

-OHIO 7: ON TRIAL-



Photo by Shouli

DARE TO STRUGGLE, DARE TO WIN!

"We need allies who are going to help us achieve a victory, not allies who are going to tell us to be nonviolent. If a white man wants to be an ally, ask him what does he think of John Brown. You know what John Brown did? He went to war against white people to help free slaves. He wasn't nonviolent." (Malcolm X July 5th, 1964)

None of us can be free, till all of us are free.

The Ohio 7, Carol Saucier Manning, Tom Manning, Richard Charles Williams, Barbara Curzi-Laaman, Jaan Laaman, Patricia Gros Levasseur and Raymond Luc Levasseur, are white working-class revolutionaries. We (the Toronto Anarchist Black Cross) are publishing this tabloid for a number of reasons. The Ohio 7 are charged by the U.S. government with 11 armed actions (ie. bombings) and seditious conspiracy. They have already been convicted to varying degrees for the bombings, which were carried out against U.S. military facilities and recruiting offices, South African government offices, IBM, Union Carbide, Motorola, Honeywell and General Electric. These actions were claimed by the United Freedom Front (UFF), and were in solidarity with the people of Azania (South Africa) and Central America. The Ohio 7 have never claimed nor repudiated these actions. They are now doing very lengthy sentences for these charges but are still going through trials,

being charged again for these actions through "seditious conspiracy" charges.

All of the actions of the United Freedom Front were aimed at sabotaging corporations in the New York City area, that bled the people of all nations through the genocide of imperialism (see our boxed definition). These actions serve the purpose of making these corporations' participation in oppression costly and more difficult. They also aid in creating a much needed resistance movement in the United States. These are aims we agree with.

The difficulty that some of us as anarchists have had with our solidarity with the Ohio 7, is that sometimes they call themselves Marxist revolutionaries, or communist or socialist. It seems important that we address the criticisms we have had, in this introduction, so here it goes... Our solidarity with the Ohio 7 does not mean that

(continued on back page)



Seditious Conspiracy is a Thought Crime



It is political, economic, and social conditions that give rise to demands for social change. The great abolitionist Frederick Douglass said, "The history of the progress of human liberty shows that all concessions yet made have been born out of struggle; if there is no struggle there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation are those who want crops without plowing up the ground. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."

With every serious attempt to advance the struggle for basic human rights, political movements in this country have been subjected to vicious attacks and criminal prosecutions which have been ill-disguised attempts to neutralize their leadership and organizations. Seditious laws are a part of the U.S. government's more brutal methods of murder, selective violence and harassment designed to destroy any effective political opposition and to control dissent. Seditious conspiracy is such a law and it is defined in part as "two or more people conspiring to oppose, by force, the government's authority or to delay the execution of any law of the United States."

The government favors prosecuting people with seditious laws because of the vagueness of such laws, their application to virtually anyone who opposes the government, and the lesser standard of proof needed for conviction. These characteristics make seditious laws far more useful to the government than trying to prosecute individuals for violations of specific state and federal laws. On the simplest terms, a conspiracy is nothing more than an agreement between people. The government need to prove only that such an agreement exists to obtain an indictment and conviction. This is what makes seditious conspiracy a "thought crime", since a person's state of mind and intent are at the core of any agreement. There is no distinction under this law between opposing the U.S. government and opposing its policies.

SEDITIONOUS CONSPIRACY IS A POLITICAL OFFENSE

Through seditious laws the government defines what "acceptable" political activity is; at what point an agreement becomes a conspiracy and illegal; at what point advocacy becomes "encouraging and inciting"; and when an organization's goals become seditious.

In 1798 Congress passed the "Alien and Sedition Laws" which were designed to punish those who were critical of the Federalist administration in office at the time. These laws were the direct forerunner of the Conspiracies Act of 1861. This law contained language almost identical to today's seditious conspiracy law. The 1861 law was passed at a particularly brutal time in the United States past. It was just after the Supreme Court's notorious "Dred Scott Decision" which stripped Black People, both slave and "free", of their rights and declared that they were not people but property.

It was also just after John Brown's attack on Harper's Ferry and his subsequent execution for "conspiring with slaves to rebel". And it was a time when Harriet Tubman was being hunted for her role in freeing slaves through the Underground Railroad. All these were seditious acts.

The Sedition Act of 1918 was similar in design and intent to today's law as well. Eugene Debs, Emma Goldman, and "Big" Bill Haywood were all charged under the 1918 act. It targeted draft and anti-war activists and the Industrial Workers of the World (the Wobblies) who championed the rights of workers and socialism. In summary, the seditious laws were used to justify slavery and to institutionalize apartheid through the "Jim Crow" laws; to destroy Native American nations; to erode the rights of workers; and to imprison those who oppose the draft and unjust wars.

Sedition laws are enforced in such a manner as to defend the interests of the government and the power brokers in this country. The history of the U.S. is replete with examples of injustice masquerading in the robes of law and patriotism.

RECENT AND CURRENT TRIALS

The most recent prosecutions for seditious conspiracy, occurring in the 1930's, '50's, and '80's, have been against those advocating for independence for Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico activists have refused to participate



in most of the trial proceedings, citing the illegal U.S. military occupation and domination of their country. The United Nations has stated that Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States and under international law the authority the U.S. exercises over that country is illegal.

In 1971 information obtained from FBI files, lawsuits and a Congressional investigation revealed a U.S. government campaign of sabotage, disruption, infiltration and assassinations aimed at the government's political opponents. This campaign was called COINTELPRO (FBI Counter-Intelligence Programs). One of the primary targets was, and remains to this

day, the Black Liberation Movement. One of its first targets was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Now comes the trial of the Ohio 7. These 7 people are white North Americans of working class backgrounds with long histories of political activism.

This is a case in which the government intends to frighten the public. To date, the government has done a fairly effective job. It has used an awesome display of police, weapons and intimidation to frighten people away from court. Much of the "left" even has bought the government's claim that the Ohio 7 are extremists and stand apart from the "safe" political issues of the movement. The government has spent millions of dollars already on this case, before trial begins, to feed a reactionary political climate, utilizing a public "show trial" to try and criminalize the ideas, actions and lives of these people. This trial could well be a litmus test — an attempt by the government to test the waters for further prosecutions.

The Ohio 7 have been singled out for prosecution because they are a small part of a legacy of resistance. They take their life experiences as workers and activists to heart. They have supported the aspirations and goals of the Black Liberation struggle from Harlem to South Africa; they oppose U.S. military interventions in Central America; they support independence for Puerto Rico. They have allied themselves with those who fight for human rights.

We, in this country, are dealing with a government that has formed its own "criminal enterprise" at the highest levels: a private government with its own army, funding and political agenda, and a national security state. One need only look at the role of the U.S. and its client fascist states of South Africa, Chile, El Salvador, Israel and others to see that this system does not respect the rights of our world's peoples.

The Ohio 7 are motivated by a vision of a better world for all our children and a commitment to fight injustice. If there is not common ground to be had with others based on this very human sentiment then it can be said that fascism is beginning to eclipse the will of the people to fight for social change.

WRITE TO YOUR COMRADES

*Barbara Curzi Laaman #18213-053

*Ray Luc Levasseur #10376-016

*Richard Williams #10377-016

FDC Hartford

Box 178

Hartford, CT

USA 06141-0178

*Tom Manning #202873

Trenton State Prison

CN 861

Trenton, NJ

USA 08625

*Pat Gros Levasseur

c/o Sedition Committee

Box 4690

Springfield, MA

USA 01101

*Carol Saucier Manning #10375-016

F.C.I. Shawnee Unit

PMB 7007

Marianna, Florida

USA 32446

*Jaan Laaman #10372-016

Box 1000

Leavenworth, Kansas

USA 66048-1000

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE OHIO 7, WRITE OR CALL:

*The Sedition Committee

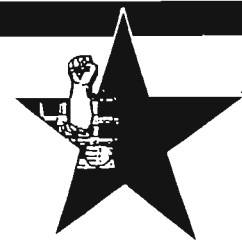
In Massachusetts
(413) 586-4407

P.O. Box 4690
Springfield, MA
USA 01101

In New York
(212) 969-0448

P.O. Box 1418, Cathedral Stn.
New York, NY
USA 10025

Ray Levasseur's Opening Statement



NOTE: Throughout the course of his presentation, Ray was repeatedly interrupted by the federal prosecutors and the judge. In the following text whatever appears within () and in italics indicates a point where he is interrupted and forced to depart momentarily from his prepared statement. What appears within () here is what he would have included had he not been interrupted by the state. The following is excerpted from one of the Ohio 7 trials.

The government had a lot to say about crime in its openings, so I think that I'm sure they'll allow me the time to address these issues of crime. To me, there are crimes that are so horrible that they stagger the human senses, that shock our sense of humanity. Such were the crimes committed in the 30's and 40's with the rise of Nazi Germany. As the evidence will show, these crimes were committed in the name of white supremacy, in military and economic conquests and expansion. Most of us condemn these crimes. Well, today, in 1985, there is another government which is the closest in today's modern world to being like Nazi Germany. It is an illegal government, a government that rules through the use of force and terror. It is also a racist government based on white supremacy, which violently and systematically denies Black people their human rights. And this is the government of South Africa.

...the first bombings claimed by the United Freedom Front were on December 16th of '82. Bombed were the offices of the South African Airways, which, as I said and as will be shown, are totally owned and operated by the South African government. Also

bombed were offices of the IBM Corporation on December 16th, which does business in South Africa. No worker or civilian was injured in these bombings because warnings had been issued to clear the buildings. As the evidence will show, there were always warnings given with all of the United Freedom Front bombings, and in fact no workers or innocent people were ever hurt in any of these bombings. However, this claim cannot — this claim of workers and innocent people not being hurt — is not a claim that could be made by the racist government of South Africa, whose ruling and power is based on terrorizing Black people.

As the evidence will show, it is a government whose power is based on the fact that African people who make up 80 percent of the population have been forced, violently forced to live on 13 percent of the most barren and unproductive land in the country. And it is a most oppressive existence, where infant mortality is very high, where in some rural areas, 50 percent of Black children die before they reach the age of five. That is a measure to judge the humanity of any society.

It is an existence where millions are hungry and without sufficient work to provide adequately for the welfare of their children. The evidence will also show that the bombing of the South African government office, South African Airways, and the IBM Corporation were done in support and solidarity with the liberation struggle, the freedom struggle in South Africa. And, the evidence will show, it was done in response to South African troops invading the independent nation of Lesotho, in conducting a massacre of revolutionaries from South Africa, who had been driven, driven from their homeland to save their lives. Innocent victims were gunned down by South African soldiers as they slept. They were children. They were women. And they were men.

And, it was a massacre, because that is what a massacre is, the slaughter of human beings and that is what happened, and that is a fact, and that is what the evidence will show.

The government will introduce evidence about a second bombing of IBM, which occurred on March 19th of '84, which is a commemoration date of another massacre of African people, when in 1960 on March 21, '70, unarmed children, women and men were gunned down by the South African police in a town called Sharpeville. Most were shot in the back as they tried to flee to safety.

(...The evidence will show that in September, 1984, the offices of Union Carbide Corp. were bombed by the United Freedom Front. In September of '84, Black people continued to demand their freedom and with their increased organization and resistance came another leading cause of death of African youth - gunshot wounds, particularly in the back - inflicted by South African police and troops.

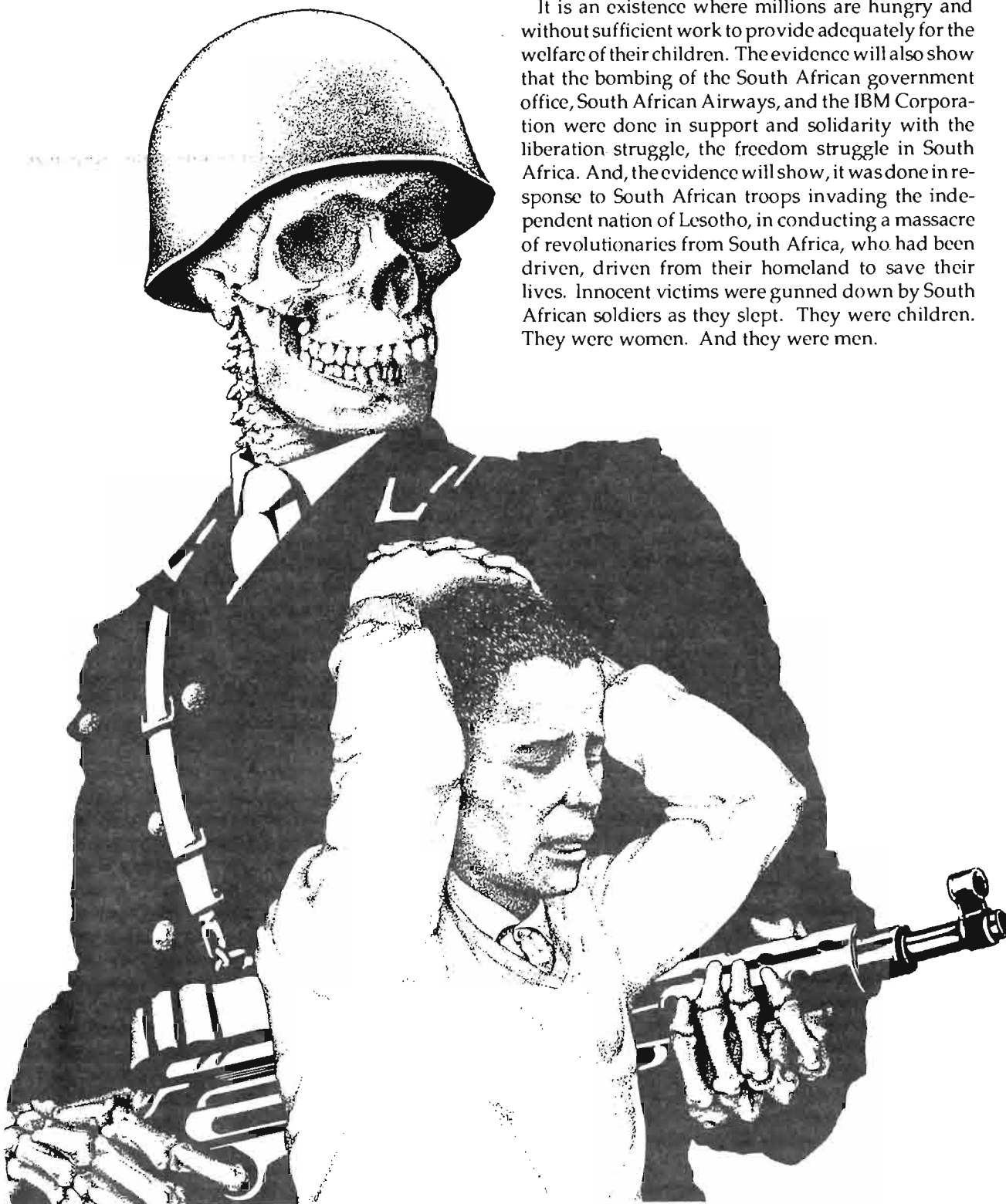
(The evidence will show that in a demonstration of support and solidarity with the freedom struggle in South Africa, the bombing of Union Carbide was dedicated to a six-year old Black child murdered by the racist South African police. On the day prior to the Union Carbide bombing, offices of the racist South African government in Manhattan were bombed by the Red Guerrilla Resistance, an armed clandestine organization committed to supporting the freedom struggle of Black people in South Africa.

(The intention of the racist apartheid system is to destroy the fabric of social, cultural and community life of African people. It is designed to destroy them as a nation and as a people. In other words, it is genocide. Can there be anything more shocking to our own sense of humanity than the death from malnutrition and related diseases of young African children, who starve while rich whites live off the best land? Or of Black children shot in the back, or permanently blinded by rubber bullets, fired from police weapons? These rubber bullets, which you may have heard of, have also been used by British troops against the people of Northern Ireland. The use of these rubber bullets has been condemned by a number of human rights organizations.

(There is resistance to racist South Africa and it is African people who organize and lead the resistance. It is a freedom struggle - a revolutionary struggle to reclaim the land and to be truly independent. Self-determination is central to any struggle of people demanding their human rights, for it is from self-determination that other human rights flow. Self-determination in South Africa means control of the land by African people, and controlling those institutions and resources that most directly affect all aspects of their lives. It is to be able to live, work and create as free people.

(The support of the U.S. government and U.S. corporations in racist South Africa is critical to the survival of "apartheid". African people have demanded that the U.S. government cease its support of the South African government, and that U.S. corporations pull out of South Africa. African people - led by organizations such as the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress and other popular resistance organizations, have exposed the high level of collaboration between the U.S. government and the racist government of South Africa, and they have demanded an end to that collaboration. They have clearly pointed out how this country has gone from claiming to fight against fascism in World War II to an alliance with facism and support of racism in South Africa in 1985.)

...Union Carbide is the same company that has the chemical plant in Bhopal, India, which poisoned to death 3000 people. With plants in Puerto Rico which have exploited the fact that Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States, recognized as such by the United Nations Charter, which says colonialism is a crime.



In this country, it illegally tried to mine the lands owned by the Indian people.

(...When the government raises the specter of terrorism and criminality, as it has in this trial, we must ask ourselves - "WHO ARE THE REAL TERRORISTS?", those who support racist South Africa, or those who fight against it?)

The government will introduce evidence that will show that many of the United Freedom Front bombings were directed against military facilities and contractors. As the evidence will show, the role of the United States government and military in El Salvador is to support that country's vicious dictatorship. Keep it from collapsing in the face of a liberation movement that represents the aspirations of a people to be free. They want to rid themselves of U.S. and foreign domination, of U.S. military aggression.

Now, there is one thing I agree with the government on this case, and that is that this trial has a lot to do with bombings. As the evidence that we will present will show, that in the past year alone, the Salvadorean Air Force has been doubled with assistance from the United States government, that use 750 pound fragmentation bombs has increased, that these bombs have the capacity to detonate before they hit the ground; that makes them an antipersonnel bomb, with one purpose in mind, and that is to kill living people. That's what makes it an antipersonnel bomb. That particular characteristic of it, that it won't explode when it hits the ground, that it will explode before it hits the ground.

I mentioned before the research that I did, and this has a lot to do with why I am aware of some of these things, but also when I worked with Vietnam Veterans Against the War — these were the same type of bombs used in Viet Nam against people. So, I have some experience and knowledge about what these things do. But, I don't think it takes a lot of experience and knowledge to perceive what a 750 pound bomb will do when it explodes just before it hits the ground, when there are civilians around.

As the evidence will show, the use of incendiary bombs has increased. These are called napalm and white phosphorous and by the victims in El Salvador, they are called "flaming liquid". They are the most feared of all. White phosphorous attaches to the skin, it burns and it burns very deeply. It is very painful, and ultimately very lethal.

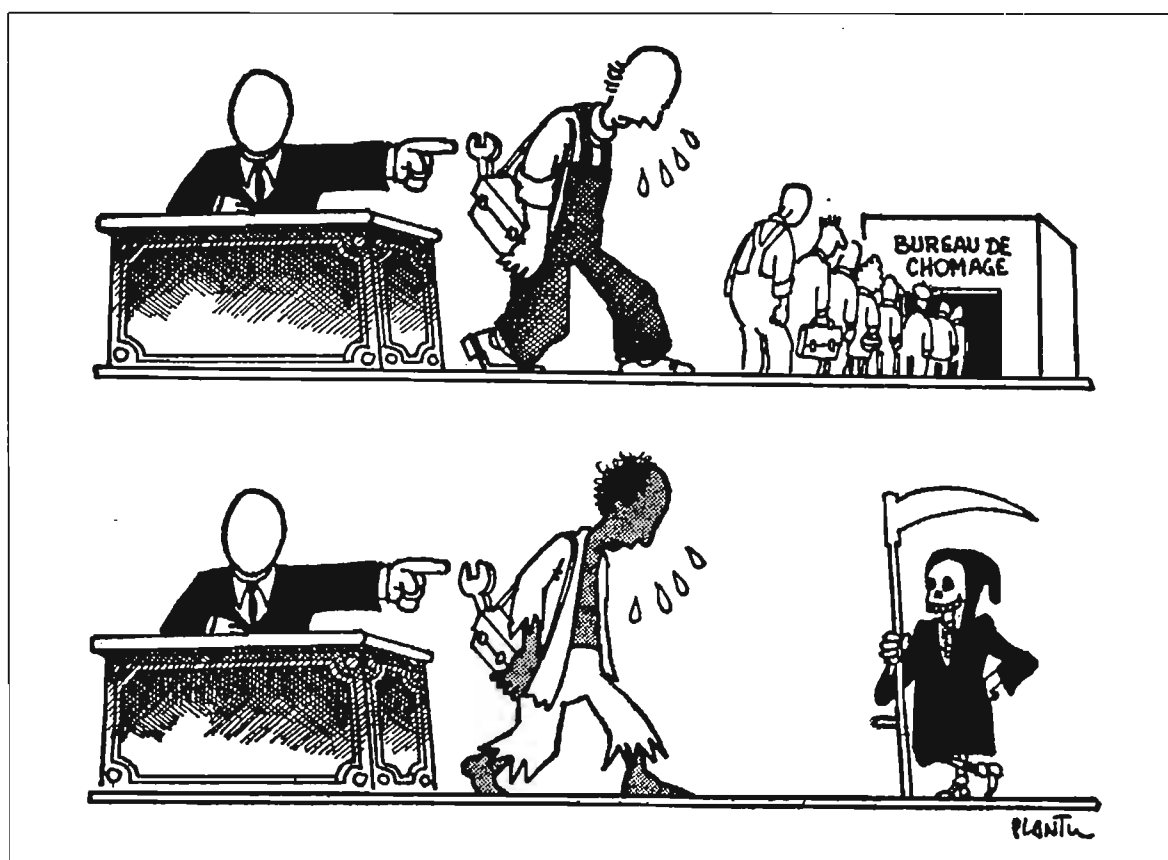
These bombings which primarily strike areas where civilians live, are part of a strategy of terrorizing the civilian population in the countryside, and destroying the land, the crops and the water supplies. As the evidence will show, the goal is to use the bombings and other methods to depopulate an area, to force people to flee their own homes, creating refugees, and it is the cornerstone of U.S. military policy in El Salvador - to destroy that which gives rise to the resistance there, and that is the Salvadorean people themselves.

Of concern to us during this trial is the fact that military policies in El Salvador are formulated at the highest levels of the United States government. The evidence will show that the war in El Salvador is carried out with war planes that are manufactured in the United States, supplied by the United States, flown by pilots trained by the United States government, military, that are guided by reconnaissance planes, flown by U.S. pilots. If you have heard that before, it is because you know something about Viet Nam, because we have seen it in Viet Nam before.

The evidence will show that these war planes carried bombs and guns, manufactured by war contractors here in the United States, and then shipped to El Salvador. The government will introduce evidence that will show that one of these contractors is General Electric. You can see right over there. This corporation, GE, produces a plane called the Dragon Fly, the A-37 Dragon Fly Jet. It was a bomber that I saw and

was used in Viet Nam, and it is now used in El Salvador. The plane carries up to six thousand pounds of bombs at one time. It is also equipped with very powerful guns, machine type guns, mounted on the plane, and these guns are also made by General Electric. They fire up to six thousand rounds a minute, and they can tear apart a village in a matter of minutes. And, that is why the Salvadorean people refer to these planes as "flying death squads".

conspiracy is, and it applies to this case and to many political cases. They have always had — this government has always had a theory about conspiracy. When whites began to steal the lands of the Native Americans, and the Indian people started to fight back — and they are still fighting back — the government called that conspiracy. When slaves were brought over from Africa, and they rebelled and escaped, the government called that conspiracy. When



The evidence will show that there is another kind of death squad in El Salvador. This death squad is made up of intelligence agents and military personnel, and that their targets are political activists and religious activists and workers and peasants. You perhaps have heard of, and we can — we will introduce evidence that points to one particular instance that you may remember — where four American nuns and lay workers were murdered by one of these death squads in El Salvador. They have murdered thousands of people and they have the tacit approval of the Central Intelligence Agency. There is a history of this in El Salvador. As the evidence will show, in 1932, there were 30 000 people who were systematically murdered by death squads in El Salvador. Many of whom were political activists, who had their names obtained by the death squads from the voter registration lists that existed at the time. Among those killed were Farabundo Marti, the peasant revolutionary leader from whom today's liberation movement in El Salvador takes its name. Between October of '79 and December of '81, in El Salvador, 30 000 people were murdered and six hundred thousand became refugees - forced to flee their homes. These figures have since doubled as a result of increased U.S. involvement, in support for the Salvadorean government and the continuing activity of the death squads and the escalation of aerial bombings.

This is state terrorism committed by a government which would collapse without the support of the United States. The government of El Salvador has been condemned by human rights groups from around the world. It is a government that is guilty of war crimes. For while it is true that there are always some civilian casualties in any war, it does not follow suit that a government deliberately targets civilians and systematically murders them — which is the case in El Salvador. It has to mean more to us than it affects the price of our morning cup of coffee, or the gallon of gasoline that goes into our cars. The government of El Salvador and the United States government must be held accountable for their violations of human rights.

...I would like to address the issue of conspiracy, because the government has always had a lot to say about conspiracy. They have a theory about what

Malcolm X came along and said we must advance from civil rights to human rights, and the government said that was conspiracy as well. When workers, Black and white, fought for the right to organize unions that are being broken now by the Reagan administration, the government called that conspiracy. When a mass cross section of people in this country organized to oppose United States intervention in Vietnam, the government saw conspiracy.

When Puerto Rican people demand independence for Puerto Rico, the government sees conspiracy.

The government's concept of conspiracy is to try and criminalize what is justifiable resistance to its policies. It has to, because its power is being challenged, and its moral hypocrisy is being exposed.

...I realize that there is a risk, so to speak, in standing here before you in what is essentially a public forum, and take the position that I support the actions of the United Freedom Front. That I support the actions of the Black Liberation Army, the FALN, a Puerto Rican independence organization, and the Red Guerrilla Resistance. But I chose to take this position and reject the government's attempt to criminalize revolutionary movement. I chose to defend the principles of the anti-imperialist movement, of which I am a small part. I cannot and will not distance myself from those who carry the fight. I cannot and will not distance myself from those who have dedicated their lives to the struggle - some of those who sacrificed their lives for the struggle, fighting against a system that profits from brutality and genocidal attacks against Third World peoples in Africa, Central America, and within the borders of this country. And, as a working class person, as a revolutionary, there is no better position for me to take than to affirm through my own life, our movement's commitment to a future in which no child will ever have to suffer from the ravages of oppression or capitalistic exploitation, racism and imperialistic domination. A future that holds the human potential of the working class to be a great asset to be developed as we build a future based on human needs, justice and freedom. Thank you very much.

Personal Statements from the Ohio 7

CAROL MANNING

My name is Carol Ann Saucier Manning. I am a 32-year-old mother of 3 children, pages 6, 8, and 15. I am also a political activist who was underground with my husband and children for 9 years.

For the past three and a half years I have been held in prison. I am serving a 15-year sentence after having been convicted of two bombings of U.S. military reserve offices in New York as a result of a trial in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1985-86, in which the government indicted myself and six others for eleven political bombings. I was convicted of these two bombings even though the prosecutors said that I did not make or place any explosive device but claimed that I knew about, supported, and helped with the communiqués that were distributed. The government, not satisfied with my 15-year sentence indicted myself and 6 others in May 1986, one month after I was sentenced in the Brooklyn case, on the current charges of Seditious Conspiracy, RICO Enterprise and RICO Conspiracy. I am once again indicted for the same conduct I have been tried for already but now face an additional 60-year-sentence.

I was raised in a family of five, in a small rural town in Kezar Fall, Maine. Both my parents were woollen mill workers who took much pride in being known as hard workers who provided their family with a nice home and coped with the wants and needs of their children.

In school I was an average student, though my favorite subject happened to be physical education. I liked playing field hockey and loved working out on the horse in gymnastics. In high school I was placed in the "general" course without ever really being consulted and I did not know what I wanted to do or what was available for me.

What really affected my school was when my mother died at the age of 54. I was fourteen years old and had seen my mother go through years of suffering in pain with the cancer that eventually killed her. I was angry that she had to continue to work while sick, so that she could help provide for her family and I blamed the terrible conditions in which she worked for so long, for her death. Every day my mother left covered from head to toe in wool fibers, which she had also breathed in all day. The noise from the weaving room where my father worked next to my mother was so loud it was deafening you had to scream to be heard and you could smell the chemicals that had been used to treat the wool poisoning the air. All of these things plus the fast pace of constant work that was expected, many days not even stopping to eat lunch, to me seemed criminal.

My father was much devastated by the loss of my mother. They had been married for over 30 years and were close. This was difficult for me to deal with since I was a 14-year-old who was feeling the loss of my mother greatly. I came to feel as if school was a waste of time and that I was only going to end up working in the factory. By the tenth grade it became just a place to socialize and before finishing that year, I quit school when I met my husband Thomas Manning. We were married in 1972. I was 16 and with many dreams, yet the most exciting to me at the time was just moving away from my hometown.

We moved to Oxford, Pa. where we worked for a short time with children with cerebral palsy. (I have a cousin with cerebral palsy, who was enrolled in the school.) Working with the handicapped children was for me a real joy, and someday I hope to be able to do it again. But once I became pregnant with my oldest son, I became homesick and wanted to return to Maine. This was in 1973 and we moved to Maine's largest city, Portland.

My political awareness at this point in my life had been questioning the way working people were treated, wondering how it could be that people had to subject themselves to extremely poor working conditions, barely, if that, making a wage to support their families.

I was aware of the struggle in the Civil Rights Movement, the racism that runs so rampant through our country, and personally feeling a responsibility to fight against it.

The Vietnam war was happening and I knew many of my older friends who had been sent there, angry, not wanting to go and not really understanding why they should. When they returned home, if they were among the lucky ones, people questioned how they changed so much, those of us not understanding what they had been through.



Then, from my husband who had been to Vietnam and after returning home went to prison for 5 years, I learned of the inhumane treatment of prisoners behind the prison walls of America.

When the Scar'd Times newspaper was left at the front door of our apartment in Portland one day, both Tom and I read it with much interest from cover to cover. The paper was put out by prisoners, ex-prisoners and community activists - among them, Pat and Ray Levasseur, who operated a drop-in center. They were involved in a broad range of work from fighting for prisoners' rights, to finding housing, jobs and schooling for ex-prisoners and their families, to working with people in the low-income neighborhoods around various issues such as housing conditions, welfare rights and against police harassment and abuse.

Within a few weeks, Tom was at the SCAR center doing various work. In between being a mother of our infant son and keeping a home, I eventually also became active and helped open a Day Care Center, visited prisoners, worked on the "Scar'd Times" paper, leafletted for the United Farm Workers, and attended demonstrations and functions that SCAR was involved in.

The opening of Portland's first leftist bookstore by



a few of us in late 1974, came with increased local and federal police surveillance, harassment and physical attacks on members of SCAR. This caused Tom to work less and less in the community and decide to go underground. I followed him, fearing for our safety but mostly wanting to keep my family together. Over those years I gave birth to our daughter in 1980 and another son in 1981. My priority in daily life was always maintaining a home and life for them that was so normal as circumstances would allow. My children really became my life since I had to live a relatively isolated existence but doing what I could do to make sure they were involved in various activities outside the home. This was fairly easy to do until Dec. 1981, when my husband was being sought concerning a shootout with a New Jersey State trooper who was killed. From that time on, State and Federal law enforcement used our children in their hunt for us. The children's pictures and even my oldest son's dental x-rays were put on a wanted poster and distributed to post offices, schools, doctors and libraries. Once we became aware of this, it became more difficult to enroll our children in school, take them to doctors - etc., but of course those were risks that had to be taken.

There were many times over the years when I thought hard about turning myself in and getting my children to family members who could take care of them while I took care of the warrant that was for my arrest. But always the thought of being separated from them and knowing that the police would go to *any extent* to try and get information from me - that stopped me from doing this.

When I was arrested in April 1985, I found that those fears I had over the years were real and now were coming true. The first thing the FBI did was take my 3 children and hold them incommunicado for 8 weeks. My oldest son (11 years old at the time) was interrogated for 7 hours on the day of our arrest and at least 5 other times during this period. While the government held my children hostage, I was told over and over by various law enforcement agencies that I could help my children if only I would cooperate with them in prosecuting the others.

Over the past three and a half years government has tried to break me by putting me at times in horrendous prison conditions and subjecting me to inhumane treatment. To this day I continue to be prosecuted for standing by commitment to my husband and for my political beliefs that the government call criminal. Though I suffer greatly with the pain of being separated from my children, I will stand by my principles and beliefs, a right we all should share.

PATRICIA GROS LEVASSEUR

I am Patricia Gros Levasseur, one of eight children raised in a small town of the eastern shore of Maryland. My father was in the army for a number of years and my mother worked at factory and office jobs. The main contradiction I found in my life growing up was obvious racism and the disparity between Blacks and whites, rich and poor. I remember vividly trying to make sense out of the blind hate which many white people felt towards Black people - struggling against the immovable position of race and economic oppression.

As a white working class woman, I realized it was my duty to work and organize against racism and sexism, the oppression of the people; we must refuse to tolerate this government's policies throughout the world in the name of the American people.

When I look back over my life and the sum total of my experiences so far, I'm struck by the reality of the charges of Seditious Conspiracy and RICO. I know my life has not been criminal or corrupt. Now the government is saying that we are seditious; that we conspired to put down and overthrow by use of force the government of the United States. I find great irony in these charges - charges serious enough to threaten the rest of my life. I ask these questions: wasn't it white Europeans

who came to this country and put down, destroyed and overthrew by use of force whole nations of Native American peoples, virtually wiping out an entire civilization? Wasn't it our ancestors who stole and enslaved African people? Isn't it our country that has a long history of going outside its borders to determine what form of government people of other countries should have? What is it when high-ranking government officials can lie to the people of this country and for their own profit and ideology sell arms and drugs and solicit funds to finance the overthrow of Nicaragua? Is that Racketeering? Is that Corrupt Organization? Is that Seditious?

Eight of us (now five [ed.]) are charged with conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. government by use of force and we never had any Redeye missiles; we had no tanks, no helicopters, and no hundred million dollars. It is our belief that it is the people of a country who decide to throw off an unjust and corrupt government. It is the people of a country who decide what to build; it always has been and it always will be.

BARBARA CURZI-LAAMAN

I was born on November 10, 1957, and am the mother of 2 daughters, 14 and 13 years old, and a six year old son, who I share with my Comrade husband, 14 years old. Raised in a tight-knit blue collar family, I did most of my growing up in Boston and Buffalo. From inner city alleyways and schoolyards to the steel mills and warehouses where I worked, I came to understand the realities of U.S. capitalism. I became politically active in the mid-60's, around the Vietnam War. In addition to labor and community organizing, I was a full-time SDS activist and participated in various capacities-in the student, anti-war and anti-imperialist movements. Much of my work has gone into fighting against racism and apartheid and in band, Jaan Karl Laaman. The youngest of four children, I was raised in an ethnic neighborhood in Boston where my grandparents settled after immigrating to the U.S. from Italy in the early 1920s. My parents worked in factories most of their lives. They taught us that everyone has a right and a responsibility to their community and to themselves to develop to their fullest potential.

As a working class woman and mother, the struggles for decent health care and housing and against racism and pollution have always been part of my life. I saw that good health and education resources are available only to the privileged few. I saw that racism, sexism and class divide poor and working class communities. They fought among themselves for the crumbs, too worn down to go after the real cause of the problem. In the mid-70s, as Boston exploded with racist violence, I joined the Anti-racist Committee. From the community level, my view expanded to include international struggles against all kinds of suffering caused by imperialism.

I have been in prison for three and a half years after living clandestinely with my husband and children for two and a half years. The government has threatened me with 265 years of sentences for being part of the underground anti-imperialist movement. After one trial, I received a 15-year sentence for conspiracy and for actions carried out by the United Freedom Front opposing U.S. government support for apartheid in South Africa and their war on the people of Central America.

I am presently on trial for the exact same activities, now described in three conspiracy charges, including Seditious Conspiracy, which could add 60 more years of prison time to my life.

I became and will remain committed to building a just society in this country, free of racial and economic oppression. Whatever my conditions, I'll keep bright my vision and never stop working until we've built that better day.

JAAN LAAMAN

Born March 21, 1948, I am a 40 year old father of 3, sharing 2 daughters-14 and 13-and a 6 year old son with my comrade-wife, Barbara. I am Estonian, having immigrated to the U.S. with my family when I was 3

years old. Raised in a tight-knit blue collar family, I did most of my growing up in Boston and Buffalo. From inner city alleyways and schoolyards to the steel mills and warehouses where I worked, I came to understand the realities of U.S. capitalism. I became politically active in the mid-60's, around the Vietnam War. In addition to labor and community organizing, I was a full-time SDS activist and participated in various capacities-in the student, anti-war and anti-imperialist movements. Much of my work has gone into fighting against racism and apartheid and in support of National Liberation and Socialist movements.

About 1970 I came to understand that armed resistance was a necessary part of any struggle committed to the defeat of imperialism, and I have been part of the guerrilla/underground/armed movement since then. From 1972 to 1978 I was imprisoned for bombing Nixon's re-election headquarters and the police station in Manchester, New Hampshire. After my release, I did public anti-apartheid and anti-Klan organizing in New England. Then I again went totally underground and worked as a full-time guerrilla. Since being captured in November of 1984, and having been through several political trials (all of us have some sentences-I have 98 years), my comrades and I are now being charged with seditious conspiracy for being members of the United Freedom Front and/or the Sam Melville Jonathan Jackson Unit (both organizations have claimed many armed actions).

Although I am again in captivity will all its limitations and heart-aches, especially concerning the children, I understand this is but another front in our struggle. **AMANDLA!!! FREEDOM IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE!**

RICHARD C WILLIAMS

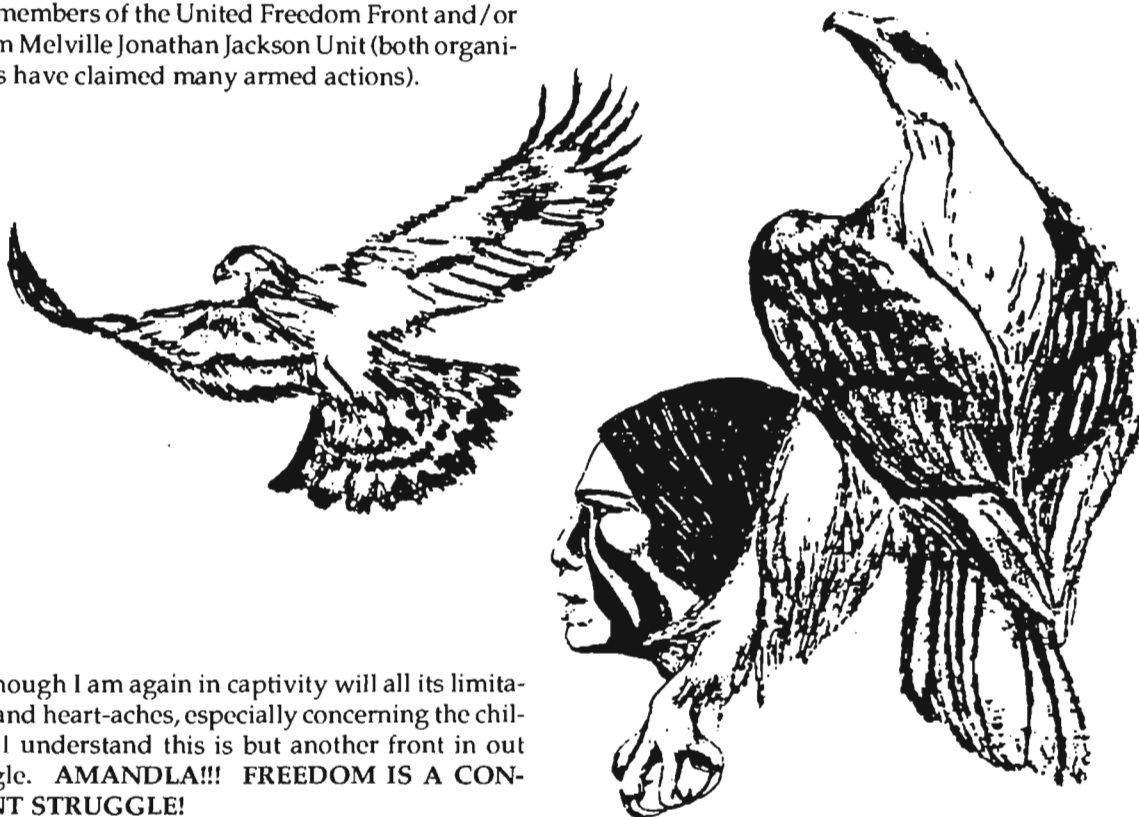
I have 3 beautiful children ages 18, 11, and 8, and am not married. I was born on November 4, 1947 in Beverly, Massachusetts which is a small coastal city 25 miles north of Boston. My mother was a factory worker and seamstress and my father was a machine operator. I have one sister younger than me by 6 years. Just when the draft was getting heavy for Vietnam I turned 18 years old and promptly received my notice. Like most working class kids, white or Black, there was no easy way out of it. Either get drafted, join or hide. I chose not to go. At 20 years old I was arrested for having marijuana, which in Massachusetts was a felony. Given the choice of 6 months in jail or joining the army, I went to jail in 1967 and became ineligible for the draft.

I continued to have brushes with the law when in 1971 I was arrested for robbery in New Hampshire and received a 7 to 15 year sentence. I was 23 and faced 5 solid years in jail, at the least. I realized at that time that I was going nowhere fast, that I needed to change something-so I started with myself. I became involved with trying to better the prison conditions I was in, which were deplorable. It was 1971, the year George Jackson was murdered, the year of the Attica Rebellion. There was unrest in most prisons because overall the prisons were brutal and inhumane. I was elected chairperson of New England Prisoner Association. Inside, I met with legislators, and participated in food and work strikes and pro-

tests for better conditions. I read a lot of history and worked in political study groups. I was locked up, beaten, and shipped out for my activities. I learned through study and my efforts that the struggle was much larger than my present surroundings. I became a communist.

Upon my release I worked briefly with the Prairie Fire Organizing Committee. I went to work for the New England Free Press - a radical, collective print shop - for almost 2 years. Along with Barbara, Jaan, and Kazi, I was part of the Amandla Concert in Harvard Stadium in 1979. Featuring Bob Marley, Amandla was a benefit concert to provide aid to the liberation forces in Southern Africa. My role was as part of a People's Security Force which provided security for the concert. We also did security work for the community - such as house sitting with people who were under attack by racists. We went to Greensboro, North Carolina in 1979 to protest the killings of CWP members a year before by the KKK.

I went underground to join the Armed Clandestine Movement in 1981 and was captured in Cleveland in 1984. **VENCEREMOS!**



DRAWING BY
TOM MANNING

TOM MANNING

Boston born and raised, in a large working class family, never enough \$, though my father worked day and night, with sleep in between, his only days off were when he was hurt or some crisis in the family. He was a longshoreman and a postal clerk, he worked himself to death, trying to get one end to meet the other, he never did make ends meet. That would be a cycle and capitalism is not made that way, he always got the worst end, we know now who got the best end, it took me a long time to figure it out, on the streets, in the military, Cuba, Vietnam, prison and back on the streets. Doing community work, the answer became crystal clear, socialism, a system where ends meet. The bosses oppose this system with a vengeance, they attack it with their armies and police. The People must fight for their own system in all ways. One of these being armed clandestine struggle, we have a long way to go, but we are getting there, with more Angolas and Nicaraguas we will get there-and our own struggle with the government's courts in Springfield, Massachusetts will be one more step closer to a place where all children will have a sparkle in their and a shine on their cheeks and no more fear- **LA LUTA CONTINUA 01371-016MCC/NY**

Bos-Luc: Western Sweep & the Ohio 7

by Maggie Smith & Valerie West

The use of counterinsurgency techniques, intelligence gathering, intimidation and repression have been a consistent practise of U.S. government attempts to dismantle its domestic opposition. The permanent government in Washington, DC, considers its military models from around the world as it plans for the conditions created by a domestic economic crisis or another unpopular war. Techniques now being used against revolutionary dissidents within the U.S. are being put into place with an eye to more extensive use against a broader segment of the population.

In February of 1982, the U.S. government announced the existence of an investigation, code-named BOS-LUC, which was to become the most extensive fugitive search since the Lindenburg kidnapping. BOS-LUC (BOS for its Boston base and LUC for Raymond Luc Levasseur) was intended to capture Raymond Luc Levasseur, Patricia Levasseur, Thomas Manning, Carol Ann Manning, Richard Williams, Jaan Laaman and Barbara Curzi-Laaman, and to provide information about their allies and political base. The government contends that these people, now known as the Ohio 7, were responsible for 27 actions against U.S. military installations and corporations dating from 1975 which were claimed by the Sam Melville/Jonathan Jackson Unit and The United Freedom Front. Their communiques express confidence that only a multi-leveled attack on U.S. imperialism will be victorious.

The BOS-LUC task force, directed by the Joint Terrorist Task Force (JTTF), was characterized by excessive brutality, intimidation and harassment of friends and family of the accused, extensive use of illegal surveillance of the political community, the creation of informants, threats against the safety of the children of the OHIO 7 and consistent lying and falsification of documents by government agents.

BOS-LUC was staffed by agents of the FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and state police from Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey as well as the JTTF. The BOS-LUC investigation was an active exercise of the national political police force publicly acknowledged by the JTTF in 1976. In 1982, other concurrent investigations focussed on the Puerto Rican Independence movement, the Sunrise Collective, the American Indian Movement and the Brinks expropriation. BOS-LUC is infamous for its exploitation of the children of the Ohio 7 as an actual counterinsurgency technique. Beginning with the development and distribution of a 30-page dossier on the children, including their medical and dental records, to the eventual detention, interrogation and attempted bribery of these children, the strategy of BOS-LUC in regard to the Ohio 7 children is a landmark in government misconduct. Thousands of doctors, dentists and child-care workers were asked to look for these children and then call agents of BOS-LUC.

Agents of the task force seized many citizens resembling the Ohio 7 and subjected them to public humiliation and physical abuse prior to any positive identification. A family was surrounded by police after leaving a diner, and the father was beaten and searched in front of his family in the parking lot. Another family was pulled over on the highway and forced at gunpoint to lie face-down in the rain on the pavement. Another man's teeth were broken with the barrel of a gun. In Pennsylvania, an entire paramilitary team landed in a field, surrounded a family in their home and held them hostage for six hours. These people had the simple misfortune to look like members of the Ohio 7. There are numerous ongoing lawsuits growing out of this investigative fervor.

All members of the large Manning family have had their homes invaded by force by the BOS-LUC agents. One particular New Year's Eve, four Manning family homes had their doors broken down, and family members threatened and chased at gunpoint by four separate task force teams. One of Ray Levasseur's childhood friends was confronted and questioned by BOS-LUC agents as he lay in a hospital, sedated and prepared for major surgery. He was not

expected to survive the surgery; the agents argued that he had nothing to lose by talking to them.

The surveillance by electric means, paid informants and photographic methods yielded 500,000 pages of material from investigations of the Ohio 7. In designated areas, numerous pen registers were obtained, then hundreds of BOS-LUC agents would conduct an intelligence sweep; the idea was that the increased police activity would generate more phone calls to sympathizers and all the outgoing numbers would be subject to expand FBI investigation. A casual mention by a distant relative of Tom Manning of the name "Tommy" in a telephone conversation brought a small army of agents into the bedroom of a stranger in less than 1 hour.



Informants are essential to U.S. government police activity. In the Ohio 7 case primary government informers committed many crimes, notably a brutal murder, while under the Witness Protection Program. This informer (Joseph Aceto, aka Joseph Balino) was offered 'red carpet treatment', including heavy doses of the tranquilizer Mellaril "to increase his veracity". According to medical records released to the defense, he twice attempted suicide and has been diagnosed as paranoid and schizophrenic (he receives messages from god and the tv.) Hundreds of acquaintances and activists were subpoenaed to grand juries investigating the Ohio 7. One witness to the grand jury, Felipe Nogura, gave over five days of testimony and has since moved up into international studies and diplomatic circles. He is currently employed as a telecommunications expert in the West Indies. The grand jury and police harassment which encircled those who were subpoenaed were a strategy to turn hundreds of people into collaborators with BOS-LUC.

Government agents repeatedly lied in affidavits necessary to obtain search warrants. Fabricated information was attributed to allies of the Ohio 7. In another situation, an address was extracted from a child of the Ohio 7 and attributed to a co-defendant. This child had resisted a series of bribes offered by the agents of BOS-LUC, and gave the address only after being told that her parents' lives depended on her cooperation. These fabrications are classic COINTELPRO tactics of disinformation to foment distrust within the movement.

In early 1984, BOS-LUC was expanded into Western Sweep. Under the direction of the BOS-LUC task force, hundreds of local police officers in West-

ern Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire were deputized and handed photos, wanted posters and dossiers on the Ohio 7 and other revolutionary activists. The newly minted agents of Western Sweep went out, knocked on doors, stopped cars, set up roadblocks and saturated the area with wanted posters. They contacted schools, day-care

Bos-Luc

centers and medical facilities with photos and medical and dental records. Many activists were repeatedly interviewed, followed and harassed. The women's community in Western Massachusetts was contacted by FBI agents offering assistance after a rash of telephone threats. The FBI assistance turned out to hinge on cooperation with Western Sweep. In the estimation of the government, one out of three residents of the four-state area was contacted during the Western Sweep.

Western Sweep was an operation carried out by the BOS-LUC task force, a methodology to nationally coordinate the investigation of revolutionaries. The extensive use of computers allowed cross-referencing of a record quantity of police investigation. The main-frame computer used by BOS-LUC was donated by Grumman. The computer produced a name in Ohio which was related to a traffic accident in Connecticut and led the agents to the home of Ray and Pat Levasseur, in the late fall of 1984.

The BOS-LUC agents discovered the Levasseur home in Ohio at 7pm and in less than 12 hours the Hostage Rescue team from Washington, DC, armored personnel from Cleveland and the SWAT team from Pittsburg were present to seize Ray and Pat and their children. This rapid response and coordination was BOS-LUC in action. When Carol and Tom Manning were arrested in 1985, their children were kidnapped by the FBI and Carol was threatened from the first day of captivity that the safety of her children depended on her cooperation. It took a hunger strike by Tom and Carol, thousands of names on petitions and activity by many people to gain the release from custody of the three Manning children after two months of interrogation and isolation.

Horrible prison conditions, hysterical security measures and repeated trials for the same actions have been suffered by the Ohio 7 since their capture. When Carol was in Framingham, Massachusetts, she was handcuffed and shackled at all times, even in the shower, and stripsearched and cavity searched in front of male guards each time she was brought in or out of her cell. A special armored vehicle was built for Tom Manning and Richard Williams in New Jersey, and then used in Massachusetts. Ray Levasseur was sent directly to Marion Prison in Illinois after his conviction for bombings in New York. All the men have been repeatedly held in draconian Control Units in various prisons as a result of their status as revolutionary dissidents. They are on trial now in Springfield, Massachusetts for Seditious Conspiracy and RICO. Many of the acts included in this new indictment are acts for which the Ohio 7 have already been convicted in other trials. The government refuses to release the cost of BOS-LUC or Western Sweep, but the current trial for Seditious Conspiracy has cost \$2.1 million and is only in pre-trial proceedings. Only six jurors have been selected after six months of jury selection, because the number of people who were affected by Western Sweep. The Ohio 7 have steadfastly maintained that they are guilty of no crimes, and they have fought in every hour of their captivity for their politics, their human rights and their capacity to continue the struggle.

The United States understands that it is not immune to the development of a revolutionary resistance movement. As it faces global economic crisis, the importance of a controlled and stable internal population is great. The counterinsurgency operations used in BOS-LUC and Western Sweep gained the capture of individuals within the resistance movement, but primarily established the infrastructure of mass control.



Statement from the "RESISTANCE CONSPIRACY CASE" Defendants

July 1988

On May 11, 1988, we were indicted for seeking "to influence, change, and protest policies and practices of the United States government concerning various international and domestic matters through the use of violent and illegal means." The indictment charges us with conspiracy and with aiding and abetting the bombings of a number of military and governmental buildings - resulting in property damage, but no injuries to anyone.

What are the policies and practices referred to?

- The U.S. practise of slaughtering thousands of Nicaraguan civilians through the proxy contra army.
- The U.S. invasion of Grenada, the first Black socialist non-aligned nation in this hemisphere.
- The U.S. policy of establishing brutal dictatorships in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Chile that murder their own people to make their countries safe for U.S. investment.
- 90 years of U.S. colonialization of Puerto Rico.
- The U.S. policy of aiding and abetting the racist governments of Israel and South Africa.
- The centuries-old practise of racial genocide and oppression of Black, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Asian and Native American peoples here, and of promoting racism and racist violence.
- The U.S. government's denial that Prisoners of War and political prisoners are held in U.S. jails, targeted for isolation and destruction.

Do we want to change these policies and practices? Wholeheartedly. They violate every tenet of international law and human decency. They cause death, destruction, poverty and suffering for millions. It is a disgrace that we, the people of the U.S., allow our government to pursue them. To do nothing is to become tacit accomplices in these crimes and practises.

Each of us charged in this indictment has committed our life to fighting for social justice here and to extending solidarity to national liberation movements around the world. Each one of us has been involved in supporting the just struggle of the Vietnamese people, in fighting against the Ku Klux Klan and racist violence, in supporting the struggle for Black liberation/New Afrikan independence and for Puerto Rican independence. We have participated in and supported the movement for women's liberation, and sought an end to gay and lesbian oppression. We have

been anti-imperialist activists and organizers for many years.

This has been our life's work, and it has brought us into continuing conflict with the U.S. government. It has also linked us with the millions of people around the world who struggle for freedom and against exploitation. Fighting against poverty and oppression, and inspired by a vision of collective and personal liberation, people from South Africa to Palestine to Central America to the ghettos of the U.S. are struggling to change the conditions of their lives. With them we say, "No Justice, No Peace."



The U.S. government fears the growth of the anti-imperialist movement that we've helped to build over the past 20 years. We have been targeted by the F.B.I. for continuing harassment, surveillance and imprisonment.

Each of us has been an anti-imperialist political prisoner for more than three years. We have been condemned to sentences as long as 70 years. Laura Whitehorn is now the longest-held political prisoner in "preventive detention." We have battled cancer, psychological torture, and isolation, buried in the worst prisons in the U.S. along with hundreds of Black/New Afrikan, Puerto Rican, Native American and North American political prisoners and Prisoners of War.

We are neither terrorists nor criminals. We are guilty of no criminal activity.

Now we face these new charges. They were brought more than three years and 14 prosecutions after the last of us was arrested. The charges are couched in language that targets our politics and associations. The government makes no claim to know who actually did the bombings. The Reagan administration wants to stage a show trial that will not only have a chilling effect on activists here, but will also divert attention from the North/Poindexter trials going on down the hall from ours.

We will fight this politically motivated indictment, but we expect no justice. We are each held in solitary confine-

ment, unable to meet together or with our lawyers to prepare a defense. We, accused of acts of resistance against state terrorism by the U.S. government, acts which themselves caused no casualties, are labeled "terrorists," forced to come to court draped in shackles, and displayed behind a bullet-proof plexiglass partition. North and Poindexter, whose actions merit a trial for was crimes and crimes against humanity, are called heroes by politicians, and come to court draped in the blessings of Ronald Reagan and with the benefit of millions of dollars from right-wing backers.

The government is relentless in its pursuit of those whose love and concern extend across national and racial barriers, and whose commitment leads them to active resistance. That is why the Sanctuary and Plowshares movements have been targeted by the Reagan Administration. That is why a group of Puerto Rican *independentistas* are now facing charges in Hartford, Connecticut. That is why a group of working class anti-imperialist activists currently face sedition charges in Springfield, Massachusetts. That is why a New Afrikan Freedom Fighter, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, and one of us, Marilyn Buck, were recently tried in New York.

If political prisoners can be treated as less than human - as outside the bounds of human decency - how will other sectors of the political community be treated when their voices become too loud?

The Reagan administration wants our prosecution to serve as a warning to those who demand justice and human rights.

We say as long as this government tramples on the rights, the lives, and the dignity of human beings here or anywhere else in the world, there will always be resistance. That is not a criminal conspiracy - it is a movement of solidarity and resistance, of love and hope.

NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE!

*"the state can have no case
there is no case
against freedom"*

-Thulani Davis

From anti-imperialist political prisoners:

Alan Berkman Marilyn Buck Susan Rosenberg
Timothy Blunk Linda Evans Laura Whitehorn

Emergency Appeal

America's only political prisoner on death row, Mumia Abu-Jamal, has been denied his appeal to have his death sentence over-turned by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Mumia's appeal had also demanded a new trial. The March 6 high court decision ignored a multitude of fair trial violations and refused to consider the political motivations which were central in prosecuting Mumia and getting him sentences to death.

"As a former Black Panther Party spokesman and an outspoken MOVE supporter, Jamal has been in the cross hairs of Philadelphia's racist killer cops for over 20 years," said Partisan Defense Cttee. At the time of his arrest, Jamal was President of the Association of Black Journalists in Philadelphia. He earned the cops' undying hatred especially for his sympathetic interviews with imprisoned MOVE members after the 1978 cop siege.

Mumia was framed up in the killing of a Philadelphia policeman in 1981. At the 1982 sentencing hearing, the prosecutor argued for the death sentence by claiming that Jamal's having been a member of the Black Panther Party showed he was a committed cop-killer. The jury was assured that the death penalty would never be carried out, that Jamal would have "appeal after appeal." For years the Pennsylvania Supreme Court had held in other cases that this obviously false argument mandated automatic reversal of the death sentence upon review. But in its March 6 decision the court ignored its own precedent in its push to silence Mumia by execution.

Mumia was targeted because of what he wrote and said, because of who he is: a radical Black man who became known as "THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS." At his trial, Mumia was denied counsel of his own choice. To get a hanging jury of 11 whites, the court permitted the seating of a white juror who admitted he could not be impartial, while excluding 12 prospective black jurors simply on the prosecution's request.

Jamal's appeal was supported by amici curiae (friends of the court) briefs from ACLU and the National Conf. of Black Lawyers. Ron Dellums, now chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, appealed to Pennsylvania's Gov. Casey "to remove the cloud of death from Mr. Abu-Jamal" in a letter last November. Thousands of people around the nation have petitioned the governor to demand "MUMIA ABU-JAMAL MUST NOT DIE" as part of a campaign initiated by PDC.



TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS SHOULD BE SENT NOW TO THE GOVERNOR:

Gov. Casey
Main Capitol Bldg.
Room 225
Harrisburg, PA 17120

FOR PETITIONS AND MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

PARTISAN DEFENSE COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 99
Canal Street Station
New York, NY 10013

OHIO 7: UPDATE

In Springfield, MA, the government has found itself bogged in the Ohio 7 trial and has been repeatedly criticized by the local media. The media is asking why the government is prosecuting people at the current cost of 2.1 million dollars, when all but one defendant have already been convicted for the same activities covered in this indictment and have sentences from 15-53 years. The jury selection alone had taken 6 months to pick only 6 jurors.

So, on August 30th, the government prosecutors dropped charges against Tom Manning and Jaan Laaman, announcing that they were trying to simplify the trial. In essence, however, they were maneuvering to divide and demoralize the defendants. With this move they could silence two powerful voices in the trial and separate Tom and Jaan from their wives and comrades. The case has taken on the vindictive nature of a selective prosecution of three mothers, politically active and concerned women who have refused to renounce their husbands and life-oriented progressive politics they hold.

Jaan was sent to Otisville to the segregation unit and then to Lewisburg, and then to Leavenworth. Tom Manning was placed in the Maximum Control Unit in Trenton State Penitentiary.

OHIO 7: ON TRIAL *(continued from front page)*

we support, across the board, all marxist or socialist revolutionary groups. Nor would we support every action or words any group or person uses. This is very similar to how people in society interact; would you support everything you or your friends have done in your whole life? We decide on a case by case basis who we offer solidarity to, or what we think is important to educate people in our communities about.

There is an old saying; "Actions speak louder than words". In this particular case we feel there is much to be learned from the Ohio 7's resistance and the actions for which they are charged. Their situation shows us their courage and strength to build a resistance movement, and to make changes that forward the struggles for self-determination world-wide. Self-determination is a right which we support for all peoples.

We have been shown though, through historical examples, that so far marxist or socialist revolutions have resulted in the continuation of oppression and imperialism, through the reign of one group over society in the form of state bureaucracy. In Russia, Cuba, Spain, China, Ethiopia etc, new bureaucracies set up by former revolutionaries and marxist politicians have repeatedly clamped down with impunity on any people or movements beyond their control, using the methods of violence, repression and propaganda machines. Anarchists and autonomous movements or cultures have suffered under every marxist regime. It is ironic that even the most active and committed fighters in these revolutions tend to be the first victims of the new government, whether they are anarchist or marxist or whomever!!

By our definition as anarchists, we seek anti-statist or self-managed ways of organizing and living in all aspects. We believe in self-defense and social revolution,

where we defend ourselves and others from those who directly threaten our lives, and we seek to liberate ourselves (and society!) from the diseases of racism, sexism, homophobia and all apathy that is the underlining problem which we face in this struggle. We are intent on creating a society where we are self-managed and autonomous. A society in which those who are working in a particular area can organize their work and make their

own decisions. A society where those who are affected by a problem are directly in control of their situation and therefore are those who can resolve it.

The Ohio 7 in the actions they have been accused of, were not working to build a marxist vanguard party. Ulterior motives, if they existed, are not of concern to us as they are not the main issue being brought out in the case. We feel that the Ohio 7 are sincere in their struggle for a world based on human needs, justice and freedom, as their writings and statements will show.

The Ohio 7 are being charged with RICO (racketeering) and seditious conspiracy laws which are very powerful weapons the state uses to outlaw dissent in society. Seditious libel has already been threatened against the Toronto militant political prisoner magazine "Bulldozer", when these friends were raided in 1983. They were raided because of their support for the Canadian guerilla group Direct Action/Vancouver 5. We simply cannot ignore the Ohio 7 and the states conspiracy case, because from this will come the platform for the state to repress, criminalize and outlaw all revolutionary people, and all others seeking social change. We cannot wait until the state has imprisoned or killed our anarchist comrades before we act to stop the onslaught of our enemies, because by then it will be too late. Enough said, eh?



Imperialism is a forceful extraction of wealth from one people by another by force of arms or political manipulation and cultural extermination.

Unlike Marxists', our support is not for the would-be national rulers, but for the people who fight to defend themselves and to better their conditions.

**Toronto Anarchist Black Cross, P.O. Box 6326,
Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1P7**