

# Suit charges FBI harassment

Since its inception, the civil rights movement has been subjected to illegal surveillance, disruption efforts, and harassment by the FBI.

We must demand an end to FBI interference in legal political activity that is guaranteed by the U.S. Bill of Rights. We have the right to speak out and demonstrate against unemployment, job discrimination, cuts in social services, the attempts to repeal the Voting Rights Act, the rise in Klan violence, and her, in Atlanta, the murders of our children. ... I support the SWP's national suit, which will put questionable operations on trial, as well as Atlanta efforts to stop these illegal activities at Lockheed.

—Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, president Southern Christian Leadership Conference

In 1973 the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) and its affiliate the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) filed suit against the FBI, CIA, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The party charged the government agencies with violating the rights of its members through a campaign of illegal spying, harassment and disruption. The SWP/YSA is demanding an injunction against this harassment, and \$40 million in damages.

This fall, according to Betsy Soares, SWP activist who spoke

with the *Observer* last week, testimony in the trial ended, with a ruling expected after the 1st of the year.

During the trial, said Ms. Soares, the government admitted its harassment campaign, claiming the right to spy on and disrupt any organization which is "unfriendly or potentially unfriendly" to the policies of the U.S. government—even if the activities of the organization are completely legal. Files the government was forced to release reveal government actions such as break-ins of offices, conspiring with employees to get workers fired from their jobs, wiretapping, and other forms of surveillance, and anonymous campaigns to incite violence against socialists.

COINTELPRO was the FBI's name for its program of harassment and disruption of progressive movement groups. Among those specifically targeted were Black movement groups like the Black Panthers. Black leaders whom the government referred to as "potential new messiahs of the Black movement" were named. Of course, these names are blanked out on the released documents, but COINTELPRO was in effect at the time of the murders of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X.

The government claims to have abandoned Cointelpro activities, but the SWP says otherwise. They point to recent campaigns of firings

and harassment of SWP-member and others working at a Lockheed "defense" plant in Marietta, Ga., and at a McDonnell-Douglas jet-fighter plant in St. Louis. The socialists claim that company security agents collaborated with the FBI, the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau, the Pentagon's Defense Investigative Service, and local "red squads" to draw up a "subversive hit list" including over 100 workers, in the case of the Georgia plant, where 15 SWP-members were subsequently fired.

In addition, the SWP points to a campaign of deportations of foreigners who have joined the SWP. For example, Mojgan Hariri-Vijeh, an Iranian who came to the U.S. in 1977, was left alone by the INS, throughout the overthrow of the Shah and the entire hostage crisis, until she joined the SWP in 1980. Today, she faces deportation.

The SWP's suit has received wide support. A partial list of supporters includes: Manning Marable, Ron Dellums, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Joseph E. Lowery, the NAACP, Ed Asner, Pete Seeger, Russell Means, Linus Pauling, I.F. Stone, Jane Fonda and Andrew Young.

For more information, or to express your support, call 222-7225 in Portland, or write the Political Rights Defense Fund, P.O. Box 649, Cooper Station, N.Y., N.Y. 10003.

# War in the Middle East?

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years: the problem came with World War II," Darweesh explains. "Zionism is a racist movement—even in the definition of the UN (United Nations). We receive reports that there are racial problems between European Jews and Eastern Jews."

Both Darweesh and Ramezina say the conflict between Jews and Arabs is not based on religion, but on race and class struggle.

"If you go to Israel, you will see disgraceful areas where Palestinians have had their own places, but if Israel wants that land, he cannot say no. A lot of villages have been blown off the map now," Darweesh says.

And in a city where 60% of the population is Palestinian, Ramezina adds, "If there are Jewish and Palestinian settlements, the Palestinians will not have running water and the Jews will have all the modern facilities."

Darweesh says the Israelis claim they are in danger of being pushed into the sea, when in actuality, "we are the people who have been suppressed; our camps south of Lebanon have been burned every day. The Red Cross knows this and they are a very moderate organization."

Ramezina agrees. "They talk about terrorism of Palestinians—we are the ones who are being terrorized."

The students are both skeptical of the reports that Libyan "hit squads" are roaming around trying to assassinate U.S. government officials. "Khaddafy is not crazy; he knows getting rid of one head doesn't get rid of the system," says Darweesh. He believes the recent military maneuvers (Operation Bright Star) in Egypt were staged to "pressure Khaddafy and paint him as crazy so they can get rid of him. It hits two birds with one stone."

Darweesh says Saudi Arabia is a problem in the region because it is pro-U.S. and has the majority of oil

reserves. "The whole Saud family is one of a typical reactionary regime." Why does Saudi Arabia make deals with the U.S. when it has all that oil to use as blackmail? "For money," Darweesh asserts. "Saudi Arabia has the oil, but the U.S. petroleum industry controls Saudi Arabia. They are the tail to U.S. policy; they do what they are told."

Ramezina says the Saud family rules Saudi Arabia like the late shah did in her own country. "The Saud family is not a government by popular support, and their policies cannot be different."

Like Roosevelt's "Big Stick" policy of dealing with foreign governments, Darweesh sees the Reagan administration's behavior as the "Crazy Man" policy—to pressure and frighten progressive movements wherever they exist."

These "progressive" movements, in the view of Darweesh and Ramezina, are the Libyan government of Moammar Khaddafy, the Iranian government of Khomeini, and those of South Yemen and Algeria. There has been talk of these forces joining together to form a so-called "Islamic Front" to oppose U.S. influence in the Middle East and help promote systems of political and social governance based on self-determination.

Do these students believe this is a possibility? Darweesh does not. "I don't think it would work. The revolutionary Moslem idea does not exist in other countries of the Middle East—not like Iran which is 99.9% Moslem. There are other cultures in the Middle East."

Ramezina is more optimistic. "Islam is a banner to get people together, but other religions can be included, as in Iran. It's just a start—it might happen, in my view."

If such a front were to materialize, Darweesh believes the U.S. government would use any means possible to squelch it. "If Jews and Arabs get together, it will form another superpower and the U.S.

would rather have a nuclear war than risk this alliance."

In the end, Palestinians and revolutionary Arabs are fighting the same battle—for recognition as a people and as a culture in their own land, and for an end to imperialism and Zionism as represented by the Israeli and U.S. governments, according to Darweesh.

"We are in the same boat as Latin American people. Somoza (former dictator of Nicaragua) was fighting to the last man, and for what? For the rubber companies and for United Fruit. We are fighting against Mobil and Exxon."

# Press poll

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Thomas Mitchell, executive director of BOP noted: "It's clear, these leading Blacks feel Blacks and Third World peoples are being ignored by the general press."

The poll also revealed that most Blacks (52 per cent) feel mostly "neglect" is killing key Black institutions. Another 25 per cent feel "inflation" is the villain. Some 56 per cent contend a Black think tank is needed for Black survival and the money is available for such a project.

On another economic note is 55.7 per cent said Japan should aid in the development of the U.S. Black community because of the fact that Blacks are large consumers of Japanese-made products. When asked a follow-up question "Should Blacks boycott the Japanese if they are unwilling to aid Black development?" some 67 per cent said the boycott was a good idea. Some 67 per cent also agreed that a conference of Black journalists, academicians and Black Studies administrators is needed to forge a Black survival strategy.

# Street Beat

With the holidays just a week away, the *Portland Observer* went into the streets to ask people, "How are you coping with the present economic situation?"



Stephanie Michaels, Crime Prevention Rep., freelance writer: "My husband and I are weathering the storm. We had to make cutbacks and apply those savings toward necessities. If we can take the bus we take the bus. Wherever we can make cuts that's where we do it. We have passed the point of a recession and are really approaching a depression. I don't think that everybody can make it. The notion that Black people are survivors will be tested. The breadlines are getting longer and crime is on the rise because there are no jobs."

Carry Bradford, Hair Stylist: "The economic situation is just terrible. We are not having as many Christmas decorations this year nor are we buying as many presents. I'm more on a budget now than I've ever been in my life and that makes a difference. You can really feel the squeeze."



Mrs. Lee Jones: "I'm on disability and things are getting harder and harder. When I cook it's just one dish and we eat from that dish for two days. The utility bills are going up along with everything else. We pinch from one day to another. There ain't no buying for Christmas. If we have something to eat we'll be blessed."

Tim Coughlin, Airport Driver: "I shop thriftily and I think about what I'm buying. I buy less and give more. I don't drive as much. I stay at home a lot more. I cook at home which cuts down on my eating out." (Tim is shown with a bottle of beer that he will give as a present.)

Carolyn Sibley, Pacific NW Bell employee: "I read the newspapers to catch all the sales. I've gone back to Perry's Market where I stopped going years ago. This Christmas I'll buy things we need rather than toys. I don't think they should cut Head Start because education is real important."



Mrs. D. Roub, Crime Prevention employee: "We are in the process of building a house through the Veterans Administration and they are talking about raising the interest rate. If they do that we are not sure if we can afford to continue building the house or live in it when it's completed. The taxes keep going up

and I resent Reaganomics, from the standpoint of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. I resent the arrogance of Mrs. Reagan wearing a \$10,000 dress and a few weeks later they want to cut meals for children in the schools. I don't know how the rich can keep getting richer because in the end we are in this boat together."

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

# Cuts boost health care cost

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grams which are designed to maximize—rather than minimize—costs is so scandalous it makes the Pentagon overruns look like peanuts."

However, even while President Reagan was drawing attention to the issue, his administration was slashing existing "in-home health services" by 25 per cent. Such a cut will keep even more disabled people in the hospital, at an even greater drain on taxes. "Unnecessary hospitalization" continues to siphon off three-quarters more tax money than proper care would cost at home or in a nursing center, according to hospital finance directors.

Willie Ramirez, hospitalized for two years after he was hit by an uninsured motorist, found his way home a few weeks ago only because a dogged team of doctors, nurses and social workers at Stanford pieced together elements of about six different public funding programs.

Willie, like Katie Beckett, has indomitable parents who simply would not give up. Unlike Katie's parents, Willie's are extremely poor. Mexican-Americans, their children all born in the United States, they do not even speak English. But they have mastered the intricacies of the medical equipment that keeps their quadriplegic child breathing. They found a house big enough for the complicated machinery to fit beside his bed, along with the electric typewriter he has learned to use with a mouth stick, and the special telephone he also can operate entirely by mouth, answering strong and cheerfully, "Hello! I'm Willie...."

"That marvelous family has learned to take care of Willie by sheer dint of love," said Maria Nasjleti, a Stanford Hospital social worker who toiled for months to get him home.

Unfortunately, at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, where Willie astonished the staff by his alertness in re-learning to speak and to use the telephone and typewriter, Dr. Conal Wilmot, medical director, said there are a number of children whose cases parallel Willie's. Even more numerous are disabled adults.

"Eight per cent of our rehabilitation beds are tied up with patients who can't go away because, though we have completed work with them, there are no other alternate facilities for their care," said Dr. Wilmot. Most move to another hospital. Willie went back to Stanford Hospital and would be there still if teamwork by his parents and Stanford's staff hadn't gotten him home.

"One case at a time, we try to work out individual solutions for care," said Dr. Wilmot. "But it is staggeringly complicated. The legal structure militates against care anywhere but at the most expensive level. Not all could go home, but they could go to nursing homes—if such were available."

Said Leonard Krauss, of California's Children's Health Services: "We have many cases in which families get no help at all for a handicapped member until they have spent down every penny saved, some even selling their homes. Then they become eligible for Medicaid—and welfare for themselves. This situation is growing worse."

In the case of Katie Beckett, President Reagan waived this income barrier. Her parents had enough earnings to bar them from Medicaid at home, but not when the child was hospitalized.

In sheer numbers, adults are more affected by the inconsistencies in medical programs than are children. While "in-home health services" programs have grown in recent years, they often lack coordination with other programs, have inadequate supervision and lead to abuses when patients choose their own "in-home" aide. The current funding cuts may exacerbate those problems.

"There is terrible fragmentation in health care programs and once people get institutionalized, they fear they will fall between the slots if they make any change. So they cling to institutional care," said Hadley Hall of San Francisco Home Health Service. "The institutions in turn get dependent on the money. I get terribly angry because the money isn't being spent wisely and it doesn't encourage independence."

Some health professionals, like Robert Erickson, Kaiser Foundation Hospital director in Oakland, Calif., hold out hope that the climate of frugality in Washington may accomplish greater coordination in health programs.

"There are some very conservative lawmakers who see the sense in home care," he said. "Tight budgets may bring much-needed reform. This would save more than money: personal dignity for the patient, happiness and a more wholesome community."

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