new indicator

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"Of course the fee increase will be covered by financial aid..."

"Vote yes," they told us. "You won't actually have to pay more when we raise the fees because it'll all be covered by financial aid anyway." And when those who were campaigning against the Price Center fee increase talked to the State Legislature Committee on Higher Education and were told that there was no way to guarantee that there would be enough money in the state budget, the students were called liars.

I'm sure we all wanted to believe that the yes campaign was right; that the fee increase would be covered by our grants instead of coming out of our pockets. I believed the state legislature, but hoped that it would never become an issue. I hoped that there would be plenty of financial aid money and that the yes campaign wouldn't be proved wrong.

Of course, thanks to our new governor's economic brilliance (ever notice how, despite imposing fiscal austerity programs on the developing world, the federal government would never try one here because they know they don't work?), our fees are going up and our financial aid is going down.

The proposal includes a 10-40% fee increase, taking UC-based grants away from about 6,500 families, and significantly reduce CalGrant eligibility. The fee increases would not be covered by Cal-Grants.

Vince DeAnda, director of Financial Aid, despite insisting that the entire amount of the Price Center fee hike would be covered by financial aid, was quoted in the January 15th Guardian justifying the financial aid cuts, saying that "it's simple math, The pie

is going to have to get sliced thinner," and that "there's a budget problem and something has to give."

So what's the moral of the story? What can we learn from this? Primarily, we now know that the State Legislature was right about financial aid. Whether or not we keep our CalGrants and whether or not they cover fee increases depends on the state budget, not on the ballot-box promises of UCAB or any other administrative department. This means that in five years, when they want to raise fees to build a third Price Center next to the second one, when they tell you that fees won't actually go up from the fee increase, that it'll all be covered by your financial aid, you'll know the truth.

Another lesson, at least

continued on page 2

in case you forgot:

561 US DEAD 99 COALITION DEAD 2,621 US WOUNDED' 8245 to 10089 **IRAQI CIVILIANS DEAD** 4895 to 6370 **IRAQI MILITARY DEAD**

Bolivia, 3 months later

After ex-President Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada was forced from power by a popular uprising last October, Bolivia has disappeared from the U.S. media. The uprising and subsequent fall of the Sánchez de Lozada regieme got a few articles last October, much more than the poorest country in South America could ordinarily hope for, but aside from that Bolivia is and has been swept neatly out of

So why the lack of information? Are the issues resolved? Is Bolivia now a happy little country, unified under Carlos Mesa? And what about that 90-day deadline that opposition leader Felipe Quispe gave Mesa to address a long list of issues.

First off, Mesa is not addressing the vast majority of the problems raised during the uprising. He is refusing to meet with members of civil society or opposition leaders, and his policies are decidedly anti-popular, raising taxes for the poorest unsalaried workers, eliminating the cooking gas subsidies for the poorest families and raising the price of fuel. Xavier Nogales, Minister of Economic Development described the economic measures, saying that they will cost the people

"blood, sweat and tears".

Union leaders and community organizers are calling on workers to organize to prevent the application of these measures. A popular mobilization prevented Sánchez de Lozada from implementing similar measures, including the tax increase for the poorest non-salaried workers, in February, 2003.

Jamie Solares, head of the Bolivian Workers' Center, called upon workers to prepare "strikes, bloquades and other types of measures which paralize the means of production of the country to fight against the government which only obeys the economic prescriptions of the U.S.". He also called upon the campesino sector to join forces with the workers with the objective of taking the reins of the state so that the people can govern.

Workers and campesinos are planning and organizing a "third rebellion against neoliberalism", and continue insisting on a new Constitution, to be written by a popular constitutional assembly. They also continue to demand the repeal of three laws - one regarding the exportation of natural gas, one regarding the free market, and one regarding pensions, but Mesa is turning a deaf ear to the people.



October were to change the economic model and to repeal the law of exportation of natural gas," said Roberto de la Cruz, leader of the Workers' Center of El Alto (a neighborhood on the outskirts of La Paz where most of the confrontations were centered last October). "but unfortunately Carlos Mesa is exactly the continuation of Sánchez de Lozada"

José Luis Alvarez, a community leader in La Paz, expressed similar sentiments. "In Bolivia, it is the U.S. Ambassador who governs. We do not have a soveirgn government which could resolve our problems. Mesa has continued with the policies and messages of the previous presidents, in the sense that he continues demanding sacrifices

"The mobilizations in from the workers so that the transnational corporations can continue getting rich at the cost of our misery. Carlos Mesa has one thing right when he says that the capitalist state has broken; unless he changes the neoliberal policies, we are going to continue starving."

> The 90 day deadline that Quispe gave Mesa expired last week, on 20 January, and on 25 January, Quispe, along with de la Cruz signed on to the Bolivian Workers' Center's call for moblization, and announced that they are preparing a general strike and roadblocks in order to close the parliament force the Mesa government to yield. The mobilization will take place within 20 days unless the government

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Corporate Crimes of BAE Systems



footnotes from above:

- 1. http://www.dod.mil/releases/archive.html by ray of cryptome.org
- 2. http://lunaville.org/ warcasualties/Summary.asp
- 3. http://www.iraqbodycount.net/bodycount.htm
- mulusIntl/reuters 11-15-062449.asp iink tank" estimates. no accurate figures exist

page 3

Looking out for Our Water

Here's a challenge for all of that all of us are in favor of can only survive about three on the shore while the waves days without water. Chances lap your feet isn't very romanare you'll smell too. Not just tic with plastic bags and old because you're dead, but be- shoelaces getting tangled in cause you won't be able to between your toes. As for tap take a bath for a week. Water is water, not only is it a struggle our most important resource to choke down, it isn't safe to and we use it constantly, not drink anymore. All sorts of just for drinking but for every- chemicals run abound in our thing from keeping our lawns drinking water, from chrobeautiful to giving us a nice mium-6 (the cancer causing cool place to swim on a hot agent that Erin Brokovich summer afternoon. Without fought against) to sodium water, there would be no life perchlorate, which is a form on earth.

and are aware of its impor- tant part of a balanced diet. In tance it should be no stretch fact, too much of it will cause of the imagination to assume thyroid problems.

you'll be dead (actually don't out avoiding broken bottles, try and go for a week with- cans and used tissues strewn out water). The human body in the sand. Sitting barefoot of rocket fuel. It's doubtful Since we all need water that rocket fuel is an impor-

The fact that our water you, try to go for one week clean water. Yet, try to take is not being taken care of is without water. Chances are a stroll on the beach with- outrageous, yet there is not enough outrage about it. Our government certainly isn't helping us very much. Last year the Bush administration unsuccesfully attempted to cut back Clean Water Act protections which would have left a huge chunk of waterways in the western United States susceptible to development and pollution. Here in our own backyard; most of you who have been to Mission Bay may recall that it doesn't smell very clean. Not surprisingly then, Mission Bay is the second dirtiest body of water in all of California. It is a shame that this has been allowed to hap- the importance of keeping pen in such a beautiful place.

ego, there are many groups dedicated to monitoring our water, looking out for it, and making sure that innocent people plants and animals don't suffer because of factory pollution and human carelessness. Organizations such as San Diego BayKeeper and the San Diego chapter of the SurfRider Foundation work tirelessly to make sure our water is safe and clean. At UCSD, CalPIRG also continuously works to keep our waterways clean. CalPIRG's Water Watch campaign organizes many beach cleanups each quarter. Along with other CalPIRGs throughout the state, it fights and petitions for safe drinking water legislation, and works to educate students from grade school through college about our water clean. It's a tough What can we do about our fight, but a fight that must be water, then? Here in San Di- won. Our lives are at stake.

new indicator

new indicator collective La Jolla, CA 92093

Zapatista village attacked & burned by Mexican Army

The Mexican Army attacked take place in the context of were also forced from their Nuevo San Rafael, a Zapatista the Free Trade Area of the land last week, and The Secautonomous community in Americas and Plan Puebla retary of Government of Chithe Montes Azules of Chiapas, Panama. In addition to Zap- apas, Rubén Velázquez López, on either the 19th or 22nd of atista communites, the Mon-January (reports vary), burn- tes Azules are home to many throught Chiapas. The goving 23 homes to the ground natural resources, providing a ernment is threatening 110 and evicting the entire villiage. The army is preventing ernment and multinational reporters and human rights corporations to attack and observers from entering the evict the residents, both to area, and indigenous organizers have been arrested and imprisoned in Ocosingo. The to drive the campesinos from villiage is still occupied by police and military.

The evictions and attacks

strong incentives for the govexploit the biodiversity and

promises more evictions more evictions just in Montes Azules.

"A shadow of death is being raised in the heart of our near the Guatemalan border dream and to evict our indig- the Montes Azules.

are not going to permit eviction, nor the relocation of our land, of our mother, of our defend them with everything hydroelectric potential, and forest. A cloud of soldiers, we have in our hands," deparamilitaries, plans and clared the Zapatista autonotheir land into the sweat- projects is coming once again mous municipality of Ricardo shops. Hundreds of peasants to threaten us, to rob us of our Flores Magon, also located in

Fees & Aid: continued from page 1

another lesson that I learned from all of this, is the importance of institutional history, which is why I'm writing this right now instead of studying for my midterms. From the documents that still exist from previous fee increases, being asked to vote on refer- tion, was what actually hap- raising our fees, you can use we knew that the administra- enda for self-assesed student pened. There was nothing our experience, you can say tion had promised before that fees, the letter states, "many about if the fee was actually that not only do their promthe fee increases would be students are being told that covered for anyone, and my ises contradict what the State covered by financial aid. We the pool of financial aid funds friends who were students Legislature says, but also that knew that the State Legislature will increase to cover the pro- at the time don't remember the last time they built an ex-Committee on Higher Educa- posed fee increases. In virtution had gotten involved in ally every case, this is patently 1990, sending letters to all UC false." The letter explains ticle in 2004, you can stick out

and CSU student government that the amount of financial your tounge at Justin Williams leaders in response to prom- aid available depends on the and say "I told you so!", you ises made during the RIMAC amount of money available, can get another job to make Fee Referendum. The letters and that there were no plans up for losing your CalGrant, stated that "There appears to to increase the available fi- and you can pass this inforbe a great deal of misinforma- nancial aid in response to the mation along to those who tion...regarding the impact of fee referenda that had been come after us. But if you're proposed increases of campus passed. The critical piece of reading this 5 or 6 or 7 years student fees on financial aid information that was missing, down the line when they're resources." As students were however, in the documentawhat happened.

So if you're reading this ar-

tra Price Center, they cut our financial aid after promising

Bolivia:

continued from page 1

gives very clear signals that it is modifying radically its neoliberal model, renationalizing the gas and petroleum, raising the salaries of the workers, and stopping its harsh economic measures against the people.

Meanwhile, the issue of Bolivian access to the ocean continues generating inter- several months ago.

national attention. Kofi Anall announced their support for returning at least part of Bolivia's coastline to the nowlandlocked country. Mesa has been meeting with various including Peru's Alejandro Toledo, about the issue, and it was a prominent theme at the meeting of all American presidents in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, dor from Caracas.

Chilean president Ricardo ezuelan President Hugo ing to negotiate, and Chile is to return even a little bit of the coastline they stole from Bolivia in the War of the Pacific. port for a Bolivian coast led of the people. Chile to recall their ambassa-

Perhaps within a month or

two, we'll see an article in the nan, the Vatican, and Ven- Lagos is not the least bit will- U.S. press saying that dozens Chávez, among others, have insiting that there is no reason stepped down. Perhaps we'll see an article about who J. Lo is dating now or about how Bush is such a great presi-Diplomatic relations between dent that he deserves another Chile and Bolivia are current-term, while people are dying South American presidents, ly suspended, as are relations on the altiplano, struggling for between Chile and Venezuela, a soveirgn nation and a presiafter Chávez' outspoken sup- dent who acts in the interests

more have died, or that Mesa

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craft from BAE SYSTEMS at a cost of £5 billion.[56] It is also looking to purchase additional submarines and attack fighters. This is disgraceful considering that the country cannot afford decent healthcare or housing for its citizens. This, however, is not a consideration for BAE, which will sell to any customer which has the sales flew in the face of the the money.

Tanzania

Another case of BAE selling an expensive product to a country unable even to feed its own citizens came to light at the end of 2001, as the Labour Government approved the £28 million sale of a military air traffic control system to Tanzania. The country has an average per capita income of only £200, and the government of Tanzania has had to take out a hefty loan from Barclays to finance the deal. In an indication of the utter unsuitability of the deal, even the World Bank and the IMF refused to fund it, stating that they saw the system as a white elephant which would do nothing to benefit the country, and the Department for International Development rejected the deal on similar grounds before they were over-ruled by the Cabinet and Prime Minister. As Julian Forsyth, Oxfam's head of policy, pointed out, the deal also makes a mockery of the Government's supposed commitment to African debt relief. As he put it. 'It is outrageous that Tanzania's debt relief will go towards bolstering the profits of BAE and Barclays bank, rather than helping the poor people of Tanzania.'[57]

India

In 2001, BAE SYSTEMS found itself involved in the 'Hinduja scandal' that prompted the resignation of Peter Mandelson. A former advisoer to the the Foreign Office had wanted kill people. Having capital far Indian government claimed to stop the export of the spare in excess of any other UK en- [45] CAAT (2001) The International that the company had paid a parts but are said to have been large "commission" to the Indian tycoons to fix a £1bn arms deal with the Indian Air Force for 66 Hawk jets. The ensuing a very close relationship (see controversy resulted in the resignation of India's defence minister, George Fernandes, who also stood accused of manipulating procurement of behaviour became too outrathe Hawks. Despite this embarassing setback, BAE continued to aggressively pursue the £1bn deal. This was at a time when India's dispute In 2000, the Sunday Times rewith Pakistan over Kasmir threatened to turn into a (potentially nuclear) war, which would futher destabalise the ment to Qatar, which Qatar entire region. Furthermore, intended to gift in full to Alwhilst Tony Blair was express- geria. The information was ing hope that the UK "could a calming influence" in the re- by a Qatari officer, and the gion, Geoff Hoon, the defence DTI confirmed that 'it had secretary, was pressing the received the purchase order Indian Government to make a and it was being considered.'

India itself, with the UK be- cord.[63] ing accused of "fleecing India over Hawks." [58]

According to The Guardian, the British government has recently admitted that British jets sold to India could be adapted to carry nuclear weapons or used to train pilots to fly nuclear-capable aircraft. The admission prompted angry reactions by MPs who said government's commitment to sustainable development, its guidelines covering arms exports, and its pledge not to encourage nuclear proliferation.[59]

BAE SYSTEMS has already sold Jaguar combat aircraft to India in licensing deals which the Ministry of Defence the original plan being to split (MoD) refuses to disclose.[60] Besides breach of contract, 'client confidentiality' is the explanation that's always trotted out to justify the obscurity within which the British Government is allowed to sponsor and subsidise gun-running, a BBC correspondent investigating the world of arms exports explains.[61] With regard to the Jaguar jet deal with India, junior defence minister Lewis Moonie told Tory MP Baldry that information about the end use in the Jaguar licensing deal, and the number Moving into the of Jaguars involved in the deal. was confidential. Baldry said the deals were not consistent with the government's pub-BAE SYSTEMS has developed its PR machine far in advance licly stated concern about the impact of arms sales on susof the traditional careers fair

Zimbabwe

BAE SYSTEMS was happy to provide spare parts to keep Robert Mugabe's ageing Hawk jets in operation in Zimbabwe, which were obviously being used to sustain Mugabe's operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Significantly, over-ruled by the Prime Minister, with whom Sir Richard Evans (Chairman of BAE) has section on Influence/Lobbying). BAE only stopped supplying spare-parts to Mugabe in mid-2000, when Mugabe's geous to ignore.

tainable development. "What

the Indian government would

spend on Hawk jets amounts

to a decade of UK bilateral de-

velopment aid," he said.[62]

Qatar/Algeria

ported that BAE had made an application to export £5 million worth of military equipleaked to the Sunday Times

quick decision on the Hawks. Algeria has an ongoing con-The proposed deal has faced flict with Islamic groups and harsh criticism from within an infamous human rights re-

As the world's largest arms

manufacturer, and owner of

a large majority of the UK's

Pressure on the Government and MPs

ship-building industry, BAE is able to exert a massive amount of pressure on the Ministry of Defence. It has a history of threatening the Government with relocation and withholding of investment if it does not get the contracts that it desires. For example, in 2001 the company put pressure on the MoD to assign all 12 of the new Type 45 Destroyers to BAE, despite their manufacture between Vosper Thornycroft and BAE SYSTEMS. It threatened that if it didn't get the contract in its entirety it would scrap its planned investment of £150 million at Scotstoun on the Clyde, and effectively pull out of shipbuilding altogether, crippling the British manufacturing sector. [64]

BAE also boast close links to Tony Blair and the Government (see section on Influ ence/Lobbying).

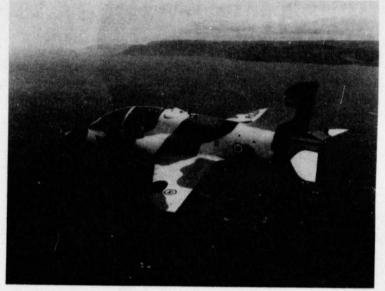
educational sector

stall and occasional brochure. It has formed partnerships with a number of universities in the UK. It also sends many of its young engineers back into secondary schools to extol the benefits of a career with BAE. In addition, the company have sponsored various events and 'educational' displays, such as the Mind Zone in the Millennium Dome, further linking its name with scientific and engineering excellence, and avoiding its real business of manufacturing weapons to gineering firm (partly because of its size, and partly because of its massive reserves from the Al-Yamamah deal) it offers extremely rewarding packages to the best UK engineering students, ensuring that the arms industry continues to leech off the most promising talents in the sector. (See also Influence/Lobbying)

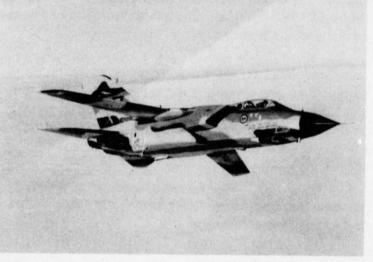
The previous article is an excerpt from a CorporateWatch

Read the full report at: corporatewatch.org.uk/ profiles/bae/bae1.htm

More info on BAE Systems is availible in CAAT's "Alternative Report 2002" at: http://www.caat.org.uk/ campaigns/clean-investmentcampaign/BAES2002.pdf



A BAE Systems Hawk aircraft used by the Royal Saudi Air Force



BAE Systems Tornado aircraft used by the Royal Saudi Air Force

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[2]'BAE SYSTEMS - Overview', BAE website: http://www.baesystems. com/overview/overview.htm accessed 27/4/02 [3] CAAT (2002) BAE SYSTEMS Alternative Report 2002, website

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Special reports, Guardian website http://www.guardian.co.uk/indonesia/Story/0,2763,200783,00.html, accessed 10/5/02 [46] The Guardian (1999)Robin Cook

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html, accessed 10/5/02 [51] Cooper, N. (2000) Minutes of Evidence, Select Committee on Defence. House of Commons website http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm199899/ cmselect/cmdfence/541/9110314 htm, accessed 10/5/02 [52] Wrigley, C. (2000) BAE SYSTEMS Alternative Report 2000, CAAT

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nia/story/0.11441.623358.00.html accessed 10/5/02 [58] CAAT (2002) BAE SYSTEMS AIternative Report 2002, CAAT website http://www.caat.org.uk/companies/ BAES2002.pdf, accessed 10/5/02 [59] Norton-Taylor, R. (2002) British plane sales to India raise fears o nuclear use, The Guardian website, 23/4/02, http://www.guardian.co.uk/

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kashmir/Story/0,2763,688932,00. html, accessed 10/5/02 [63] Colvin, M. (2000) Britain plans Algerian arms deal despite ethical policy, Times Newspapers, 16/7/00, Algeria Watch (Germany) webpage: http://www.algeria-watch.de/farticle/britainarms.htm, accessed

[64] Bannister, N. (2001) BAE threatens to pull out of warship work, 2/3/01. The Guardian website http://www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/ Article/0,4273,4144885,00.html, ac-

Nepali Maoist Timeline November 2003-February 2004

As covered previously in the new indicator, there is a Maoist rebellion in Nepal, which is now entering its ninth year. This conflict gets little coverage in the media in this country, and only a little more elsewhere.

The current Maoist party comes out of a series of divisions and splits within the left wing of Nepali politics, the most important of which concerns the use of violence as an acceptable tactic for achieving political change. In 1995, the Maoists issued a list of 40 demands (see next page) to the monarchical government, regarding issues of land too high." management, national security and democracy within Nepal. The official Maoist party was quite weak at this time and the government rejected the idea of abolishing the monarchy. Soon after, the Maoists began querilla attacks on government facilities, police, and army units.

Today the Maoists control substantial areas of Nepal. though they are severely outnumbered by the army. An eight-month cease-fire broke down in August of 2003. Since then over 1500 people have died in the fighting.

Most of the terms in the following timeline are districts within Nepal (see map), others, such as Bheri or Karnali are larger regions incorporating several districts. Some important acronyms:

Rebel spokesman's reply: Govern

ment is propagating baseless

Maoist rebels urge anti-king

move. Rebel leader has called on

Nepal's political parties to join

the rebels to form an anti-mon-

Makwanpur: High ranking officer

killed in an ambush led by Mao-

ist movement

archy alliance.

Novembe. 22 2003

ist rebels

November 15 2003

and fake news against the Mao-

UML = Unified Marxist-Leninist (political party) RNA = Royal Nepal Army

CPN-M = Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)

November 2003

November 01 2003

US freezes Nepal Maoist assets

1,000 dead in 60 days in Nepal

November 08 2003

U.S. Embassy warned Americans of possible Maoist attacks

Army statement: 900 Maoists killed in operations following the breakdown of peace talks in August

UML leader had a meeting with the Maoist leader Prachanda in Lucknow, India

Ministry of Defence has proposed to enlist over 8,000 more recruits into the Royal Nepal Army

November 26 2003

Nepali Times: Landmines have emerged as a major threat to

British ambassador to Nepal: "The cost of trying to force the Maoists back to the negotiating table through military means is

November 29 2003

Interpol: Nepal demand Interpol arrest warrants to arrest Maoist rebel leaders

Bheri and Karnali zones: Maoists' indefinite strike affects students

December 2003

December 03 2003

Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR). Nepal urged to disband counter insurgency Village Defence Forces

December 06 2003

"A Kingdom Under Siege": New book on Maoist insurgency published (ISBN 99933 59 07 6)

December 10 2003

Maoists set ablaze bus ferrying pilgrims on the Pasang Lhamu Highway at Madanpur in Nuwa-

Sindhupalchowk: Vehicular movement on the Melamchi road came to a standstill due to Maoist threats

Indian police: Nepal-bound Maoists arrested near Nepali border

CPN-UML to continue dialogue with Maoists and King

December 14 2003

Indian Police: Maoist rebels are entering India's Uttar Pradesh state for medical treatment and to take shelter.

Maoist leader Baburam Bhattarai offers new deal proposing elections for a constituent assembly supervised by a UN-type security

Rolpa: RNA began an active search operation for Maoist's FM radio station bases. Maoist FM stations broadcasting 'Republic Radio Nepal'.

Eastern Nepal: Clashes continue

The Maoist-called general strike in the Terai belt paralysed life in most of the southern districts

December 19 2003

December 16 2003

RNA has admitted to using "excessive force" in its fight against Maoist rebels and has pledged to avoid human rights abuses.

Interpol's Red Notices: Indian police on trail of Maoist leaders in border villages of the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh

RNA: 287 security personnel killed in four months » Radio Nepal: Government appeals asking Maoists, friends and relatives to surrender and benefit from a general amnesty before February 12, 2004

Maoists: Government offer for surrender a new tactic

January 2004

January 01 2004

Clashes continue in different parts of the country

Chitwan: Maoist loot bank

U.S. Embassy warned Americans of possible Maoist attacks once

January 03 2004

WFP,GTZ urge Maoists to return looted rice: WFP and GTZ have condemned the looting of rice by Maoists. The rice belonged to the community working groups of the Rural Community Infrastructure Works in Bajura

Mechi and Koshi zones: A strike called by ANNISU, the student wing of Maoist rebels, Saturday brought life to a standstill

Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA): Maoist leader Ram Bahadur Thapa has bank account(s) in Singapore

January 09 2004

Maoist chief Prachanda: Royal audience a tactic to split parties. Maoists have responded to the series of audiences by the King

Gandaki zone: Life affected by Maoist called strike in Pokhara and vicinity. Security personnel have been heavily patrolling Pokhara, Tanahu and Syangia

January 11 2004

Ramechhap: Maoists banned im-

port of rice to create a problem

for a army camp. Beginning ofan

Rolpa: Joint Revolutionary Coun-

cil at Thawang village of Rolpa

have declared an "autonomous

India: Indian police has arrested

three Indian gunrunners supply-

ing the Maoists with weapons

Nepal Supreme Court: Geneva

region of Magarat"

acute shortage of rice-grain in

this area.

January 17 2004 Achham, Kalikot and Bajura: Maoists to hold elections in the Birgunj: Suspected Maoists shot Maoist-controlled heartland of dead the Mayor of Birgunj mid-western Nepal in January

> Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council: DGHC's chairman said: "King should impose emergency without any delay and head towards forming a new constitution."

months.

Maoist top leader Prachanda: Maoists for constituent assembly under UN supervision

new indicator

Convention not applicable to the

Surkhet: Maoists are ready to

brigade commander of Bheri-

Karnali division surrendered

to the local administration

to meet Maoist rebels along

their trekking routes in recent

together with a company com-

mander of Seti-Mahakali division

Travel agents: Significant rise in

the number of trekkers who want

join hands with foreign States-

Maoist conflict

development.

January 13 2004

RNA: 1500 died in post-ceasefire break period. 1200 of them were Maoists.

January 21 2004

Jajarkot: The Royal Nepalese Army launched massive air raids. The raid was targeted at a mass meeting of the militants at China Kadam bordering Salma and Junga Thapachaur VDCs in this district.

January 24 2004

Maoist senior leader Krishna Bahadur Mahara: CPN Maoist was ready to accept monarchy if King was ready to leave his leadership in the army.

Maoist senior leader Krishna Bahadur Mahara: CPN Maoist was ready for talks, but government must be clear on its agenda regarding the talks. Maoists have 80 percent of the total territory in Nepal under its control.

January 28 2004

Nepalgunj: Maoist declared local bandh (closing day) against the felicitation of the king

February 2004

February 02 2004

The government will soon formulate a Defense policy to clarify Nepal's position towards signing

Nepali Maoists during weapons training; since the end of the

cease-fire, over

1500 people

have been killed

the international Ottawa Treaty that bans landmines

European Union (EU) ambassadors to Nepal urge Nepal to reach new ceasefire with Maoists

with the exception of the US February 04 2004 and the UK-if the donors are ready to cooperate with their Amnesty International: Governlocal government in the field of ment and international community should to take urgent measures to prevent the country Royal Nepal Army statement: A from sliding towards a human

> Students step up protests to fight for a republican state

rights catastrophe

Maoist top leader Prachanda: Maoist CPN-M welcoming calls for peace. Party the party would accept United Nations media-

February 06 2004

Parsa: RNA attacked Maoist meeting. Maoists suffered high dead toll.

Anniversary of Maoist rebellion: Authorities fear the rebels may step up violence Kathmandu. Kathmandu Municipality banned motor-cycle riders and pillion passengers from using visored helmets and dust masks

February 07 2004

Karnali zone: DDCs are displaying an interest in working with the rebels. It would be better to involve the Maoists in development activities since there is no other way to function.

Nepal Maoist Victim Association threatend by Maoists. Maoist rebels have accused the association of spying on the Maoists.

Nepal Maoist Victim Association threatend by Maoists. Maoist rebels have accused the association of spying on the Maoists.

February 10 2004

Nepali Congress President G. P. Koirala would not have any objections if the UN came forward to mediate peace negotiations between Nepali government and Maoist rebels.

The security forces have tightened security and are on high alert in the capital prior to the Maoists' ninth anniversary of the peoples' war in Nepal.

Maoist rebels have increased attacks in various regions across the country prior to their anniversary.

February 13 2004

February 13 marks the ninth anniversary of the Maoists' "People's War"

Maoist demands to the Nepali Government

I. DEMANDS RELATED TO NATIONALISM:

- 1) Regarding the 1950 Treaty between India and Nepal, all unequal stipulations and agreements should be removed.
- 2) HMG should admit that the anti-nationalist Tanakpur agreement was wrong, and the Mahakali Treaty, incorporating same, should be
- 3) The entire Nepal-Indian border should be controlled and systematized. Cars with Indian number plates, which are plying the roads of Nepal, should not be allowed.
- 4) Gorkha recruiting centers should be closed and decent jobs should be arranged for the
- 5) In several areas of Nepal, where foreign technicians are given precedence over Nepali technicians for certain local jobs, a system of work permits should be instituted for the foreigners.
- 6) The monopoly of foreign capital in Nepal's industry, trade and economic sector should be
- 7) Sufficient income should be generated from customs duties for the country's; economic
- 8) The cultural pollution of imperialists and expansionists should be stopped. Hindi video, cinema, and all kinds of such news papers and magazines should be completely stopped. Inside Nepal, import and distribution of vulgar Hindi films, video cassettes and magazines should be stopped.
- 9) Regarding NGOs and INGOs: Bribing by imperialists and expansionists in the name of NGOs and INGOs should be stopped.

II. DEMANDS RELATED TO THE PUBLIC AND ITS WELL-BEING

- 10) A new Constitution has to be drafted by the people's elected representatives.
- 11) All the special rights and privileges of the King and his family should be ended.
- 12) Army, police and administration should be under the people's control.
- 13) The Security Act and all other repressive acts should be abolished.
- 14) All the false charges against the people of Rukum, Rolpa, Jajarkot, Gorkha, Kavre, Sindh uphalchowk, Sindhuli, Dhanusha and Ramechap should be withdrawn and all the people falsely charged should be released.
- 15) Armed police operations in the different districts should immediately be stopped.
- 16) Regarding Dilip Chaudhary, Bhuvan Thapa Magar, Prabhakar Subedi and other people who disappeared from police custody at different times, the government should constitute a special investigating committee to look into these crimes and the culprits should be punished and appropriate compensation given to their families.
- 17) People who died during the time of the movement, should be declared as martyrs and their families, and those who have been wounded and disabled should be given proper compensation. Strong action should be taken against the killers.
- 18) Nepal should be declared a secular state.
- 19) Girls should be given equal property rights to those of their brothers.
- 20) All kinds of exploitation and prejudice based on caste should be ended. In areas having a majority of one ethnic group, that group should have autonomy over that area.

- 21) The status of dalits as untouchables should be ended and the system of untouchability should be ended once and for all.
- 22) All languages should be given equal status. Up until middle-high school level (ucchamadyamic) arrangements should be made for education to be given in the children's mother
- 23) There should be guarantee of free speech and free press. The communications media should be completely autonomous.
- 24) Intellectuals, historians, artists and academicians engaged in other cultural activities should be guaranteed intellectual freedom.
- 25) In both the terai and hilly regions there is prejudice and misunderstanding in backward areas. This should be ended and the backward areas should be assisted. Good relations should be established between the villages and the
- 26) Decentralization in real terms should be applied to local areas which should have local rights, autonomy and control over their own

III DEMANDS RELATED TO THE PEOPLE'S

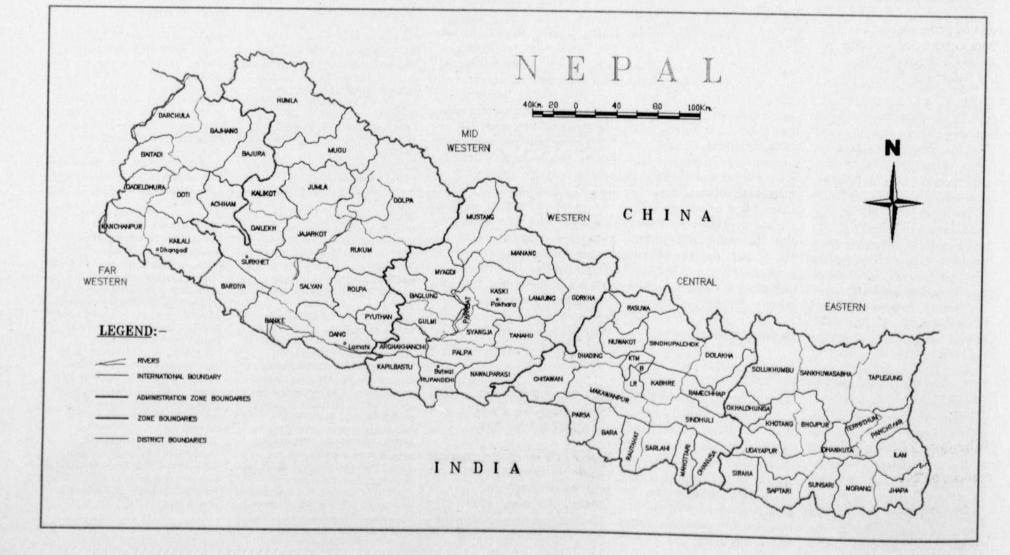
- 27) Those who cultivates the land should own it. (The tiller should have right to the soil he/she tills.) The land of rich landlords should be confiscated and distributed to the homeless and others who have no land.
- 28) Brokers and commission agents should have their property confiscated and that money should be invested in industry.
- 29) All should be guaranteed work and should be given a stipend until jobs are found for
- 30) HMG should pass strong laws ensuring that people involved in industry and agriculture should receive minimum wages.
- 31) The homeless should be given suitable accommodation. Until HMG can provide such accommodation they should not be removed from where they are squatting.
- from debt. Loans from the Agricultural Development Bank by poor farmers should be completely written off. Small industries should be given loans.

32) Poor farmers should be completely freed

- 33) Fertilizer and seeds should be easily and cheaply available, and the farmers should be given a proper market price for their produc-
- 34) Flood and draught victims should be given
- 35) All should be given free and scientific medi-cal service and education and education for profit (private schools?) should be completely
- 36) Inflation should be controlled and laborers salaries should be raised in direct ratio with the rise in prices. Daily essential goods should be made cheap and easily available.
- ing water, good roads, and electricity in the 38) Cottage and other small industries should

37) Arrangements should be made for drink-

- be granted special facilities and protection. 39) Corruption, black marketing, smuggling, bribing, the taking of commissions, etc. should
- 40) Orphans, the disabled, the elderly and children should be given help and protection.



Daily Life in Colombia

population, from the guerrillas,

the army or the paramilitaries

are grave violations of Interna-

tional Humanitarian Law and

international norms of human

This act is attributed to the

FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revo-

Letters from leaders of the de-

partment of Arauca in La Picota

and Buen Pastor in Bogota, de-

nounce the arbitrary detentions

and abuses by the XVIII Brigade

of the army, the National Police,

and the paramilitaries against

all social and community orga-

October 1, VALLE DEL CAUCA

Social organizations in the Cau-

ca Valley Department denounce

that on Sunday September 28

between 6 and 8 a.m. members

of the III Brigade, the GAULA

(an army special group), the Po-

lice and the Attorney General's

office in a discriminative and

arbitrary way detained 60 per-

sons in the municipality of Da-

gua, in its hamlet Queremal*.

Among the detainees were citi-

taken immediately to the city of

labeled members and collabo-

who belong to the union. On

does not generate trust, the or- of food crops.

lucionarias de Colombia)

October 1st ARAUCA

by Cecilia Zarate

I have selected some samples about daily life in Colombia in order to convey to you what a low intensity war means. The sources of these reports are Colombian human rights NGO's. AUC means Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia and is the name of the feared paramilitary umbrella group.

At the end, there is a list of Colombian authorities to write to. Pick cases from the selected list and write to them. Most importantly, write to your Representatives and Senators in Congress and ask them to vote against military aid to Colombia and to stop the coca crop spraying.

August 20, CUNDINAMARCA

On August 20, 2003 at 2 p.m. in the town of Soacha, near Bogota, two men dressed in leather jackets with cellular phones were watching carefully a place with electronic games filled with children and young people. At 6 p.m. a man came to that place and announced to the group that a cleansing operation would take place. Between 8 and 9 p.m. 7 men wearing masks and using pistols and mini uzis started shooting at the children and youths, killing Oscar Sanchez, 13; Andres Salazar, 16; Fabio Bayona, 16; and the brothers Henry Gonzalez ,22 and Hernan Gonzalez, 19. After the massacre the men walked out, threatening the community and shot at a house with the doors open where several young people were together. No one was injured this time.

September 7, CAQUETA

On Sunday September 7 at 6 a.m., when the population of Cartagena del Chaira was getting ready to participate in the market day, they were surprised by a gigantic operation by the army's Larandia Battalion accompanied by police, zens of the town and peasants the (Administrative Security that had come from the rural Department) DAS agents, repareas to sell their products at resentatives of the the Attorney the market. The detainees were General's office and by masked persons, probably informants Cali and were shown on T.V. and or guerrilla deserters. These government officers took all rators of the guerrilla, without the inhabitants and peasants investigation. coming from the countryside to the military base and selected 3 persons: Victor Romore than 40 people have been drigo Oime, an agrarian leader, Manuel Moreno a former city in this community since the council member; and Carlos Arnulfo Meneses from the local community radio station. They October 2, SANTANDER were taken to Florencia, the capital of Caqueta, and accused The members of the Union of being guerrilla collaborators. Syndical Obrera (USO) union The others were detained with from the oil industry in the city no clothes or food allowed to be of Barrancabermeja are sufferdelivered to them. The army ising serious physical and psysued a press release stating that chological problems due to the they had detained 87 urban militiamen of the 14 Front of the or re-socialize" that is imposed FARC who help terrorists. on the workers of the refinery

September 12, BOYACA

Amnesty International condemned the use of a horse as a bomb in the town of Chita, Boyaca. Eight persons were killed among them a 2 year old boy, and more than 20 were injured. Attacks against the civilian

ganization has decided to give you the opportunity to improve your behavior at work". Several workers have attempted suicide and others have been hospitalized since this attitude stigmatizes them and their families as "conflictive workers". They can not come to their places of work until they take the course.

October 2, VALLE DEL CAUCA

More death threats have been made against the human rights the city of Cali. Besides being a guerrilla. human rights activist, she represents the citizens watch in the municipality of Jamundi. She has denounced serious charges of corruption at the Municipal Utility Company in Cali, Jamundi, and other towns which have generated investigations and corruption charges against public employees. She has denounced also the deaths, disappearance and displacement of many persons in the area. On September 29, 2000 a man shot at her after a meeting of public services users in Jamundi. She left the town temporarily. year men followed her in differgreen Toyota car followed her, called her by her name and simultaneously opened the four doors and got out of the car trying to get her, but she escaped. On Monday September 10 a red Mitsubishi with Cali license number CFW-718 with dark windows followed her for several hours. She receives anonymous calls at her cellular phone and in the last week of July a woman pretending to be crazy, stayed for a month and a half on the sidewalk near her home, making calls from a telephone zations and their leaders." she carried in a small bag.

October 7, ARAUCA

On September 17, fumigations ident of the OZIP (Organizacion which are spraying of coca Zonal Indigena del Putumayo) crops, started in Arauca as part was detained in the city of Moof an army operation called "Red Moon". The fumigations affect grazing land in a cattle and peasants, accused of being Several more young persons raising region. The pastures members of the FARC. Ironi- have been prevented from become dry. Rivers, lakes and cally some months ago Arcadio committing suicide by their *It is important to know that marshes are contaminated, af- was wrongly accused by the fecting water for people, fish FARC of being an informant for assassinated by paramilitaries and animals. Fishing by peas- the army. Dangerously and in a According to OREWA (Consejo ants and indigenous communities is damaged by the poison- dia tied OZIP to the insurgency. Organizacion Regional Embera ing of the water. Air is affected OZIP was founded 17 years ago and people suffer from respira- and represents 12 indigenous tory diseases, headaches, red eyes and skin allergies. Animals and plants, but mainly microorganisms that maintain and preserve the surface, affect the Araucan ecosystem, because they fumigate indiscriminately program "to improve behavior against all the crops without respecting food, persons, homes and animals. Fumigations must be suspended immedi-June 16 the unionized workers ately, because they are causing received a letter from ECOPET- immense ecological, social and ROL (Empresa Colombiana de humanitarian damages. The Octubre 8, BOGOTA Petroleos), the privatized Co- government is not justified in

October 7, ARAUCA

On October 5, the Colombian army entered the hamlets of Botalon and Puente Tabla in the municipality of Tame in Arauca, and started shooting, risking the safety of the population since those locations have gasoline tanks that are not well protected and, if hit by fire, may cause a tragedy. The army also closed the area to start fumigations, even though a government office (UMATA) certified that there are no coca plants in this area. Persons with masks point out peasants from about her union. Several stuactivist Marta Lucia Renteria in the area as collaborators of the dents from the university have

Health workers in the department of Cauca declared: "We will follow our struggle to de- Nine indigenous children have clare health as a fundamental right of the human being and we months of March and Septemwill continue offering our ser- ber of this year: vices to whomever needs them without distinguishing between religion, sex, race or political orientation ... We reject the daily attacks against health workers with the open and shameless CECILIA DOMICO, 13 years old, complicity of the government of Alvaro Uribe Velez through In June, July and August of this its army and police. Our ethical, social and humanitarian KETTY SALAZAR, 15 years old, ent kinds of vehicles with dark activity is interpreted as makwindows. On Friday August 10 ing us enemies of the state and in downtown Cali, 4 men in a as such we are presented to the mass media as "terrorists"... We the health workers in the Cauca years old, from the Embera nadepartment, as in all of Colom- tion, killed himself on Septembia, must provide services un- ber 14 der the guidance of duty and solidarity, to the victims of the ARIEL BAILARIN, 15 years old, armed conflict... We denounce from the Embera nation, killed the arbitrary detention of rural health workers in areas of Cauca and express our disapproval that they are being alluded to as guerrillas by "military intelligence"... They are innocent people who are being criminalized as are all the social organi-

October 8, PUTUMAYO

Arcadio Mutumbajoy, Vice Prescoa along with 18 other men and women) both indigenous superficial way, the mass me- de Autoridades Indigenas de la nations from the Amazon area Tule nations, who inhabit this of Colombia, many of whom have inhabited this part of the who suffer the greatest abuses planet since the beginning of and threats from the illegal time. OZIP strengthens the armed groups who are disputmulticultural nature of Colombia by organizing and governing the 36,000 indigenous people of this territory according to their traditional medicine, languages, handicrafts and sacred

tember 30 at 6:30 p.m. after leaving the National University, where she has worked, since 1994, she stopped a taxi. When she opened the door, she felt pushed and seconds later inside the vehicle she was in the middle of two men who told her to close her eyes and to stay quiet, otherwise they would kill her. They started questioning her about her union activities and told her to leave her union work and not to seek problems. After two hours they left her in the southern part of the city, stealing her cellular phone and diskettes with information received threats from the paramilitary Bloque Capital of the

October 15, CHOCO

committed suicide between the

PATRICIA JUMI, 12 years old, from the Katio nation, hanged herself last March 15

from the Katio nation, hanged herself last April 12

from the Embera nation killed

RICARUTE PUCHICANA, 21

himself on September 15

ILDA NORA DOMICO 21 years

AMPARO VERGARA CASAMA. 23 years old from the Turbo

NELSON SALAZAR was found dead sitting in his hammock. with a hole in his temple and a gun in his hands. That day the Embera nation first used the word suicide, which did not exist in their language nor in the traditions of their grandfathers

Waunaan: "We the Embera, Waunnan, Katio, Chami and area permanently, are the ones ing the territory and who put our lives, already threatened, at serious risk. This risk is particularly great for the indigenous groups inhabiting the head waters of the rivers Jiguamando, Domingodo, Chintado, Quiparado and others. "We hear the crying of the

lombian oil company, stating: their actions - in order to fu- Bessy Pertuz, Vice president cause the wind, the marshes, "given that your behavior at migate 6,500 hectares of coca of the union of employees the sacred areas and our hearts work is not what the organiza- existing in the region, they are and university workers of Co- are full of sorrow from the tion wants and your attitude fumigating 1,232,634 hectares lombia SINTRAUNICOL was crossfire of the violent bullets threatened. On Monday Sep- of the different armed groups

VENEZUELA Antioquia Choco Boyaca Caldas Vichada Tolima Valle Huila Vaupes Caqueta ECUADOR BRASIL Amazonas 1: 8.000.000 in Bugalagrande. Onofre inthat make war in this land. For tatives of the United Nations

this reason and because we feel impotent to stop this war which involves our indigenous communities, we request that you all send messages to the Colombian government, to take whatever means are necessary to stop the warlike actions of the illegal actors which place our existence and the emotional and physical wellbeing of the mentioned communities in serious danger."

new indicator

October 15, CUNDINAMARCA

Arbitrary detention of an undetermined number of peasants, the guerrilla movement. With- Espinal. out any order from a judge, the persons pointed out were taken October 16, SUCRE to Bogota, and their relatives still do not know where they

October 16, VALLE DEL CAUCA

On October 11 at 1:30 p.m. when he went to check at his locker Onofre Esquivel found a piece of paper declaring him and co-workers Alfonso Espinoza, Rogelio Sanchez and Fredy Ocoro "political objectives" because they allegedly oppose formed the supervisor of the plant. Since Onofre and Rogelio are members of the Board of Directors of the union SINAL-TRAINAL (Union for Workers of October 16, BOLIVAR the Food Industry). This shows

October 16, TOLIMA

in Colombia.

once more the threats against

popular leaders and unionists

On October 11 in the morning, unknown persons detained and abducted Eduardo Hernandez Cabrera in a car with dark windows. He was a union leader of the Public Utilities Company tion of the town was forced to was detained in the city of Vilgo to the stadium. A truck ar- lavicencio and taken to the city rived with several masked per- of Ibague. She was a leader of sons who started to point to the agrarian mobilization last several persons as members of September 16 in the town of El

of the union SINDEAGRICUL-TORES (Union of Agricultural tained on October 14 in the town of Coloso. He was transferred to the police station without knowing why he was office, who traveled to the region in order to get to know the situation first hand

A paramilitary group from the

Bloque Central Bolivar of AUC invaded the hamlet of Alto San Juan, in the municipality of San Pablo in the state of Bolivar, at 5 a.m. At 8 a.m.this same group invaded the hamlet of Muriba. According to telephonic information by witnesses, they heard many shots and it is still not known what happened to the population of that area. The initially 50 in the municipality of the town of El Espinal. It is peasant association denounces Kankuamo nation by the AUC. but rather on baseless accusaof Viota on Saturday September not known who took him and that in spite of the negotiations In the last month 6 have been tions of the "military intelli-27. The next day, Sunday Sep- where he is. His sister Rocio with the paramilitaries, human killed. The Kankuamo com- gence" and paid informants. tember 30, the whole popula- del Pilar Hernandez Cabrera rights violations from this group are constant: in the last months digenous communities which paras have come to San Juan, are native to the Sierra Nevada colombiasupport.net causing displacement and killing and disappearing peasants with the passive acquisence of the armed forces.

October 16, SANTANDER

Rudy Robles, General Secretary Three armed paramilitaries arrived in a taxi at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Esperanza Ama-Workers), was arbitrarily de- ris Miranda in the city of Barrancabermeia, threatening their car, in spite of her daughter begging them not to take her. Five minutes later Esperdetained and without a judicial anza was assassinated and her order. Senor Robles on last July body thrown onto the street. As 28 read a report of the situation soon as she was taken, her orof human rights in the region ganization the OFP (Women's the economic and political de- to a verification commission Popular Organization), called velopment of the country at the made up of NGO's, government the army but nobody answered

old and a member of the team de Santa Marta. In 2003 fifty of of leaders of the OFP. She used to sell lottery tickets and was the mother of a 15 year old son and a 21 year old daughter. She had criticized the paramilitaries who try to silence women's voices, because they denounce of Mojao, Francisco Escobar what they want to keep secret. In just this year 94 persons have been assassinated in the city of Barrancabermeja, 56 have been disappeared and 600 have been displaced. All of this is a consequence of the social control imposed by the paramilitaries through threats, punishment and death. Barranca has about 250,000 people.

October 20, RISARALDA

The union UNIMOTOR (Workers of the Auto Industry in Colombia), received a fax signed "Urban cell of the Bloque Cacique Calarca of the AUC". This message explained that because the persons listed below did not follow instructions to abandon the city of Pereira by October 10, the AUC will start an annihilation campaign against the following unionists: Diego Osorio Bernardo Bernal Antonio Ramirez Jairo Rivera

The same threat was made to the local worker's union and the teacher's union

Gloria Ines Ramirez

John Jairo Loaiza

William Gaviria

Fernando Guapacha

October 22, CUNDINAMARCA

Last October 10 at the transportation terminal at 3:30 in the morning, several students of the University of Cundinamarca were gathered at the gas station when several hit men in a motor vehicle shot at them killing Indira Tapiero and Ricardo Hernandez, and injuring 5 other students, as well as a worker at the gas station.

October 22, MAGDALENA

The office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations for Colombia condemned the recent assassinations of the political and spiritual authorities of the munity is one of the four in-

their members were killed as a consequence of the selective homicides made by the armed groups. On October 16 Mamo spiritual authority - Nestor Feliciano Maestre from the town from Los Haticos and Nicanor Arias from Ramelito were killed by the AUC. The Mamo is a figure of great importance for the cultural and spiritual life of this

October 24, ARAUCA

Just 5 days before elections for Mayors, Governors and city councils, the Attorney General's office and the army massively detained public functionaries and several candidates. On October 21 the Attorney General and the army detained the mayor of the city of Arauca Jorge Cedeno; three former governors, Gustavo Castellanos, Vicente Lozano and Federico Gallardo; two former mayors, Iliana Baroni and Maria helena Molina; Assembly persons Elionor Avila, and Ramon Garces, president of the Liberal party: candidates for mayor of Arauca City, Cravo Norte and Saravena, Luis Alberto Peroza, Antonio Ortega and Zoila Exposito; candidate for the council of Arauca City Orlando Baharona; Maria Helena Mojica, manager of the electric company "ENELAR"; Comptroller Ema Benitez and political leaders Hernan Rico, Pedro Orjuela, Esperanza Sandoval and Gloria Suarez, among

Likewise the priest Jose Helmer Munoz, candidate for governor of Arauca state and who seems to be the likely winner according to the latest polls. Human Rights organizations are worried that this maneuver by the Uribe government and the Attorney General may be designed to favor the Uribe candidate for governor.

Many killings, threats and displacements are happening while political, labor and human rights leaders are targeted as subversives risking being the victims of paramilitary groups. The massive detentions are not based on independent and im-

Colombia Support Network

PLEASE WRITE TO THE FOLLOWING:

Presidente de la Republica S.E. Álvaro Uribe Vélez, Presidente de la República, Cra. 8 No 7-26, Palacio de Nariño, Santa fe de Bogotá. Fax: (+57 1) 566.20.71 e-mail: auribe@presidencia.gov.co

hours of the morning in the her and forcing her to get into Vicepresidente de la Republica de Colombia Francisco Santos Consejeria Presidencial de Derechos Humanos Calle 7, No 6-54, Piso 3 Santa fe de Bogota, COLOMBIA Fax: 00 57 1 337 1351 E-mail: fsantos@presidencia.gov.co

Nestle plant where he worked representatives and representatives and representatives and representatives are representatives.

Corporate Crimes of BAE Systems

BAE SYSTEMS aims to be a truly global systems, defence and aerospace company with unrivalled capability...[the] prime contractor and systems integrator for our customers, in the air, land, sea, and space'.[2] As such, the company has interests in areas spanning the range of avionics and defence systems, from hardware manufacture to personnel training. Primarily, however, BAE is an arms company, ranking first in the world in terms of arms sales.[3] Military equipment currently accounts for around 75% of the company's total sales.[4] In 2000 it pulled in \$13,248 million in military revenue.[5] It is the world's fourth largest defence and aerospace firm, behind Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and EADS.[6]

The company is a significant employer, directly employing over 100,000 people. Over a third of its workforce is outside the UK - in the US, Saudi Arabia, France, Italy. Germany, Sweden, Australia & Canada. BAE SYSTEMS is present in five continents. with customers in 129 countries, and its order book at the end of the year 2000 totalled £41 billion.[7] Its biggest rivals are the US companies Lockheed Martin and Boeing, as well as the European syndicate EADS Inc, which formed when BAE acquired GEC (see History). In theory, BAE SYS-TEMS is financially strong enough to attempt a takeover of its rivals. However, BAE SYSTEMS' ambition to merge with Boeing or Lockheed has been ruled out by the US government.[8] Nevertheless, its desire to break into the US market, by far the largest in the world for arms companies, continues unabated.

BAE SYSTEMS has committed an impressive amount of corporate crimes. What follows is merely a selection of some of the more recent ones and is by no means a comprehensive account of the company's wrong-doings. CAAT have a wealth of information on BAE, and further details of the company's deplorable record can be obtained from them (at www.caat.org.uk).

Indonesia

BAE SYSTEMS' arms sales to Indonesia are notorious. It has a long history of exporting Hawk Jets to the country, which was ruled by the vicious Suharto regime (and is still governed by a corrupt and undemocratic system, in which the military retains a large portion of power). Arms exports began as early as 1978, but the biggest controversy began in November 1996, when the Conservative government granted an export licence for 16 Hawk-209 aircraft. The purpose of the Hawk aircraft is not am-

Why should this be important to you?

BAE recruits on campus with help from the UCSD Career Center!

BAE is allied with the UCSD Career Center. In fact, it is a "Diamond Corporate Partner" of the Career Center, meaning it has paid over five thousand dollars per year in exchange for aid in recruiting UCSD students into the arms trade!

See: http://career.ucsd.edu/rec/Recprooa.shtml

Tell the career center to stop assisting irresponsible corporations (which support murderous dictatorships).

Contact Andy Rabitoy, the Career Center's Employer Relations Coordinator at arabitoy@ucsd.edu or by phone at (858) 534-4501

Don't work for BAE! BAE recruits Math, Computer Science and Computer Engineering students at UCSD!

THINK BEFORE YOU WORK FOR BAE SYSTEMS!

biguous - BAE themselves describe it as a 'single-seat, radar equipped, lightweight, multi-role combat aircraft, providing comprehensive air defence and ground attack capability'.[44] Given that in 1996 Indonesia was also trying to purchase US F-16 aircraft (which are air defence fighters), it is likely that the

Hawks were intended mainly

for 'ground attack'.

It is clear that these ground attack fighters were being purchased for use in internal repression, especially in East Timor. Despite Conservative denials, East Timorese leaders have frequently asserted that Hawk jets have been used in repressive attacks since 1978,[45] and whilst in opposition Robin Cook believed the same thing. As he stated in 1994, 'Hawk aircraft have been observed on bombing runs in East Timor in most years since 1984'.[46] Unfortunately, this belief did not carry over into his stint as Foreign Secretary for the Labour Government, which renewed the export licence despite venement protests. Needless to say, this change of heart had absolutely nothing to do with Lord Hollick (then a member of the BAE SYSTEMS Board of Directors) being a DTI advisor at the time of the decision [47]. or BAE SYSTEMS' massive influence over the Labour Government (see section on Influence/Lobbying). Despite continuing concerns over the use of Hawk jets in East Timor, the only action taken by the UK Government was a brief ban from September 1999 to January 2000. It eventually took UN intervention to stop the occupation of East Timor, and needless to say, BAE have never apologised for accepting contracts from a corrupt

and murderous dictatorship.

Saudi Arabia

Before the protests over its

exports to Indonesia, BAE (then British Aerospace) had already become involved in one of the biggest trade scandals of the 1980s; the Al-Yamamah deals with Saudia Arabia. In the words of the Financial Times, the arms deal known as Al Yamamah II was 'the biggest [UK] sale ever of anything to anyone."[48] The deals were condemned by Amnesty International as a clear endorsement of a country ruled by a repressive regime who displayed a 'persistent pattern of gross human rights abuses.'[49] BAe was the prime contractor for the entire deal, which included the sale of 48 Tornado bombers, 24 Tornado fighters, 30 Hawk trainer-fighters, and a large number of Rapier missiles. It also involved millions of pounds worth of corrupt commissions paid to Arabian businessmen, which the Conservative government of the time denied, and which eventually led to the downfall of Jonathan Aitken. Bringing in the service side of BAe, the company provided training and advice for the Saudi military. Indeed, this was pursued to such an extent that The Economist suggested that 'the company not only supplies Saudi Arabia with fighter aircraft, but virtually runs its entire airforce.' [50] The scandal was further added to by a Channel 3 TV documentary. This showed two BAe representatives offering electroshock batons for sale and claimed that the company had supplied 8,000 of them as part of the Al Yamamah contract. In spite of the compelling nature of the evidence, the Director of Public Prosecutions decided not to charge BAe on public interest grounds.[51]

Turkey

The UK sold £84 million worth of arms to Turkey in 1998, most of which came directly from the BAE SYSTEMS empire. The orders for that year, which was largely typical, included tank turrets, military components and torpedoes. More worrying was the deal struck between Turkey and Matra Marconi Space, worth \$110 million, for military satellite terminals, and the deal between a Turkish company and Matra BAE Dynamics for the manufacture of BAE's Rapier anti-aircraft missiles. 850 of those missiles are to be supplied to Turkey.[52] The problem with all this, of course, is that Turkey is, an oppressive regime with an appalling human rights record. It routinely uses its military equipment to oppress and kill Kurds and other ethnic minorities. It has been accused by the Council of Europe, among other bodies, of having a history of 'repeated and serious human rights violations'. The same body reported in July 1999 that it could see 'no significant progress in limiting torture, disappearances, and extra-judicial killings' in Turkey.[53]

Deliberate inflation of military spending

Selling military equipment to dictatorial and oppressive regimes is not the only corporate crime that BAE SYSTEMS commits (although they do seem to like doing it). Just as serious is its complete lack of scruples when selling weaponry to poverty-stricken and corrupt countries. The old argument 'if we didn't do it, someone else would' is soon deployed when the examples (amongst others) of South Africa, Greece, Tanzania, Zim-



Mike Turner, CEO of BAE Systems Deserves to be all pixelated

babwe and India are raised. According to CAAT, 'Arms purchases do not merely waste scarce resources, but also aggravate international tensions, generating mutual suspicion and hostility. The essence of this traffic is the alliance between Western arms companies and local military interests, which repeatedly show that they can manipulate even democratic politicians into needless extravagances.' [54]

South Africa

At the time of writing, the government of South Africa has just decided to go ahead with the second phase of a deal with BAE worth £1.5 billion, involving the purchase of 24 Hawk aircraft as well as Gripen aircraft from SAAB (which BAE owns shares in). The deal has been roundly condemned by churches and NGOs across South Africa, as it will inevitably divert much needed resources from health, education and welfare policies. Raenette Taljaard, finance spokesman for the South African Democratic Alliance estimated that the money being spent on the Hawk jets could provide 4.5 million destitute South Africans with a basic living grant of R100 a month for a year, or offer housing subsidies for 337,500 homeless families.[55] Even if South Africa desperately needed new fighter aircraft, questions have been raised over the suitability of the ageing Hawk jets. Despite costing more than the aircraft which came first in the evaluation, BAE manufactured aircraft were chosen. This has lead to accusations of corruption and bribery.

Greece

Arms sales to Greece would seem to be unobjectionable on first examination. After all, the country is a NATO ally of the UK and a European democracy. It is also, however, the poorest country in the European Union. At the same time, it spends a higher proportion of its national income on 'defence' than any other European power, except Turkey (Greece's defence budget was 4.9% of its total budget in 1999). In the year 2000 Greece purchased 60 Typhoon air-

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