whitehall and laid into the protesters is an indication of the fear felt towards the people marching to uphold justice in the face of the shameful stance of Gordon Brown. New Labour has been systematically giving legislative force to the destruction of civil liberties. Now the present Prime Minister has signalled an escalation in the violence of the state in the name of protecting a foreign president guilty of genocide and in the name of justifying his part in it, against the will of the British people. The people cannot accept and are not accepting this criminalisation of dissent. Saturday's events underline that the people must strengthen their own organisation and tactics in the face of increased state repression and police brutality, which is going hand in hand with the attempts to brand sections of the people as a threat to the "British way of life". The anti-war movement, and the people as a whole, especially the youth, must further organise to build a programme of action to bring into being an anti-war government which will bring into being a new world and defend the rights of all and outlaw the use of force to impose the will of the ruling elite at home and abroad.

Eye-witness impressions of

the police brutality

The way the police behaved, and the determination of the state to stop the demonstration to oppose war criminal Bush and wars of aggression, seems like a deliberate move on behalf of the state to use repression and violence against the people to back up the draconian laws which attack civil liberties. The claim by the police that all had been negotiated beforehand with the Stop the War Coalition was not true. It was not the demonstrators who were "criminal and irresponsible". People are very angry, and the sheer brutality of the police, armed with telescopic truncheons and metal batons, came as a shock to some people. Then riot police were brought in to carry out even more violence. A Spanish woman among the protesters was saying that it wasn't as bad as this under Franco, because now the government here has made it legal for the police to act in this way with impunity. It seems that of 25 people arrested, the police have only been able to charge three.

The police tactics of just arresting anyone were clear. And the demonstrators who suffered most damage from the brutality were those who were pushed against the police barriers, turned their backs, and were then hit by the police. It really seemed like a planned confrontation, with riot police at the ready and masses of police. No one seemed to know those in the crowd who appeared not to be political but to provide a spark for the police to launch their attack.

Then, as people were leaving the demonstration and packing up, snatch squads of police were sent into the crowd and started taking people off. Then the police penned people in the Square with their vans and mounted police, and were isolating people from each other. As people were taking their banners away from the Square, the police were grabbing them under the pretext that the demonstration "was confined to Parliament Square".

All this shows who was intent on violence. The claims of the Metropolitan police that "the acts that we have witnessed are deplorable and cannot be described as a lawful demonstration" are

NO TO THE CRIMINALISATION OF DISSENT!

aimed at justifying that the police in future will act with impunity and that the government will further act to criminalise dissent. We, the people who have justice on our side and declare how despicable are the crimes of Bush, Blair and Brown, will have to sum up this experience in advancing the work of the anti-war movement.

Accounts from protesters as reported by the Daily Mail

David Jamieson, 21, a student at the University of Strathclyde, was bloodied after being beaten four times around the head as he was pushed into police.

Mr Jamieson, who had travelled from Scotland for the day with two other Stop The War Coalition campaigners-Bryan Simpson, 19, and Jonathan Shafi, 22 - said the level of police violence was 'completely unjustified'.

He said: 'I was pushed towards the police line, and as I tried to get back I was beaten repeatedly on my back and the back of my head. My back was turned and I was hit three or four times.'

'We did not think that the moment a few sticks came over the police would pull out solid aluminium rods.'

'I was here for a peaceful protest - this was our chance to show George Bush how despicable his war crimes are. They are blood hungry- it was absolutely unprovoked.'

Protester Suzanna Wylie, 29, was left bleeding from a head injury after being hit by a baton.

Anti-war protesters clash with police officers while trying to march down Whitehall

She said: 'If they let us demonstrate, there would have been none of this.'

Mounted and riot police later divided the protesters between two fronts: one on Great George Street and the other at the mouth of Whitehall.

'Snatch squads' then patrolled the area, arresting people who had earlier been filmed by officers and highlighted as troublemakers.

One 17-year-old girl was detained on suspicion of assaulting a police officer. Her friends said she has her A-levels next week.

Worldwide Demonstrations Demand, "Free the Five Now!"

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latest appeal by the Cuban Five against the wrongful convictions and harsh sentences that were imposed on them after a biased trial with a Miami jury in 2001 during which they were falsely accused of spying against the US government.

The International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five pointed out that the Atlanta Appeals Court's written opinion, which employs startling political rhetoric, states that the defence's arguments lacked merit and clearly favours the government.

The International Committee declared that only solidarity, constant condemnation and international mobilisation will secure freedom for the Five.

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) stated that it finds the holding of the 11th circuit court of appeals decision in the Cuban 5 case a politically motivated travesty of justice.

IADL has consistently claimed that the prosecution of these five was illegitimate and politically motivated - designed mainly to placate the Cuban community in Miami which has engaged in many hostile and

terrorist acts against the Cuban people, as well as to carry on the United States' campaign to isolate and harm the Cuban people.

IADL believes the original prosecution of these men is the height of hypocrisy, especially in light of the government's protection of known terrorist Luis Posada Carriles. IADL supported the original opinion of the panel of Judges in August 2005 who found that the defendants did not get a fair trial in Miami, given the prejudice and fear generated against them in the Miami community. IADL condemned the decision of the full 11th Circuit which overturned that decision.

Demonstrations were held in many cities in the United States. In Miami, a press conference was held June 6 at the headquarters of Alianza Martiana by the member organisations of the coalition to protest the panel decision of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. On June 6, some 90 people joined together at the busy downtown intersection of Powell and Market streets in San Francisco, in an action called by the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five and supported by many organisations and individuals. The day before, hundreds of calls were made by volunteers to phone lists, to notify them of the court decision and the protest today. Supporters of the Five Heroes gathered in the driving rain in Seattle carrying colourful signs and distributing hundreds of statements on the Appeals Court decision.

Demonstrations were also organised in New York City; Washington, DC; Boston; Philadelphia; Detroit; Chicago; Minneapolis and Orange County.

In Canada, demonstrations were held in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

Here in London, less than 24 hours after receiving the news that the US Court of Appeal had upheld the convictions of the Cuban Five, activists gathered outside the US embassy in London at 7:00 pm as part of the "day after" campaign to condemn the ruling. This emergency protest was called by Rock around the Blockade, as part of the world-wide campaign for the release of the Cuban Five. They held up placards demanding, "Free the 5", and placed Cuban flags, placards and pictures of the five Cuban heroes on the eight-foot barriers protecting the US Embassy.

A second demonstration took place on June 7 at 12:00 noon in Trafalgar Square. Members of Rock around the Blockade demonstrated on the north pavement of the square. A statement in solidarity, sent by Gloria La Riva, Free the Five USA, was read out, as were the inspiring words of Gerardo Hernández following the verdict: "We'll do all the time we have to do, 30 years, 40, whatever, and as long as a single one of you is outside resisting, we are also going to resist, until justice is done."

Demonstrations were also held in Barcelona in the Catalan region of Spain, and in Guatemala and Peru in Latin America.



Demonstration in Barcelona

The Dark Plot against Cuba

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fifth-column nature, how they get guidelines and money, not just from Washington but also, even, from terrorist groups, from anyone willing to put up the money. These acts break Cuban law, break US law and breach conventions and rules of international law.

What would happen if Martha Beatriz Roque, the mercenaries that have been under the spotlight the last few days, lived in the United States and were accused of receiving money from a terrorist group acting against America via Cuban or other foreign diplomats? What would have happened if they were discovered and tried in America for receiving funds from terrorist groups planning action against the United States? What does American law provide in such a case? What was it President Bush said? "Anyone who encourages a terrorist, who shelters a terrorist, becomes a terrorist also."

Questions for the US

What does Washington know about all this plotting? What does the Secretary of State know? What does she have to say? Did she know what her diplomats were doing here in Havana? Now she knows, what does she think about it? Does she approve of their operating as envoys? Does she support Mr Parmly in his activities via e-mail and as paymaster of terrorist groups and of mercenary groups in Cuba? What have they to say? What does Washington say? It had better say something. Does it reject, condemn these actions, or whitewash them, condone them, support them? What does the US government say? What has it investigated? What does it have to say about this new web of links between terrorist groups, US diplomats and mercenary groups? Washington must speak out, it must say whether it agrees with or intends to investigate these actions, which involve crimes under American and Cuban law and fly in the face of international law.

The illegal conduct of the US Interests Office in Havana breach-

es, in the first place, the bilateral agreement between Cuba and the US which led to the setting-up of the Interests Section and which dates from May 30, 1977. The agreement provides that the purpose of these offices is to facilitate communication between the two governments and carry on routine diplomatic and consular functions. In this context, the US and Cuban governments reaffirmed their commitment to the provisions of the international treaties governing diplomatic and consular relations. The content of those treaties was reaffirmed.

The Vienna Convention

What does the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations – the key document here – have to say? What does the 1961 Vienna Convention say? It says that "*The functions of a diplomatic mission consist, inter alia, in: Representing the sending State in the receiving State; Protecting in the receiving State the interests of the sending State and of its nationals, within the limits permitted by international law; Negotiating with the Government of the receiving State*". In other words, the usual, well-known, diplomatic functions. "*Promoting friendly relations*" it cites as a duty and function of diplomatic representations, as well as "*developing their economic, cultural and scientific relations*".

The US Interests Section in Havana is attached to the Swiss Embassy, so that its conduct is also a breach of and insult to Swiss diplomacy, which agreed to represent these interests in Cuba, and Cuba's in America, and has also been placed in an extremely embarrassing position.

These are the functions. Nowhere does it say that the functions of a diplomatic representation include funding, lending money to, providing a mail service for, directing or organising political groups opposed to the government to which it is accredited; all of those are infractions.

Moreover, according to Article 41.1 of the Vienna Convention: "*Without prejudice to their privi-*

leges and immunities, it is the duty of all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State. They also have a duty not to interfere in the internal affairs of that State" and "*The premises of the mission must not be used in any manner incompatible with the functions of the mission*".

Converting the representation into a command HQ, its premises into a conference centre for mercenaries to hold events, to conspire, drives a coach-and-horses through the Vienna Convention, as Washington well knows. They would never allow an accredited diplomatic representation in their country to behave like this. That's why Cuba is calling them to account, to stop hiding, to stand up and tell world opinion what they think about these serious and well-proven facts.

On May 21, the US Interests Office staged and orchestrated a new provocation against Cuba and arranged a meeting in the residence of one of its officials in Miramar, a house that has become a kind of campaign headquarters for the counterrevolution in Cuba and the US-based mercenary groups. It staged an event there with all these people, some of whom have been completely unmasked in the last few days, for the purpose – no less – of listening to the speech by President Bush. All this in the middle of the situation described, regardless of everything that had been said and discussed. There they went, to applaud like mad ... Some avowed



that they were really moved at seeing the president on television, that it was an uplifting experience for them. What they said is on record, a reflection of the fifth-column-like status of some of these people.

Bush's criminal legacy

President Bush has been the president who ordered illegal invasions, the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, torture, illegal flights, kidnapping, who appeared in public defending torture. In other words, a man who followed a policy exclusively to serve his buddies, the powerful oil interests and others of the American power groups.

That is the departing president. What is his legacy? What has he left? He has no further business, this is just a show, and nobody takes any notice. The election campaign proceeds without him; if he shows up in one place, the Republican candidates appear elsewhere; they want nothing to do with him, he's a jinx. This is the man we see, irrelevant, regarded by everyone with a mixture of scorn and distaste. He stands there, threatens Cuba, utters four incoherent phrases, three he tries to say in Spanish. This is the decadent, mediocre spectacle we have seen.

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