The Freedom Road Socialist Organization welcomes everyone coming from near and far to protest the Iraq War, the Republican agenda and to advance the demands for peace, justice and equality on Sept. 1 in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Like you, we oppose four more years of occupation, war, repression and racism.

We are here to build the movements for social justice and peace, to get the U.S. out of Iraq now and stop the Republicans from putting McCain in the White House. We want to put an end to Bush’s never-ending ‘war on terror,’ along with putting an end to inequality and oppression at home and the occupation of sovereign countries by the armies of empire abroad.

Our voices will be heard loud and clear on the streets when Bush addresses the Republican convention Monday night. We think the March on the RNC Sept. 1, along with all the other protests, will help to defeat McCain and make him a footnote in high school history books. We will march with you and tens of thousands of others. We will make history. Our protests will be the front-page photo in many newspapers across the world. The Republicans came to Saint Paul to hide from the American people, but we will not let them rest easy.

Every day of this convention we plan to confront and oppose the Republicans, McCain and his wealthy backers. We say, “Stop the war! Stop McCain!” The Republicans blame everybody but the class of billionaires who run this country for the problems we face. They will spew their hate filled rhetoric inside the Xcel center - which they have fortified like a bunker. They are terrified of working, oppressed and progressive people of all kinds advancing an agenda of real change - change that puts the people and our needs first and says to hell with the elite and corporate profits.

Our protests will be outside, in the open air. They will let the world know our demands for a just society. Our movements will demand money for Welcome, continued on page 1

Interview with Jess Sundin, an organizer of Sept. 1 anti-war protest at RNC

Fight Back! interviewed Jess Sundin, one of the main organizers of the Sept. 1 anti-war protest. She has helped to lead the Coalition to March on the RNC and Stop the War, active in the Twin Cities-based Anti-War Committee and is a member of Freedom Road Socialist Organization.

Fight Back!: What is the significance of the protests at the RNC?

Jess Sundin: The eyes of the world will be on Saint Paul during the week of the Republican convention. If all they see is the proceedings inside the Xcel Center, then we have failed. Protests in the streets are the way to give voice to the millions dead in Iraq, to the hundreds of thousands homeless after the disaster in New Orleans or from foreclosures in every community across the country. The protests are the only way we can answer the Republican agenda and demand an end to policies that wage war, deepen poverty and fuel racism.

Fight Back!: As a leader of the Coalition to March on the RNC and Stop the War, could you describe the efforts that have been made to unite so many groups for the Sept. 1 demonstration?

Sundin: The vast majority in this country are against the war and occupation in Iraq. In addition to anti-war activists, we have student groups, labor unions, immigrant rights organizations, low-income community groups and many others who oppose the war because it is wrong, but also see the heavy costs their own communities pay while it continues. More than 120 organizations from across the U.S. are marching together under one banner: “Stop the war.”

All three of the major national anti-war coalitions will march together on Sept. 1, along with the leaders of the biggest immigrants rights organizations in the country, from Los Angeles and Chicago. The coming together of these two movements is a power force. This unity is what we need in the face of a war and economic crisis that are destroying more lives every day.

Fight Back!: Where do you think the anti-war movement should be going in the period ahead?

Sundin: As the DNC and the RNC kick off the election season, we in the anti-war movement need to be very vocal and visible with our demand: “U.S. out of Iraq now.” Over the next two months, wherever Obama or McCain appear, the anti-war move-
human needs, not for war and occupation. We demand universal health care, money for public education, housing for the homeless, jobs for the unemployed and money and justice for all those who suffered during Hurricane Katrina. We can never forgive or forget how Bush and the Republicans left low-income African-American people stranded on bridges while the floodwaters rose.

We demand and end to racist discrimination. We support immigrants’ rights and demand legalization and full equality for all. We defend women’s right to choose and control their bodies. We want Gays and Lesbians to be able to marry and have all the rights of other Americans. And we want Bush and the Republicans to do away with not just the Republicans, but also the wealthy class that rules the world, to build a movement that will become reality. Our aim is to express our unity. To contact us, write: info@fightbacknews.org

We are not ‘neutral’ or ‘even-handed’ in our coverage. We provide coverage and analysis of some of the key battles facing working and low-income people. We are opposed to exploitation, discrimination and oppression. We hold that the rich class of people, who run the economy and government of this country, are unfit to rule. We support all movements that challenge their power and privilege.

The writers and staff of Fight Back! are activists and organizers - in the trade unions, low-income community, oppressed nationality movements, on the campuses and in other people’s movements. We welcome articles, letters, comments and criticisms. Some of us working to put out this paper are members of Freedom Road Socialist Organization.

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Standing up at the RNC: Voices from the protest

I am marching on the RNC to unite with thousands of people who will be there to expose the Bush-McCain politics of war, racism and anti-immigrant attacks. I am marching to represent the Chicano-Mexicano people’s struggle for self-determination and equality. Our struggle has a long history of resistance to U.S. oppression of our land, culture and economic and political power. We as Chicanos have a long history of solidarity with the people of Iraq in their fight against U.S. occupation. The RNC agenda represents the interests of pro-corporate anti-people politics. It is also an agenda that promotes the increased attacks and oppression against Chicanos and Mexicanos in our own homeland in the Southwest U.S. and other major cities.

Carlos Montes, Latinos Against War

As a Palestinian Arab who was born and raised in this country, I have seen nothing but death, destruction and catastrophe for my people in Palestine, the rest of the Arab world and here in the U.S. Although these U.S. government policies have been consistent throughout both parties’ administrations, this past era has possibly been the most devastating in generations for Palestinians and Arabs. So we must all march on the RNC, demand an end to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, demand self-determination, the Right of Return and in addition to the Palestinian people, and demand an end to all U.S. aid to Israeli occupation and colonization.

Hatem Abudayyeh

When I first started protesting, it was amazing to me how much it mattered to other anti-war protesters; especially those who protest the U.S. war in Viet Nam War, to have me - a Vietnamese American woman join them. When I had the chance to go to Palestine after the start of the second intifada, I was deeply moved and inspired by the Palestinian people’s struggle for the freedom of their land and an end to the occupation. They saw their struggle as part of a whole movement to end injustice worldwide. Drawing inspiration from them and others that I know are in the struggle with me, I march on the RNC to say no to the Republican agenda, no to racism and to any agenda that seeks to oppress the many to serve the needs of the few.

Anh Pham, Anti-War Committee, MN

I am marching on the RNC to stop the war in Iraq and to defeat the Republican agenda. U.S. imperialism is devastating the Iraqi people. John McCain is an advocate of war and occupation. A movement in this country to oppose the war and defeat McCain will help the Iraqi people free themselves. I am also marching to stop the deviation that capitalism is causing here at home. Homelessness and hunger are rising and New Orleans is still a disaster three years later. The rich care nothing about the people of this country and the Republicans are a big part of that.

Steff Yorek, Freedom Roads Socialist Organization

The Poor People’s Contingent at the RNC march is very important because it’s time that we let these beasts in office hear our voices. What has America is really thinking. We are tired of being poor, hungry, displaced and dying because we’re living off of they feel is ‘fare.’ We have a chance to make history in more ways than one.

Juzel Sanders, Welfare Rights Committee

This is the time that we all have to stand together and fight. It’s time for a change and only we can make the change, so let’s stand and march for us. Make them understand that we need money for human needs, not for war!

This past J une, President Bush said he had to handle many disasters, referring to Hurricane Katrina, the housing and financial cri-sis and the oil crisis. Nevertheless, I say Bush and the Republicans have been a great disaster for Latin America, especially promoting Plan Colombia and war against the poor. In his support for the corrupt, narco-trafficking President of Colombia, Bush said, “President Uribe has done everything we asked for and more.” We do not want more of the same, so we are protesting the Republicans and McCain in Saint Paul.

Guillermo Rafael Cohen, Colombia Action Network

WAR, SOCIALISM AND THE PEOPLE’S STRUGGLE

A conference on imperialism and how to end it.

Over the last six years there has been an upsurge in the people’s struggle in the United States: The growth of a mass anti-war movement not seen since the fight against the war in Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s; the emergence of an immigrant rights movement and the largest struggle for equality since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s; and a growing fight back against foreclosures, job cuts and cuts in health care, education, welfare and a grow- ing economic crisis.

Fight Back! has covered these struggles and sees the growth of the people’s struggle calling for a higher level of understanding of our common struggle against imperialism - a system based on giant corporations that cross the globe in search for ever-greater profits, and these corporations’ control of our government and use of military force to achieve their goals. Fight Back! is sponsoring this conference so that activists can share their experiences and learn more about imperialism and how we can fight to end it and replace it with a system of socialism, where people’s needs, not corporate profits, are the basis of society.

Join us on Saturday, Oct. 18 in Minneapolis, Minnesota for this important conference on imperialism and how to end it. At the conference there will be workshops and discussion that brings together activists from the anti-war, immigrant rights, the labor, oppressed nationality, student and low-income movements. There will be presentations from some of the leaders of these movements and from Freedom Road Socialist Organization. We will also be talking about how to build a revolutionary media that an serves the people, grass-roots organizing, bringing together a broad and front of different forces, building a revolutionary organization and the direction for the people’s struggle in 2009.

For more information, contact Fight Back!: Fight Back! P.O. Box 582564 Minneapolis, MN 55448 email us at info@fightbacknews.org We look forward to seeing you in October!
Entrevista con Jess Sundin, organizadora de protesta anti-guerra 1 de sept.

¡EEUU fuera de Irak ya!

¡Lucha y Resiste!

Les damos una bienvenida de parte de Freedom Road Socialist Organization a todas y todos los que han venido de cerca y desde lejos para protestar en contra de la guerra en Irak, protestar la agenda republicana, y avanzar las demandas de paz, justicia e igualdad el 1 de septiembre en San Pablo, Minnesota. Como ustedes, nosotros estamos en contra de cuatro años más de ocupación, guerra, represión y racismo.

Estamos aquí para construir los movimientos para la justicia social y la paz, para exigir el retiro de las tropas estadounidenses de Irak, y para parar a los republicanos en su intento de llevar a McCain a la Casa Blanca. Queremos un fin a ‘la guerra sin fin contra el terrorismo,’ queremos acabar con la desigualdad y la opresión dentro de los Estados Unidos y también queremos un fin a la ocupación de países soberanos por los ejércitos del imperio.

Cuando Bush habla la noche del lunes 1 de septiembre en la convención republicana, vamos a levantar nuestras voces en la calle para que nos escuchen claramente. Creemos que la marcha en contra de la RNC el 1 de septiembre, juntos a otras protestas, va a ayudar a derrotar McCaín y dejar en evidencia el cambio que hemos hecho y con sus palabras de odio dentro del Xcel Center. Han fortificado el Xcel Center como un fuerte en un búnker. Tienen mucho miedo de los trabajadores, de la gente oprimida y la gente progresista avanzando una agenda de cambio real – un cambio que pone el pueblo y nuestras necesidades primero y dice ‘al diablo con los ricos y las ganancias corporativas.’

Nuestras protestas se harán afuera, al aire libre. Vamos a expresarse al mundo nuestras demandas para una sociedad justa. Exigimos más dinero para las necesidades humanas, no para la guerra y la ocupación. Exigimos un sistema de seguro médico universal, dinero para educación pública, hogares comunes con los trabajadores, viviendo en paz con los desempleados y dinero y justicia para todas y todos los que sufrieron durante el huracán Katrina. Nunca podré olvidar ni perdonar el hecho de que Bush y los republicanos dejaron a los afro-americanos de bajo ingreso olvidados en New Orleans mientras subió el agua de la inundación a medida que el huracán.

Volante para el contingente pro-inmigrante de la marcha contra la RNC el 1 de septiembre

Los republicanos han hecho a todo el mundo por los problemas que enfrentamos excepto a la clase de bil-lonarios que maneja este país. Van a estar hablán-do con sus palabras de odio dentro del Xcel Center. Han fortificado el Xcel Center como que fuera un fuerte en un búnker. Tienen mucho miedo de los trabajadores, de la gente oprimida y la gente progresista avanzando una agenda de cambio real – un cambio que pone el pueblo y nuestras necesidades primero y dice ‘al diablo con los ricos y las ganancias corporativas.’

Esta es la lucha y las demandas que vosotros sois. Nuestras marchas están botando de sus hogares a muchas personas que han quedado sin casas y apartamentos que las autoridades están botando de sus hogares para hacer crecer el movimiento y su capacidad de oponerse a la guerra y los ricos.

¡Lucha y Resiste!: ¿Cuáles son los próximos pasos para el movimiento anti-guerra?

Sundin: Con las convenciones de los demócratas y los republicanos y la llegada de las elecciones, el movimiento anti-guerra tiene que ser fuerte y visible con nuestra demanda: Estados Unidos Fuera de Irak Ahora. En donde sea que aparezcan Obama o McCaín, el movimiento anti-guerra debe estar allí con un mensaje para terminar la ocupación de Irak. Debemos enfrentar a McCaín con manifestaciones fuertes. El día de las elecciones es importante que votemos en contra de John McCaín, de la agenda republicana reaccionaria, pro-guerra, de pobreza, desigualdad y racismo, de la agenda que eligen que está en contra de los inmigrantes, las mujeres y los homosexuales. Un voto en contra de McCaín nos dará mejores condiciones en la lucha para un cambio real, que no sólo los republicanos, sino también con la clase rica que manda en este país.

¡Lucha y Resiste!: ¿Cuál es la importancia de las protestas contra la Convención Republicana Nacional?

Sundin: El mundo estará mirando hacia San Pablo durante la semana de la Convención Republicana. Si sólo vieran lo que está pasando adentro del Centro Xcel, nosotros habríamos fracasado. Las protestas en las calles darán una voz a los millones de muertos en Irak, a los cientos de miles de personas que han quedado sin casas después del desastre en Nueva Orleans o gente que está sin vivienda y que ha sido olvidada en todas las comunidades del país. Las protestas son nuestra vía para respon-dernos a la agenda republicana y exigir un fin a las políticas que fomentan la guerra, la pobreza y el racismo. Durante los días 1 al 4 de septiembre en San Pablo, Minnesota, nos verá exigiendo un verdadero cambio, nos verá exigiendo paz, justicia e igualdad, no sólo para nosotros, sino para todos los pueblos del mundo.

¡Lucha y Resiste!: ¿Cómo liderazgo de la Coalición para marchar en contra de la Convención Republicana y la guerra, puede describir los esfuerzos que han sido hechos para unir a tantos grupos para la manifestación el 1 de septiembre.

Sin importar el candidato que gane la presidencia, necesitamos seguir construyendo un movimiento anti-guerra en las calles de cada ciudad y pueblo de los Estados Unidos. La marcha contra la guerra el 1 de septiembre representa un desafío importante a la guerra en contra de Irak. Tenemos demandas claras, unidad dentro del movimiento anti-guerra y con otros movimientos de gente trabajadora y oprimida. Necesitamos esta unidad para hacer crecer el movimiento y su capacidad de oponerse a la guerra y los que hacen la guerra aquí en este país.

Los ojos del mundo estarán puestos en San Pablo

Entrevista con Jess Sundin, organizadora de protesta anti-guerra 1 de sept.

¡Lucha y Resiste! Noticias y Perspectivas de la Lucha del Pueblo Edición Especial Manifestación RNC Vol. 11, No. 4

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Cuatro días para cambiar el mundo

¡EEUU fuera de Irak ya!

¡Exigimos paz e igualdad!

¡Lucha y Resiste!