

Article by David Chen, Coordinator, Asian American Caucus for Disarmament

As Asian Americans we are painfully aware that the first bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We have seen the United States at war with almost every Asian country in our lifetime. The Asian American Caucus for Disarmament is a coalition formed with the understanding that as Asian Americans we have a special and important role to play in linking the movement for peace and disarmament with the struggle against racism and for justice and equality. We have formed because we are opposed to US intervention in Asia, Africa, Middle East and Latin America. We have formed because we see the mounting need, in light of the present unprecedented military buildups, to educate, organize and involve Asian American communities in the movement for disarmament and for human needs. We have formed in total solidarity with the Third World peoples' fight for freedom and equality.

In the Chinatowns and Little Tokyos, our people live in fear that they will be picked up by ~~the~~ "La Migra", to borrow the expression from our Hispanic brothers and sisters who are facing the same enemy. Just recently, the Immigration and Naturalization Service conducted their so-called "Operation Jobs" in 9 major cities across the country and arrested 5,635 "foreign looking" and "dark-skinned" workers at their respective workplaces. They claimed they were recapturing lost jobs for unemployed Americans. Those arrested are Asians, Hispanics, Haitians and other Third World people. Are we taking away jobs? Are we the cause of unemployment? This vicious scapegoating of our Third World people, whether it be in the "welfare cheat" stereotype or "wetback" or "Chink" or "Jap" is none other than part of a racist master-plan to hide the real cause of unemployment: the military build up, the arms race, and the stockpiling of nuclear weapons. For example, for each billion dollars spent on the military, we are losing 20,000 jobs in construction, 74,000 jobs in daycare services, and 64,000 jobs in schools.

Japanese Americans were thrown into concentration camps during World War II. And today, the Haitians refugees are rounded up and still locked up in concentration camps. These courageous men, women and children who ~~had~~ fled persecutions in Haiti are now treated worse than cattle, kept behind barbed-wires as billions upon billions are spent on the military buildup, the arms race, and the stockpiling.

In Hawaii, the native Hawaiian people are still fighting for their survival as a people, a way of life, and for the land they once owned. The enemy? The US military who would wantonly use and abuse their precious land for target practices and mere destruction. Is this not the same struggle as our Native American brothers and sisters? Is this not the same struggle as our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters of the Vieques Island?

The very victims and survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki are barred by the State Department from entering this country right at this very moment. Their entry visas are being delayed due to the invocation of the much hated McCarran Act of the still much hated McCarthy era. While the same State Department had traditionally granted visas to Ian Smith, the Shah of Iran, and the rugby team from the racist S. Africa, it is denying visas to the peace delegates who are on a mission of peace in support of the United Nation Second Special Session on Disarmament.

Since the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the US has actually used the nuclear threat many times. ~~Being~~ ^{As} minorities living in this country's ~~biggest city~~, when a cop pulls a gun and points it at our heads, we don't need to be shot dead in order to know there is police brutality, ~~and that he had used a gun.~~ Whether the bombs were actually dropped or not, they ^{have been} "used" many times. ~~The~~ ^{The bomb} was "used" in Northern Iran right after the bombing in Japan, in Korea during the Korean War in 1950 and 1953, , in Indochina in 1954, in Lebanon in 1958, in China in 1958, Cuba in 1962 and again in Vietnam in late 1968. More recently, President Reagan reminded us of the Carter Doctrine on the Middle East.

As Asian Americans we stand proud to be part of the international struggle with our Third World brothers and sisters, here and abroad, for peace and justice, and equality for all.