

Lula livre! Struggle wins freedom of former Brazilian president

written by Struggle - La Lucha

November 19, 2019



Lula greeted by supporters outside the Metal Workers Union in São Bernardo do Campo, Brazil, on Nov. 9.

After 580 days, one of the most famous political prisoners on the planet, former Brazilian President Luis Inácio Lula Da Silva, was finally released on Nov. 8. But his struggle for justice and freedom continues.

In a controversial ruling decided by one vote, Brazil's Supreme Federal Tribunal (STF) voted to deny the imprisonment of defendants who are found guilty until all appeals are exhausted. This was the case with Lula, who was sentenced to prison after being found guilty of corruption and money laundering. Six out of 11 ministers — as Brazilian Supreme Court judges are called — voted to uphold what is written in the constitution.

Although it is stipulated in the Brazilian Constitution that no person who is accused of a crime, if found guilty, shall be imprisoned until all appeals are exhausted, the former president, union head and leader for the Workers Party (PT) was sent to jail by a first stance judge (a lower court with no jury trial). It is important to point out that this law does not apply to repeat offenders and to crimes deemed to be violent.

The weaponization of the law in Brazil, or “lawfare” as it is commonly known there, is a mechanism that has been used often in the last decade. With the help of corrupt judges and the use of false accusations, or accusations of activities that are commonly done by many politicians and members of society in general, and thus not considered a crime, the ruling class targets politicians that do not acquiesce to its demands. By the same token, it acquits or refuses to indict those who are on their side, even when there is a lot of material evidence of wrongdoings and crimes.

Such was the case of a helicopter that was caught carrying 500 kilos of cocaine in 2013. It belonged to a federal senator who was never indicted or investigated. The pilot of the helicopter is now a member of Congress. More politicians and plutocrats are linked to this case, but not a single one has been indicted.

‘Lawfare’ against Workers Party leaders

Before Lula, the most famous victim of this tactic was Dilma Rousseff, another former president from the PT who was ousted in a judicial-parliamentary coup in 2014. Lawfare has grown substantially since Rousseff’s ousting. Her impeachment was only

possible with the help of some of the STF ministers.

The successful coup against Dilma made the Brazilian oligarchs even more powerful — for now they had the means to manipulate the laws to finally defeat the PT and put its leaders in jail. Lula was the main prize!

On trumped-up charges, with no evidence of wrongdoing, Federal Judge Sergio Moro sentenced Lula to 9 years, 6 months, in prison in first stance. After appealing on second stance (higher court), the former president had his sentence increased to 12 years, 11 months, by a judge who plagiarized other judges, including Moro, to write her opinion.

Lula was immediately called to serve his sentence. After two days of resistance inside the headquarters of the Metalworkers Union in the city of São Bernardo Do Campo, he was sent to a federal prison in the mostly white and reactionary state of Parana, where Judge Moro was based. All this was timed so that Lula would be unable to run in the 2018 presidential election or support any candidate.

Lula was denied interviews, visits and any type of public comment until it was safe enough to guarantee the victory of the candidate supported by the Brazilian elites. The 2018 election was won by ultrarightist Jair Bolsonaro, and his victory opened the doors to the full implementation of neoliberal policies and the privatization of what is left of nationalized industry. Judge Moro was nominated as minister of justice as payback for his help in Bolsonaro's election.

Meanwhile, people throughout Brazil and around the world continued to protest loudly for the former president's freedom with the "Lula Livre" campaign.

Oligarchs' infighting creates opening

After thinking that they could easily control Bolsonaro, some sectors of the oligarchy and some STF ministers are now being attacked by their own Frankenstein

monster.

The largest media conglomerate in Brazil, Globo Organizations, and the largest newspaper, Folha De São Paulo, are in a battle with Bolsonaro. Threatened with no renewal of their licenses and by the alliance formed between Bolsonaro and other media conglomerate owners, they need something else to keep their creature busy with, and the best option is Lula.

Lula will divert Bolsonaro's attention and, at least, divide the attention of his supporters, who angrily demand the shutdown of the Supreme Court, these media outlets, and the return of the military dictatorship, among other reactionary measures.

The "Bolsominions," as Bolsonaro's followers are called by the resistance, are in their vast majority white petty-bourgeois people who still have not accepted that dark-skinned and poor people be treated with dignity and have access to the same areas that they have.

They see in Lula and the PT the reason why they no longer have the right to call Black people slurs or pay almost nothing to their maids. They hate them for putting dark-skinned people in universities instead of prisons, and for being forced to treat LGBTQ2S people with the respect that they deserve.

As an Internet commentator said, "How do we expect people who refuse to accept the law that abolished slavery to understand the Federal Constitution?"

The road ahead for Lula is long. He will still have to face trial on other trumped-up accusations, but for now he can speak and his voice is being heard clearly by the part of the Brazilian population that refuses to allow that neofascists, racists, homophobes, sexists, bigots and religious zealots take control of their country.

The writer is an Afro-Brazilian activist based in Los Angeles.



Syria, Yemen, Palestine: Trump talks peace, escalates war

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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Donald Trump tweeted some rare truth last month about the horrible cost of Washington's "endless wars" in Southwest Asia ("the Middle East"): "Millions dead, \$8 trillion spent, entire countries devastated."

Then he lied big time: He said he would "bring the troops home."

The Trump regime is not abandoning Washington's long war to corner the world's energy markets for U.S. monopolies. It is not ending the bloody war against Syria. The prize is too great, the profits too big.

The White House has made a tactical shift in an effort to pull Turkey back into the U.S./NATO orbit. This has become an issue in the factional struggle raging in Washington between the Trump regime and its rivals.

The shift follows the victories of Syria and its allies in eight years of war over

invading mercenary forces armed and paid by the U.S., Britain, France, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Turkey and Israel.

Trump lies, children die ...

While the Liar-in-Chief tweeted, the Pentagon poured more troops into Syria and the region.

Days after several hundred U.S. troops were transferred out of northern Syria, a U.S. armored brigade invaded eastern Syria and seized the country's oilfields. Private U.S. military contractors—mercenaries—have also been seen in the area.

“We are leaving soldiers to secure the oil,” Trump said at an Oct. 27 press conference. He was speaking of Syria’s estimated 2.5-billion-barrel oil reserves.

“We’re going to secure the oil,” he went on. “And we may have to fight for the oil. It’s okay. Maybe somebody else wants the oil, in which case they have a hell of a fight.

“But there’s massive amounts of oil. ... What I intend to do, perhaps, is make a deal with Exxon Mobil or one of our great companies to go in there and do it properly.”

On Oct. 28, Defense Secretary Mark Esper threatened to use “overwhelming force” to keep Syria from using its own oil fields. Esper is a former lobbyist for Raytheon, a leading Pentagon contractor with big interests in Saudi Arabia.

On Nov. 1, a U.S. B52 strategic bomber took off from Britain and circled a Russian base in Syria.

On Nov. 6, at a White House meeting, Trump and Pentagon officials agreed to “expand the U.S. military mission in Syria.”

... in Syria

Meanwhile, U.S.-armed and -trained terrorist militias that had been driven from Syria returned under the protection of invading NATO Turkish troops. They have attacked villages, murdered civilians and soldiers, planted bombs and mines, and destroyed schools, a hospital and a power station.

Trump encouraged the invasion, inviting Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to the White House on Nov. 13. Turkey launched its offensive on Oct. 9. On Oct. 10, the U.S. vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Turkey's invasion.

On Oct. 17, Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien traveled to Ankara to meet Erdoğan. A war between Turkey and Syria, which could draw in Iran, would be a dream scenario for the fracking interests that dominate the Trump White House.

The Syrian city of Idlib is still occupied by an alliance of Saudi, UAE and Turkey-funded bandit armies from outside Syria. The largest is Jabhat Al Nusra, the Syrian branch of al-Qaida, which now calls itself Hayat Tahrir Al Shams (HTS).

Nusra-HTS is armed with U.S.-made TOW antitank missiles supplied by Turkey with U.S. permission. HTS is on the U.S. "terror list," but the White House approved a big shipment of missiles to the group in May. On Oct. 22, the White House gave \$4.5 million to the White Helmets, the HTS "civil defense" arm.

On Nov. 12, speaking at the Paris Peace Forum, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov accused the U.S. of continued support to Nusra-HTS and of blocking Syria's efforts to rebuild.

On Nov. 1, HTS launched a new offensive in northern Latakia, which was repelled by the Syrian Arab Army. On Nov. 6 and Nov. 8, the group shelled the city of Aleppo, injuring civilians.

As the fighting raged in Syria, the Pentagon deployed 1,800 more troops, two fighter jet squadrons, a THAAD missile battery and four B1B strategic bombers to Saudi Arabia.

The troops landed as Saudi ARAMCO, the world's biggest oil company, prepared to launch what Bloomberg.com calls the "world's biggest public offering." The \$100 billion stock sale is being underwritten by JPMorganChase and other major U.S. banks. Exxon, Chevron, BP and Shell market ARAMCO's production.

There are now 3,000 U.S. troops in the Saudi kingdom and 70,000 in the region. Fourteen thousand U.S. troops have been sent to Southwest Asia since May.

... in Yemen

In April, Trump vetoed a Senate bill restricting U.S. involvement in Saudi genocide in Yemen. One hundred thousand Yemenis have been killed since 2015, when the U.S.-armed Saudi Kingdom began bombing their country.

Many more, mostly children, have died from famine and disease inflicted by the U.S.-Saudi blockade and deliberate destruction of Yemen's agriculture. UNICEF reports that 360,000 children under age 5 suffer from acute malnutrition. All of the country's hospitals are now closed due to lack of fuel.

At a Sept. 16 press conference with Prince Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain, Trump bragged that the House of Saud had spent \$400 billion on U.S. arms in recent years. "Saudi Arabia pays cash," he said. On Nov. 6, CNN reported new U.S. armored vehicles being unloaded in Yemen's Saudi-occupied port of Aden.

Saudi troops keep Bahrain's brutal Prince Salman on his throne. He is also a big U.S. arms client. General Dynamics keeps the F16 fighter in production under a Bahraini contract. Bahrain is home base for the U.S. Fifth Fleet.

... and in Palestine

The figures on U.S. troop strength in West Asia don't include the 1.5-million-strong Israeli occupation army in Palestine, armed and paid for by the U.S.

On Nov. 12-14, U.S.-made Israeli planes flown by U.S.-trained Israeli pilots again rained U.S.-made missiles on the nearly 2 million Palestinians imprisoned in the Gaza Strip. Thirty-five Palestinians, six of them children, died in the latest U.S.-Israeli attacks.

In Deir Al Balah, eight members of the Al Sawarka family were murdered when U.S.-Israeli planes targeted their house. Twelve more are in critical condition. Fifteen schools were hit by U.S.-Israeli missiles.

The latest attack began when Israel assassinated Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) military commander Badar Abu Ata and his spouse. Israel forces struck when they knew Abu Ata would be home, on his daughter's birthday. The same night, an Israeli strike in Damascus, Syria, missed PIJ commander Akram Al Ajouri but murdered one of his sons.

One million Palestinian children live in the giant open-air prison called the Gaza Strip, where 97 percent of the water is poisoned with sewage and salt, 52 percent of adults cannot find work, hospitals are without medicine and there is electricity for only a couple hours a day.

Israeli snipers shot 94 children in the last two weeks of October. Israeli troops shoot Gaza fishers for working their own waters. Meanwhile, U.S. energy companies plunder gas off the shores of occupied Palestine.

In September, Trump proposed a mutual defense pact between the U.S. and the racist Israeli settler state. Last year, he signed the U.S.-Israel Security Assistance Act, which codifies \$38 billion of U.S. military aid into law. In March, he signed a

proclamation recognizing Israel's "sovereignty" over Syria's Golan Heights. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Trump "Israel's best friend ever."

- Part 2: [Monopoly profits fuel U.S. maneuvers in Southwest Asia](#)



Excluidas en audiencias de destitución las preocupaciones de las masas

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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16 de noviembre - El liderazgo del Partido Demócrata ha atado a las masas progresistas a una defensa del militarismo de la clase dominante estadounidense como el precio por destituir a Trump.

Decenas de millones en este país y en todo el mundo justificadamente quieren ver que el abusador derechista, racista y misógino extremista de Trump sea derrotado. Pero se ven obligados a elegir entre Trump, que quiere culpar a Ucrania de sus

problemas, y el campo que quiere atacar a Rusia.

Esta es una opción completamente falsa y sin salida.

Esta línea de argumentación ha sido presentada por Nancy Pelosi, Steny Hoyer, Adam Schiff y compañía, sus abogados y sus patrocinadores corporativos. Los autores políticos intelectuales detrás de esta estrategia del juicio político han establecido que los procedimientos sean especialmente perjudiciales para los trabajadores y los oprimidos.

Razones legítimas para querer destitución de Trump

Hagamos un recuento de algunas de las legítimas razones por las que las personas quieren deshacerse de Trump.

Llamó violadores y delincuentes a los mexicanos el primer día en que se postuló para presidente y desde entonces ha continuado vilipendiando a los inmigrantes. Ha obligado a los migrantes que huían de pandillas y escuadrones de la muerte alentadas por los gobiernos imperialistas títeres, fuera de la frontera sur de los EUA.

Trump separó cruelmente a las familias en la frontera, puso a los niños en jaulas y separó a niños de sus padres cientos de kilómetros de distancia sin ninguna forma de reunirlos. Y ha librado una guerra contra los inmigrantes negros y latinos, llamando a África y Haití países de “letrina”, además de otras acciones nefastas.

Trump también trató de prohibir la presencia de musulmanes en el país. Ha sido demandado por 14 mujeres por agresión sexual. Se ha jactado de abusar de las mujeres y agarrar sus genitales.

Ha impuesto legislaciones contra los derechos de las personas LGBTQ2S. Ha perdonado a criminales de guerra y a reaccionarios. Ha usado constantemente la

Casa Blanca para enriquecerse.

Silencio sobre exenciones fiscales, desregulación, militarismo y agresión de EUA

En cuanto a su actitud hacia la clase dominante, Trump entregó al ejército presupuestos récord y otorgó a los comandantes una amplia autoridad para iniciar operaciones en el campo, a pesar del menoscabo a la OTAN. Él ha manipulado a los patronos y banqueros con exenciones de impuestos por un valor de \$1.5 billones (\$1.5 trillones US). Le ha dado a los saqueadores corporativos regalos de desregulación ambiental y de seguridad, mientras saquea y envenena la tierra, el mar y el aire, al tiempo que caracteriza el peligro real del cambio climático como un engaño.

Mientras se llevan a cabo las audiencias del juicio político, la administración Trump está librando una guerra contra el líder indígena boliviano, el tres veces presidente Evo Morales. Los generales bolivianos entrenados en subversión y represión por la Escuela de las Américas de los Estados Unidos atacan a las masas bolivianas.

Al mismo tiempo, Trump y Pompeo han estado tratando de derrocar al gobierno progresista y antiimperialista venezolano de Nicolás Maduro.

El Pentágono se ha movido para apoderarse de los pozos petroleros de Siria y ha ayudado al presidente turco, Recip Erdogan, a perseguir a los kurdos sirios.

Ni una palabra sobre todo esto en las audiencias.

Yovanovitch, “luchadora contra la corrupción”

Marie Yovanovitch, ex embajadora en Ucrania y testigo estrella de los demócratas, fue presentada como una valiente “luchadora contra la corrupción”. Su testimonio siguió al de un funcionario del Departamento de Estado, George Kent, y otro

diplomático estadounidense en Ucrania, William Taylor.

Uno puede preguntarse quién le dio a cualquier funcionario estadounidense el derecho a investigar la “corrupción” en otro país. Si los cubanos o los rusos enviaran funcionarios para investigar la corrupción en los EUA, tendrían que enviar delegaciones masivas a la calle K*, la Casa Blanca y todas las oficinas federales del gobierno capitalista de los EUA, porque la clase dominante estadounidense gobierna por corrupción. Además, las sedes estatales del poder legislativo y los ayuntamientos están prácticamente ocupados por cabilderos de todo tipo de grupos empresariales y corporaciones individuales. Pero no se permitiría tal cosa aquí. Eso sería denunciado como intromisión en los asuntos internos de un país soberano.

El comportamiento criminal de Biden

La conexión de Joe Biden con Ucrania es que presionó para que Ucrania ingresara en la imperialista Unión Europea y en una alianza anti-rusa con los EUA después de que el gobierno ucraniano electo de Victor Yanukovich fuera derrocado en un golpe fascista orquestado por EUA en febrero de 2014.

La administración Obama-Biden colaboró con elementos fascistas para poner en el poder un gobierno de derecha en Kiev. Es importante volver a la conversación telefónica grabada en febrero de 2014 entre la subsecretaria de Estado Victoria Nuland y Geoffrey Pyatt, embajador de EUA en Ucrania.

La Unión Europea estaba planeando una toma de posesión suave de Ucrania, tratando de socavar los lazos económicos de ese país con Rusia. Estados Unidos intervino por sus propios intereses alentando a las multitudes fascistas a pedir el derrocamiento del gobierno electo. El Parlamento ucraniano retiró a la policía de las calles, permitiendo que las turbas rompieran el parlamento. Fue entonces cuando Nuland hizo el infame comentario de “A la mierda la UE”, en el que expresó abiertamente la preferencia de Washington por el ultraderechista Partido Patria,

plagado de fascistas, para hacerse cargo del gobierno. (Washington Post, 6 de febrero de 2014). Cuando el humo se disipó, el Partido Patria estaba en el cargo y el presidente Yanukovich se vio obligado a huir.

La toma de posesión de Ucrania por parte de Washington fue parte de un plan para completar el cerco de Rusia y, finalmente, reinstalar un régimen servil de tipo Yeltsin.

Entre 1999 y 2004, a pesar de las promesas anteriores de Washington de no hacerlo, Estados Unidos extendió el alcance de la OTAN para rodear a Rusia. Durante este período, Polonia, Hungría, la República Checa, Bulgaria, Estonia, Letonia, Lituania, Rumania, Eslovaquia y Eslovenia se unieron a la OTAN. Solo Ucrania, que también comparte una extensa frontera con Rusia, quedó fuera de la alianza militar imperialista.

La guerra en Donbass

No se discute el hecho de que los \$400 millones en ayuda votados por el Congreso fueron retenidos por Trump en su corrupto intento de extorsionar al gobierno de Zelensky para abrir investigaciones públicas sobre los Bidens y Burisma, así como la presunta interferencia de Ucrania en las elecciones estadounidenses en 2016. Pero esta ayuda estaba destinada a luchar contra la gente del este de Ucrania, que se ha resistido al régimen de derecha en Kiev. No quieren que el Fondo Monetario Internacional o la Unión Europea o el imperialismo estadounidense dicten su forma de gobierno. Los \$400 millones eran para entregar misiles contra tanques a Kiev para detener su justa resistencia.

La resistencia es apoyada militarmente por Rusia. Es parte de la lucha geopolítica entre Washington y Moscú, pero el apoyo a la resistencia de Donbass es progresista. Y también lo fue la toma de Crimea, que, como Donbass, es en gran parte un área de habla rusa.

Los burócratas imperialistas que testificaron en las audiencias del juicio político son aclamados como héroes por luchar para conseguir armas que serían utilizadas contra una justificada guerra popular en el este de Ucrania.

Perdido en toda esta criminalidad es el hecho de que Hunter Biden recibió \$50,000 al mes de Burisma, la primera compañía privada de gas natural en Ucrania. Esto significa que Biden gana más en un mes de lo que la mayoría de los trabajadores en Ucrania ganan en un año, solo por ser el hijo de Joe Biden. ¿Era Hunter Biden un experto en gas natural? ¿Era un prodigo corporativo? ¿O era simplemente el hijo del vicepresidente de los Estados Unidos? Su posición es un caso claro de puro nepotismo y tráfico de influencias a raíz del derrocamiento fascista. Sin embargo, los líderes del Partido Demócrata lo representan como una víctima.

La destitución es trampa para trabajadores y oprimidos.

La dirección del Partido Demócrata ha orquestado cuidadosamente estas audiencias para excluir todos los temas que preocupan a las masas progresistas. No ha habido una palabra sobre obsequios corporativos, destrucción acelerada del medio ambiente, presupuestos militares récord, desigualdad masiva y creciente, erosión salarial, subempleo, pobreza, privación de alimentos o supresión de votantes en sus llamados a salvar su “democracia”.

Todos los medios capitalistas han transmitido este circo reaccionario. Ningún comentarista ha criticado a los políticos por dejar de lado las preocupaciones genuinas del pueblo. Esta ha sido una gran maniobra electoral para el liderazgo del Partido Demócrata en el período previo a las elecciones de 2020. Ha sido una gran evasión de los reales temas candentes de preocupación masiva. Ha revelado en letras grandes el fraude del parlamentarismo capitalista.

Si hubiera habido algún parecido a democracia en este proceso, las organizaciones de masas habrían tenido la oportunidad de enmarcar las preguntas, llamar e

interrogar a los testigos del establecimiento de la clase dominante y enmarcar los artículos de juicio político de acuerdo con las necesidades y deseos del pueblo.

Por supuesto, nada de esto es posible bajo la democracia capitalista, que está diseñada para fomentar los intereses del capital y suprimir cualquier disenso anticapitalista.

Lo que realmente se necesita es una movilización masiva, una coalición gigante de organizaciones comunitarias y de trabajadores, grupos de derechos de estudiantes e inmigrantes, organizaciones de mujeres y LGBTQ2S que se movilicen sobre el terreno y sacar, no solo a Trump, sino a los políticos capitalistas, a los burócratas del gobierno y a los cabilderos, fuera de sus posiciones de privilegio y fortalezas políticas. Esto sería preliminar al lanzamiento de un ataque contra el capitalismo mismo.

Notas:

Calle K* – Calle en Washington donde están situados diversos grupos de cabilderos.

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Donetsk women: ‘The whole world is with Bolivia’

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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Struggle-La Lucha received the following statement from the Aurora Women’s Club in Donetsk, capital of the Donetsk People’s Republic, which along with its sister republic of Lugansk has been resisting the far-right regime in Ukraine and U.S imperialism for more than five years.

“We express solidarity with all women who uphold the freedom and independence of Bolivia, with representatives of Indigenous peoples who are fighting against ultraright racists, with all Bolivian workers who do not want the dark times of the tyranny of capitalists and the oligarchy to return.

“The far-right are the main enemies of all the exploited and oppressed. No matter what beautiful words they say about democracy, no matter how they hide behind them, they will not hide their essence from us. All they want is to return unlimited power to the exploiters in Bolivia, make the country dependent on the United States,

and take away freedom from women and Indigenous peoples. In the world of the future there is no place for fascism and imperialism.

“The whole world is with Bolivia!”



Baltimore Nov. 24: Anti-imperialist forum in solidarity with Bolivia, Chile & Cuba

written by Struggle - La Lucha
November 19, 2019



Sunday, November 24, 2019 at 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM EST

Socialist Unity Party - Baltimore
2011 N Charles St, Fl 1st, Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Join Baltimore Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido for our monthly public forum

Doors open at 5 p.m. Dinner and beverages for all!

We will be discussing the recent U.S.-backed racist coup against the Bolivian people's socialist leader Evo Morales and the Indigenous resistance, as well as the popular movement in Chile against the brutal Piñera regime.

Hear directly from speaker Leonardo Flores who was a staffer in the Venezuelan embassy in D.C. before it was invaded and seized by the U.S. and its imperialist

puppet government. Flores participated in the Embassy Protection Collective and is a [CODEPINK: Women For Peace](#) activist

Activists who attended the Anti-Imperialist Conference for Solidarity and Against Neoliberalism in Havana, Cuba will be giving report-backs on the 3-day long event that was attended by 1,200 activists from 95 different countries and featured keynote speakers Miguel Díaz-Canel (president of Cuba) and Nicolás Maduro (president of Venezuela).

[#ElMundoConEvo](#) [#NoCoup](#) [#NoAlGolpeEnBolivia](#) [#HandsOffBolivia](#)
[#EvoPresidenteLegitimo](#) [#ChileLibertad](#) [#SolidaridadConChile](#)
[#ManosFueraDeCuba](#) [#HandsOffCuba](#) [#BloqueoNo](#) [#EndTheBlockade](#)



Concerns of masses shut out of impeachment hearings

written by Struggle - La Lucha

November 19, 2019

Nov. 16 — The Democratic Party leadership has chained the progressive masses to a

defense of U.S. ruling-class militarism as the price for impeaching Trump.

Tens of millions in this country and around the world justifiably want to see the right-wing bully, racist, misogynist bigot Trump brought down. But they are being forced to choose between Trump, who wants to blame his troubles on Ukraine, and the camp that wants to attack Russia.

This a completely false and dead-end choice.

This line of argument has been set forth by Nancy Pelosi, Steny Hoyer, Adam Schiff and company, their lawyers and their corporate backers. The political masterminds behind this impeachment strategy have set up the proceedings to be especially harmful to the workers and the oppressed.

Legitimate reasons to want Trump out

Let us recount some of the legitimate reasons that people want to get rid of Trump.

He called Mexicans rapists and criminals on his first day running for office and has continued to vilify immigrants ever since. He has forced migrants fleeing gangs and death squads fostered by puppet imperialist governments away from the U.S. southern border.

Trump cruelly separated families at the border, put children in cages and moved children and parents hundreds of miles apart without any way of reuniting them. And he has waged a war on Black and Latinx immigrants, calling Africa and Haiti “shithole” countries, and more.

Trump also tried to ban Muslims from the country. He has been sued by 14 women for sexual assault. He has bragged about abusing women and grabbing their genitals.

He has moved legally against LGBTQ2S peoples' rights. He has pardoned war criminals and reactionaries. He has used the White House to constantly enrich himself.

Silence on tax breaks, deregulation, U.S. militarism and aggression

As for his attitude toward the ruling class, Trump has handed the military record budgets and given the commanders wide authority to launch operations in the field, despite disparaging NATO. He has plied the bosses and bankers with tax breaks to the tune of \$1.5 trillion. He has given the corporate plunderers gifts of environmental and safety deregulation, while plundering and poisoning the land, sea and air — all the while characterizing the very real danger of climate change as a hoax.

As the impeachment hearings are going on, the Trump administration is waging war on the Bolivian Indigenous leader, three-time President Evo Morales. Bolivian generals trained in subversion and repression by the U.S. School of the Americas put the Bolivian masses under assault.

At the same time, Trump and Pompeo have been trying to overthrow the progressive, anti-imperialist Venezuelan government of Nicolás Maduro.

The Pentagon has moved to seize Syria's oil wells and has assisted Turkish president Recip Erdogan in persecuting the Syrian Kurds.

Not a word about all this in the hearings.

Yovanovitch the 'corruption fighter'

Marie Yovanovitch, former ambassador to Ukraine and a star witness for the Democrats, was presented as a brave "corruption fighter." Her testimony followed a State Department official, George Kent, and another U.S. diplomat in Ukraine,

William Taylor.

One may ask who gave any U.S. official the right to investigate “corruption” in another country. If the Cubans or the Russians sent officials to investigate corruption in the U.S., they would have to send massive delegations to K Street, the White House and all federal offices of the U.S. capitalist government, because the U.S. ruling class governs by corruption. In addition, state houses and city halls are virtually occupied by lobbyists from every type of business group and individual corporations. But no such thing would ever be permitted here. That would be denounced as meddling in the internal affairs of a sovereign country.

The criminal behavior of Biden

Joe Biden’s connection to Ukraine is that he pressed to get Ukraine into the imperialist European Union and into an anti-Russian alliance with the U.S. after the elected Ukrainian government of Victor Yanukovich was overthrown in a U.S.-orchestrated fascist coup in February 2014.

The Obama-Biden administration collaborated with fascist elements to put a right-wing government in power in Kiev. It is important to go back to the tape-recorded phone conversation between Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland and Geoffrey Pyatt, the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, in February 2014.

The European Union was planning a soft takeover of Ukraine, trying to undermine that country’s economic ties with Russia. The U.S. intervened in its own interests by encouraging fascist mobs to call for the overthrow of the elected government. The Ukraine Parliament pulled the police off the streets, allowing the mobs to break up the parliament. That is when Nuland made the infamous “Fuck the EU” comment, in which she openly expressed Washington’s preference for the ultra right-wing Fatherland Party, rife with fascists, to take over the government. (Washington Post, Feb. 6, 2014). When the smoke cleared, the Fatherland Party was in office and

President Yanukovych was forced to flee.

Washington's takeover of Ukraine was part of a plan to complete the encirclement of Russia and to reinstall a Yeltsin-type regime to do its bidding.

Between 1999 and 2004, despite Washington's earlier pledges not to do so, the U.S. extended NATO's reach to surround Russia. During this period, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia all joined NATO. Only Ukraine, which also shares a long border with Russia, remained outside the imperialist military alliance.

The war in the Donbass

There is no disputing the fact that the \$400 million in aid voted by Congress was held up by Trump in his corrupt attempt to extort the Zelensky government to open up public investigations of the Bidens and Burisma as well as alleged Ukrainian interference in U.S. elections in 2016. But this aid was meant to fight off the people of East Ukraine, who have resisted the right-wing regime in Kiev. They don't want the International Monetary Fund or the European Union or U.S. imperialism to dictate their form of government. The \$400 million was to give tank-killing missiles to Kiev to stop their righteous resistance.

The resistance is supported militarily by Russia. It is part of the geopolitical struggle between Washington and Moscow, but the support for the Donbass resistance is progressive. And so was the seizure of Crimea, which, like Donbass, is largely a Russian speaking area.

The imperialist bureaucrats who testified at the impeachment hearings are being hailed as heroes for fighting to get weapons to be used against a justified people's war in East Ukraine.

Lost in all the criminality is the fact that Hunter Biden got \$50,000 a month from

Burisma, the first privately owned natural gas company in Ukraine. This means that Biden makes more for a month than most workers in Ukraine make in a year — for just being Joe Biden's son. Was Hunter Biden an expert in natural gas? Was he a corporate wizard? Or was he simply the son of the U.S. vice president? His position is a clear case of pure nepotism and influence peddling in the wake of the fascist overthrow. Yet he is being depicted as a victim by the Democratic Party leadership.

Impeachment a trap for the workers and oppressed

The Democratic Party leadership has carefully orchestrated these hearings to exclude all subjects that are of concern to the progressive masses. There has not been a word about corporate giveaways, accelerated destruction of the environment, record military budgets, massive and growing inequality, wage erosion, underemployment, poverty, food deprivation or voter suppression in their calls to save their "democracy."

All the capitalist media have broadcast this reactionary circus. No commentators have criticized the politicians for leaving out the genuine concerns of the people. This has been one big election maneuver for the Democratic Party leadership in the run-up to the 2020 elections. It has been one great evasion of the real burning issues of mass concern. It has revealed in bold relief the fraud of capitalist parliamentarism.

If there were any semblance of democracy in this process, mass organizations would have been given the opportunity to frame the questions, call and cross-examine witnesses from the ruling-class establishment and frame the articles of impeachment in accord with the needs and desires of the people.

Of course nothing even approaching this is possible under capitalist democracy, which is designed to foster the interests of capital and suppress any anti-capitalist dissent.

What is really needed is a mass mobilization, a giant coalition of the workers' and community organizations, student and immigrant rights groups, women's and LGBTQ2S organizations, to mobilize on the ground and drive, not just Trump, but the capitalist politicians, the government bureaucrats and the lobbyists from their positions of privilege and political strongholds. This would be preliminary to launching an attack on capitalism itself.

Posted to lowwagecapitalism.com on Nov. 17, 2019.



Bolivians bravely fight back against coup: 'We are going to resist until the last'

written by Struggle - La Lucha
November 19, 2019

It has been five days since the violent, racist coup d'état forced the resignation of President Evo Morales and Vice-president Álvaro García Linera. Since then, the

people of Bolivia and the world have remained firm in their resistance against the coup and in defense of Morales and the process of change in the country. Across Bolivia, people are facing heavy repression from the Armed Forces, the Police and fascist groups but still they remain determined both on the streets and within institutional spaces to reject and fight back against the coup.

Resistance

The city El Alto, which neighbors the capital La Paz and whose inhabitants are mostly Indigenous and working class, has been the center of the mobilizations in support of Morales. Protesters have been marching from El Alto to the capital daily to demand the resignation of the opposition senator Jeanine Áñez, who proclaimed herself 'interim president' on November 12.

Protesters have also erected road blockades surrounding the capital in order to stop the flow of supplies into the city and several hundreds have begun a protest-camp outside Plaza Murillo where the major government buildings are located, including Congress and the Presidential Palace.



Thousands are mobilizing against the coup in Bolivia and the Indigenous symbol the Wiphala has become the symbol of the resistance against the racist, white, conservative sectors behind the coup. Photo: AFP

The Executive Committee of the United Trade Union Confederation of Bolivia (CSUTCB), the Trade Union Confederation of Intercultural Communities of Bolivia, the Peasant Workers Federation 'Ponchos Rojos', the Six Federations of the Tropic of Cochabamba, among others, have manifested their complete support to Morales and his process of change. They have said that these demonstrations would not stop until Morales could resume his position as President of the Plurinational State in Bolivia.

A member of the organization Tupac Katari told journalist Marco Teruggi on the streets of La Paz that their resistance against the coup supporters and the right-wing is historic. "Today is November 15, one day like today [in 1781] they killed our great leader Tupac Katari because he was strong, because he fought for the peasant

class, because he fought for the Aymaras, Quechuas, and Guaranís [Indigenous nations in Bolivia] and those in the countryside in general,” he explained, “And what did they do? To teach a lesson to all of the peasant class, they dismembered him using four horses because he did not give up and swear allegiance to the Spanish crown. So they tied him to four horses to stretch him but he was so strong that they had to use the machete to dismember our great leader.”

For this protester and many others, their resistance is about carrying on the legacy of anti-colonial resistance of Katari and many other Indigenous leaders, “I am from the land of Tupac Katari, I am from the Aroma province and I will not surrender. We are going to resist until the last consequences because we have already taken down a right-wing leader, who is also a coup supporter, a dictator, Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada that was an assassin and now the North American empire has him there as the golden boy. Now they have brought their student Jeanine Añez, as well as Luis [Fernando] Camacho...but they will pay because they can silence the people for a moment but the people have memory and we will not surrender, we are not willing to surrender, we will struggle, and even if we have to die, we will die.”



Indigenous women have been at the forefront of the protests against the coup in Bolivia. Photo: Redfish

Repression

The coup supporting Police Force and Armed Forces have unleashed brutal repression against those in the streets against the coup. They are attacking the multitudinous mobilizations with tear gas, firing at close range with firearms, beating up protesters, and have also been arresting people suspected of pertaining to the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) and carrying out violent house raids.

They are the same forces that turned a blind eye to the right-wing groups committing violent acts against members of the MAS and sustaining road blockades and strikes in the days following the general elections and leading up to the coup. Now the [US-trained repressive apparatus](#) in Bolivia has been fully activated to stop the Bolivian people from demanding that their votes in the elections be respected,

that the illegitimate Jeanine Añez step down, and that the right-wing cease acts of violence and racism.

According to a report compiled by the Latin American Center for Strategic Analysis (CLAE), the International Committee of Youth for Peace in Latin America, and Generation Evo, the escalation of violence after the civic-military coup has already cost 12 deaths and more than 530 have been injured. The report was released prior to the massacre committed in Sacaba, Cochabamba wherein Armed Forces and the Police fired tear gas and live bullets at protesters and killed at least 5 and injured hundreds.

Ruddy Uria, the Director of Communications of the National Police said on November 13: "We are going to organize groups in all of the cities where the greatest level of violence exists, we will go to the focus points that have been identified and retake the city. I ask the citizens to collaborate with us, and to the people who do not know that democracy has returned to our country, that they abstain from committing excesses, we will proceed to arrests, we will catch all of the heads that are creating chaos in our country."

Bolivia's Guaidó

On November 12, right-wing Senator Jeanine Añez declared herself 'interim president' of Bolivia in a session of Congress that did not meet quorum. She was later decorated with the tri-color presidential sash by members of the Armed Forces and accompanied by far-right opposition leader Fernando Camacho as she celebrated her proclamation with a bible in her hand. Her self-proclamation has been widely condemned as illegitimate due to the lack of quorum, but that has not stopped Añez from adopting measures and electing a new cabinet.

In addition to the mass rejection of Añez for illegitimately seizing power, she is also a representation of the regressive, racist, conservative sectors in Bolivia. Her

declaration that “the bible has returned to the palace” perfectly synthesizes the motivating ideological factors behind this coup. The white conservative minority in Bolivia could not tolerate an Indigenous, coca farmer as President who is pro-people, and pro-working class, who made Bolivia a secular state and does not abide by the diktats of US imperialism.

Following her self-declaration, a series of racist tweets written by Añez in 2013 were uncovered which have since been deleted. “I dream of a Bolivia free of Indigenous satanic rituals, the city is not for the Indians, they should go back to the high plains or to Chaco,” she wrote.



Self-proclaimed ‘interim president’ Jeanine Añez, with a bible in hand.

Añez’ declaration has been recognized by the United States, Colombia, Brazil, the UK, Guatemala, and Russia.

Meanwhile Añez declared that she recognized the other self-proclaimed ‘interim

president' on the continent, Juan Guaidó of Venezuela, and cut diplomatic relations with the constitutional government of President Nicolás Maduro and ordered all Venezuelan diplomatic staff to leave the country.

Cuban doctors in Bolivia have also been targeted by government officials. On November 13, four members of the Cuban Medical Brigade in El Alto were arrested and accused of financing and instigating anti-coup protests.

Institutional Fight

In the hours before and after Morales and García Linera's resignation, a series of ministers and legislators resigned from their posts due to a campaign of threats and violence. To give one example, Victor Borda, the president of the Chamber of Deputies from MAS, was forced to resign on November 10 after right-wing mobs burned his house and kidnapped his brother, he declared "I renounce from the Chamber of Deputies...hopefully at least it can preserve the physical integrity of my brother that has been taken hostage."

The threats and intimidation to state functionaries was a key element of the coup plan as it opened up space for the right-wing to intervene and seize power. However, MAS legislators have been regrouping and fighting back in the legislative realm as they have a majority in both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

On Thursday, after attempts by the security forces to violently block the entrance of MAS legislators to the Plurinational Assembly, composed of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate, MAS was able to wage an institutional counter attack. In sessions with quorum, Sergio Choque of MAS was elected as the new president of the Chamber of Deputies and Mónica Eva Copa was elected as the new president of the Senate.

Choque announced that he plans to push forward legislation so that the Armed

Forces are taken off the streets and vowed to work to pacify the country. Choque declared that him and his party do not recognize the self-proclaimed 'interim president' Añez as she violated several constitutional norms.

International

Social movements, trade unions, political parties and leaders across the world have maintained strong in their rejection of the coup carried out against Morales and the brutal attacks carried out by the Armed Forces and the Police against the Bolivian people who are resisting the coup.

An extraordinary meeting of the platform Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-People's Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) was held in Managua, Nicaragua on Thursday November 14 in order to address the pressing situation in Bolivia.

In a declaration released following the meeting they declared, "We categorically condemn the coup d'état carried out against the Government of brother Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the persecution and disproportionate violence to which his Ministers and other government functionaries are submitted to, as well as leaders and their families."

They also saluted Mexico for granting political asylum to Morales and García Linera as well as other progressive leaders for standing against the coup. They denounced the declarations of the government of Donald Trump, "which show both his support to the coup d'état in Bolivia as well as the threat to the legitimate, sovereign, and free governments of the brother republics of Nicaragua and Bolivarian Venezuela."

Source: [Peoples Dispatch](#)



Miami Nov. 16: Protest Saturday for Haitian Rights!

written by Struggle - La Lucha
November 19, 2019

RALLY TO SUPPORT
FREEDOM IN HAITI AND
CALL FOR A STOP ON
MASSACRES AND
HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

NOVEMBER 16, 2019

4:30 PM
TOUSSAINT
LOUVERTURE
STATUE
CORNER OF NE 62ND & N MIAMI AVE

FOR INFORMATION CALL:
786-587-5384

EMERGENCY ACTION FOR HAITI





Massive Anti-Coup Protests Explode Across Bolivia

written by Struggle - La Lucha

November 19, 2019

Chanting “resign now” to Bolivia’s interim, self-declared president Jeanine Añez, protesters across the Latin American country on Friday made their displeasure with the overthrow of the government by right-wing Christian extremists last Sunday known.

Thousands of demonstrators marched through the cities of La Paz and El Alto. Friday’s protests follow days of unrest as the Bolivian people rejected Sunday’s coup, which forced democratically-elected President Evo Morales to resign and flee the country.

An Indigenous woman, in comment to *RT* Thursday, asked if the coup leaders thought the people of Bolivia were ignorant of what was happening in the country.

“¿Creen que somos ignorantes?”: El contundente discurso de una mujer indígena a

lo que sucede en Bolivia <https://t.co/a6TmEMPk7b> pic.twitter.com/POCHkQrLxy

— RT en Español (@ActualidadRT) [November 15, 2019](#)

Friday's demonstrations were a show of force by the Bolivian people against the coup government. Video and photographs from the country showed long stretching lines of people waving the Indigenous wiphala flag and calling for Añez to step down.

Protests against the coup d'etat in [#Bolivia](#) are getting bigger and bigger. People from all over Bolivia are marching in support of [#EvoMorales](#) [#BoliviaResiste](#) pic.twitter.com/PEHf5Nb01A

— nonouzi (@Gerrrty) [November 15, 2019](#)

A drone recorded a kilometer column of protesters marching through several streets of Cochabamba, Bolivia, in a massive protest to demand the resignation of Jeanine Áñez [pic.twitter.com/vpx2EEYyWF](#) <https://t.co/4qvuYMQeLm>

— etienneyerovi (@yerovietienne) [November 15, 2019](#)

[#Bolivia](#): Massive protests against the coup continue, "Resign the self-proclaimed interim president" [#EvoMorales](#) [#BoliviaResiste](#) [#EvoEsElPresidente](#) pic.twitter.com/dZ5CNYWRM0

— nonouzi (@Gerrrty) [November 15, 2019](#)

La Paz, 1:30pm: Mass march against the coup administration and with chants aimed at the police for repressing the Bolivian people to uphold unconstitutionality. [@teleSURenglish](#) [pic.twitter.com/YzvcP4ORBm](#)

— Camila (@camilateleSUR) [November 15, 2019](#)

La Paz, 2pm: Thousands against the many violations to democracy and the rights of the people under the coup. [#Bolivia](#) [pic.twitter.com/3p98WNSXlf](#)

— Camila (@camilateleSUR) [November 15, 2019](#)

Bolivia: indigenous people demand the resignation of Jeanine Áñez

Evo Morales supporters protest against the coup in Bolivia and ask that the ‘self-proclaimed’ president Áñez “resign now.” [pic.twitter.com/vvNa0AAHBX](#) <https://t.co/DG4kGd94Vr>

— etienneyerovi (@yerovietienne) [November 15, 2019](#)

Bolivia: indígenas exigen la renuncia de Jeanine Áñez

Partidarios de Evo Morales protestan contra el golpe de Estado en Bolivia y piden que la ‘autoproclamada’ presidenta Áñez “renuncie ya”. [pic.twitter.com/8dKbisMtLE](#)

— RT en Español (@ActualidadRT) [November 15, 2019](#)

“Evo Morales has been a good man,” a supporter identified as Sonia [told Democracy Now!](#) Thursday. “He worked for the people. He didn’t rob from us like these thieves who want to shake up the state and kill us like dogs, as if we’re not humans.”



At least five killed by army in massacre in Cochabamba, Bolivia

written by Struggle - La Lucha

November 19, 2019

Protests against the civic-military coup have been growing in strength across the country and security forces have responded with brutal repression

Bolivian security forces killed as many as five protesters on November 15 near the Huayllani bridge in Sacaba, Cochabamba and gravely injured hundreds. The Indigenous and peasant protesters, who hail from six coca-farmer federations, were attempting to march from the small city of Sacaba to the department's capital, Cochabamba when they were met with a military and police cordon. As the peaceful

March attempted to advance, soldiers and police officers fired at the protesters with tear gas canisters and live bullets.

Represión desmedida y masacre en Cochabamba, hoy 15 de noviembre. Imágenes fuertes, pero necesarias para denunciar el carácter represor y dictatorial de quienes han asaltado el poder en Bolivia. La Comunidad Internacional debe condenar y actuar para detener esta barbarie. pic.twitter.com/VfCWEe4vHR

— Jorge Arreaza M (@jaarreaza) [November 15, 2019](https://twitter.com/jaarreaza/status/119425000000000000)

Their intention was to march to the city of Cochabamba and to reach the country's capital, La Paz, on Sunday to join the thousands of Bolivians mobilizing against the civic-military coup carried out against President Evo Morales and Vice-president Alvaro García Linera.

On November 12, right-wing senator Jeanine Añez declared herself "interim president" of Bolivia in a session without quorum, which would theoretically render the declaration illegitimate. Shortly after she was decorated with the tri-color sash by military officials, thrust up a massive bible and proclaimed "the bible has returned to the palace!" She was accompanied by right-wing leader Fernando Camacho who was one of the driving leaders of the pro-coup mobilizations.

A protester in Sacaba stated "We want freedom, until this "self-proclaimed" resigns, we will continue marching with road blockades, we will not stop. For 14 years in the Tropic of Cochabamba we have lived in peace, there has not been this type of conflicts, massacres, robberies. This is a peaceful march."

Organizations in Bolivia have denounced the complete media blackout on the violent repression of anti-coup protests. Apart from the five deaths and hundreds of injured today in Sacaba, reports indicate that as many as 6 have been killed in the past week

as well as hundreds of injured. Many supporters of Morales' Movement Towards Socialism have also been arrested, threatened, and intimidated by security forces and right wing thugs. Four Cuban doctors, members of the Cuban medical brigade were also arrested and accused of inciting the anti-coup protests.

Source: [Peoples Dispatch](#)

