

May Day declaration against NATO's imperialist proxy war on Russia

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 30, 2022

Down with NATO's proxy imperialist war in Ukraine!

For the right of Russia to defend itself against imperialist encroachment!



Sign the May Day Declaration!

Open letter for May Day

On May Day, the international day of solidarity of the workers of the world, the following groups and individuals proclaim our united opposition to the greatest threat to the global working class: imperialist war. We declare our refusal to accommodate ourselves to the war drive of world imperialism against Russia. We hoist on our banners today the following:

- Down with NATO's proxy imperialist war in Ukraine!
- For the right of Russia to defend itself against imperialist encroachment!

Those on the left who seek to emulate the propaganda of the ruling class by reducing this global conflict to a national struggle for Ukrainian "self-determination" ignore the following:

Although Russia has been a capitalist state since 1991, it is not an imperialist power in its own right. Imperialism is more than when one state employs military force against another. Imperialism is a stage of capitalism represented by the dominance of finance capital. Russia is not part of the "imperialist club" but a relatively backward, dependent capitalist economy.

The military operation of Russia in Ukraine is a desperate effort to stop it from being used as a spearhead in the long held plans of western imperialism to turn Russia into a semi-colony to loot its vast internal resources. Ukraine's integration into the NATO war machine was well advanced before Russia launched its defensive military operation. Russia faced the prospect of its entire western border becoming part of the NATO alliance and a staging ground for the deployment of advanced weaponry, including nuclear weapons, missile defense systems and troops aimed squarely at Russia.

The 2014 Maidan coup, led by fascist shock troops on the ground and guided by U.S. imperialism, installed an effective puppet government in Kiev. Since the coup, this government has not only been a direct tool of U.S. imperialism, but has violently suppressed all leftists, ethnic Russians and other minorities. The repression provoked a bloody civil war in Ukraine as residents of the Donbass established the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk to defend themselves from the violently Russophobic Kiev regime and its fascist attack dogs.

This is why we reject the policy of "revolutionary defeatism" being advocated by

many centrist Marxist tendencies. It is not enough to just oppose NATO intervention in Ukraine. Opposition to imperialism means extending support to those directly in its crosshairs. This means offering support to both the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and to the Russian state. Russia has the right to defend its sovereignty by military force against imperialism's proxy war.

We are also committed to the genuine independence of Ukraine. However, this cannot be achieved under the aegis of an imperialist war alliance that is using Ukraine as a pawn.

We oppose the proxy war in Ukraine because it is part of imperialism's drive to World War 3. The efforts to subordinate Russia through sanctions, war and regime change, are part of U.S. imperialism's ever more reckless efforts to maintain its global hegemony and reverse its economic decline against both its imperialist rivals in Europe and rising China. The rivalries are fuelled by the ongoing capitalist economic crisis deepened by the COVID-19 pandemic. A NATO victory in Ukraine would not lead to peace but only advance imperialism's war plans against China.

A war between NATO and its allies against either Russia or China risks wiping out billions of lives in a nuclear war and unleashing horrors that would dwarf the worst infernos of the 20th century.

On May Day we recommit ourselves not only to resistance to imperialism but to building an independent movement of the working class internationally to overthrow capitalism through world socialist revolution. The signing and sharing of this statement on May Day is aimed at starting to rebuild concrete links between the genuinely anti-imperialist Marxist forces as part of this process.

The struggle against imperialism must be forged into a struggle against the capitalist system and all the capitalist ruling classes! War will only truly end when there are no more nation states or classes!

Workers of the world unite!

Groups that have already signed include:

[Revolutionary Communist Action](#) (Greece)
[Classconscious.org](#) (Australia/USA)
[Communist League](#) (LCFI-Brazil)
[Consistent Democrats](#) (LCFI-Great Britain)
[Militant Trend Bolshevik](#) (LCFI-Argentina)
Socialist Workers League (LCFI- USA)
[Bolshevik Group \(South Korea\)](#)
[Trotskyist Fraction Proletarian Vanguard](#) (Brazil)
[Socialist Fight](#) (Great Britain)
[Red Border](#) (Brazil)
[Socialist Unity Party](#) (USA)
[Anti-imperialist Aotearoa](#)
[Brazilian People's Communist Party](#)
[Planning Beyond Capitalism](#) (USA)
[Socialist Party](#) (USA)
[Young People's Socialist League](#) (USA)
[US Friends of the Soviet People](#)
Nigeria Automobile Technicians Association, NATA
[New Communist Party of Britain](#)
[Communist Workers League](#) (USA)

Individuals that have already signed include:

Mohammad Basir Ul Haq Sinha, Bangladesh
Willi Eberle, Zurich, Switzerland
Mark Andresen, Great Britain
Elizabeth Hoskings
Alex Jordan Dillard, USA

Mike Gimbel, Retired Executive Board member, Local 375, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, USA
Joana Marisa Borges Boaventura, Brazil
Marcelo Bastos, Brazil
Márcia do Amaral Miranda, Brazil
JM Considine
James Hall, Great Britain
Irene Bolger, Australia
Anthony Hubert Codjoe, Ghana
Karen Harris, Canada
Moises Delgado, USA
Mark Copestake, Great Britain
Elizabeth Hoskings, Great Britain
Botagoz Datkhabaeva, Kazakhstan
Andy Coombes, UNITE member, Great Britain
Angie Graham, Great Britain
Kevin O'Connor, Great Britain
Candice McKenzie, Australia
Paul Humphries, Great Britain
Clive Healiss, Great Britain
Louise Hart, Great Britain
Jane Elliot, Great Britain
Danny Coll, Great Britain
Issac Cohen, Great Britain
Kathy McConaghie, USA
Myung-Seok Kim, South Korea
Chang-Won Kim, South Korea
Diana Isserlis, Great Britain

To sign the letter please send an email to: ClassConscious@protonmail.com or emancipacaotrabalho@gmail.com.



Baltimore: In memory of victims of 2014 Odessa massacre, May 2

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 30, 2022

**BALTIMORE: Monday, May 2, 6 pm
20th & N. Charles St.**



**IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE 2014 ODESSA MASSACRE
at the House of Trade Union following Maidan coup by fascists
No to U.S./NATO war on Russia & Donbass**

MONDAY, MAY 2 AT 6 PM – 6:45 PM

In memory of the victims of Odessa massacre 2014

20th & N. Charles Street — next to 2011 N. Charles Street, Baltimore

On May 2, 2014, 48 people were massacred at the House of Trade Union, including one child, by fascist Maidan coup supporters. Most died when they could not escape the fire, trapped by Nazi sympathizers and right wing Ukraine forces.

Those responsible for their deaths have never been brought to justice.

We commemorate their lives and continue to demand No U.S./NATO war on Russia and Donbass.



Borotba: Fighting fascism is the duty of everyone on the planet

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 30, 2022



Statement by Borotba (Struggle), a revolutionary Marxist organization banned in Ukraine since 2014. Translated for Struggle-La Lucha by Greg Butterfield.

May 9 marks the 77th anniversary of the Day of Victory over Nazi Germany.

Almost a century separates us from those events. However, right now we see what a colossal impact they continue to have on the entire world community.

World War II didn't just start. It didn't come out of nowhere. A tangle of contradictions in international politics led to it, which they didn't try to untie by diplomatic means, but to cut with the help of war.

The reasons that divided the world into supporters of the ideas of Nazism and anti-fascists more than 80 years ago still exist today. Western corporations and finance capital, which for many years armed Hitler, created a combat-ready army in order to send it against those from whom they felt threatened: the Soviet Union.

Now we see exactly the same thing: Western transnational corporations and financial capital over the past 8 years have been very intensively creating an army of Nazis, supporters of white supremacy, in order to direct it against Russia. More than 120,000 well-motivated fighters, pumped up with far-right propaganda, were gathered at the borders of the Lugansk and Donetsk People's Republics (LPR and DPR), preparing to kill the peaceful civilians of Donbass and Crimea, just like their predecessors in 1941.

However, this was not allowed to happen.

Today, speaking about the process of denazification, it is important to understand the causes that led to the world war 80 years ago, and which still exist in the world.

It is important to realize that in Ukraine, it is not Russia that is fighting against Ukraine, but two political currents fighting: anti-fascists and Nazis. That is why

thousands of far-right militants from all over the planet wearing runes and swastikas poured into Ukraine. That is why we see stripes with a hammer and sickle on the soldiers of the Russian special forces, and red flags of Victory on the tanks.

We want to appeal to our brothers and sisters from other countries of the world:

Comrades! Know this! In Ukraine, we are fighting, including against your enemies. Against those who came from your hometowns. Against the Nazis of America and Georgia, against the far right from Poland and Sweden. Against those trained by Spanish and Lithuanian instructors.

We know that the future of all humanity is being decided in Ukraine today!

And we urge you not to be silent!

May 9 is the Day of Victory over fascism! On this day, we call on everyone to take to the squares of your cities to pay tribute to the anti-fascists of Spain who died in the battles against Franco, the Italian partisans who fought against Mussolini! To the Greek People's Liberation Front (ELAS) fighters, anti-fascists from the People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia! To the prisoners of concentration camps and the participants in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising!

We call for rallies in memory of those who did not give up! In memory of Ernst Thälmann, Aris Velouchiotis, Bruno Buozzi, Jean Moulin and millions of others who died at the hands of Nazism!

Today, like 80 years ago, the world is divided into two halves: supporters of Nazism and their opponents. We know you are on the right side!

Show it to everyone on May 8 or 9, 2022, by going to the main square of your city with red flags and St. George's ribbons raised high!

We will win!

Source: [Borotba](#)



Women's Federation declares solidarity with Puerto Rico's fight for independence

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 30, 2022

Resolution on Puerto Rico passed at the XVII Congress of the Women's International Democratic Federation (FDIM/WIDF) in Caracas, Venezuela

[Mujeres en Lucha-Women in Struggle](#) declares that until the Boricua sisters live in a free country, women in the United States will not enjoy full freedom.

Women in Puerto Rico have been under the colonial yoke imposed by the United States since its invasion in 1898, so their struggles and victories against the

oppression of the patriarchy are limited by the nature of a failed colonial state that, not being sovereign, obeys an imperial and hegemonic power that does not recognize women's rights even in their 50 states.

Only under independence can we advance towards a society with a fairer system that recognizes the values and rights of women.

The movement that fights for the independence of the Puerto Rican archipelago urgently needs international solidarity.

And in response to this call, the XVII Congress of the FIDM, gathered in Caracas from April 24-28, 2022, resolves to send a solidarity greeting to the movement for the freedom of Puerto Rico and its organizations; and to the extent possible, they will demand of the U.S. Embassies and/or Consulates in their respective countries immediate independence with compensation for Puerto Rico.

Caracas, April 27, 2022.



Federación de Mujeres se solidariza con la lucha de Puerto Rico por la independencia

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 30, 2022

Resolución sobre Puerto Rico aprobada ahora en el XVII Congreso de la Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres (FDIM/WIDF) en Caracas, Venezuela

[Mujeres en Lucha-Women in Struggle](#) declara que hasta que las hermanas boricuas no vivan en un país libre, las mujeres en los Estado Unidos no gozarán de una plena libertad.

Las mujeres en Puerto Rico se encuentran bajo el yugo colonial impuesto por los Estados Unidos desde su invasión en el 1898, por lo que sus luchas y sus victorias en contra de la opresión del patriarcado se ven limitadas por la naturaleza de un estado colonial fallido que al no ser soberano, obedece a un poder imperial y hegemónico que no reconoce los derechos de la mujer ni siquiera en sus 50 estados.

Solo bajo la independencia se podrá avanzar hacia una sociedad con un sistema más justo que reconozca el valor y los derechos de la mujer.

El movimiento que lucha por la independencia del archipiélago puertorriqueño necesita urgentemente de la solidaridad internacional.

Y respondiendo a este llamado, el XVII Congreso de la FDIM, reunido en Caracas desde el 24-28 de abril de 2022 resuelve enviar un saludo solidario al movimiento por la libertad de Puerto Rico y sus organizaciones; y en la medida posible, exigirán

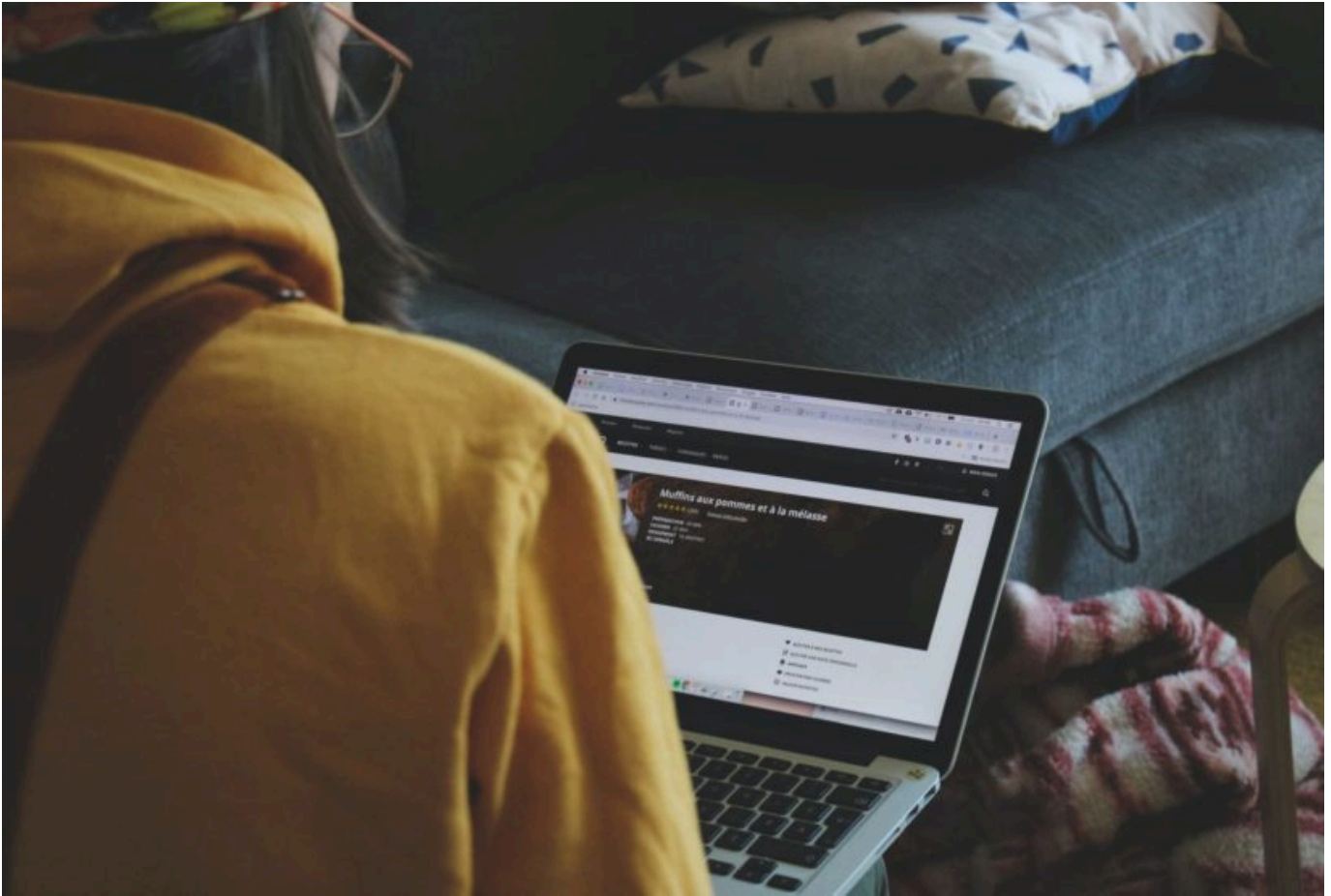
a las Embajadas y/o consulados estadounidenses en sus respectivos países la independencia inmediata con indemnización para Puerto Rico.

En Caracas, el 27 de abril de 2022.



All search engines are effectively controlled by the U.S. government

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 30, 2022



Because it has become widely known that Google search-results exclude any find that proves the falsehood of the U.S. government's key allegations regarding international relations (such as the U.S. government's allegation that Ukraine's government is *not* controlled by racist fascists or "nazis" as it [actually is](#) and has been [ever since February 2014](#)), many researchers have started using *other* search-engines, such as DuckDuckGo, which advertises on America's neoconservative liberal National Public Radio (NPR) network as being an alternative to Google. However, on March 9th, DuckDuckGo's CEO & Founder, Gabriel Weinberg, issued a [tweet](#) saying "Like so many others I am sickened by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the gigantic humanitarian crisis it continues to create. #StandWithUkraine. At DuckDuckGo, we've been rolling

out search updates that down-rank sites associated with Russian disinformation.”

There was immediate blowback from researchers who hate Google because it does what DuckDuckGo had just admitted there that DuckDuckGo ALSO does: filter out information that the U.S. government doesn't want the public to know (such as that Ukraine's nazis control Ukraine and [are backed by the U.S. government](#)).

So, Weinberg quickly followed up with “In addition to down-ranking sites associated with disinformation, we also often place news modules and information boxes at the top of DuckDuckGo search results (where they are seen and clicked the most) to highlight quality information for rapidly unfolding topics.”

That didn't quell the blowback; so, on April 17 he [tweeted](#) that “there is a completely made up headline going around this weekend. We are not ‘purging’ any media outlets from results. Anyone can verify this by searching for an outlet and see it comes up in results.”

That response from him was assuming what he undoubtedly knew to be false: that the users' concern was whether or not a given “outlet” that's being searched-for by a user will be found if specifically searched-for on DuckDuckGo. He's not so stupid as to actually *believe* that *that* is what users are actually rebelling against — he knows that *instead* they are rebelling against having a search-engine, whether Google or DuckDuckGo or any other, *pretend* to be able to predetermine which allegations or types of allegations that are accessible through the Web are true, and which are false (or ‘low quality’). Obviously, no search-engine can do that; any that *pretend to* are committing fraud. But that sadly includes every search-engine.

Any intelligent user of the internet knows that ANY censorship on the Web is dictatorial, NOT democratic. It's at least as dictatorial if it is coming from billionaires such as Gabriel Weinberg, or Jack Dorsey, or Mark Zuckerberg, or their

agents, as it is if it comes from the government itself — which the user can vote against at election-time *without needing* to purchase shares of stock in some corporation in order to become enabled to vote against its CEO and other officials. Corporate dictatorship is what Mussolini proudly advocated for in 1920s Italy and called alternatively “fascism” and “corporationism.” That’s what we’ve now got in the U.S. and its allied countries.

One of the U.S. government’s mouthpieces, the neoconservative liberal website Slate ([owned by](#) the neoconservative liberal Donald Graham who had sold the neoconservative liberal *Washington Post* to the neoconservative liberal Jeff Bezos), headlined on March 15th [“The DuckDuckGo Users Furious at Its Response to the War in Ukraine”](#), and tried to marginalize the opponents of censorship by pretending that all of them are far-rightwingers:

More than 30,000 users on Twitter have responded to Weinberg’s post with largely negative comments about the decision, accusing the company of engaging in censorship and injecting bias into search results. Breitbart ran a piece attacking DuckDuckGo as “Diet Google,” and high-profile [libertarian YouTubers](#) have also told their followers to stop using it.

DuckDuckGo’s executives have been trying to quell the unrest. “The whole point of DuckDuckGo is privacy,” Weinberg [wrote back](#) to one of his critics. “The whole point of the search engine is to show more relevant content over less relevant content, and that is what we continue to do.” The company also released [an official statement](#), which read in part, “It’s also important to note that down-ranking is different from censorship. We are simply using the fact that that these sites are engaging in active disinformation campaigns as a ranking signal that the content they produce is of lower quality, just like there are signals for spammy sites and other lower-quality content.”

DuckDuckGo didn’t originally set out to be a conservative-friendly “free speech”

platform, even though many of its users seem to see it that way.

On March 10th, a thread was started at Reddit titled [“Whelp no more DDG for me”](#) and users were asking there for recommendations of search-engines that are NOT being controlled by agents of the U.S. government. Allegations were made there that the Brave Browser’s Brave search-engine isn’t censoring its finds. However, I have consistently found that the Brave search-engine is just as cleansed of finds that are in sites that America’s billionaires and the government they control blacklist as is Google and DuckDuckGo. Someone instead recommended — and it was seconded — “Yandex.” That is a Russian search-engine, but — at least in America — it rides on the back of Google and thereby excludes finds that U.S. billionaires and their agents blacklist. I have tried other search-engines as well, but never yet found one that doesn’t censor-out almost all of the sites that publish (or have published) my articles. In fact, I know that some excellent sites that publish or did publish my articles were closed down by the FBI, and that others have told me that they received warnings from Google to stop publishing articles from me. Almost all of the sites that publish my articles fail to show up in any search-engine when the article’s title is web-searched. Instead, mirror-sites that automatically republish from sites that publish me show up, and sometimes ONLY such mirror-sites show up in a web-search for an article from me. You can try it yourself (such as by web-searching the title — including the quotation-marks surrounding it — of the first linked-to source in the present article, “Zelensky’s Secret CIA-Nazi Ukrainian government”). Most of the finds are mirror-sites, not sites that actually accepted and published the article that I had submitted. The U.S. regime doesn’t seem to be trying to crush mirror-sites, but only to crush independent publishers. And, so, independent publishers, in U.S.-and-allied countries, tend not to last very long, because they are blacklisted, by the billionaires and their government.

Source: [Pressenza](#)



Here's what I found at the reported 'mass grave' near Mariupol

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 30, 2022

According to recent Western media, Russian forces have buried up to 9,000 Mariupol civilians in “*mass graves*” in a town just west of the Ukrainian city. These [reports](#) use satellite imagery as supposed evidence and repeat the claims of officials loyal to Kiev that “*the bodies may have been buried in layers*” and “*the Russians dug trenches and filled them with corpses every day throughout April.*”

I went to the site in question and found no mass graves.

Western Claims of Russian Mass Graves Near Mariupol Another Fake News Hoax-I Know, I Went To See <https://t.co/g3w8S9K2s1>

— Eva Karene Bartlett (@EvaKBartlett) [April 24, 2022](#)

On April 23, I joined RT journalist Roman Kosarev on a visit to the location, in the town of Mangush. What I saw were new, orderly grave plots including some still empty ones – an extension of a cemetery that already exists at the spot. No mass pit. Many of the graves have placards with the names and dates of birth of the deceased when available, and the remaining plots were numbered according to burial.

Since the media is essentially copy-pasting from the same source – the former mayor of Mariupol, Vadym Boichenko (who seems to be far from the city now) – I'll cite from the Washington Post's [article](#).

Boichenko, the article notes, *“called the site the ‘new Babyn Yar,’ referring to one the largest mass graves in Europe located in the outskirts of Kyiv, where 33,000 Jews were killed by Nazis in 1941 during World War II.”*

This is ironic on several levels. A mayor who is whitewashing the neo-Nazis who have run amuck in his city – notably those from the Azov Battalion, who have used civilians as human shields, occupied and militarized civilian infrastructure, point-blank executed civilians – is comparing an alleged (non-existent) mass grave to a Nazi massacre of WW2.

Meanwhile, the Kiev regime has re-written history, making WW2 Nazis and their collaborators heroes of the nation. The most notorious example being the World War Two figure Stepan Bandera.

Boichenko's other alarming claim was that the alleged *“mass grave”* was *“the biggest war crime of the 21st century.”* We are only 22 years into it, but we've already seen the US-led invasion and destruction of Iraq, the levelling of Syria's Raqqa, Saudi Arabia's ongoing war in Yemen – all of which are much stronger contenders than the nowhere-to-be-found *“mass graves”* of Mangush.

In reality, the site has around 400 individual plots, including nearly 100 empty ones.

The 9,000 bodies and *“biggest war crime of the 21st century”* were unverified claims made by a mayor who fled his city, promoted by media which down the page admitted they could independently verify the claims – but by then, the damage had been done.

Gravediggers disprove mass grave claims

While walking around the site, two men responsible for burials arrived, and when presented with the former mayor’s accusations of mass graves they vehemently rejected the claims.

“This is not a mass grave and no one is throwing bodies into a pit,” one told me.



According to them, they bury each person in a coffin and separate grave, details are logged in the morgue, and when any documents regarding name and age are given, the plot is marked with a placard containing those details. Otherwise a number is used.

Interestingly, they also noted that a section of the new graves included buried

Ukrainian soldiers. *“They’re human, too”* one of the men said.

For those in doubt as to the location, see [Roman’s report](#): his drone footage shows that it’s precisely the same location as shown in the satellite images used by Western media.

Meanwhile, as Roman noted while walking, mass graves is something Ukraine has previously been accused of. He cited DPR leader Denis Pushilin as having stated that at least 300 such sites have been discovered since 2014.

He also spoke of what he witnessed. *“In 2014 or 2015, mass graves were discovered as Azov or Aidar fighters retreated from the Donetsk region. I even saw a woman, she was dug up, she had her arms tied behind her back, she was in the late stages of pregnancy and she had a hole in her head, so that means she was executed.”*

American journalist George Eliason, who has lived in Lugansk for many years, has written about these alleged atrocities. In [a documentary](#) on the issue, he said: *“I’m here for five minutes and then I’m told the first five people they found, it was five decapitated heads. They were all civilians. Who does this to people?”*

This story of a mass grave in Mangush is another fake from the Western corporate media, which previously pushed incubator babies being thrown on the floor by Iraqi soldiers, pushed lies about WMDs in Iraq, and carried reports of a chemical attack in Douma that never happened, to name but a few of their litany of [hoaxes](#).

This outstanding report from Syria by Eva Bartlett penetrates the 'iron dome' of Western propaganda, also known as news.

It is about a chemical attack that never happened in a country attacked, subverted and blockaded in your name. <https://t.co/AX1ZwbG0g0>

— John Pilger (@johnpilger) [May 27, 2021](#)

Meanwhile, when I was in Mariupol on April 21 and 22, yes there was destruction – thanks to those Neo-Nazi & regular Ukrainian forces occupying upper floors of residential buildings and using them as military positions, thus drawing return fire on the buildings – but I also saw people in the streets, and the beginning of the cleaning up process before rebuilding can occur.

Streets of Mariupol, including areas 1 km from the Azovstal plant where Ukrainian forces are bunkered down.

Yes, there is destruction, that's what happens when Ukrainian forces & Nazis embed in residential areas & occupy apartment buildings. It isn't Raqqa <https://t.co/4ha3BTMBOJ>

— Eva Karene Bartlett (@EvaKBartlett) [April 25, 2022](#)

I'll repeat what I've said on Western media reporting on Syria (which in my experience, from on the ground in that country, is largely dishonest): those who promote these hoaxes and war propaganda have blood on their hands.

After the countless lies emanating from Western corporate media, I would hope people would exercise critical thinking whenever a new claim is pushed, particularly when it is repeated in chorus by the usual suspects.

[Eva Bartlett](#) is a Canadian independent journalist. She has spent years on the ground covering conflict zones in the Middle East, especially in Syria and Palestine (where she lived for nearly four years).



Washington's economic war on Russia (and Germany)

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 30, 2022

In February, President Joe Biden made it clear that the U.S./NATO military escalation in Europe was not about Ukraine. Since taking office in 2021, President Biden has been more focused on Germany and Russia, in particular the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

The July 2021 meeting of Biden with then-German Chancellor Angela Merkel was icy. [Politico reported](#) July 15, 2021, that "Biden and Merkel still don't see eye to eye on Nord Stream 2."

Nord Stream 2 is a new pipeline designed to deliver natural gas from Russia to Germany at double the capacity of the existing pipeline. Construction of Nord Stream 2 was completed in September 2021, but it has not yet been opened for service.

The Trump administration had unsuccessfully tried to shut down Nord Stream 2. Now Merkel is out as German chancellor, replaced by Olaf Scholz. With a U.S. proxy war unleashed in Ukraine against Russia, Scholz announced a suspension of the opening of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

No U.S. troops in Ukraine, yet

The Biden administration has not yet sent U.S. troops into Ukraine, but it has launched an economic war.

Natural gas is a primary energy source in the European Union and is the dominant source for home heating and cooking. The EU imports 40% of its natural gas from Russia. In the EU, Germany is the most dependent on gas piped directly from Russia. That is why Germany built the Nord Stream 2 pipeline with Russia.

The U.S. is now forcing the European Union, particularly Germany, to move away from purchasing natural gas from Russia. The U.S. says they should get natural gas from the U.S. or Qatar, a U.S. Big Oil subsidiary.

On Feb. 7, Biden said of the German-Russian project: "There will no longer be a Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it."

On Feb. 22, Germany announced the suspension of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. This was not a decision made in Berlin; the order to do this came from Washington.

Natural gas from Russia can be piped into Western Europe at a relatively low cost while natural gas from the U.S. and Qatar must be liquified – liquified natural gas or LNG – then shipped by sea to Europe. Germany does not have a port to receive LNG directly, adding to the transport costs.

On Feb. 27, Chancellor Scholz announced that Germany will construct two port terminals for LNG and also plans to lease floating LNG terminals as well.

Cutting off natural gas from Russia is a [big bonus for the U.S. oil oligarchy](#). The United States is the world's largest exporter of LNG. Liquified natural gas has a higher price than piped-in gas and prices for U.S. LNG are now expected to double.

OilPrice [reported](#) April 24: "Right now, U.S. LNG exports are booming, and most are going to Europe, where the prices are the highest and demand is the strongest. ... After the war started, demand went off the charts as the European Union vowed to reduce EU demand for Russian gas by two-thirds before the end of the year."

Another bonus for U.S. capitalists

There's another bonus for U.S. capitalists. The increase in the price of natural gas across Europe will raise the prices of commodities produced by European industries, particularly German products.

German commodities dominate the markets in Europe and have been rising in the global marketplace. In 2015, [Ben Bernanke](#) — former chair of the Federal Reserve System — publicly complained of the strong rise in German exports taking markets away from the capitalists of other countries.

The U.S. economy has been in a long-term decline. Increasingly, the "U.S. consumer" buys and consumes commodities that are produced outside of the United States. The great bulk of both material production and surplus value — unpaid labor contained in commodities — is being produced outside of U.S. capitalist ownership.

Forcing the European Union to pay higher energy prices will increase the cost of commodity production in the EU, which opens the possibility that U.S.-owned industry might be able to take markets away from German and other European capitalists.

The proxy war in Ukraine has been a gift to the U.S. military-industrial complex, with over \$3 billion in armaments already poured into Kiev. This may line the

pockets of a few billionaires, but it won't reverse the U.S. economic decline.

Military spending produces the means of destruction, that is, the money does not go to expanding commodity production. Military spending actually contracts the capitalist market. Factories that normally produce commodities for profit are instead producing the means of destruction, so there's no profit, in Marxist terms.

Military spending rots the economy by destroying the productive forces. Also, the expanded military spending in the U.S. is a cause of inflation, though that's hidden in most economic reports.

U.S. expanding military in Europe

While the U.S. is not yet sending troops into Ukraine, it is expanding U.S. military operations in Europe. In March, the New York Times reported: "NATO doubles its battlegroups in Eastern Europe." NATO already had 175,000 troops lined up on Russia's border and in February launched an additional 40,000-strong rapid response force.

The U.S. now has more than 100,000 soldiers deployed in Europe, the most since the overturn of the Soviet Union. About 40% of the U.S. armed forces in Europe are stationed in Germany.

Germany remains very much an occupied country. The Federal Republic of Germany, built on the ruins of the defeated Third Reich by the U.S. occupation forces and later incorporating the (East) German Democratic Republic, is a sort of protectorate of the United States. The U.S. rebuilt Germany in order to fortify the dominant position of the U.S. over Western Europe following World War II.

European trade and investment prior to the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine against Russia had seen a rise in commerce between Germany, France and other Western European countries with Russia and China. One of the goals of the U.S. is to hold

Germany and Western Europe firmly within the U.S. economic orbit.

According to Washington's policy, Europe is supposed to impose sanctions on Russia and give priority to imports from the United States at the cost of raising energy and agricultural prices, particularly in Germany.

Up to now the interests of West European capitalists, including German ones, have coincided with those of the U.S. But Washington's need to reverse the long-term decline of U.S. industry's position in the world market has begun to change that. First came Trump's trade war and now Biden's economic war on Russia.



Eva Bartlett reports from Mariupol: “Ukraine forces used scorched- earth tactics”

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 30, 2022



Valerie, a woman I met in Mariupol some days ago, speaks on Azov occupying residential buildings & bombing them.

“Our land must be cleaned of crazy people. Some people call them Nazis, I think this is the only word you can say, Nazis.”

In Mariupol on April 21. Roman Kosarev, while talking about humanitarian aid, pauses to explain the loud sounds of shelling.

“As you can see, shelling is still continuing. It’s taking place at Azovstal (Steel) Plant, where the rest of the Nazi & Ukrainian forces are holed up.”

He spoke of President Putin’s decision not to storm the plant, rather to perform airstrikes, first having given the Nazi & Ukrainian forces time to lay down their weapons & surrender.

We spoke of the destroyed apartment buildings around us, noting it wasn’t wanton devastation for the sake of destruction but, again, because Ukrainian & Nazi forces

had occupied them.

“One thing I heard from locals here is that when Nationalist Battalions or Ukrainian Forces—they can’t really distinguish between the two, and Azov was made a part of the Ukrainian army recently, so how to tell them apart was once they show their tattoos, swastikas...

They entered people’s buildings, set up their weapons there & started shooting at the oncoming Russian and Donetsk People’s Republic armies. So the other side was forced to respond, obviously. People were forced to lower floors & basements, so basically they were used as human shields by the Ukrainians. And as they were retreating, they would continue bombing the houses.”

I asked if, as terrorists did in Syria, Ukrainian forces laid booby traps & mines to kill more civilians.

[See: <https://ingaza.wordpress.com/2014/07/...>] [See also: <https://ingaza.wordpress.com/2017/10/...>]

“Yes, booby traps, mining everything. They’re using scorched earth tactics.”

On April 21st & 22nd, I joined journalist Roman Kosarev in going to Mariupol to deliver humanitarian aid, as he has been doing for 3 weeks now, to people desperately in need.

As we drove the first day, I asked Roman to give context to the destruction we would see, although after reporting from Syria I knew the reasons...

“You’ll see buildings like we saw in Homs, in Aleppo. Why? Ukrainian soldiers & Azov nationalists placed their weapons within residential buildings, forced the residents to go to the basement or the lower floors, they occupied the higher floors.

They did that in hope that Russia or DPR forces will return fire & damage these buildings, creating a perfect picture of those terrible Russians that are attacking civilians, which is not true.

As these nationalists & Ukrainian soldiers retreated deeper into Azovstal (steel) plant, they continued bombing these buildings, even they knew people were in there, blaming Russian & DPR soldiers for it. It's not just me saying it, people in Mariupol said that to me in numerous interviews."

Streets of Mariupol, including areas 1 km from the Azovstal plant where Ukrainian forces are bunkered down.

Yes, there is destruction, that's what happens when Ukrainian forces, and Nazis, embed in residential areas & occupy apartment buildings. It isn't Raqqa, and if you aren't aware of the US illegal coalition in Syria's full destruction of Raqqa, look that up.

[Also, see this clip, where journalist Roman Kosarev elaborates on why there is destruction: https://t.me/Reality_Theories/5907]

Now that the fighting is over, rebuilding can begin, stability can return & improve, without the corrupt & dangerous rule of Ukraine & the Nazis in power.

According to Western media, now copy-paste reporting the same claims, Russian forces apparently secretly buried *up to 9,000 Mariupol civilians* in "mass graves" in a town just west of the city.

Except, it never happened, there is no mass grave.

It's actually just a normal, small, cemetery...no pits, no mass graves, just an orderly

cemetery whose grave diggers refuted Western claims.

On April 23, with journalist Roman Kosarev, I went to Mangush (Manhush in Ukrainian), found a normal cemetery setting, and spoke with the men responsible for burials, who refused the allegations and said they buried each person in a coffin, including, they noted, Ukrainian soldiers.

Mass grave was found in Mariupol and shown to the world by the Western media as burials carried out by the Russian army to hide their war crimes. Political analyst Eva Bartlet argued that: Western media repeat the same lies. teleSUR

Source: [*Internationalist 360°*](#)



Struggle □ La Lucha PDF - April 25, 2022

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 30, 2022

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► Los archivos de los cinco cubanos regresan a casa

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MAY DAY 2022: Cuba lives and works!

By Cheryl LaBash
Havana, Cuba

Three days of solidarity will mark May Day 2022 in Havana. In Cuba, for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic forced cancellation in 2020 and 2021, the awesome May Day march will joyously take place Sunday, May 1. The march theme, Cuba Vive y Trabaja — Cuba Lives and Works — expresses the firm and unconditional decision to continue consolidating "Our Economic-Social Socialist Development Model." The events are dedicated to Cuba's historical leader, Fidel Castro Ruz.

On the eve of May Day, April 30, the Central de Trabajadores de Cuba [Cuban Workers Central Union] is welcoming workers from around the world to learn from Cuban workers and their neighborhoods the pain caused to Cuban families by the unilateral U.S. economic, commercial, and financial blockade — essentially an illegal economic war. After meetings with the hotel and tourism union, delegations will visit communities under reconstruction and partake in the community soup called *caldosa* with Committees for Defense of the Revolution.

Hundreds — most under 30 years of age — are coming from the United States in various brigades, delegations and just coming as individuals to demonstrate their solidarity with revolutionary Cuba — real aid to the Cuban people. Their experiences will inform their work when they return to the U.S., be it in work places, mutual-aid projects, communities fighting for affordable housing and against evictions, to abolish the police abuse and murders and to stop the

Continued on page 2



Solidarity activists will join the Cuban people in the Plaza of the Revolution. Pictured: May Day 2008.

PHOTO: BILL HARRIS

Howard nurses strike 2

Earth Day & Lenin 2

Teachers & ILWU: 4



U.S./NATO proxy war 5



Ukraine & Bolsheviks 6

NATO targets Russia and China 7

TRANSGENDER DAY:
Safe Haven vandalized 3



Over 1,000 students at West High School in Salt Lake City walked out of classes April 6 to protest pending anti-trans legislation in Utah.

PHOTO: LINDSEY ADAMS

U.S.-NATO war and attacks on trans rights:

Two fronts in the class war

By Greg Butterfield

In Texas and Alabama, transgender youth are facing forcible detransition. A law passed by Alabama's legislature and signed by Gov. Kay Ivey April 8, and an executive order by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott in February, not only ban gender-affirming care for children, but subject their parents and health-care providers to prosecution.

This means that even kids who have been transitioning for years, who have lived as and always been known as a girl or boy to their peers, would be forcibly "outed" and denied the care they need to grow up happy and healthy — even banned from using the restroom they choose at school.

These measures directly contradict the recommendations of medical experts, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychological Association.

A University of Washington Study released at the end of February found that trans youth who got gender-affirm-

ing treatment experienced a 60% drop in depression risk and a 73% drop in suicidal thoughts, on average.

"Our study builds on what we have already seen from an already staggering amount of scientific research," study lead author Diana Tordoff told HealthDay News. "Access to gender-affirming care saves trans youth's lives."

Tennessee and Arkansas already have laws banning gender-affirming care. Nearly half of U.S. states currently have similar legislation pending.

It's worth noting, perhaps, that about 1.5 million people in the U.S. openly identify as trans — that is, less than half of 1% of the U.S. population of 330 million.

Slander campaign

In recent weeks, a new campaign of dangerous slander has accompanied this effort, as right-wing politicians, news outlets like Fox News and social-media bigots shout about the LGBTQ+ community and its supporters as "groom-

Continued on page 3

- MAY DAY 2022: Cuba lives and works!
- U.S.-NATO war and attacks on trans rights: Two fronts in the class war
- Howard University Hospital nurses stage one-day strike
- Why is Earth Day on Lenin's birthday?
- On Transgender Day of Visibility, Baltimore Safe Haven vandalized
- Oakland teachers unite with longshore workers to demand: Stop privatizing Oakland!
- Guide to the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine
- Ukraine and the Bolshevik Revolution
- NATO military expansion to target Russia & China, says top official
- Los archivos de los cinco cubanos regresan a casa
- Cuban 5 archives begin their journey home

