

Los Angeles: No War On Russia! Disband NATO! Feb. 5

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 4, 2022



In Los Angeles - Saturday, February 5, 3:00 pm at Westwood Federal Bldg, 11000 Wilshire Blvd. Join the Harriet Tubman Center, Socialist Unity Party and many more organizations to say NO US/NATO War on Russia & Donbass!



Blackwater is in the Donbass with the Azov Battalion

written by Struggle - La Lucha

February 4, 2022

The phone call between President Biden and Ukrainian President Zelensky *“did not go well”*, CNN headlines: while *“Biden warned that the Russian invasion in February is practically certain when the frozen ground makes it possible for tanks to pass through,”* Zelensky *“asked Biden to tone down, arguing that the Russian threat is still ambiguous”*. While the Ukrainian president himself takes a more cautious stance, the Ukrainian armed forces are massing in Donbass close to the Donetsk and Lugansk area inhabited by Russian populations. According to reports from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, units of the Ukrainian Army and National Guard amounting to about 150,000 men are positioned there, the news is overshadowed by our mainstream which speaks only of the Russian deployment. They are armed and trained, and so effectively commanded by U.S.-NATO military advisers and instructors.

From 1991 to 2014, according to the U.S. Congress Research Service, the United

States provided Ukraine with \$4 billion in military assistance, plus over \$2.5 billion after 2014. The NATO Trust Fund provided over a billion dollars in which Italy also participated. This is only a part of the military investments made by the major NATO powers in Ukraine. Great Britain, for example, has concluded various military agreements with Kyiv investing, among other things, 1.7 billion pounds in upgrading Ukraine's naval capabilities: this program provides for the arming of Ukrainian ships with British missiles, the production of joint 8 fast missile units, the construction of naval bases on the Black Sea and also on the Azov Sea between Ukraine, Crimea, and Russia. In this context, Ukrainian military spending, which was equivalent to 3% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in 2014, rose to 6% in 2022 corresponding to over 11 billion dollars.

In addition to the U.S.-NATO military investments in Ukraine, there is the \$10 billion investment foreseen by the plan that is being carried out by Erik Prince, founder of the U.S. private military company Blackwater - now it is renamed Academy - which has supplied mercenaries to the CIA, the Pentagon, and the State Department for covert operations (including torture and murder), gaining billions of dollars. Erik Prince's plan, revealed by an investigation of Time magazine, consists in creating a private army in Ukraine through a partnership between the Lancaster 6 Company, and the main CIA-controlled Ukrainian intelligence office. Through them, Prince has supplied mercenaries in the Middle East and Africa. It is not known, of course, what would be the task of the private army created in Ukraine by the founder of Blackwater certainly with CIA funding. However, it can be expected that it would conduct covert operations in Europe, Russia, and other regions from its Ukraine base.

Against this background, the exposure made by the Russian Defense Minister Shoigu that in the Donetsk region there are "*U.S. private military companies that are preparing a provocation with the use of unknown chemicals*" is particularly alarming. It could be the spark causing the detonation of war in the heart of Europe:

a chemical attack on Ukrainian civilians in Donbass would immediately be attributed to the Donetsk and Lugansk Russians, who would be attacked by the preponderant Ukrainian forces already deployed in the region to force Russia to militarily intervene in their defense. At the forefront, ready to massacre the Russians of Donbass there is the Azov battalion, which trained and armed by the U.S. and NATO has been promoted to a special forces regiment. It distinguished by its ferocity in its attacks on the Russian populations of Ukraine. The Azov battalion recruits neo-Nazis from all over Europe under its flag similar to that of the SS Das Reich, it is commanded by its founder Andrey Biletsky who was promoted to colonel. It is not just a military unit but an ideological and political movement, and Biletsky is the charismatic leader in particular for the youth organization that is educated to hate Russians by his book *"The words of the white Führer."*

Source: worldbeyondwar.org



El bloqueo a Cuba cumple 60 años

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 4, 2022



Se dice fácil, pero han sido seis décadas durísimas que comenzaron con una ligereza desconcertante y la creencia de que el bloqueo del Gobierno de Estados Unidos a Cuba no duraría demasiado. Un par de años, quizás.

El 2 de febrero de 1962 John F. Kennedy llamó a su secretario de Prensa, Pierre Salinger y le dio una tarea urgente: “Necesito muchos puros cubanos, Pierre”. “¿Cuántos, presidente?”. “Unos mil”. El funcionario visitó las tiendas mejor surtidas de Washington y consiguió 1.200 cigarros H. Upmann Petit Corona enrollados a mano en las vegas de Pinar del Río, en el extremo occidental de la Isla.

“A la mañana siguiente, cuando llegué a mi despacho, el teléfono directo al Presidente ya estaba sonando. ‘¿Qué tal te fue?’, dijo, mientras yo cruzaba el umbral. ‘Muy bien’, respondí. Kennedy sonrió y abrió un cajón de su escritorio. Tomó un gran papel y lo firmó inmediatamente. Era el decreto que prohibía todos los productos cubanos en nuestro país. Los puros cubanos eran a partir de ese momento

ilegales en Estados Unidos”, contó años después Salinger a la revista *Cigars Aficionado*.

Los periódicos de la época relataron con bastante exactitud lo que significaba aquella decisión. *The Nation* [escribió](#): “La economía de Cuba dependía de los Estados Unidos para artículos esenciales como camiones, autobuses, excavadoras, equipos telefónicos y eléctricos, productos químicos industriales, medicinas, algodón crudo, detergentes, manteca de cerdo, papas, aves, mantequilla, una gran variedad de productos enlatados y la mitad de los alimentos básicos en la dieta cubana como el arroz y los frijoles negros. ... Una nación que había sido un apéndice económico de los Estados Unidos quedó repentinamente a la deriva; era como si Florida hubiera quedado aislada del resto del país, incapaz de vender naranjas y ganado o de traer turistas, gasolina, repuestos de automóviles o cohetes de Cabo Cañaveral”.

Entre el 3 de febrero de 1962 y el 22 de noviembre de 1963 mediaron 657 días. Kennedy fue asesinado antes de que pudiera quemar uno a uno su arsenal de tabacos cubanos y antes de que se [concretara](#) la agenda de la negociación para tal vez revertir o suavizar el bloqueo, un proceso que estaba en curso cuando el magnicidio de Dallas.

Las consecuencias del fracaso de la invasión de Cuba por Playa Girón, en abril de 1961 - los invasores habían sido cambiados por compotas y tractores - y la llamada crisis de Octubre que involucró a EE.UU., la URSS y Cuba, en 1962, fueron dos de los factores que habían determinado el arranque del intento negociador. Un memorando [remitido](#) por Gordon Chase, especialista del Consejo de Seguridad Nacional para asuntos de América Latina, a McGeorge Bundy, Consejero de Seguridad Nacional del presidente Kennedy, el 11 de abril de 1963, recomendó con cinismo: “Si una suave aproximación negociadora a Castro es factible y exitosa, los beneficios podrían ser sustanciales”.

De nada valieron los intentos de rectificación de Kennedy ni los llamados no ya a la

elemental justicia, sino al pragmatismo. Decenas de analistas, funcionarios y hasta ex presidentes estadounidenses han [reclamado](#) cordura para evitar que el castigo impuesto al pueblo cubano siga basado en la pulsión sádica, la inercia o simplemente en la arrogancia de un cogollo de politiqueros. Pero Washington ha seguido moviéndose en unas constantes vitales perversas. Wayne Smith, quien fuera jefe de la Sección de Intereses de Estados Unidos en La Habana y una de las voces más firmes contra el bloqueo impuesto unilateralmente por su país, llegó a la conclusión de que Cuba parece [tener](#) “el mismo efecto en las administraciones estadounidenses que la luna llena tiene en los hombres lobo”.

Tienen nietos y hasta bisnietos los que nacieron cuando Kennedy, con sus razones oscuras y su trastienda de tabacos, [firmó](#) la Orden Ejecutiva 3447 que decretó un bloqueo total sobre Cuba, incluyendo las medicinas y los productos alimenticios, y la amenaza a cualquier país que decidiera aliviar las sanciones. Algunos de esos cubanos han muerto y muchos morirán sin saber cómo funciona un país en condiciones de normalidad, la vieja o la nueva con Covid, da igual. Sin entender cómo se ha podido actuar contra millones de personas por tanto tiempo y con tanto odio, un odio sin límite ni explicación racional.

Este artículo fue producido para [Globetrotter](#) y publicado primero en [La Jornada](#).

Rosa Miriam Elizalde es una periodista cubana y fundadora de Cubadebate. Es vicepresidenta de la Unión de Periodistas de Cuba (UPEC) y de la Federación Latinoamericana de Periodistas (FELAP). Es autora y coautora de varios libros, incluyendo Jineteros en La Habana y Chávez Nuestro. Por su destacada labor, ha sido merecedora en varias ocasiones del Premio Nacional de Periodismo Juan Gualberto Gómez. Es columnista semanal de La Jornada, México.



The blockade against Cuba turns 60

written by Struggle - La Lucha

February 4, 2022

It's easy to say, but it's been six very hard decades that began with disconcerting lightness and the belief that the United States government's blockade of Cuba would not last long—a couple of years, maybe.

On February 2, 1962, U.S. President John F. Kennedy called his press secretary, Pierre Salinger, and gave him an urgent task: "I need a lot of [Cuban] cigars." "How many, Mr. President?" "About a thousand," Kennedy replied. Salinger visited the best-stocked stores in Washington and got 1,200 H. Upmann Petit Corona cigars rolled by hand in the fertile plains of Pinar del Río, at the western end of the island.

"The next morning, I walked into my White House office at about 8 a.m., and the direct line from the President's office was already ringing," Salinger told Cigar Aficionado magazine years later. "'How did you do, Pierre?' he asked, as I walked through the door. 'Very well,' I answered. ... Kennedy smiled, and opened up his desk. He took out a long paper which he immediately signed. It was the decree banning all Cuban products from the United States. Cuban cigars were now illegal in

our country."

The media outlets of the time reported quite accurately what that decision meant. The Nation [wrote](#): "Cuba's economy... depended on the United States for such essential items as trucks, buses, bulldozers, telephone and electrical equipment, industrial chemicals, medicine, raw cotton, detergents, lard, potatoes, poultry, butter, a large assortment of canned goods, and half of such staple items in the Cuban diet as rice and black beans. ... A nation which had been an economic appendage of the United States was suddenly cut adrift; it was as if Florida had been isolated from the rest of the country, unable to sell oranges and cattle or to bring in tourists, gasoline, automobile parts, or Cape Canaveral rockets."

There were 657 days between February 3, 1962—when Kennedy [issued](#)  a blockade on trade between the U.S. and Cuba—and November 22, 1963, when he was assassinated.

Kennedy was killed before he could burn his arsenal of Cuban cigars one by one and before the negotiation agenda was [finalized](#) to perhaps reverse or ease the blockade, a process that was underway at the time of the Dallas assassination.

Two key factors that determined the start of negotiations were the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in April 1961—the invaders had to be exchanged for food and tractors—and the 1962 October missile crisis that involved the U.S., the USSR and Cuba. A memorandum [sent](#)  by Gordon Chase, National Security Council specialist for Latin American affairs, to McGeorge Bundy, national security adviser to President Kennedy, on April 11, 1963, cynically recommended: "If the sweet approach [to Castro] turned out to be feasible and, in turn, successful, the benefits would be substantial."

Kennedy's attempts at rectification were of no use, nor were the calls, not just for elementary justice, but for pragmatism. Dozens of analysts, officials and even former

U.S. presidents have since [demanded](#) sanity to prevail in order to prevent the punishment imposed on the Cuban people from these continuing embargoes, which are based on the sadistic drive, inertia or simply on the arrogance of a bunch of politicians. But Washington has continued to show vital signs of not backing down. Wayne Smith, who was head of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana and one of the strongest voices against the blockade imposed unilaterally by his country, concluded that Cuba [seems](#) to have “the same effect on American administrations that the full moon has on werewolves.”

Those who were born when Kennedy, with his hidden reasons and a secret stash of cigars, [signed](#) Executive Order 3447, which decreed a total blockade on Cuba, now have grandchildren and even great-grandchildren. Some of those Cubans have died and many will die without knowing how a country works under normal conditions—the old one or the new one with COVID-19, it no longer matters. They will never understand how it has been possible for the U.S. to act against millions of people for so long and with so much hatred, a hatred without limits or rational explanation.

This article was produced by [Globetrotter](#). Rosa Miriam Elizalde is a Cuban journalist and founder of the site Cubadebate. She is vice president of both the Union of Cuban Journalists (UPEC) and the Latin American Federation of Journalists (FELAP). She has written and co-written several books including Jineteros en la Habana and Our Chavez. She has received the Juan Gualberto Gómez National Prize for Journalism on multiple occasions for her outstanding work. She is currently a weekly columnist for La Jornada of Mexico City.



Minneapolis: Justice for Amir Locke, Feb. 5

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 4, 2022

JUSTICE FOR AMIR

**PEAVEY PLAZA
SATURDAY FEB. 5 3:00 PM
JOIN US IN DEMANDING**

**ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF THE KILLER COPS
MURDER CHARGES AGAINST THE SHOOTER
BAN NO-KNOCK WARRANTS**



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022 AT 4 PM - 6 PM EST
Protest - Justice for Amir Locke. Rally @ Peavey Plaza
1101 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

MPD shot and killed Amir Locke on Feb. 2nd. Within 9 seconds of executing a search warrant, they executed a human being.

Join us in demanding:

- Fire, arrest and prosecute the killer cops and those who planned the raid.
- Immediate moratorium on no-knock warrants



Brochures: No U.S./NATO war on Russia & Donbass (PDF)

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 4, 2022

‘U.S. claims of Russian threat to Ukraine are groundless’

By Dmitry Strauss

Dmitry Strauss: Greg, Russia has raised the issue of nonproliferation of U.S. and NATO missile strike systems near its borders. This topic will be discussed by Russia with NATO and the United States in the coming days. In your opinion, how legitimate is this point of view of Russia?

Greg Butterfield: I believe Russia's position is completely valid and correct. The unbridled growth of the U.S.-dominated NATO military alliance over the last three decades is a threat to Russia and its allies, and one of the greatest threats to peace in the world. The growth of NATO has meant not just the spread of Western troops and weaponry in eastern and central Europe. It has also meant the ascension of governments like those in Poland, Hungary, Ukraine and the Baltic States, that look to the fascist collaborators of World War II as their example.

President Putin and the Russian government have consistently spoken about the danger inherent in NATO's integration of Ukraine – the last major “domino” on Russia's western border. The situation has been precarious ever since the U.S.-backed coup in 2014 brought a far-right regime to power that nurtures openly fascist elements who eagerly desire war with Russia.

The following interview with Struggle-La Lucha co-editor Greg Butterfield was originally published by the website Ukraina.ru.



More U.S. and NATO weapons are being sent to the Ukraine puppet government.

In the final days of the Soviet Union, when the Gorbachev government withdrew support from the USSR's socialist European allies, the U.S. pledged not to expand NATO to the east or threaten Russia and other post-Soviet states. Of course, Washington never honored this pledge. Republican and Democratic administrations alike have consistently betrayed that promise and steadily increased the danger of another devastating war in Eurasia.

DS: The U.S. and NATO talk about Russia's “aggressive plans” with regard to Ukraine as their reason for the placement of missile strike systems. Russia says it has no such plans, and explains that the concentration of its troops near the

Ukrainian border coincides with its right to place its troops in its own territory the way it likes. Which argument is more convincing?

GB: The claims by the U.S. and NATO of a threatened Russian “invasion” of Ukraine are completely baseless. They are not taken seriously by any knowledgeable person. Unfortunately, the workers and general population in the West are denied that knowledge. This is the greatest challenge facing the anti-war movement here. U.S. officials expect the lack of objective information and constant beating of war drums in the capitalist media to convince the masses of people that Russia is a threat to people here. They are pursuing

Continued on the other side

Tell Biden: NO WAR! U.S./NATO hands off Russia and Donbass!

By Greg Butterfield

Jan. 24 – U.S. imperialism is playing with fire in Eastern Europe. U.S. officials are toying with the lives of millions of people in Europe, Asia and potentially the entire world with their unprecedented campaign of threats, provocations and war propaganda aimed at the Russian Federation.

The Biden regime and corporate media are lying when they warn of an “imminent” Russian invasion of Ukraine. The real danger of invasion comes from the U.S.-supported, NATO-armed Ukrainian government against the peoples of the independent Donbass republics of Donetsk and Lugansk on Russia’s Western border.

Wall Street, its bought-and-paid-for politicians and the Pentagon have long sought to dominate all of the former Soviet Union, including Russia. Big Oil is especially rabid to stop Russian oil and gas from reaching the European Union, so that erstwhile U.S. allies are forced to rely on their products instead.

Today the U.S. announced it was pulling diplomats’ families and other “nonessential personnel” out of Ukraine. It’s not because they are in danger from Russia. Rather, it’s another in a long line

of war provocations by Washington and the NATO military alliance it dominates.

U.S. politicians are working to create a wartime atmosphere so that any defensive action by Russia or the Donbass republics, or a wholly manufactured incident, can be used to justify Ukrainian aggression and NATO intervention.

After a week of talks where Secretary of State Antony Blinken continued stonewalling Russia on its just demands for security guarantees against NATO expansion, and when Biden said at a news conference that his “guess” was that a Russian invasion of Ukraine was inevitable, it seemed on Jan. 21 there might be a glimmer of hope that the U.S. warmongers would take a step back.

Blinken finally agreed to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s request to give a written U.S. response to Russia’s draft statement on security guarantees, more than a month after it was presented by Russian diplomats. At least, this would force Washington to declare its intentions in writing before the world rather than being shrouded in backroom negotiations and rumors circulated by unnamed sources in the Western media.

Instead of using this opportunity to step back from the brink of war, it now

Continued inside

No support for Ukrainian Rittenhouses! Hands off Donbass, Belarus & Russia

By Greg Butterfield

Why is President Joe Biden's administration laser-focused on threatening war on the other side of the world, when the people of the United States are beset with life-threatening crises here at home?

Racist killer Kyle Rittenhouse was just acquitted, emboldening violent white supremacists across the U.S. Women's reproductive rights are under attack in many states and at the highest summit of the Supreme Court, which may soon overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

The COVID-19 pandemic is surging again, with the Delta and Omicron variants threatening new waves of death and fur-

ther taxing the country's awful, mismanaged private healthcare system. Workers' rights are under attack from Amazon, Kellogg's and bosses across the board. The climate crisis continues to wreak havoc coast-to-coast.

These are a few of the life-and-death problems Biden needs to address. Workers and oppressed people did not give him their votes to start a war with Russia.

Biden's administration claims that 70,000 Russian troops guarding their country's Western border are a great threat to neighboring Ukraine. Seventy thousand Russian troops, that is, stationed on Russia's own territory.

Continued inside



'Over the last 30 years, the U.S.-dominated NATO military alliance has steadily expanded eastward, swallowing 14 countries in Central and Eastern Europe, including several on Russia's Western borders. This despite a promise by the U.S. to Russia that NATO would not expand after the Cold War.'



Anti-war placards

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 4, 2022

7 anti-war letter-size (8.5"x11") placards in a PDF

U.S./NATO

NO WAR

on Russia

& Donbass

Tabloid-size (11"x17") anti-war placards in PDF

[su_row][su_column size="1/4" center="no" class="]

**NO
WAR
ON
RUSSIA!**

[\[/su_colum](#)

n][su_column size="1/4" center="no" class="]

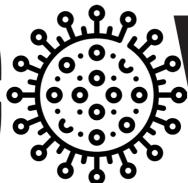
Banks & Big Oil PROFIT from Pentagon's WARS

[\[/su_colum](#)

n][su_column size="1/4" center="no" class="]

**Pentagon sends
millions of \$\$ in
bombs & bullets**

**••• can't
deliver masks
& COVID tests**



[\[/su_colum](#)

n][su_column size="1/4" center="no" class="]

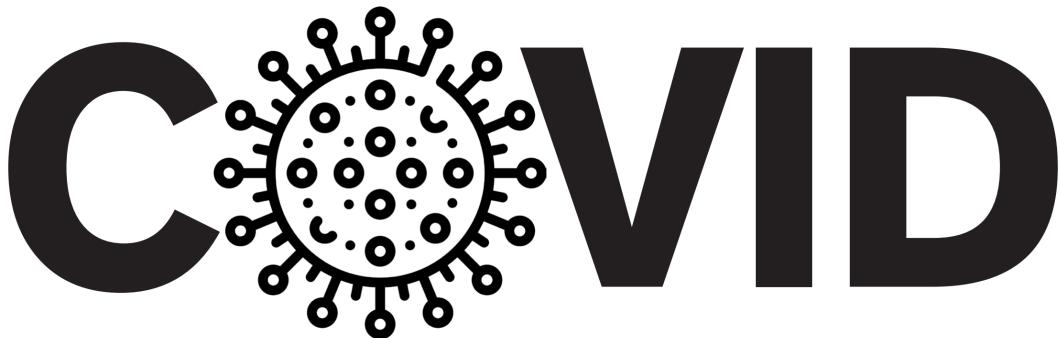
**Money for
Healthcare
Not for
Fascists &
War Profiteers**

[\[/su_colum](#)

n][/su_row]

[su_row][su_column size="1/4" center="no" class=""]

**Fight
COVID
& Evictions
Not Russia**



[\[/su_colum](#)

n][su_column size="1/4" center="no" class="]

Disband



NOW

[/su_colum

n][su_column size="1/4" center="no" class=""] [/su_column][su_column size="1/4" center="no" class=""] [/su_column][/su_row]

Struggle-La Lucha anti-war posters

[pdf-embedder
url="https://struggle-la-lucha.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/SLL_lettersize_7placards.pdf"]

[pdf-embedder
url="https://struggle-la-lucha.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/SLL_11x17_2up-7placards-1.pdf" title="SLL_11x17_2up-7placards"]



U.S./NATO: NO WAR on Russia &

Donbass. Here are the facts!

written by Struggle - La Lucha

February 4, 2022

PDF

U.S./NATO:

NO WAR on Russia & Donbass

Here are the facts!

The corporate media and politicians claim that Russia is about to invade Ukraine. It's a big lie, just like the lie about Iraq's "Weapons of Mass Destruction." Actually, Washington is pushing U.S.-armed Ukraine to invade two small independent republics, Donetsk and Lugansk, on Russia's border. They want to provoke a response from Russia to justify NATO intervention.

Fight COVID, evictions & poverty, not Russia

Workers are facing crises right here at home. Why is Biden preparing to send 8,500 additional U.S. troops to Europe on top of 64,000 already stationed there? Why did Congress raise Pentagon war funding when they can't even pass Build Back Better legislation or protect people's basic democratic rights, like the right to vote and reproductive rights?



Millions of \$\$ in bombs & bullets but can't deliver masks & tests

Between Jan. 21 and Feb. 1, the U.S. delivered 500 tons of weapons and military supplies to Ukraine. Yet many people have still not received their four free home COVID tests in the mail. Pharmacies have signs saying, "Free gov't masks not yet available." Imagine if Washington put the same effort into fighting the COVID pandemic and providing healthcare. How many of the nearly 1 million U.S. lives lost could have been saved?



Biden: Stop supporting Ukrainian fascists

Ukraine has sent white supremacists and neo-Nazis to the front line to threaten Russia and the residents of Donetsk and Lugansk. Biden went back on his promise to stop racist police violence against Black and Brown communities. Meanwhile the Pentagon is training and arming Ukraine's hate groups, who are no different than those who attacked the Capitol last Jan. 6.

Banks & Big Oil profit from Pentagon wars

U.S. Big Oil companies and banks want to stop the flow of Russian oil and gas to Western Europe. They want to force their European allies to pay extortionate prices for U.S. fuel instead. We don't need another bloody war for oil profits!



**PARTIDO DE
SOCIALISMO
UNIDO**  **SOCIALIST
UNITY
PARTY**

Struggle-La-Lucha.org

Labor donated 2/22



National Days of Action Feb. 4-12

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 4, 2022



PDF

National Days of Action Feb. 4-12

U.S./NATO

NO WAR

on
Russia &
Donbass

*Pentagon sends millions of \$\$
in bombs & bullets — can't
deliver masks & COVID tests*



**Fight COVID & Poverty
Not Russia**

**Biden, Stop Supporting
Ukraine Fascists!**

**Banks & Big Oil Profit
From Pentagon's Wars**

LABOR DONATED 2/22

Struggle-La-Lucha.org



Minnesota police kill man in Minneapolis apartment, making three victims in 66 days

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 4, 2022



Minneapolis - A SWAT officer from the Minneapolis Police Department killed a man after busting into a downtown Minneapolis apartment at 7 a.m. on February 2. The victim has been identified by the community as Amir Locke. He's become the third Black man killed by Minnesota police in 66 days. In each case, the victim is demonized by the police and the press.

Minnesota's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is in charge of all the investigations into each of the three deaths: Amir Locke, Kokou Christopher Fianfonou in Austin, and Noah Kelley in Mounds View. Protests have called for transparency and accountability in each of the cases.

Amir Locke - Minneapolis - February 2, 2022 -

Killed by Minneapolis PD Mark Hanneman

Amir Locke, who is said to be around 24 years old, was killed by Mark Hanneman, a SWAT officer with the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) while they were executing an early morning search warrant on February 2. The killing occurred at the Bolero Flats Apartment Homes on the 7th floor.

The police narrative, which contradicts what Locke's family says, is that Minneapolis Police were assisting St. Paul Police in executing a search warrant on a homicide suspect when the suspect brandished a weapon, and in fear of their lives, they shot and killed him.

Locke hasn't officially been named but according to activist Nekima Levy Armstrong, Locke's family has identified him as the one killed. Armstrong also posted on Facebook that MPD's Interim Chief Amelia Huffman called her in the morning after the shooting to tell her that it happened.

The family says that Amir was sleeping on the couch of a family member's apartment when the police busted in the door executing a search warrant seeking three people, none of whom were Locke.

His family said that he was a licensed gun owner with a conceal and carry permit. He was startled from the pre-dawn police actions and sought to protect himself when he was shot and killed by the police, his family says.



Nekima Levy Armstrong

4h ·

...

Breaking: New Information in Minneapolis Police Shooting

Friends, I have received new information from the family of the victim of the Minneapolis Police shooting that occurred early this morning. Here's what they shared:

- 1) The victim's name is Amir Locke.
- 2) He was a licensed gun owner and had a conceal and carry permit.
- 3) The Minneapolis Police were looking for three suspects to execute the search warrant.
- 4) Amir Locke was not a named suspect on the search warrant. In essence, police were not even looking for Amir when they busted into the apartment.
- 5) Amir Locke did not live at the apartment in question. Amir was sleeping on the couch at a family member's apartment when police busted in.
- 6) Amir's family believes he was startled when police busted in and was trying to protect himself.

The Minneapolis Police Department, the St. Paul Police Department, and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension need to provide complete and thorough answers in this case.

They need to release the body camera footage immediately.

My heart goes out to the family of Amir Locke. This was an avoidable tragedy.

#JusticeForAmirLocke #BlackLivesMatter

[According to reporting by Georgia Fort](#), at least three apartments were raided during the operation that killed Locke. Two on the 14th floor and the one on the seventh, where Amir was killed.



During a press conference hours after the killing, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and Interim Chief Huffman expressed condolences from the tragedy of the loss of life and provided their explanation for yet another violent police killing in the City of Minneapolis.

Interim Police Chief Huffman stated that SWAT officers were “**serving search warrants to assist the St. Paul Police Department’s homicide unit ... related to an ongoing murder investigation.**” She said officers gained entry using a key fob and “**loudly and repeatedly announced police search warrant**” before entering. Then, nine seconds into the 7th floor apartment “**the officers encountered a male who was armed with a handgun. He was holding that gun in his hand. At the time that shots were fired.**”

The City of Minneapolis swiftly revealed Locke was killed by Minneapolis Police Department Officer Mark Hanneman (002654) and released [documents](#) related to the shooting, with some redactions: [I](#)  [ncident Detail Report, Fire Incident Detail Report](#)  , and [Fire Incident Report](#)  , along with a [news release](#)  , and two photos of the gun ([1](#)  , [2](#) ).

The documents reveal that Hanneman was part of Unit 1280 that initially entered

the apartment and that Locke was killed by two gunshot wounds to the chest and one to the wrist  .

Hanneman was previously a police officer in Hutchinson and was involved in a statewide intra-agency scheme to offer illicit drugs to protesters in the Occupy movement and the unhoused as part of Minnesota State Patrol's Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE) program. The program was briefly halted during the controversy and a lawsuit but continues to operate. Hanneman had since become an officer with MPD after serving a minor reprimand for his participation in DRE and recently graduating with a masters degree in criminal justice.

Other officers assigned to Unit 1280 according to MPD's Incident Detail Report were John K Biederman (000548); Ryan J Carrero (001003); Conan D Hickey (002997); Dominic Manelli (123219); Aaron Pearson (005504); Nathan J Sundberg (007011); John Sysaath (007026).

Providing cover to Unit 1280 was 1281 and involved in that unit was MPD offficer Kyle Mader, who was filmed violently slamming an advocate for the houseless to the ground at George Floyd Square in late 2020.

In a controversial pattern, Locke was named a homicide suspect in the initial reports by the police that were widely published by the press. In her short press conference, Interim Chief Huffman referred to the "**homicide**" investigation from which the warrant was based, three times. Similar inaccurate homicide allegations were spread about Winston Smith after he was killed by a federal task force last year in Uptown Minneapolis. Corporate news reports were later retracted that initially called Smith a murder suspect.

If what the family says is true and that Locke was not named on the warrant, he was then not a suspect in the investigation - yet he was still killed.

The pattern of criminalizing victims is clearly seen in each of the last three police killings in Minnesota.

Kokou “Christopher” Fianfonou - Austin, MN - December 23, 2021 - Killed by Austin PD Zachary Gast

38-year-old Kokou “Christopher” Fianfonou was killed by Austin Police Department Officer Zachary Gast in the parking lot of a gas station in Austin, Minnesota around 9:30 p.m. on December 23. Police say Fianfonou was threatening officers with a knife.

Fianfonou, originally from Togo, was reportedly stuck in an [extended standoff](#) with Austin PD starting on December 22 from a report of a man walking in traffic with a knife.

During the standoff that lasted over 24 hours, [Austin Police shot](#) tear gas, foam marker rounds, and deployed Tasers into Fianfonou’s cousin’s house (where he was staying) in an attempt to clear him out. On the evening of December 23, officers left the sight of the house and a few hours later, they say Fianfonou then confronted them, armed, and they shot and killed him.

Fianfonou’s family [disputes](#) official narratives that Fianfonou was threatening anyone. They say he was unarmed when he was killed and that he had bags of groceries in his hands. Friends and family say he was going through a mental crisis the day before being killed.



A [GoFundMe](#) has been created by his family to help support his wife and children. Activists have [called for](#) all video footage to be released, cops fired and prosecuted and Christopher's family to be compensated.

Noah Kelley - Mounds View, MN - November 28, 2021 - Killed by Mounds View PD Sgt. Michael Hanson and New Brighton PD John Thomas

21-year-old Noah Kelley was killed by Mounds View Police Department Sergeant Michael Hanson and New Brighton Police Officer John Thomas inside a Mounds View liquor store around 7 p.m. on November 28. Police say Kelley was armed with a handgun and alone in the liquor store when officers arrived and killed Kelley. According to the [Department of Public Safety](#), body cameras captured "**portions of the incident.**"

On January 10 protesters [rallied](#) at the Mounds View City Hall before a City Council meeting and spoke during ([video](#)).

Brian Kelley, Noah's father, addressed City Council members during the meeting and insisted the videos be released, and requested a meeting with the mayor and police chief. Kelley said that he had been left in the dark as to what happened to his son with no information besides the police report.

"I've spent the last month and a half in extra grief because I'm completely unaware of what took place - and that's the reason why the taxpayers provide things like the body cameras. In addition, Gov. Walz, in June of 2021 insisted that those types of footage be available to family members within five days of an incident that resulted in death."

Brian Kelley addressing the Mounds View City Council on [January 10, 2022](#)

Kelley's requests seem to have been granted and a meeting with the family and authorities is scheduled for the first Friday in February.

Brian Kelley has spent nearly two decades building families through a ministry called [All About Family](#) and teaching youth about designing and building with the [Young Builders and Designers Program](#). Noah worked alongside him and Brian said "**he was going to become a carpenter or in a similar labor trade.**"

Kelley leaves behind a young daughter and a wife. His family has created a [GoFundMe](#) to help support his family.

Source: [Unicorn Riot](#)

