

BCA Dispatch

Newsletter of the

Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy—July 2002

This administration refuses to consult with anyone outside its own inner circle about what appears to be its plan for imminent hostilities. This administration convenes meetings of its trusted few in little underground rooms. ... I have not seen such executive arrogance and secrecy since the Nixon administration, and we all know what happened to that group.

—Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., 28 June 2002

ALLIANCE NEWS

Chapter Calendar

(Continued on page 8)

The Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy's next meeting will be on **Wednesday, July 17**, from **7:00 to 9:15 p.m.** at **Cambridge Friends Meeting**, 5 Longfellow Park (9 min. walk from Harvard Square T station, west on Brattle St.)

① Discuss **BCA development**—mission, web, recruits, teams, monthly programs...

② **Projects** for teams—study groups? link issues? connect with other Alliances in region? learn/teach computer use? survey citizen concerns? barnstorm on WTO impacts? link community groups? fund-raise? lobby legislators/teachers? **Let's decide!**

Save the Day!: Saturday, August 17—**Lowell, MA**. Boat & museum tour **old mills & canals**. Plus **Cambodian/Laotian Water Festival** with exotic food! (We leave from North Station. Details: August *Dispatch*.) ☞ We re-convene on September 18.

→ **Steering Committee—Wed., July 24, 5:30. 32 Fayette St., Cambridge 02138. All members invited. 617-864-3931.**

“Turn Your Back On Bush”?

US Secret Service Chokes Graduates' Protest

by Kate Randall, World Socialist Web Site, 19 June 2002

Graduates at the June 14 commencement ceremony held by Ohio State University (OSU) were threatened with arrest if they made any protest against the keynote speaker, George W. Bush.

In opening remarks at the university's football stadium in Columbus, Ohio, OSU Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Richard Hollingsworth warned, “Disruption, including obstructing the view or hearing of others, will not be tolerated.” The graduates and their guests, numbering about 60,000, were informed that anyone protesting or heckling the speakers could be subject to arrest and expulsion. [Some graduates interpreted this as expulsion from their academic programs—denial of diplomas.] They were told that

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Bové Drives Tractor to Prison

1000s Cheer Scourge of TNC* “Bad Food”

by Sophie Makris and Philippe Alfroy, Agence France-Presse
*[TNC = trans national corporation]

VILLENEUVE LES MAGUELONNE, France, June 19 (AFP) - French farmers' leader and anti-globalisation militant Jose Bove went to jail Wednesday for the demolition of a McDonald's outlet three years ago — but not before giving authorities a final poke in the eye.

The moustachioed activist drove the 100 kilometres (60 miles) from his home to the prison in this suburb outside the southern city of Montpellier on a tractor. He was accompanied in his inching, seven-hour journey by 10 other tractors driven by farmers, some of whom had also been prosecuted for the 1999 McDonald's attack, and a huge contingent of sympathisers, media and a couple of police on motorbikes who drove ahead to clear the road. By the time he actually reached the Villeneuve les Maguelonne prison, the colourful procession had swelled to 1,000 people. Motorists and laughing bystanders tooted horns and applauded Bove as he chugged past, giving a cheery wave and wearing a broad smile under his blue cap.

Ever since he and his companions trashed the fast-food restaurant under construction in Millau as a protest against “la malbouffe” or junk food and punitive US trade tariffs on French goat cheese exports, Bove has become a hero for many French. The status has been helped by his resemblance to the

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Ohio State Commencement – continued from page 1
staff members, police and Secret Service officers would be watching the stands for any signs of protest.

As Bush walked to the podium, about 10 people, including four graduates, stood up and turned their backs to the president. An undetermined number of them were escorted out of the stadium by police officers. None currently face charges.

One protester gave the following account of what happened in comments posted on the Internet web site turnyourbackonbush.com



"Before he [Bush] even got to the stage, we did our about-face. I looked over my shoulder to see how many graduates were doing the same. However, everybody was standing at that point, and in pure black robes, it was impossible to see who was facing what direction. Furthermore, over that same shoulder, I saw one of Columbus' Finest heading our way. We never got to see how many students participated. We were being led out of Ohio Stadium.

"To the officer's credit, he realized there was a three-year-old in my arms and was not at all hostile. I asked him if I was under arrest, and he did not answer me. When we reached the exit, I asked the SS [Secret Service] man why we had been ejected, and he told me we were being charged with disturbing the peace. If we chose to leave, the charges would be dropped immediately. With our daughter in mind, we chose not to fight it... "On this day, June 14, 2002, I came to the realization that we no longer live in a free society. This is rapidly heading the same way Nazi Germany headed. Questioning our leaders is no longer the most outrageous crime you can be charged with. Not paying attention to them is.

Protesters outside the stadium also faced harassment. About 100 students, faculty and others demonstrated at the gates to the venue, carrying signs and chanting slogans against the Bush administration's war in Afghanistan and its support for Israeli terror in the occupied territories. The demonstrators were threatened with arrest if they did not disperse, and were moved to a location away from the stadium.

Security was extremely tight at the event. Graduates and their guests were instructed to arrive at the stadium as early as 6 a.m., where they stood in long lines before passing through metal detectors and having their personal effects searched.

Ohio State administrators were bent on providing Bush with an unopposed platform for his policies, introducing him as a "tireless worker in the field of education" and "a man who unified this country after the terrible events of 9/11."

Bush's handlers and the OSU administration were intent on preventing a political debacle for the current occupant of the White House similar to that during an "International Town Meeting" on 18 February 1998, when many Ohio State students embarrassed Cabinet secretaries with questions about Iraq which they could not answer, resorting instead to trite attacks on Saddam Hussein.

This year, repression began at OSU the week before, on June 9, at another graduation ceremony. Outgoing university President William Kirwan is pressing charges against four guests of a graduating master's student who were arrested for "persistent disorderly conduct" and "obstruction of official business" because they turned their backs on commencement speaker J.C. Watts, a Republican congressman from Oklahoma. The four acted to show support for a protest by the Afrikan Student Union against the speaker. The man and three



women were arrested without warning, handcuffed and taken to the OSU police facility.

Yoshie Furuhashi, a lecturer in the English department, commented "The Ohio State University administration, by issuing threats of arrests and expulsions at the rehearsal and on the day of the commencement, gave a lie to the idea of the university as a place of free inquiry. The corporatization of higher education has made OSU, as well as other institutions, follow the example of businesses that put profit before people and the US government that puts law and order above liberty and democracy."

EDITORIAL

Don't Just Do Something--Stand There!

The young Ohio father in the above article ("Turn Your Back On Bush") was intimidated. He was bold enough to stand and turn his back on Bush as the (p)resident approached the podium to speak at the OSU commencement. But he regrets that he left quietly when a police officer asked him to leave the stadium. What he said when he and his wife and child found themselves outside was

- * Next time, I will not leave quietly.
- * Next time, I will not allow you to intimidate my fellow Americans who wish to speak out.
- * Next time I will not be so blind when I confront you.
- * Next time we meet, I will have more people with me to oppose you.

* Next time, I will have brought voter registration cards for people whose eyes I will open to your oppression.

* And next time, I will have a babysitter.

Actually in that crowd of 60,000 he was one of only six who stood and turned his back. He had been prepared by a flier but missed the group briefing sometime after 6 a.m. when they opened the stadium with people passing through security check.



Protesters were urged to place the standard peace symbol on their mortarboards, and "a lot" ("hundreds?") did. But most were ill practiced and ill prepared for the threatening announcement and for the police. An

organizer expressed his regrets to an interviewer: *If you could do it all over again, would you do anything differently?*

"I would have stood and turned my back no matter what. But in terms of planning the protests, there are a lot of regrets. Overall I wish I would've started sooner in the planning and worked harder at getting the word out. We should have anticipated the intimidation from the OSU Administration, and combated it quickly. I also wish we would have had more time and money to launch an aggressive media campaign. I am grateful for all the attention we've received so far, and the 'Turn Your Back on Bush' concept seems to be spreading across the nation, but the mainstream press just rolled over it, as usual."

Compare the concerns of these two amateur protesters. The particulars are very different. But the lack of preparation is evident in both. Compare them both to the improvised actions of the Danish people early in the Nazi occupation. The difference is vast. Despite vigilant armed police, a large minority—thousands—participated in a coordinated way in various non-cooperation projects, frustrating the German intention to exploit Danish resources. It was helpful that the popular King Christian X, appearing daily in the streets without guards, showed measured defiance of many Nazi demands.

The Danes were (1) clear about their values, (2) almost universally aware of the threat to their values, and (3) aware that large numbers of others also believed that coordinated action, with some danger, would work. In Ohio as in Massachusetts, (1) and (2) are at least modestly present. What's missing is (3) the Big Wink: everyone knows that everyone knows what's up.

We are facing a conspiracy of required jingoism and enforced silence. The first thing we must do is break the ice, and show that this supposedly near-universal pro-war, pro-Bush sentiment just isn't so—isn't the way the media show it to be. Just sharing with close friends isn't enough. We must show and tell in public. This seems now to be happening, even on radio (NPR), but we can't rely on mainstream media to notice or care.

Just as folks in Porto Alegre, Brazil, used their participatory budgeting program as its own mass medium, along with the web, we must fan out with our perceptions and opinions. We must organize systematically for non-cooperation—for turning our backs, figuratively and literally, on Bush's schemes—by talking with police officers, bank officers, teachers, reporters, editors, public officials, Rotary chairpersons, our aging parents, and all the other compliant co-conspirators of silence and pseudo-happiness. ■



Bové to Prison – continued from page 1

French comic book character Asterix, and his tireless publicising of the negative effects of globalisation, multinationals and the policies of Western elite leaders and businessmen.

That fearsome reputation had bought him time from serving the three-month jail sentence for the McDonald's demolition. Although the verdict was handed down in February, exhausting a long series of appeals, French authorities put off his incarceration, explaining publicly that they feared it would upstage two months of presidential and parliamentary elections that came to an end last Sunday.

On Monday, Bove – who had been taunting officials by asking when he would go to jail – finally received his summons. And did his best to present it as a politically motivated detention by the incoming centre-right government, which has vowed to implement President Jacques Chirac's policy of "zero impunity" for criminals.

"It is not a person who is in prison, but a whole movement," Bove told his sympathisers. "It is the whole of the farmers' movement and the citizens' movement which is today in prison." He added, "I am fighting a just and legitimate battle for all citizens for better food and, above all, for all the labor movement, the marginalised, the poor, the illegal immigrants."

Several supporters yelled out "Put Chirac in prison, and send Bove home", seeking to underline several corruption scandals that Chirac has so far dodged by invoking presidential immunity from questioning. There was no immediate reaction to Bove's imprisonment from the government. But a member of Chirac's ruling Union for the Presidential Majority party, one-time interior minister Jean-Louis Debre, told public France 2 television that Bove's grandstanding journey to prison "is a bit ridiculous... This is a decision of the courts. It must be carried out.... Let's just stop all this rigmarole," he snapped.

Bove, though, has different ideas. Even though his two lawyers estimate that he will serve only 56 days behind bars, once time served in police custody and good behavior reductions are factored in, the militant intends to use that time to further embarrass the new government. He has vowed to hold a hunger strike up to July 14 – France's Bastille Day holiday that marks the date in 1789 that prisoners in the Paris prison were freed at the start of the Revolution.

While professing to be "calm" about his incarceration he nevertheless also expressed some apprehension about "being alone with myself 21 hours out of 24". He walked into the prison with a bag full of books, promising to pursue his "reflections on globalisation".

ENRON FOR DUMMIES

An old farmer with serious financial problems bought a mule from another old farmer for \$100, who agreed to deliver the mule the next day. However, the next day he drove up and said,

"Sorry, but I have some bad news— The mule died."

"Well, then, just give me my money back."

"Can't do that. I went and spent it already."

"OK, then. Just unload the mule."

"What ya gonna do with a dead mule?"

"I'm going to raffle him off."

"You can't raffle off a dead mule!"

"Sure I can. I just won't tell anybody he's dead."

A month later the two met up and the farmer who sold the mule asked, "Whatever happened with that dead mule?"

"I raffled him off just like I said I would. I sold 500 tickets at \$2 a piece and made a profit of \$898."

"Didn't anyone complain?"

"Just the guy who won. So I gave him his two dollars back."

ALTERNATIVE BROADCAST

Copyright Rulings Favor Corporations Kucinich Defends Community Webcasting

April 8, 2002

The Hon. Howard Coble, Chairman
Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and
Intellectual Property
B351A Russell House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

Dear Congressman Coble:

Thank you for your March 12, 2002, notice from the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property regarding the application of copyright law to the digital environment. This issue is of great concern to me because I represent constituents who are involved in the streaming of digital information for nonprofit, educational, and community purposes and should be exempted from burdensome requirements imposed under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998 (DMCA). I recently filed comments with the U.S. Copyright Office regarding this matter and have attached those comments to this letter for your convenience.

As I reported to the Copyright Office, college radio stations such as those in my Congressional District, are non-profit educational services. Students and others involved in college and community radio learn the media and are able to make contributions to the actual market-place and the market-place of ideas through their involvement. Listeners also benefit because they hear music from independent artists and sources not generally represented in the mainstream radio medium, owned by 5 or 6 large companies.

And certainly artists benefit. Local and independent artists who are not signed by a major record label get no access to the radio spectrum but for the college and community radio programmers who provide these artists with airplay. A recent illustration of this phenomenon is the Grammy Award that went to the soundtrack of "Oh Brother Where Art Thou." This CD received virtually no airplay on commercial radio, but did receive coverage from independent educational and community radio, the webcasts from those stations, and independent webcasting media. As a result of that exposure, the independent artists represented in that CD greatly benefited and were able to compete for, and win, the Grammy Award. While the artists may not have received royalties from those stations, the market exposure through those stations was invaluable.

Burdensome restrictions on content, fee structures making independent radio and webcasting impossible, and record-keeping requirements which are impossible for independent college, educational, and small webcasting entities, will have a chilling effect on free speech through the Internet. While I understand that the Recording Industry Association of America is seeking royalties for its clients among the 5 or 6 largest media groups, other independent media must not be allowed to be choked out of existence. Congress has a duty to strike a proper balance.

College radio and other nonprofit educational and community radio with 10 or fewer employees should be exempt from the recordkeeping, content restrictions, and fee structures under the DMCA and the rulemaking recommended by the Copyright Arbitration and Royalty Panel (CARP). These media provide a service to the listening public by presenting truly independent programming which features educational and artistic content not provided by the major media entities.

Moreover, the problems presented by the DMCA go far beyond college radio. The proposed fees would silence nearly all Internet radio stations. The majority of Internet stations are, for now, a labor of love to the entrepreneurs developing the medium. These independent entrepreneurs are presenting a truly independent voice at a time when consolidation in the mass communications industry has crippled the independent voice in conventional media.

Webcasting is a fledgling industry. Few, if any, Internet radio sites generate income. This medium, like e-commerce, is still developing. Independent webcasting stations need breathing room to develop before they are stifled out of existence by the fee structures proposed by the DMCA and the Copyright Office. Like e-commerce which benefits from tax exemption during this pioneering period before the industry shows profitability, Internet webcasting should also be exempt from the proposed fee structures while it develops and before it becomes viable as an industry. If Congress does not grant this exemption, it will stifle this new and exciting communications force and deprive the public from independence in this medium.

Please consider these issues as you develop legislation to address the application of copyright law to the digital environment and incorporate my enclosed comments to the Copyright Office into these comments before the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for reviewing this issue.

Sincerely,
Dennis J. Kucinich, Member of Congress

ACTION ALERT ! ! !

Your editor has just subscribed to broadband (e.g., Earthlink DSL) and started using his computer to listen to radio. It's fantastic! You can hear programs from anywhere in the world, and you can hear them at your convenience—in real time, hours later, or days later. Just click on the web site of the station, and then click on their webcast section. Lots of local college and community stations have this. You can hear intelligent talk shows, local commentary, speeches, NPR features, and infrequently-played music of all kinds.

*But now the big broadcasters can force independents off the net. Get Congress to overrule this administrative decision—**Call the Capitol switchboard FREE 1-877-611-1008.** Ask for your Representative (Lynch, Capuano, Frank, etc., or Kucinich for updates) and talk to his "aide in charge of copyright and the internet." Discuss Rep. Kucinich's letter above. Or leave message: "I'm calling because I'm concerned about Internet radio and a recent ruling by the Librarian of Congress on royalty rates. The Librarian set a royalty rate that's more than 100% of most stations' revenues. Please don't let Internet radio die!" For help, call Steve Provizer 617-232-3174 (Allston-Brighton Free Radio).*

GLOBALIZATION

FOREIGN INVESTMENT in CHINA

Workers Profit Little; State Loses Revenue

by Elissa Braunstein & Jerry Epstein, Center/Popular Economics

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is commonly seen by economists and policy makers as a premier agent of economic growth and development. Surprisingly, this FDI boosterism is based more on hype than on strong evidence of FDI's salutary effects on developing countries. Does FDI really raise the living standards of workers in the developing world? It turns out, the answer partly depends on whether developing countries can muster a sufficient level of bargaining power vis a vis multinational corporations (MNC's) to wrestle benefits from them.

Foreign direct investment in the People's Republic of China (PRC) provides fertile ground for studying this question. The PRC has attracted the most FDI of any developing country. With its 1.3 billion consumers and its almost limitless supply of cheap labor, if any developing country would seem to have bargaining power relative to MNCs, it would be the PRC.

After 1992, when Deng Xiao Ping announced a "liberalization" of China's economy, China's FDI sky-rocketed. In early years, investment in China was mostly from Hong Kong. In recent years Hong Kong investment has lost some of its dominance due to increasing investments by industrialized countries, especially from Western Europe, the U.S. and Japan.

To investigate the FDI hype, we studied empirically the impact of FDI on wages, employment, investment and tax revenues in the PRC. We studied FDI in 29 provinces for the period 1986-1999. Here's what we found.

Our results show that over the last decade and a half, FDI has raised wages in China. But, the impact is small in relation to other factors, notably the effects of domestic investment and the effect of government policies to reduce controls over the development of markets. The impact of foreign trade on wages is also important. Contrary to the common view, our results suggest that there is no evidence that FDI has been a good source of employment creation in China, except, perhaps in so far as it has led to exports.

Some economists have worried that FDI "crowds out" domestic investment because multinational corporations (MNCs) compete with domestic enterprises and therefore might spoil their markets, leading them to decide to expand less rapidly. Indeed, in China, more FDI leads to less domestic investment.

With globalization, nations, and even regions within nations, believe that they must bid against each other—giving large tax breaks and other subsidies—to attract FDI. China is no exception. There, government officials bid to try to get promotions, and also partly because of the bribes they receive from the winning companies. What is the impact of this bidding for investment? It is perhaps not surprising that government revenue is negatively associated with FDI.

Can 1.3 billion Chinese consumers tame the multinationals? Our results suggest no. The potential bargaining power provided by Chinese workers and consumers, in the context of a highly decentralized political system that is rife with government corruption, appears far from being realized. In countries with a fraction of China's bargaining power—which is to say, most developing countries in the world—the PRC's FDI experience

does not offer great hope for neo-liberal promises for FDI as the savior of workers around the globe.

Fancy Cars, Trophy Homes

Who Enjoyed the 1990s Boom?

by Michael Ash, Center for Popular Economics, Amherst

A recent finding from two researchers at the Federal Reserve Board, implies that rich people did ALL of the extra consuming during the 1990s "boom." Last year 46% of all consumer spending was done by the richest one-fifth of Americans.

Dean M. Maki and Michael G. Palumbo reached their conclusion by looking at savings, the flip side of consuming. While the historic pattern has been that the rich save and the poor eat hand-to-mouth, the pattern of savings stratified by income class reversed over the past decade. The savings rate of high-income households declined very sharply, and the increased savings of the poor partly paid for the upper-class consumption spree.

The overall savings rate (savings as a percent of income) fell from 5.9 to 1.3 percent over the 1990s. Table 1 shows savings stratified by income class.

Table 1. Savings rate by income class

Income class	Savings Rate	
	1992	2000
Highest fifth of pop'n	8.5	-2.1
Fourth fifth	4.7	2.6
Middle fifth	2.7	2.9
Second fifth	4.2	7.4
Lowest fifth	3.8	7.1

While in 1992 the richest Americans used to save \$8.50 for every \$100 of income, their savings rate of -2.1 percent by the end of the 1990s means that they were spending more than \$102 for every \$100 of income. Meanwhile, the poorest fifth of Americans nearly doubled their savings rate, from \$3.80 per \$100 earned to \$7.10 per \$100 earned. Because servicing debt counts as "savings," we can speculate that the poor spent the 1990s digging out from under the accumulated debts of the previous recession.

Yet the thriftiness of the poor could not offset the profligacy of the rich. So high are the incomes of the richest Americans, that when they spend a lot rather than save a lot, the economy booms—at least for them. The authors calculate that the rich switched \$240 billion per year from savings to consumption while the poor switched \$40 billion from consumption to savings, for a net contribution of \$200 billion to aggregate consumption from changed savings rates.

The authors rebut the view that "it would take implausibly large increases in spending by the richest Americans to generate the rapid growth rates observed in the aggregate expenditure data from 1994 to 2000. To the contrary, our direct investigation of saving rates across the income and education distributions...demonstrates that all of the consumption boom really can be attributed to the richest groups of households."

So the rest of us will just have to wait for the next boom to enjoy implausibly large increases in our spending.

For details see

www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/0123/c3735031.htm

Why Does Russia Want Chechnya?

Adapted from Columbia Encyclopedia, 2001 Edition

[Little more than half the size of Sicily, Chechnya (Ichkeria) sits on the northern slopes of the Caucasus Mountains, between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, some 400 miles south of Volgograd (Stalingrad, during WWII.) Georgia, Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Armenia lie to the south.] ...The mountainous region has important oil deposits, as well as natural gas, limestone, gypsum, sulfur, and other minerals. Its mineral waters have made it a spa center. Agriculture is concentrated in the Terek and Sunzha river valleys. Oil, petrochemicals, oil-field equipment, foods, wines, and fruit are produced.

The population, which is concentrated in the foothills, is predominantly Chechen, with a sizable Russian minority. The Chechen, like the neighboring Ingush, are Sunni Muslim, and speak a Caucasian language...

Tensions between the Russian government and that of Chechen president Dzhokhar Dudayev escalated into warfare in late 1994, as Russian troops arrived to crush the separatist movement. Grozny was devastated in the fighting, and tens of thousands died. Russian forces regained control of many areas in 1995, but separatist guerrillas controlled much of the mountainous south and committed spectacular terrorist actions in other parts of Russia. Fighting continued through 1996, when Dudayev was killed and succeeded by Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev. The Russians withdrew, essentially admitting defeat, following a cease-fire that left Chechnya with de facto autonomy.

Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff of the Chechen forces, was elected president early in 1997 but appeared to have little control over the republic. In 1999, Islamic law was established. Terrorism, including a series of bombings in Moscow, erupted again, and after Islamic militants invaded neighboring Dagestan from Chechnya, Russian forces bombed and invaded Chechnya, capturing Grozny and forcing the rebels into mountain strongholds. The rebels continued to mount guerrilla attacks on Russian forces.

Chechens Struggle for Independence

*Adapted from a report by Aminat Saieva,
Chechen Republic Online, 28 February 2002*

...The present situation in Chechnya is a consequence of a policy of the Russian State, pursued for centuries, of either enslavement or annihilation of the Chechen people. The essence of this policy was expressed by General Aleksei Ermolov (photo, page 7), commander of the Russian forces in the Caucasus from 1816 to 1827: "I will never rest so long as one Chechen is left alive". This phrase was stamped on a bronze monument to Ermolov erected in 1949 in the Chechen capital Grozny, after the Chechen people, once again, had been in deportation for 5 years...

Between 1792 and 1913 the Chechen people—at first Sufi and later mostly Sunni Muslims—had been decimated and deported en masse by Christian Russian armies seven times... By 1859 the centenary Caucasian War had resulted in annihilation of 90 per cent of the rebellious and often victorious Chechen people.

The eighth deportation was mass exile of the Chechens to Siberia, carried out by the Stalin regime in the 1920s and 1930s.

Many papers of the Stalinist genocide of the Chechen people are omitted in the "Black Book of Communism".

The ninth, virtually total deportation of the Chechen people, to Central Asia and Siberia, was carried out on February 23-25, 1944. This deportation is one of the most tragic chapters in the history of the Chechen people. The Soviet authority officially accused the Chechen people for mass desertion from the Red Army and collaboration with the anti-Russian German fascist command. The Chechen-Ingush Soviet Republic was abolished and the divided territory incorporated into the Stavropol Territory, Georgia, Dagestan and North Ossetia.

The plan for total deportation of the Chechens and Ingush had been worked out long before 1944 and was kept strictly secret. About 200,000 soldiers and officers of the People's Committee of Internal Affairs (PCIA— precursor of the KGB) and Red Army were involved in the military operation of removing people from their homes. The operation was conducted under the leadership of PCIA chief Lavrenti Beria, later to become first deputy premier of the USSR. In the course of this monstrous operation 12,000 people were killed during one day. People were taken and killed from almost every house. They were shot, burnt, exploded, and drowned in the lakes and reservoirs. The Soviets killed people everywhere, in schools and hospitals, as well as in the offices of village administration.

The horrors of the Chechen people's tragedy continued on their way to Siberia and Central Asia. People were carried in luggage vans, without food and water. The lack of food, any kind of medical aid, and the fact that the vans were overcrowded and the trip lasted for several weeks and even months, caused diseases to spread. On the way, 50 per cent of the deported people died of typhus. It was strictly forbidden to render any kind of help to the unfortunate people. The local inhabitants were afraid of being arrested if they showed their sympathy towards the dying women and children...

Every Chechen keeps the bloody memory of Haibah. On February 27, 1944, more than 700 local inhabitants, mostly women children, old people and the disabled, were burnt in a stable in this ancient beautiful mountain village. According to witnesses, one of the victims gave birth to the twin boys on that day, they were named Hasan and Husein. The poor babies lived only two hours. The Chekists killed the people in Haibah for the sole reason that they did not want to take trouble with their transportation to the railway station. The Communist regime generously rewarded those who abused the Chechen people. Seven-hundred-eleven butchers of the Chechen people received USSR government awards. Among them was Lavrenti Beria.

Fifty years later, in 1994, a new pseudo-democratic regime of Russia continued the tradition of Tsarist and Communist Russia manifested in annihilation of the Chechen people. As a result of the two Russian-Chechen wars of 1994-1996 and 1999-2000 more than 200,000 Chechens have been lost. The cities and villages of Chechnya are destroyed, the economy and infrastructure of the country has been wrecked. Of one and a half million Chechens alive today only 200,000 live in Chechnya. The rest are refugees. Thus, the secret plan signed before 1994 by Prime Minister Chernomirdin envisaging once again the evacuation of the Chechen people to Russian regions, has been [essentially] fulfilled.

—Now, see Indy Page 7 >>>>>

The Indy Page

All material on this page is the responsibility of a citizen editor, independent of the BCA Dispatch editorial staff. This issue's editor is Victoria Poupko of Brookline. Vica is a Russian-trained violinist, a mathematics instructor at Northeastern University, and a frequent volunteer with refugees around Bosnia, Kosovo, Chechnya, Ingushetya, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. Contact her at vpoupko@speakeasy.org or 617-738-9325.

Europa's Rage Must Turn from Sharon to Putin!

by Victoria Poupko

Europe's agitation and rage are continuing to grow against Israel, and personally against Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. European journalists compare Ramalla with Auschwitz, and call Sharon "nazi", "fascist", "Hitler", and so on. On the other hand, the European leaders don't see, or don't want to see, a terrible war crime that the Russian military under the direction of President Vladimir Putin continues to execute on the land of Chechnya for 7 of the past 10 years. Putin ordered his soldiers to "flush the Chechen down the toilet." In Russian mob language, this means "to kill unawares."

A court in Brussels is continuing to consider the case of Saddam Hussein, charging him with extermination of more than 200,000 Kurds, and the case of Ariel Sharon, with killing 300 Palestinians in Shatila refugee camp (see Azerbaijan newspaper "Echo", August 3, 2001). Mr. Milosevich is now standing before The Hague International Tribunal on War Crimes in Former Yugoslavia. Then why isn't a lawsuit against Yeltsin-Putin still possible? They have no less cause to be before a future Hague International Tribunal on War Crimes in Chechnya, than Mr. Milosevich has now.

They must be charged with the murder of more than 250,000 Chechens—and in addition starving or letting freeze 250,000 refugees, severely disabling 30,000 as a result of beatings and torture, responsibility for many thousands of children killed or dead from lack of food and hygiene, from diseases; the rest far behind in normal growth, etc. The terrible practice of murdering civilians every day adds up to a methodical, well-planned, slow genocide.

Taking advantage of the hard, bloody time after September 11, former KGB (now FSB) agent Putin, using immense lies and disinformation, attracted European leaders to his side. Now he is at the threshold of entering NATO, the

heart of European security! Europe, preoccupied with Israeli crimes, may let in the Russian hydra as mythological Troy let in the Greeks!

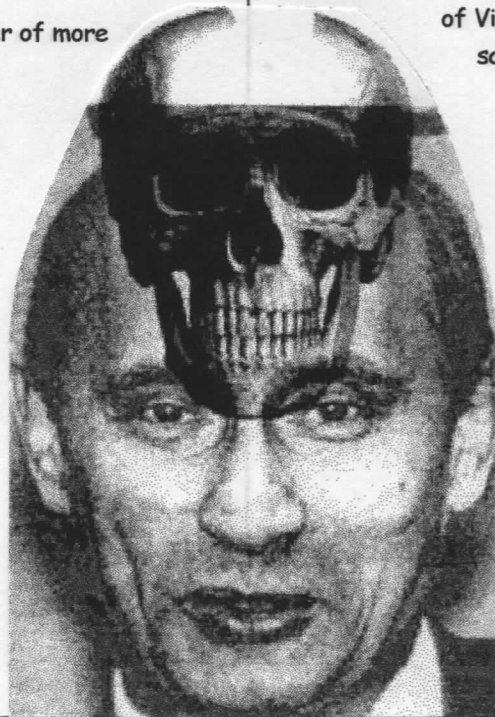
The European leaders, commanders of NATO, European governmental and non-governmental organizations have to wake up and reconsider their attitude toward Russia. They should point their rage towards her—towards her slow and partly invisible invasion of the still-civilized Western world. It is Russia, with its massive lies, military dictatorship, and other tools which morally (and with Russian-made weapons) supports Arabs and Palestinians; it is she who launders big money through American banks. Russia, by pretending to be a sheep eaten by "Chechen international terrorism" became beloved by president Bush. Bush lost his orientation regarding alliances after September 11th, and was happy with Putin's permission to enter Uzbekistan—as if America wouldn't act even without permission of Russia! By the way, is it any of Russia's business to give anyone permission to enter Uzbekistan, an independent country?

After A. Litvinenko & Yu. Felshtinsky's book "Blowing Up Russia: Terror from Within" appeared, few can believe that the Chechens are terrorists. Isn't the very tragic violence in the town of Caspiisk (in Dagestan) during the celebration of Victory Day in Russia (May 9, 2002) of the same dark origin as other terrorist acts in

Russia? Moreover, wasn't it a special "gift" for President Bush to go to Moscow to meet President Putin?

According to the latest news, a part of the Russian Army is moving in on Ingushetya; it is terrible to imagine that Ingushetya might have the same fate as Chechnya.

Europe and America have to look around before it's too late, recall and weigh all Russian "activities", and finally take the right course concerning Russia and her terrible war crime in Chechnya. They must insist on a peace dialog between Russian President Putin and Chechnya's President Maskhadov.



ALLIANCE NEWS (cont'd from page 1)

Boston Supports BCA's Globalization Bill

After a half-hour debate on June 19th, the Boston City Council voted by a wide margin to support our Globalization Impact Bill, now in the state legislature. The resolution, which passed by 8 votes to 1, with one abstention, was written and spearheaded by Councillor **Chuck Turner** of Roxbury, and co-sponsored by Councillors **Charles Yancey** and **Mickey Roache**. Its 7 considerations were a model of clarity and perspective, with a focus on the Canadian developer—Mondev International—which wants to force the US under NAFTA rules to pay \$50 million for a lost opportunity to develop a downtown property taken by the City of Boston.

The two councillors who opposed the resolution argued that international affairs were the business of Washington and none of Boston's concern. Turner and Yancey noted that one of these two had introduced a resolution supporting US military action after 9/11—surely an international matter, and that one had supported a resolution opposing a new Logan airport runway—noisy, but outside the jurisdiction of the City. We are looking to the day when the Council recognizes a number of specific impacts of US and TNC economic policy upon the City and the Commonwealth.

A week earlier, in an eerily vacant chamber, Councillors Turner and Yancey heard and recorded testimony for the resolution by **Dave Lewit** and SEIU Local509's **Pasqualino Colombaro**. The only citizens attending were **Martha Bartlett** and **Pete Smith**. But we benefitted greatly from a simple but powerful lobbying effort by **Simon Billenness**, who sent an e-mail to 1000 local globalization activists asking them to arouse their city councillors. The day before the vote, councillor phones were jangling!

* * *

Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative had their annual meeting in Roxbury on June 26, attended by **Bill King**, **David Schwartz**, and **Dave Lewit**. DSNi is a model community bootstrapping and empowerment project which BCA has admired for its relevance to our "localization" concerns. We have thought of helping to network and energize as many potential DSNIs as there may be in Greater Boston. Let us know if you want to meet with executive director **John Barros** to discuss this, and ponder implementation.

* * *

Our June 19 BCA chapter meeting discussed Ohio Rep Dennis Kucinich's denouncing weapons in space, and calling for a federal Department of Peace (see his letter on access to internet radio, page 4). Reflecting on June's AfD convention, **Ruth Weizenbaum** called for less inspirational speakers and more organizational dialog and planning. Meanwhile, **Jean Maryborn** is beating the drum for a Revisioning Democracy conference here, modeled after the huge success she visited in Minneapolis, cosponsored by Minnesota AfD.

More immediately, Ruth Weizenbaum announced the kickoff convention of a Northeast Regional Alliance for Democracy. **SAVE THE DATE:** Friday dinner and all day Saturday, Sept 27 at the Espousal Center, Waltham MA. \$40 includes meals. (Details forthcoming in the *Dispatch*.)

JOIN THE BCA

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN BOSTON TO LOVE BCA

Please help us as we fight to make a better future for ourselves and our children — Join the Boston/Cambridge Alliance for Democracy. (Cut out this form and send it to Dave Lewit, 271 Dartmouth St., Boston, MA 02116.)

BOSTON-CAMBRIDGE ALLIANCE for DEMOCRACY PLEDGE

___ \$26/Year - "Count me in!"
___ \$52/Year - "Sustainer" (We need to average this amount.)
___ \$104/Year - "Contributor" (Helping us thrive.)
___ \$208/Year - "Community Steward"
___ \$500/Year - "Realize the vision"
___ What's fair for YOU? _\$_____

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GUIDELINES for INDY PAGE editors

BCA Dispatch is experimenting with an Indy Page (page 7)—a page of 800-840 words edited independently by and for Dispatch readers. It may consist of one article or several, with or without graphics. To be an Indy Page editor you don't need editorial experience, but you must get feedback from other readers before submission. Call the Dispatch for names

The easiest way to prepare material is to select it as you wish from the internet or retype or scan it from book(s) or periodical(s), with or without your own accompanying remarks. Your remarks might be crafted to make it easier for the reader to think about the material, to discuss it, or to take action on it. For easy writing of your own material: Write your "testimony." Or write a letter to "Aunt Jane," perhaps with "clippings."

Whether the material is yours or borrowed, the ideas expressed should be clearly laid out, should stick to a few essential points, and be put into clear language. If the material is deliberately poetic or surrealistic, the same criteria may not apply, but it will be harder to produce a good piece with good results for readers.

The space limitation is strict—if your material is over 840 words it may be necessary to print it in reduced-size type, making it difficult for older people, or people with visual problems, or who lack patience, to read it. You should submit the material electronically (by e-mail or floppy disk) with suggestions for layout, or negotiate with *Dispatch* editor. It will be inserted within the page border and under The Indy Page headline (with brief identifying information on the editor—please submit such information).

BCAD's address is <DLewit@igc.org> c/o Dave Lewit, 271 Dartmouth St. 2H, Boston MA 02116. Phone 617 266 8687

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—We need more editorial board members and reporters!—

Or try editing the **Indy Page** (guidelines on page 8).

Visit the Alliance web site: www.TheAllianceForDemocracy.org