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Struggle □ La Lucha PDF - June 28, 2021

written by Struggle - La Lucha

June 28, 2021

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The world says no to the blockade of Cuba

By Rosa Miriam Elizalde

Cuba won another diplomatic victory in the General Assembly of the United Nations June 23 against the government of the United States. The majority of countries (184) voted in favor of the resolution which calls for the lifting of the blockade against Cuba.

The resolution has been brought to the U.N. every year since 1992, except in 2020 when the government of Havana was unable to present it due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This victory is a reminder of the Cuban people's long wait for an act of justice that can rectify the worrying situation, which is a mix of the abuse of authority, the disproportionate use of violence, and the very specific intention to "destroy, totally or in part, a national, ethnic or racial group, in its totality," the U.N.'s definition of genocide in its 1948 Convention.

Only a very few cases of mass killings have been considered genocides unequivocally by the international community. However, there is no other name for this horror which has lasted for more than 60 years and has forced several generations of Cubans to go about their daily lives under a heavy fog.

This powerful elite carries out inhuman monstrosities against millions of people for the mere crime of existing. Is it not genocide to deny



In an historic U.N. General Assembly vote, 184 countries supported ending the U.S. blockade of Cuba. Only the U.S. and Israel voted against the resolution.

people, in the middle of a pandemic, medicine and food, access to internet services to the majority of people, to finance and trade between equals? If so, we must then, like Raphael Lemkin, invent a word for this nameless crime.

It is difficult to account for how many in Cuba have died because they did not have the medicine they needed or because it did not arrive on time. The report presented by Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez, on the damages of the blockade in 2020, has 66 pages without one adjective. The report is merely a list of what happened, excessive costs, items that did not arrive on

time because they had some component from the U.S. — from a plane to a respirator that was destined for an intensive care unit — names of companies that have refused to supply the island with the technology, raw materials, reactive agents, diagnostic kits, medicine, devices, equipment and replacement parts needed by a public health system.

A friend told me that the images of George Floyd's assassination had a strong impact in Cuba. Being suffocated on the ground by the police officer who refused to lift his knee off his neck, despite the cries of the victim saying that he couldn't

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THE ROSENBERGS

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► Reparations: YES!



Angela Davis - honorary member of ILWU Local 10

► U.S. election interventions



Protest exposes U.S. role in the Philippines

Unemployed Workers Union fights for benefits

The Unemployed Workers Union announced a lawsuit June 24 challenging Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's decision to end several pandemic unemployment programs early. The class-action lawsuit in Baltimore Circuit Court also seeks benefits for people whose cases have been pending in the state's claims system.

Many claimants have been disqualified from benefits "without explanation or hearing" or "were placed in an 'on-hold' status for months at a time or indefinitely," the lawsuit charges.

"The stories we have heard from people who have not received a dime — a dime — over the past year are beyond harrowing," attorney Alec Summerfield said at a press conference in Baltimore before heading into the courthouse to file the lawsuit. "People who worked for decades now cannot afford to put food on the table. This is a disgrace."



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