

# ¡Condenemos el ataque terrorista y el asesinato del científico iraní Mohsen Fakriadeh!

written by Struggle - La Lucha

December 6, 2020



Funeral del científico iraní asesinado Mohsen Fakhrizadeh en Teherán, el 30 de noviembre.

*Declaración del periódico Struggle-La Lucha y del Partido de Socialismo Unido*

El Partido de Socialismo Unido y la publicación Struggle-La Lucha mandamos nuestras más profundas condolencias al pueblo iraní, al gobierno de la República Islámica de Irán y a la familia y seres queridos del científico Mohsen Fakrizadeh Mahabadi, asesinado en un ataque terrorista por agentes del gobierno de Israel. El régimen de Tel Aviv es una herramienta del imperialismo estadounidense, que proporciona miles de millones de dólares en ayuda financiera y militar para mantener a flote la ocupación israelí de Palestina.

Fakhrizadeh se desempeñó como jefe de la Organización de Investigación e Innovación del Ministerio de Defensa. Esto lo convirtió en un objetivo importante para los servicios de inteligencia israelíes, que tienen un historial de asesinatos de científicos iraníes. Su asesinato se produce inmediatamente después del ilegal asesinato del estimado comandante del Cuerpo de la Guardia Revolucionaria Islámica Qassem Soleimani en enero, ordenado por el presidente de Estados Unidos, Donald Trump.

Lo que los medios estadounidenses ampliamente han ignorado es que el Dr. Fakhrizadeh ayudó a desarrollar un kit de prueba COVID-19 producido localmente, un hecho que la ONU reconoció y aplaudió.

Esto es algo de gran importancia. Irán ha sufrido duras sanciones estadounidenses que le han impedido obtener ayuda médica crucial y otras necesidades durante la pandemia global. Como resultado, los niños están muriendo y las personas no pueden obtener la atención médica que antes se daba por sentada. Las sanciones son otra forma de guerra destinada a subyugar y destruir países soberanos.

Lo que está sucediendo no tiene que ver con el programa pacífico de energía nuclear de Irán. La guerra continua contra Irán es parte de una estrategia más amplia para proteger las ganancias del petróleo y la energía de Estados Unidos a expensas del pueblo, tanto en EUA como en el exterior. En este momento, la industria del petróleo, el gas y el fracking está desesperada por evitar el colapso.

Lo que se necesita ahora no es continuar esta guerra contra el pueblo de Irán, sino tejer lazos de solidaridad mundial para luchar contra una crisis de salud que ha dejado casi 1,5 millones de muertos hasta ahora. Sólo en los Estados Unidos, que lidera el mundo en casos de COVID, al menos 267.000 personas han fallecido.

El vergonzoso y cobarde ataque contra el científico iraní Fakhrizadeh y otras provocaciones de guerra, se producen en un momento en que la lucha para acabar con el flagelo del racismo y la violencia policial en Estados Unidos está lejos de terminar y cuando los trabajadores de todo el mundo capitalista se enfrentan a desalojos masivos, hambre y desempleo.

Hacemos un llamado al movimiento antiimperialista y contra la guerra, a los trabajadores y las organizaciones comunitarias en los Estados Unidos, a que se unan a nosotros para exigir:

- Fin a la guerra de Estados Unidos e Israel contra Irán
- Eliminar todas las sanciones y reparar los daños
- Eliminar toda la ayuda al estado racista de Israel; ¡Boicot-Desinversión-Sanciones ya!
- Fuera del “Oriente Medio” todas las tropas, barcos, aviones y espías de EUA
- Regresen a EUA las Flotas V y VI. Cerrar el Comando Central de EUA
- Poner fin a todas las ventas de armas a Arabia Saudita.
- Luchar contra el COVID y el racismo, no en guerras por ganancias petroleras
- ¡Dinero para estímulos y necesidades del pueblo, no para la guerra!

10 de diciembre 2020



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# **Human Rights Day and Political Prisoners, Dec. 10**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
December 6, 2020

## International Human Rights Day Thursday, December 10, 2020 @ 7 p.m. EST



72 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was established, the Jericho Movement and Uprooted and Rising will host a Zoom forum to examine the health conditions of some of the longest held Political Prisoners in the U.S. under Covid19. We will hear from family members and recently released Political Prisoners about the current situation inside.



Jericho National Chair Jihadabdulmumit  
Jalil Muntaqim  
on his experience contracting Covid in prison  
Theresa Shoatz on her father Russell Maroon Shoatz  
Family of Alvin Joyner, Maroon's co-defendant  
Ksisay Sadiki on her father Kamau Sadiki  
Pam Africa on Mumia Abu-Jamal  
Marqueeta Peltier Shields on her father Leonard Peltier  
Janet & Janine Africa on Phil & Merle Africa's suspicious illnesses and deaths in prison  
Updates on Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Ed Poindexter, Sundiata Acoli, Jamil Al-Amin



Music and Poetry by:  
Uprooted and Rising  
Professor Louie  
Other Cultural Warriors To Be Announced



For more information:  
857-204-0072 • [tourekazi@gmail.com](mailto:tourekazi@gmail.com)

Event Link: <http://bit.ly/jerichoforum>

Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM EST

Online Event

<http://bit.ly/jerichoforum>

Join The Jericho Movement and Uprooted and Rising on International Human Rights

Day to examine the health conditions of some of the longest held Political Prisoners in the U.S. under Covid19. We will hear from family members and recently released Political Prisoners about the current situation behind the walls.

Speakers:

Jericho National Chair Jihadabdulmumit

Jalil Muntaqim on his experience contracting Covid in prison

Theresa Shoatz on her father Russell Maroon Shoatz

Family of Alvin Joyner, Maroon's co-defendant

Ksisay Sadiki on her father Kamau Sadiki

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Click on the link to join the event: <http://bit.ly/jerichoforum>



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# Trump's lawyers howl: Debunking their conspiracy theories

written by Struggle - La Lucha

December 6, 2020

On Nov. 19, President Donald Trump's legal team, led by racist former New York City [Mayor Rudy Giuliani](#), held a [news conference](#) to discuss the results of the recent U.S. presidential election. What ensued was over an hour of ludicrous conspiracy theories and virulently anti-communist falsehoods aimed at overturning the votes of Black, Brown and other working-class voters.

At the core of the news conference were allegations that Joe Biden's recent election victory was a fraud perpetrated against the U.S. public. According to Trump's legal team, the "deep state," the media, George Soros, socialist countries and the Democratic Party all colluded to steal the election from Donald Trump through ballot machine manipulation.

Far-right attorney Sidney Powell explained the allegations in depth. Powell claimed the Trump legal team had obtained mountains of evidence demonstrating the “massive influence of communist money through Venezuela, Cuba and likely China” in the recent election.

In her remarks, Powell traced the origin of this supposed fraud to Hugo Chávez, the socialist icon and former president of Venezuela — who has been dead for seven years!

Powell claimed that Chávez ordered the manipulation of Smartmatic voting machines to ensure that he never lost an election. Dominion Voting Systems, a Canadian-based company that provides voting machines to the U.S., is falsely claimed to be owned by the same company as Smartmatic.

Accusations of fraudulent elections in Venezuela continue to be made by the U.S. government and right-wing oppositionists even in the face of widespread recognition of their efficiency and validity.

Powell’s conspiracy-laced statement also implicated Jewish billionaire George Soros in this vast plot to rig the election against Trump. Trump’s legal team argued that Soros put his full financial weight behind communist efforts to interfere with the U.S. elections.

There is no evidence that Soros has relationships with or politically supports socialist countries like China, Cuba and Venezuela. On the contrary, he is a billionaire U.S. imperialist and devout capitalist.

From the late 1980s up to today, Soros and his Open Society Foundation have poured millions of dollars into supporting pro-imperialist, right-wing “color revolutions” against socialism in former Soviet republics and other countries.

There is significant irony in the Trump team accusing China, Cuba and Venezuela of

election tampering. If any country is guilty of election tampering, it is the United States.

The efforts by U.S. administrations, under both Republicans and Democrats, to subvert democracy and empower right-wing regimes in countries like Chile, Nicaragua, Grenada, Venezuela, Honduras, Burkina Faso, Ukraine and many others, are well-documented.

Outside of the bold-faced lies and baseless claims, the political lens of the news conference was gravely concerning in its unbridled anti-Semitism. Laying the blame upon the alleged collaboration of a Jewish billionaire and socialist countries smacks of the Nazi theory of “Judeo-Bolshevism.”

This conspiracy theory was widely propagandized by the Third Reich to shift blame away from the capitalist class and towards Germany’s oppressed Jewish minority and the peoples of the Soviet Union.

In the case of Trump’s legal team, the similarities of their allegations to the Nazi theory are hard to ignore. This is another step by Trump and his administration to muddy the waters and agitate their fascist base.

While George Soros is no progressive hero, anti-Semitic conspiracy theories that associate him with socialist countries are dangerous. They must be condemned and debunked broadly by the working-class movement.



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# **A two-day COVID tidal wave in the U.S.**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

December 6, 2020



In just the first two days of December, an estimated 5,495 people died of the coronavirus in the capitalist United States.

That's 690 more deaths than the total number of people who have died of COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic in the following socialist countries: People's Republic of China (4,634 deaths); Socialist Republic of Vietnam (35 deaths); and the Republic of Cuba (136 deaths).

The population of these three socialist countries is an estimated 1.548 billion people or almost five times the population of the United States. Yet they've suffered less

than 2 percent of the estimated 274,762 deaths from COVID-19 in the U.S as of Dec. 3.

On a per capita basis, the difference in the death rate between the capitalist U.S. and the rates in these three socialist countries is 267 times. Why is that so?

One reason is that socialist countries don't close hospitals because they're losing money. Under socialism, medical care is for people not for profit.

Just in New York City, both St. John's Hospital in Queens and St. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village were recently closed and turned into luxury housing. The Jersey City Medical Center with a thousand beds was converted over 20 years ago.

Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia with 400 beds was also shut down and is now being turned into luxury apartments. These beds are desperately needed now.

The coming months may see even higher numbers of COVID deaths in the United States. Black, Indigenous and Latinx people are at least twice as likely to die.

This ongoing tragedy didn't have to happen. It's how capitalism functions. COVID-19 is another reason we need a socialist revolution.



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# What's behind the certification fight in Michigan

written by Struggle - La Lucha

December 6, 2020

Detroit — On Monday, Nov. 23, the Michigan Board of Canvassers met to certify the votes from the Nov. 3 elections, a necessary step to complete the archaic U.S. Electoral College process. Eyes have been on Michigan throughout the election and after, targeted by the Trump regime's efforts to overturn the election results. This is the backstory to that struggle.

Focusing on the question, "Will the Michigan Board of Canvassers certify or won't they?" obscures the roots and role of the Black freedom struggle in this battle, and the struggle of all oppressed nations inside the U.S. in this election.

The MAGA theme present since before the 2016 election is a not-so-thinly-veiled synonym for "make America white again." The campaign to disenfranchise, to nullify the votes of Detroiters is as much a part of that campaign as the brutal treatment of migrant families and asylum seekers at the border with Mexico as well as the

Muslim ban, or sending body bags to the Navajo nation when they requested PPE.

What are Detroiters to think when accused of “dead” people voting? How many deaths were suffered when the unchecked pandemic swept through the city’s Black, Latinx and Indigenous communities? The traumatized community publicly mourned the dead in a citywide public memorial event with huge remembrance photographs displayed throughout Belle Isle Park.

Knowing the disproportionate deaths among communities of color, Trump embraced the fallacy of “herd immunity,” accepting the deaths that would come. Genocide? Urban removal through pandemic?

Detroit is the largest city in the state of Michigan. Although the population declined after the auto industry abandoned the city, Detroit remains the major U.S. city with the highest percentage of residents of African descent, still 80 percent or more.

Detroit has worn a target since Black workers were decisive in the fight to unionize the auto industry, were a militant force on the shop floor with the League of Revolutionary Black Workers and the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement, and won a Black political voice with the election of Coleman Young and leftwing militants like Ken Cockrel Sr.

These political figures resulted from and were lifted by the mass rebellions against police repression and racism that are now, at last, widely recognized as being intertwined with the very foundation of the U.S.

Cockrel, later elected to the Detroit City Council, famously put Chrysler racism on trial in the successful 1970 defense of Black autoworker James Johnson, who had killed two foremen and a job setter at the plant.

Similar to what Cuba has endured, Black Detroit had to pay for its rebelliousness and struggle for self-determination with decades of economic exclusion and financial

blockade. The city corporation itself as well as residents were cut off from loans and financing, or when not cut off had to pay higher rates.

## **Neoliberalism hits home**

A fundamental of capitalist economics is the exploitation of the majority of people by a small handful who gain wealth and wield political power. With the defeat of the Soviet Union and the end of the “Cold War,” neoliberalism’s war against the working class became unchecked.

A universal right-to-vote would make capitalist rule more difficult and could get in the way of forcing concessions on the “free” working class. So roadblocks and barriers to universal suffrage were invented: poll taxes and so-called “literacy tests” to prevent Black voters in Southern states from exercising that right, backed up by terror and night riders.

Then in recent times, voter ID laws and the “cleansing” of voter rolls were measures added to existing barriers preventing participation in the elections: holding voting on a work day, limits to mail-in voting, excluding formerly incarcerated people, confusing deadlines for voter registration, and drawing districts after the 10-year census to keep neoliberal politicians in control of state legislatures.

Further, destroying the organized labor movement was on the neoliberal to-do list. In 2011, a law was being pushed through the Wisconsin state legislature that would require annual membership votes to maintain certification for public workers’ unions. Media reports called it the “Wisconsin Budget Repair” bill. The law pushed the budget crisis — a result of the 2007-2008 “Great Recession” — into the pocketbooks of the working class in government jobs.

Wisconsin originated public employee unions. What is now called the Wisconsin State Employees Union/Council 24 of the American Federation of State, County and

Municipal Employees (AFSCME) was formed in Madison, Wis., in 1932. Workers in Wisconsin were the first in the country to win full recognition of union collective bargaining rights for public workers. That was in 1959.

### **From Wisconsin to Michigan**

In February 2011, a mass mobilization was initiated by Wisconsin teachers to occupy the state capital with mass marches on the weekends to oppose the “budget repair” bill. The marches drew as many as 100,000 workers. This writer joined in those actions in Madison.

A Michigan reporter who was also there asked me, a Detroit city worker retiree, why I was in Madison. I told her that if we didn’t stop this steamroller in Wisconsin, it would be in Michigan soon.

In fact, the very next month, March 16, 2011, in Michigan, the Emergency Manager Law Public Act 4 was enacted by the same kind of pro-business, gerrymandered legislature, giving the governor the power to “declare the city or school board in receivership and appoint an emergency manager to act for and in the place and stead of the governing body ... of the local government.”

In response, a massive mobilization based in the labor movement collected more than 400,000 signatures to put that law — a weapon aimed against Detroit — to a vote of the people. At the next presidential election, Nov. 7, 2012, PA4 was overwhelmingly repealed by the voters of Michigan.

Then the coup began. The lame-duck legislature passed the Emergency Manager bill again on Dec. 26, but with a clause that protected it from repeal by the voters, effective March 28, 2013. Just two weeks earlier, on Dec. 11, 2012, that same legislature struck a blow against the heart and origin of the industrial union movement by enacting a so-called right-to-work, anti-union law — in the home state

of the United Auto Workers and the Flint sit-down strike.

The Emergency Manager Law was aimed at Detroit, Flint and Benton Harbor. Detroit is still the largest city in Michigan, a Black and Latinx working-class center that controlled the water supply for all southeastern Michigan, held the gateway to Canada, owned the stellar Detroit Institute of Arts collections and sat on a prime location on the Detroit River, the waterway connecting the Great Lakes, not to mention billions in accumulated city workers pension funds under control of the city administration.

In the face of the racist ruling-class financial blockade and redlining, the pension fund provided a development lifeline for Black city administrations. Limited only to solutions within the capitalist system, the city administration couldn't go forward, caught between the needs and demands of the people and an economic and political system designed to exploit the working class. Responsive to community pressure to say "No," the city's elected officials refused to go along with sweeping privatization proposals.

When the Detroit city administration proposed in the late 1970s to close Detroit General, a public hospital, a mobilization opposed the closing, including sit-ins and arrests at City Hall. Detroit General was transferred and renamed Detroit Receiving in 1980, with the promise that it would remain a public facility; that promise held for 30 years.

Current Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan was CEO of the Detroit Medical Center when it was sold in 2010. Today it is part of the for-profit Tenet Healthcare. By 2013, the Detroit Health Department and the Herman Kiefer Health Complex became collateral damage. The Detroit Health Department was completely dismantled except for the few legally required health officials. All other services went to private nonprofits.

The early days of the COVID-19 pandemic could have been less deadly if robust public health services had remained intact.

On March 14, 2013 — even before the Emergency Manager law went into effect officially on March 28 — the Emergency Financial Manager took over Detroit. By July 18, 2013, the city of Detroit was forced into bankruptcy.

### **Fight against bankruptcy**

Emergency management dictatorships stripped elected representation from more than half of Michigan's Black residents in Detroit, Benton Harbor and Flint. In Detroit, the bankruptcy was fought in the courts and in the streets, closing the road in front of Federal Court. In Benton Harbor, community activist the Rev. Edward Pinkney was railroaded to jail. Every step of the way, resistance and protest called out the robbery by the Wall Street bankers.

But the biggest headline crime was against the people of Flint, home of the sit-down strike in 1934. To cut costs, Flint's emergency financial manager in collusion with then-Gov. Rick Snyder transferred the public water supply from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department system to the Flint River, an industrial waste dump.

An outcry began about smelly, discolored water flowing from residential faucets. Ridicule was heaped on the people who protested. They were accused of making up stories, until Flint pediatrician Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha blew the whistle on the massive lead poisoning of Flint's children. State officials, including Gov. Snyder, escaped accountability for this crime and the fight continues for reparations and replacement of water pipes.

The Emergency Manager Law couldn't be repealed, but the struggle isn't over.

In 2018, the Michigan Constitution was amended by two initiative petitions to democratize voting in Michigan — each submitting more than 420,000 signatures.

Proposal 2: People not Politicians took redistricting out of the hands of the neoliberal state legislature. Proposal 3: Promote the Vote granted that anyone who had not been convicted of a crime and as a result was in jail could register and vote.

Also provided were automatic and same-day registration, early voting, mail-in ballots without reason, and in 2020, satellite voting stations across Detroit, plus drop boxes for mail-in ballots for those worried about the post office cutbacks. Voting has never been so easy.

The struggle in Wisconsin was diverted into gathering signatures to recall Gov. Scott Walker. The recall vote failed when the Democratic Party ran the same candidate against Walker instead of the militant leaders of the mass protests.

This is the backstory to the fight to have the 2020 election certified. Detroit has fought for the right to vote and will not give it up to slick maneuvers.

Three hundred people logged on to the Wayne County Board of Canvassers zoom meeting making their voices heard. Hundreds more testified at the State Board of Canvassers meeting on Monday, Nov. 23, speaking for hours even after the Canvassers certified the Michigan election with 3 out of 4 voting for certification with one abstention.



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# The war against street merchants

written by Struggle - La Lucha

December 6, 2020

Jobless men sold apples during the Great Depression. Ninety years later, many city sidewalks are lined with street merchants trying to sell food, clothing and other needed goods.

Why are these women and men willing to stand in all sorts of weather for 10, 12 or more hours a day? Because they have to.

That's the only way the sellers can eat and pay the rent, not only for themselves but also for their children. Many street merchants send money to their families in other lands, keeping them alive.

Even during periods of capitalist "prosperity," millions are unemployed. Discrimination in hiring, particularly against the undocumented, drives many immigrants to sell on the street. The current coronavirus pandemic and economic crisis [have forced many more](#) to become street merchants.

Deliberate deindustrialization is another reason. Black workers in Baltimore who

used to have union jobs at the now closed Sparrows Point steel mill or GM plant can be found selling goods.

None of these workers are criminals, yet they are victimized by police.

In 2019, 319 street merchants [received a \\$188,531 settlement](#) in New York City after cops stole their property.

The big-hearted Los Angeles City Council voted in March to [ban unlicensed street vending](#). As many as 50,000 people are to be driven off the streets, sidewalks and parks.

“Don’t put fines on us, let us work,” [responded one worker](#), Aureliano Santiago. Thousands of street merchants have exhausted their savings because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The same city government gave L.A. real estate developers and hotel owners around [\\$1 billion in tax abatements](#) from 2005 to 2018.

### **Long standing hate**

Donald Trump always hated street merchants. He tried to [drive out disabled veterans](#) from selling near Trump Tower on Manhattan’s posh Fifth Avenue.

GIs can be saluted, paraded and buried after they come home from another war for Big Oil. But cops are to be sicced on them when they try to earn a living.

[The New York Times](#) — now an opponent of Trump — also demanded the vets’ removal in a 1991 editorial. The Times lamented that “merchandisers of cut-rate ties, scarves, jewelry, counterfeit Rolexes, Bart Simpson T-shirts and other cheap goods have recruited a sales force of disabled veterans.”

Why didn’t the newspaper try to recruit veterans for decent-paying jobs? Over the

past 60 years, nearly 900,000 manufacturing jobs in New York City have been destroyed.

Along Junction Boulevard in Queens, N.Y., this writer hasn't found any "counterfeit Rolexes" or, horror of horrors, "Bart Simpson T-shirts" for sale. Instead, winter clothing, housewares and plenty of tasty food, including pupusas, are being offered.

It wasn't any different a century ago in Manhattan's Lower East Side — today's Loisaida — with the exception of knishes being sold. Streets were filled with pushcarts operated by Jewish and Italian poor people trying to survive.

Police fired 41 shots at Amadou Diallo on Feb. 4, 1999, murdering the unarmed immigrant from Guinea. [Right-wing commentator Heather Mac Donald](#) dismissed the African victim as "a peddler of bootlegged videos and tube socks."

Does selling tube socks deserve the death penalty? For displaying a complete lack of humanity, Mac Donald has become a fixture at the anti-union Manhattan Institute.

Hilter didn't like peddlers, either. Nazis targeted Jewish peddlers to divert people's hatred away from big capitalists like the Krupps.

Landlords want to get rid of street merchants because they don't collect rent from them. The same goes for the banks that own the landlords' mortgages.

It's Amazon, not street merchants, that is ruining thousands of retail stores. It's owner Jeff Bezos, with his \$186 billion fortune, who's responsible for emptying out the shopping centers.

## **What do you have to sell?**

In a capitalist society like the U.S., everybody has to sell something. For the vast majority of the population, this means selling one's ability to perform labor.

Karl Marx, the founder of scientific socialism, called this ability “labor power.” Skilled labor is compounded simpler labor.

Capitalism couldn’t exist if everyone was “their own boss.” The capitalists need you to work for them.

Andrew Carnegie wanted his tombstone to read, “Here lies a man who knew how to get other men to work for him.” Tens of thousands of “other men” worked in Carnegie’s steel mills 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

It took centuries in Western Europe to force people to work for capitalists. They had to be cut off from their means of sustenance.

The reason there’s been no British king named Henry since the 1500s wasn’t because Henry VIII had six wives. It’s because this tyrant hanged 72,000 homeless people, who were called “vagabonds.” Rudy Giuliani would have been one of Henry’s lawyers.

British colonizers forced Africans to work for them by violence and imposing taxes. It was the African Holocaust that supplied the U.S. with the enslaved labor that produced most of the country’s exports until the Civil War.

Millions of farmers in the U.S., including sharecroppers, have been driven off the land since the Great Depression. But not everybody could find a job.

That includes activists who were put on “do not hire” lists. Martin Irons, a leader of a 1886 railroad strike, was forced to sell peanuts on the streets of St. Louis to survive. The Black communist organizer Hosea Hudson had to sell shaving goods during the 1950s anti-communist witchhunt.

The tens of millions who sell their labor power to capitalists and the millions of people who are forced to sell on the streets are natural allies.

Defending street merchants goes hand-in-hand with fighting police terror. It's part of the same struggle as fighting for health care and unemployment compensation during the coronavirus crisis.



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# **Free Leonard Peltier! #FreeThemAll #DayofMourning**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
December 6, 2020



## Special Webinar on Leonard Peltier during Indigenous Peoples Month

Special guest speaker Zola Fish:

Zola Fish, is a member of the Choctaw Nation, San Diego Socialist Unity Party, an Organizer with Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and many coalitions including the Committee Against Police Brutality and San Diego People Power's Assembly.

Van Cherry Green, Baltimore PSC and PPA

Green will speak on the unjust incarceration of her husband, Duryea Green. He has been wrongfully imprisoned for close to two decades. Van Cherry along with the Prisoners Solidarity Committee and the Peoples Power Assembly have been fighting to free him. The police officer in Green's conviction is a corrupt cop who is now charged with extortion and kidnap. Duryea suffers from cancer and has had to deal with the prison system's failure in handling the COVID 19 pandemic.

Sponsored by: Prisoners Solidarity Committee, Peoples Power Assembly, Struggle-La Lucha

[Statement from Leonard Peltier to the National Day of Mourning](#)



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# **Murder of Fred Hampton was domestic version of My Lai massacre**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
December 6, 2020

*Struggle-La Lucha is republishing this article about the global ramifications of the U.S. government's execution of Chicago Black Panther Party leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark on Dec. 4, 1969. It was written some 50 years ago by Marxist thinker and fighter Sam Marcy and originally appeared on Dec. 23, 1969.*

It would be woefully wrong and extremely one-sided to regard the murder of Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark as just another in the series of cruel and barbarous atrocities against Black people.

It is all that, to be sure, and more. The event, however, marks a certain turning point and discloses an objective orientation by the ruling class which must be taken by us as a point of departure for a more concrete, more accurate appraisal of the entire

situation in the United States.

For one thing, it indicates that the ruling class has definitely abandoned, if it ever really entertained, the idea that a series of what it called “basic reforms,” carried out over a period of time, would solve the fundamental problem of racist oppression and super-exploitation of Black people.

These measures, even in minimal form, have never really gotten off the ground. And what has been granted in the way of concessions came in the wake of more than two hundred mass rebellions, and has been of such a meagre character that it has served only to enrage the mass of the impoverished population and to harden its determination for sustained struggle.

### **Policy of naked violence**

The series of coordinated attacks by the Nixon administration on the Black Panther Party in Chicago, Los Angeles, Connecticut and New York takes the Johnson policy a long, long step further into the blind alley from which the master class will never again emerge.

It shows that in spite of the fabulous, utterly incalculable wealth that the ruling class has accumulated, especially in the last few decades, it is less willing and less capable of carrying out the basic, elementary democratic reforms fully a hundred years after a protracted, bloody Civil War, in which these very issues were presumed to have been settled once and for all.

Instead, the master class has embarked on a policy of open, naked violence as the “final and ultimate solution.”

The Nixon administration hopes to “ride out” the storm of protest that the murders have evoked. It counts on the liberal bourgeois politicians to say their piece, to stage phony independent investigations like that headed by Goldberg, Clark and others, to

pass harmless resolutions, present petitions, and engage in condemnatory orations against “excessive and unnecessary force” by the police - while at the same time more Panthers are jailed and more brutal assaults continue.

But this time-honored approach of the possessing classes to the social problems they themselves created by their oppression and robbery of the poor and exploited has dubious value for them in the world of today. The use of mass repression by exploiting classes is not a new phenomenon; it has been characteristic of the domination of the ruling classes since the dawn of class society.

It has had, however, lasting significance only when the foundations of its social system were still relatively stable and firm. It is precisely this which is much in question today. The truth of the matter is that the U.S. is now engulfed in an unparalleled social crisis. The crisis is of such proportions that there are scarcely any leading political representatives of the bourgeoisie who by their utterances do not show awareness of the acute character of the crisis.

For this crisis is unlike any that the U.S. has experienced. It is superficial and misleading to say that the crisis is caused by the Vietnam War, and that if this war were ended, the money expended on it would be used to improve the lot of Black people, other oppressed people and the working class generally.

### **Symptom of disease**

The Vietnam War is merely a giant symptom of a malignancy which is ravaging the entire social fabric of the capitalist system. The crisis that the U.S. is passing through is a crisis of the whole system, not merely a cyclical economic crisis as in the past. Nor is it a crisis which is exclusively geared to the effects of the Vietnam War.

Of course U.S. capitalism has experienced many grave and acute economic crises

which in their time were soon accompanied by serious political struggles and which later were overcome by the bourgeoisie as a new cycle of capitalist development emerged.

But all of these crises were more or less resolved, especially those following the turn of the century, by outward expansion into the world markets and by subjugating Asian people (as in the Philippines), Latin Americans (as in Cuba, Puerto Rico, etc.) and African people (as in Liberia).

The great economic crisis and subsequent stagnation of the early 1930s was resolved by U.S. intervention in the Second World War and by its subsequent economic and political subjugation of practically the entire world, with the exception of the countries where the bourgeoisie had been overthrown.

### **The deadly contradiction**

The crisis in which the U.S. finds itself today is one where the area subject to its economic exploitation and political oppression is rapidly contracting precisely at a time when the productive forces at the disposal of the U.S. ruling class continue to expand at a staggering rate.

(The technological advances in electronics, aeronautics and space technology generally are only some of the well-known and outstanding examples. But perhaps of equal importance are the still secret advances in the research and development laboratories of the giant monopolies such as AT&T, Du Pont, GE and others - aside from those that are directly controlled by the research and development laboratories of the Pentagon, which are the collective technological storehouse of the bourgeoisie.)

This contradiction, namely the contradiction between the monstrous expansion of the productive forces and the ever sharper curtailment of markets and areas under

political and military control of the U.S., is the most acute expression today of the general crisis engulfing U.S. imperialism. It expresses itself on the world arena politically as the struggle between U.S. imperialism and the liberation movements of the world and their supporters.

The Vietnam War constitutes an effort to resolve this contradiction in its favor by military means. What the U.S. does in the Middle East and in Latin America, as well as other areas, is the same thing, but accomplished by slightly different means.

### **War's end won't change it**

Soon the U.S. will have a gross national product worth a trillion dollars. Ending the war in Vietnam and transferring some of the money for concessions to Black people and working people generally would make only the smallest dent in this astronomical sum of money. Yet this is not at all likely to happen.

The avariciousness of the bourgeoisie when it comes to allocating any sum of money was illustrated just a short time ago by the most venomous opposition to a relatively piddling sum of \$70 million for such an imperious necessity as rat control in slum areas.

There is no reason whatever to expect the bourgeoisie to have a change of heart if they end the Vietnam War. For in their calculation, the ending of one war creates an imperialist peace which is merely a preparatory period for another imperialist war.

The bitter war that the U.S. is waging at home is only one aspect of a war that it is fighting on a world front against all the liberation movements. To prosecute this war as ruthlessly as it can, it must also, in its wake, carry on a desperate undercover war of economic aggression, even against its closest imperialist allies, and sometimes on issues which, measured on the scale of world events, appear petty and avaricious in the extreme.

This best can be gauged by an example from the way the Nixon administration handled a decision that the U.S. should go ahead and build the SST (Super Sonic Transport). In the face of the well-known objections of their imperialist allies, France and Britain, the United States decided to go ahead and build the SST because, Nixon said, "We must retain world leadership in aviation."

### **Competition and decay**

The significance as well as the arrogance involved in this decision by Nixon illustrates perfectly the sharpening contradiction between the need of U.S. monopoly capitalism to expand and at the same time the danger which it entails for it.

France and Britain are two of the oldest and most important allies the U.S. has. They are in fact blood brothers from the same monopoly capitalist family. It is true that both France and Britain have been reduced to somewhat of a semi-colonial status by the U.S., but they are still imperialist brigands themselves.

In view of the heavy reliance that the U.S. places upon them in the event of any major military adventure the U.S. undertakes, logic would seem to dictate that the U.S. should make a minor economic concession to them in this instance even if it were only for the purpose of strengthening them as imperialist allies.

But, said Nixon, the U.S. "must"—and we repeat, "must"—retain world leadership, even in a minor case like this. And there is not an aircraft company in the United States that would say otherwise.

### **Hue and cry of liberals**

A sanctimonious hue and cry went up from many newspapers in this country berating Nixon for making the SST decision – especially from the New York Times. But would any one of those newspapers, each of which is an imperialist

establishment in competition with others, cede leadership in its own industry to a competitor? Would the New York Times cede leadership in circulation or advertising to a competitor? On the contrary, it fights tooth and nail, and as avariciously as any aircraft company, to expand and retain its own leadership against any and all competitors.

Such are the laws of imperialist competition. The growth of huge monopolistic dynasties, and the latest form that they take, such as conglomerates, has not softened the nature of the competitive struggle, but has made it more violent in character and subjected it to catastrophic solutions beyond the control of the capitalist government itself.

Sanctimonious editorials and preachments on the need for “reasonable concessions” in foreign policy carry about as much weight with the Pentagon as the same moral preachments and exhortations for “reasonable” concessions to Black people carry with Strom Thurmond and the entire racist establishment.

The foreign policy of an imperialist government is no more than an extension of its domestic policy. The murder of Hampton and Clark is a domestic version of the My Lai massacre.

## **Repression and strikes**

The general intensification of the class struggle at home as evidenced by the attack against the General Electric workers by the GE oligarchy is bound to be repeated on a wider and more massive scale.

Boulwarism, the GE version of modern, space age strikebreaking, is merely a precursor of the tactic that the ruling class will apply on a more general and widespread scale as the crisis of the ruling class deepens. Boulwarism concretely takes its name from the GE union-busting representative who has consistently

pushed to establish a “new era” in “labor relations.” His particular assault consists of submitting as GE’s new “contract offer” to the union a take-it-or-leave-it ultimatum, and arrogantly stating that whether the workers like it or not, GE will negotiate no further.

The sheer gall of this pronouncement at contract expiration date, let alone the criminal indifference displayed to the many valid and unresolved grievances of the workers, is an obviously well-calculated provocation – a deliberate attempt to smash the unions and demoralize the workers.

### **It's all one policy**

The Kennedy-Johnson-Nixon policy is merely an application of Boulwarism in U.S. foreign relations. It is a policy of the use of military force where threats and ultimatums have failed to intimidate the oppressed.

The action of the steel barons in shooting down the striking steel workers in the 1930s was not an accidental, episodic event torn out of the context of the historical development of heavy industry and high finance. Not more so than My Lai, Chicago, Los Angeles, Connecticut and New York.

By taking the broader historical view of the evolution of U.S. finance capital, we can see that the architects who fashioned the My Lai massacre, the Chicago murders, the GE attack on the workers, have threads that reach down to the roots of the very nature of the capitalist system of exploitation.

The steel barons of today, even more so than those of the 1930s, are inextricably tied in with the dynastic rulers of the auto, electric and space industries, all of whom have staked their destiny on world domination or “leadership” as they like to call it. Not one of these industrial-financial combines, whether it be based on the oldest or the newest modern technology, evinces any but the most aggressive, most vicious

drive to control and dominate all the economic arteries of the globe.

And in truth, the bourgeoisie has little choice in the matter. Given their insatiable lust for super-profits and driven by the inexorable law of capitalist accumulation, the productive forces at the disposal of the capitalist class become ever larger, spanning continents and oceans, underwater and in outer space. They can least of all be confined or reduced or driven back to their national borders.

### **Force: theirs and ours**

Force, which the bourgeoisie used so frequently and with such devastating results throughout its long and bloody history, was effective as long as the conditions of production (i.e., exploitation) favored it. But force alone has never been able to maintain the existence of a social system or the ruling class which dominates it when the material conditions for its existence are crumbling.

The contradiction between the growth of the productive forces and the confines of capitalist private property is derived from another fundamental contradiction: that between the social character of capitalist production and individual private appropriation and ownership which is finally reaching the point in the United States of having fully matured.

It is what Marx long ago called the rebellion of the productive forces, which are social in character, against the capitalist relations of exploitation that confine them. This heralds the coming of a proletarian revolution as the only rational solution to a social crisis threatening to devour society as a whole.

Force, however, is also, as Marx said, “the midwife to revolution.” A billion people on the face of the globe have learned that lesson well. This is a nightmare for the bourgeoisie. It is also the hope of the rest of humanity.



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# **Women on the Frontlines of Resistance: Free Khitam Saafin! Free Palestinian Women!**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
December 6, 2020



**FREEDOM FOR  
KHITAM SAAFIN**  
PALESTINIAN FEMINIST IMPRISONED BY ISRAELI OCCUPATION

**samidoun**  
PALESTINIAN PRISONER SOLIDARITY NETWORK

**WOMEN ON THE  
FRONTLINES OF  
RESISTANCE**

Ep 1 in cooperation with Samidoun

**FREE KHITAM SAAFIN!  
FREE PALESTINIAN  
WOMEN!!**

08.12.20 // 20:00 - 21:00  
ZOOM AND FACEBOOK LIVE  
[BIT.LY/FREEPALWOMEN](https://bit.ly/freepalwomen)

IWA EUROPE WEBINAR SERIES:

Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 8:00 PM UTC+01

Online Event

<https://bit.ly/freepalwomen>

International Women's Alliance Europe is launching our campaign Women on the Frontlines of Resistance: Free Political Prisoners this Thursday December 10th on International Human Rights Day.

Together with Samidoun, we are kicking off the first in a series of webinars that will highlight cases of women prisoners in different sites of anti-imperialist resistance across the globe with a webinar on Khitam Saafin and Palestinian Women prisoners and resistance.

Detained Palestinian feminist and women's organizer Khitam Saafin was ordered by

an Israeli military commander to six months in administrative detention, imprisonment without charge or trial, on 9 November 2020. The President of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, Saafin was seized by Israeli occupation forces from her home in occupied Beitunia along with six other Palestinian activists and human rights defenders on 2 November 2020.

Join us for our campaign launch to learn more about and build solidarity with Palestinian women political prisoners!

Register here <https://bit.ly/freepalwomen>

Over the coming months our campaign will bring together different anti-imperialist struggles and raise the issues of state violence and repression of women's resistance. If you have any questions or comments or want to learn more about IWA Europe or Samidoun, drop a comment or send us a message.



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## **Venezuela wins simply by holding**

# an election

written by Struggle - La Lucha

December 6, 2020

On December 6, the Venezuelan people will vote for a new National Assembly. Ordinarily, there is nothing unusual about this, nor would this be newsworthy outside Venezuela. Ever since the election of Hugo Chávez to the presidency in 1998, the Venezuelan people have been used to more than one national election each year (this legislative election is the 25th in 21 years); these have been the presidential elections, the legislative elections, and the referendums to strengthen the 1999 Constitution. On the surface, this is just another one of these elections that has served to deepen the meaning of democracy in Venezuela.

But, these days, even the holding of an election is a contest between the Venezuelan people and the United States government. Since Chávez became the president, the United States government and its allies have tried to destabilize Venezuela's government, including by direct efforts at regime change. When it became clear that Chávez and the Bolivarian Revolution, which he led, had strong popular support and could not be defeated at the ballot box, the U.S. government and its allies pushed to delegitimize Venezuela's political sovereignty.

Strong disagreements mark the Venezuelan political arena, where the oligarchy maintains its own political platforms and continues to attempt to undermine and defeat the Bolivarian Revolution. These forces—now called the opposition—have contested elections since 1998, with some gains no doubt, but without being able to prevail. In 2015, for instance, the opposition was able to win a majority in the National Assembly elections and has controlled the Assembly over these past five years. The very fact that the opposition won in 2015 shows that there is a robust electoral system in the country. At that time, there was no complaint about fraud.

## **An opposition made in Washington**

Rather than undertake their constitutional duty to govern alongside President Nicolás Maduro, sections of the opposition decided to operate as a wing of the U.S. Embassy in Caracas. One of the legislators, Juan Guaidó (who had won his seat from the state of Vargas), allowed himself to be made the instrument of a U.S.-attempted political coup after the presidential election of 2018. The opposition to the Bolivarian Revolution has always been divided and has not been able to find a unity of purpose. One of the most important divides is along the axis of whether or not to subordinate itself to the United States government. People like Guaidó were quite happy to be an instrument of Donald Trump and Mike Pompeo, while others made it clear that this was an unpatriotic, even treasonous, approach. Since 2015, the opposition has faced an existential crisis around this question of the level of U.S. support for its political process; Guaidó's entire influence relied on his support from Washington, rather than from his own constituents or from the opposition.

The Venezuelan Constitution requires an election to the National Assembly before January 5, 2021, when a new group of legislators have to be sworn in. That is why the election is being held on December 6. Some sections of the opposition that derive their power from Washington—such as Guaidó's camp—had decided early on to boycott the election by alleging that it would be fraudulent. They have not provided evidence for these claims; the North Atlantic media required no evidence to repeat them, nor did this media address the simple matter of the National Assembly elections in 2015 having favored the opposition. Rather than contesting power through democratic means of elections or proposed legislation, the Guaidó opposition seeks to seize power by undemocratic means. Winning the election seems less important than delegitimizing the electoral and democratic process.

## **U.S. interference in the elections**

The United States government—with bipartisan support from both Republicans and

Democrats—has actively intervened in Venezuela’s 2020 National Assembly election. In September, the U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned four officials of the Venezuelan government: Reinaldo Enrique Muñoz Pedroza (the attorney general), David Eugenio De Lima Salas (a former governor), and two officials of the National Electoral Council (Consejo Nacional Electoral)—Indira Maira Alfonzo Izaguirre and José Luis Gutiérrez Parra. Indira Alfonzo is the president of the National Electoral Council and a well-respected former judge with long-standing ties to the opposition. The U.S. government claimed—without providing evidence—that these officials were part of an “election interference scheme to prevent free and fair parliamentary elections from taking place in December 2020.” The U.S. government’s interference continued later that month with its subsequent sanctioning of five opposition leaders who decided to participate in the elections; the U.S. State Department sanctioned them for their “complicity” in the elections.

Opposition politicians who face this pressure from Washington also face a disgruntled base in Venezuela that has been fighting against this policy of abstention and boycotting. Many of the party members from these opposition groups have sued their leaders, demanding that they participate in the election. They are fed up with the strategy of attrition by Guaidó and by Guaidó’s subservience to the U.S. State Department.

For that reason, there are more than 14,000 candidates from 107 political organizations, with 98 of them identified as opposition parties. They will contest the 277 seats (increased from 165 to better reflect population growth and more ability for democratic input).

Venezuela’s National Assembly has been stalled ever since it was made an instrument for regime change by Washington. Now, with this election, it is hoped that the legislative process can resume. A new National Assembly would be able to appoint key officials and would be able to discuss legislation to address the

pandemic; it should become a place for healthy dialogue between the government and the opposition, which has been hijacked by Washington and by Guaidó. More than anything else, this National Assembly would provide a legal challenge to governments and banks in Europe and the United States *that have frozen at least \$6 billion of Venezuelan funds and confiscated assets such as Citgo; they will no longer have Guaidó's alleged interim government to use as an excuse for their actions.*

Venezuela wins just by holding an election. That's the bottom line.

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Source: [Resumen](#)

