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## Democracy endangered in Nepal

From IMC Global

Almost the entire royal family of Nepal and their body guards were brutally murdered in cold blood at their regular Friday night family gathering on June 1. Preliminary reports, of a family squabble ending with the crown prince killing everyone and then shooting himself, seem highly suspect. One version of the "official" story claimed that a gun somehow went off by itself, killing 30+ people, some of whom were not even in the same room.

The bodies were cremated almost immediately, much sooner than is normally the case. The crown prince, the supposed killer, was made king while lying brain dead in hospital. Ironically, the King's brother, Gyanendra was out of town. At the same time, his nephew, Paresh, a known murderer of at least five people, was in the palace. So was the king's other brother Direndra, who has been living in London since 1990, estranged from the royal family. Both brothers are criminals who have been involved with the drug trade and with stealing and selling the antiquities of Nepal. They were also vehemently opposed to democracy in Nepal and a huge conflict broke out when King Birendra partially gave up the absolute powers of the Monarchy in 1990 and instituted limited democratic reforms in Nepal.

It has long been known that Gyanendra has links to the CIA as

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# 12,000 miners take control in Bolivia

Compiled from IMC  
Argentina by Darby Hickey

"Downtown was turned into a battlefield," wrote one observer about the conflicts between police and protesting miners who entered the capital on June 7. This latest action by the miners, 12,000 of whom are occupying the city, accompanies demands for \$100 million funding to reactivate the mining sector. Bolivian miners are one of the most militant sectors of workers in Latin America and have led numerous protests, including two insurrections against the government.

This latest action comes several weeks after Bolivian farmers marched on the capital and retirees went on hunger strike. The repression of the

miners by the police has caused peasant organizations to announce their solidarity and to take action accordingly.

Additionally, workers in the transportation sector have allied themselves with the miners, and most of the main roads in the country are blocked. This has raised the specter of military intervention, as the head of the Ministry of Defense announced that the Constitution allows the Army to ensure the accessibility of transportation routes.

In response to the police use of tear gas, rubber bullets and batons, the miners fought back with rocks, shovels, and even threw sticks of dynamite, which they originally brought as props to draw attention to their cause.

Under pressure from the massive presence of the workers, the government entered negotiations with the representatives of the miners, although progress was not imminent.

"We are back, and willing and able to fulfill the promise we made back in 1985, when we said the miners shall overcome. Now we are ready, and shall stay until our claims are heard and adopted," said Cresencio Huanca, trade union leader.

Meanwhile, Argentinean workers continue to agitate, with a full national strike and other demonstrations, and in Colombia thousands of students, union workers, peasants and others marched to protest the policies of the International Monetary Fund in their country.

## War, Inc.: U.S. outsources operations in Colombia

Adapted by Chris Strohm, IMC  
Washington, D.C., U.S.A., from  
an article by Jeremy Bigwood  
for Z Magazine

A U.S.-backed billion-dollar drug war in the South American Andes has turned into a lucrative operation for corporations in the United States that get contracts to carry out secret and often dangerous missions.

The United States is funneling hundreds of millions of dollars a year to private companies to perform missions that would otherwise raise public concern if U.S. government personnel were doing them.

But public opposition and outrage is mounting against the policy of outsourcing. Critics say the practice provides Washington with distance and deniability when it comes to the war, and shields the public from finding out exactly what is happening.

In Colombia, the U.S. State Department has awarded contracts to DynCorp of Virginia,

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Photo courtesy the Lincoln Brigade

### Demanding justice in Cincinnati

A broad coalition of people from the community, human rights activist groups, and the radical anti-authoritarian bloc have been protesting in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA against rampant police corruption and violence. In April, widespread unrest broke out in the city after a white police officer shot an unarmed black youth to death. This shooting was only the most recent in a long string of racist murders by the police. **For more information, visit IMC Ohio Valley at [www.ovimc.org](http://www.ovimc.org).**

## World Bank urges end of labor benefits in Mexico

*From the Mexico Solidarity Network*

A new World Bank report on Mexico, entitled "An Integral Agenda of Development for the New Era," was formally presented in Mexico on May 21. The report includes specific recommendations on labor policy for the government of President Vicente Fox, most notably proposals for increasing the "flexibility" of Mexican labor.

Concretely, the report recommends the elimination of current regulations mandating severance pay, collective bargaining, exclusion contracts, obligatory benefits, restrictions on contracts for temporary employment and apprenticeships, antiquity-based promotion schemes, company-sponsored training programs, and company payments to social security and housing plans.

The report suggested that North American investors attracted to Mexico under NAFTA are put off by domestic labor regulations, and that without making salaries more flexible, reducing company obligations toward workers and essentially repealing the federal labor law, investors will continue to have doubts about Mexico's economic future, while the poor will continue to be "impeded" by pro-labor laws from "obtaining the greatest benefit from their

human capital."

While the World Bank recommendations created a good deal of controversy in the press and among labor groups, they were solidly backed by the PAN party and the Fox administration.

President Fox said that all the suggestions and recommendations made by the World Bank "are very much in line with what we have contemplated," and that indeed they are essential for Mexico to "really enter into a process of sustainable development."

Managerial Coordinating Council (CCE) president Claudio X. González, however, took a different view. The leader of Mexico's most influential business organization affirmed that the World Bank recommendations went "over the top," and that business leaders in Mexico have no intention of eliminating elements such as severance pay, collective bargaining contracts, or payment of benefits to workers.

"We are in the process of modernizing our [labor] law," said González, "but some of these proposals of the World Bank are not made even to the most developed nations. Why are they then being recommended for the emerging countries?"

*For more information, visit [www.mexicosolidarity.org](http://www.mexicosolidarity.org)*

## Colombia

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Aviation Development Corporation of Alabama, AirScan of Florida and Military Professional Resources Inc. of Virginia to do everything from consulting and surveillance to aerial eradication of coca and poppy crops.

Some members of Congress are now investigating the role of contractors in the region and two bills have been introduced in opposition to the practice. Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL) recently introduced one bill that would totally ban the use of private military companies in the Andes.

"U.S. taxpayers are unwittingly funding a private war with private soldiers," Schakowsky testified in Congress. "Are we outsourcing in order to avoid public scrutiny, controversy or embarrassment? Is it to hide body bags from the media and thus shield them from public opinion?" she asked. "Or is it to provide deniability because these private contractors are not covered by the same rules as active duty U.S. service persons?"

The largest U.S. contractor being used is DynCorp. The company's website promotes it as an Internet Technologies corporation but about half of DynCorp's revenue comes from the Pentagon and many of its employees are retired military men.

DynCorp has a five-year, \$200 million contract to provide pilots for aerial eradication and helicopter pilots to ferry troops. The company also provides "security" personnel, and its pilots were involved in a gunfight last February in southern Colombia with leftist guerillas during a search and rescue mission.

A pamphlet from DynCorp advertising "opportunities" in South America reads as follows: "Air assault . . . search and rescue . . . scouting operations. These are just some of the exciting ways in which you can help train South American nationals in their efforts to eradicate the blight of drugs."

DynCorp is tight lipped when it comes to its clients. A company spokeswoman refused to comment on the company's overseas operations. DynCorp has also lost three pilots in action; none of these deaths were reported in the news media.

DynCorp also contracts a private company for eradication flights called Eagle Aviation Services Technology, which is the same company that the United States used to secretly run guns to Nicaraguan rebels during the 1980s Iran-Contra scandal.

*For updates on Colombia, visit [colombia.indymedia.org](http://colombia.indymedia.org)*

## Nepal

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well as to the government of India. What those connections mean in this whole affair remains to be seen.

Since Saturday, June 2, most people knew the prince was dead even though official reports were saying otherwise. After a fairly quiet two days, crowds gathered outside the palace and at the funeral chanting, "Kill the criminals, Kill Gyandera." In the meantime, more inside information leaked out and it quickly became clear that the massacre was a carefully orchestrated plot by at least two of the brothers and the nephew to seize control of Nepal.

On Monday, June 4, the prince was officially declared dead. One hour later, Gyanendra was crowned as King with full regalia, and with the Prime Minister and political leaders in attendance. The speed with which this was orchestrated indicates a high level of planning. The Prime Minister is either afraid to say anything or else is in collusion with the plotters. Paresh has already been sent to London for his own safety. People are furious that Gyanendra, possible murderer of his own family and their King, has now risen to the throne.

Anger among the Nepalese people has been building for a long time as a totally corrupt government has done little to improve their plight since the

introduction of "democracy" in 1990.

The army is in the streets along with hundreds of thousands of people. Roads are closed, and no one knows what will happen. People fear a blood bath since Gyanendra now controls the army.

The government moved quickly to squelch accounts of the massacre that did not agree with its official version. "Let no news and opinions that affect the nationality and mislead the people be published," said Shiva Raj Joshi, the Minister for Information and Communication. The government has since arrested the editor of Kantipur Daily in an effort to enforce that proclamation.

Democracy was struggling in Nepal, at best, but now it might die a swift death.

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