

Labor Council opposes \$40 billion in military aid to Ukraine

written by Struggle - La Lucha
May 19, 2022



The Troy, N.Y., Labor Council passed the following resolution in opposition to the \$40 billion in military aid to Ukraine. The resolution could be summarized as saying, "Money for housing, education and healthcare, not for war."

Whereas: According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, it would cost \$20 billion to end homelessness in the United States.

Whereas: The College For All Act endorsed by Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Pramila Jayapal aims for free college tuition at all community colleges, public 4-year colleges, and tribal colleges.

And Whereas: The estimated total cost of the College For All Act is \$700 billion.

Whereas: : A recent study by Yale epidemiologists found that Medicare for All would save around 68,000 lives a year while reducing U.S. health care spending by around 13%, or \$450 billion a year.

Whereas: The US government should prioritize the needs of its own citizens.

Therefore be it resolved: that the Troy Area Labor Council AFL-CIO opposes the recently passed bill that would spend 40 Billion dollars in military aid to Ukraine.



U.S. government denies visas to

Cuban civil society delegation to People's Summit

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May 19, 2022



People's Summit for Democracy
May 18, 2022 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. government denies visas to Cuban civil society delegation to People's Summit

Among the 23 person delegation that was set to travel to Los Angeles to participate in the Summit are scientists, Olympians, and youth activists

Los Angeles - The People's Summit for Democracy is outraged by the decision of the United

States government to deny visas to a 23 person delegation from Cuban civil society. The denial of their visas is an affront to the same democratic values that the U.S. government and its “Summit of the Americas” pretends to uphold. With this decision and Cuba’s exclusion from Biden’s official Summit, Cuba has been denied a voice in vital discussions about democracy, integration, and regional cooperation.

Among the 23 people set to travel to Los Angeles to participate in the People’s Summit for Democracy were renowned Cuban scientist and medical doctor Tania Crombet Ramos a member of the World Academy of Sciences who contributed to the development of several life-saving vaccines, Reineris Salas Pérez an Olympic wrestler who won the Bronze medal in Tokyo, Jorge González Nuñez a queer Christian student leader, and many others including journalists, artists, trade unionists, and community leaders.

The participation of these diverse representatives of Cuban society would have given people in the U.S., particularly young people, an important opportunity to learn more about the island and build people to people relationships. It is an affront to the very necessary dialogue and normalization of relations between the people of the United States with the Cuban people who

have been unjustly separated by the six-decade illegal U.S. blockade.

Manolo De Los Santos, one of the organizers of the People's Summit said: "The U.S. government's policy towards is cruel towards the Cuban people, but also towards the people

of the United States who are being denied the right to not only relate with the people on the

Island, but also to be able to speak and dialogue directly with them."

We call on the U.S. government and its Embassy in Havana, to reverse the decision to deny their visas.

Sign our petition calling on the US to reverse their decision:
<https://chng.it/CjY4x8R4bq>

Follow the People's Summit on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [our website](#).

For press inquiries and interview requests contact: press@peoplesummit2022.org

Source: PeoplesSummit2022.org



Shireen Abu Akleh was a truth teller

written by Struggle - La Lucha
May 19, 2022

Palestine will not be silenced

The Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was deliberately targeted by an Israeli sniper and assassinated on May 11. She was murdered in the morning daylight while wearing a vest that was clearly marked PRESS on the front and on her back.

To the apartheid regime occupying Palestine, her camera was more dangerous than a gun.

For 25 years Abu Akleh told the world about Palestine. "I chose journalism to be close to people," [said Shireen Abu Akleh](#). "It might not be easy to change the reality, but at least I could bring their voice to the world."

The Al Jazeera broadcaster reported how racist Israeli settlers shout in Hebrew

“Mavet le-Aravim.” (“Death to the Arabs.”) She showed the demolition of Palestinian homes and the shooting of Palestinian children.

For telling the truth, Shireen Abu Akleh was beloved throughout the Arab world and beyond. And for being a truth teller she was murdered.

More than 50 other Palestinian journalists have been killed. The [Israeli military spokesperson Ran Kochav justified](#) these killings by saying “They’re armed with cameras, if you’ll permit me to say so.”

The [capitalist media covers-up](#) these murders. The first headlines about Abu Akleh’s death in The New York Times referred to her as simply being slain, not assassinated.

The actress [Susan Sarandon](#) tweeted the truth: “Shireen Abu Akleh was EXECUTED with a shot to the head.”

Shireen Abu Akleh held U.S. citizenship. Where was the congressional resolution condemning her assassination after the U.S. has delivered over \$140 billion into the Zionist state?

In contrast, the governments of South Africa and Namibia denounced this foul murder. So did the Zimbabwe Union of Journalists.

Africans remember how Israel supported the original [apartheid regime](#) in South Africa and even supplied those neo-Nazis with nuclear weapons.

Attacking her funeral

The Zionist state couldn’t even let Palestinians bury Shireen Abu Akleh in peace. The whole world saw on May 13 how Israeli police in riot gear attacked the pallbearers with horses and batons in Al-Quds (Jerusalem), the capital of Palestine.

At one point the casket almost dropped to the ground. One of the carriers managed

to hold it with one hand while warding off police clubs with the other.

Palestinians belong to different faiths. Shireen Abu Akleh was a Christian.

Some [Israeli soldiers asked Palestinians](#) in the funeral procession whether they were Muslim or Christian. If they answered “Muslim” they would be kicked out.

Tear gas and stun grenades were used against mourners. Cops beat and kicked the mourners while seizing Palestinian flags.

That’s how every colonial regime acts. In 1948, Law No. 53 was passed in Puerto Rico that made it [illegal to display or even own a Puerto Rican flag](#). “La Ley de la Mordaza” was repealed in 1957.

Israeli police claim Palestinians carrying their own flag is “nationalist incitement.” Real “incitement” is the [Israeli Brigadier-General \(Reserve\) Zvika Fogel](#) confirming that army snipers are ordered to shoot at Palestinian children.

Fogel told Ron Nesiel on the Israeli public radio network Kan in 2018 that “it is not the whim of one or the other sniper who identifies the small body of a child now and decides he’ll shoot. Someone marks the target for him very well and tells him exactly why one has to shoot and what the threat is from that individual.”

Someone in the Israeli military establishment also marked the target of Shireen Abu Akleh and ordered the sniper to shoot her in the head.

The truth will not be silenced

It’s not just in the U.S. client state of Israel that truth tellers are assassinated. Between 2000 and 2016, \$10 billion in [U.S. aid](#) was sent to Colombia.

The upshot was that tens of thousands of people were killed. Among them were [53 Colombian journalists](#) slain between 1992 and 2022.

Within the United States itself — all of it stolen from Indigenous peoples — journalists have been attacked and killed.

Los Angeles Times columnist and KMEX-TV news director Ruben Salazar was killed on Aug. 29, 1970, during the National Chicano Moratorium anti-war march in East Los Angeles. Cops had attacked the peaceful protest of over 20,000 people.

[Salazar was killed](#) by a tear gas canister fired by a Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy.

Many people believe that Salazar was deliberately targeted for exposing the racism and brutality of the police and sheriff departments. In the days before his death, Ruben Salazar felt that he was being followed by police.

The wealthy and powerful wanted to silence the radio journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal forever. The former Black Panther Party member was framed for killing a Philadelphia police officer and was sentenced to death.

Although the death sentence was eventually overturned, Mumia Abu-Jamal has been in prison since 1981.

Ramsey Orta, a member of Copwatch in New York City, videoed the killing of Eric Garner by police officer Daniel Pantaleo on July 17, 2014. Garner was choked to death while repeatedly saying "I can't breathe."

For revealing the truth about Eric Garner's cruel death to the world, Ramsey Orta was railroaded to jail and spent four years in prison.

The U.S. Government is now trying to extradite Wikileaks founder Julian Assange for exposing Pentagon war crimes in Afghanistan and Iraq. Assange is in ill health and could be sentenced to many years in jail.

Hands off Julian Assange and all the truth tellers.



Harlem, NYC: Malcolm X Lives! March for Respect for Malcolm X! May 19

written by Struggle - La Lucha
May 19, 2022



Over thirty years of celebrating Malcolm X's Revolutionary legacy on the streets of Harlem

Malcolm X's Birthday

May 19th

"Commercial Moment of Silence"

All 125th Street Businesses Closed

1 PM to 4 PM

Join Black Power March: 12 PM Assemble

Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Office Building @ 125th St.

1 PM Shut'em Down!

No Disrespect for Malcolm X



December 12th Movement
Malcolm X New Millennium Committee
For Info: Call (718) 398-1766



Malcolm X Lives! March for Respect for Malcolm X!

Thursday, May 19, 2022,

12 Noon: Assemble for March,
1 pm: March on 125th Street.

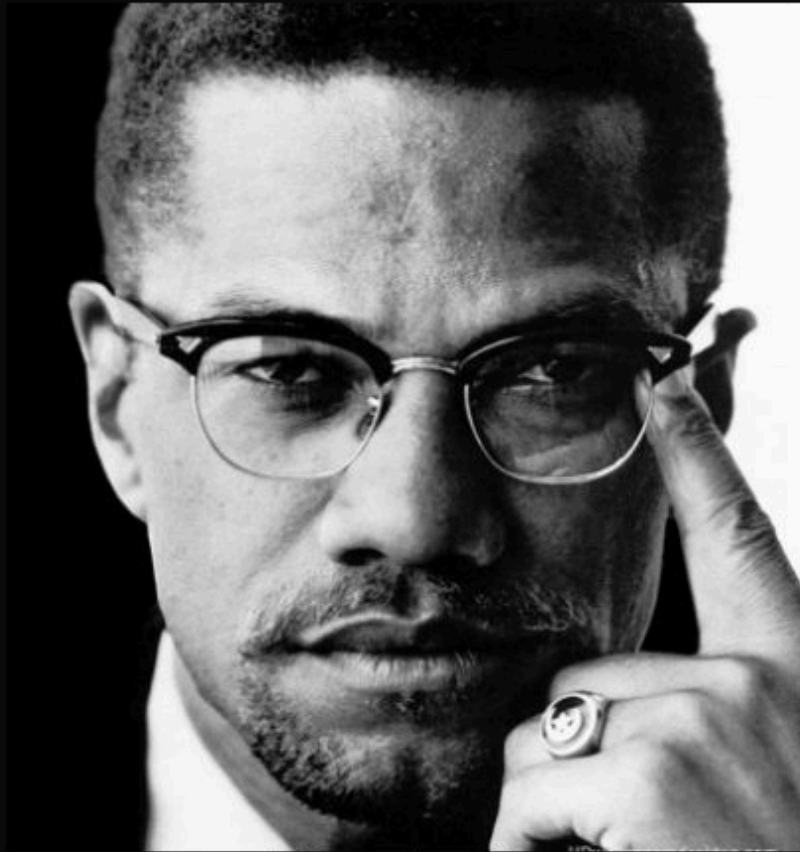
Black Power March and Demand that all businesses on 125th Street have a
“Commercial Moment of Silence” and close from 1 - 4 pm. Shut 'em Down!



Malcolm X Day Celebration 2022 in San Diego

written by Struggle - La Lucha
May 19, 2022

MALCOLM X DAY CELEBRATION



el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz Day

MAY 21, 2022 | 1P – 5P

Panel Discussion • Tributes • Presentations

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SOUTHEAST
ART TEAM



Boston May 24: May Day Brigade report

written by Struggle - La Lucha
May 19, 2022



Join us TUESDAY MAY 24TH 7-9 PM EDT

- Hear from 2022 May Day Brigadistas, & recent delegations to Cuba
- Learn about achievements of the Cuban Revolution & impacts of the US Blockade!
- Hear about latest developments for Cuban Health Care & COVID-19
- Support the upcoming July Friendship Caravan to Cuba



Panel Speakers:

- 3 members of the 2022 May Day Brigade (Calla Walsh, Gloria Verdieu & Dailyn Brinas)
- Rev. Dorlimar Lebrón Malavé - IFCO-Pastors for Peace
- Rev. Vernon K. Walker, Mass Peace Action

And Special Guest Speaker from Cuba:

- Yamil Martínez Marrero, Cuban Institute of Friendship of the Peoples (ICAP)

Register to attend virtually:
<https://bit.ly/registermaydayevent>



Sponsored by the Boston - Cuba Solidarity Coalition - July26.org, IFCO/ Pastors for Peace, Mass Peace Action

Endorsed by Greater Hartford CubaSolidarity Committee, Let Cuba Live - Maine; New Hampshire Peace Action; First Baptist Church - Jamaica Plain



Victory Day and the struggle for abortion rights today

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 19, 2022

Presentation at the international webinar “Marxists Speak Out: Victory Day, Against Nazism and Imperialism, Yesterday and Today” on May 14.

I’ve just come from a march of many thousands here in New York to defend the right to abortion. As you probably know, a draft ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court was leaked earlier this month, which would reverse the right to abortion granted in the Roe vs. Wade case almost 50 years ago.

If the decision goes through, the legal precedent will also endanger many other hard-won civil rights, including same-sex marriage, the right to access contraception, protection from so-called sodomy laws used to criminalize queer people, even interracial marriage. It truly is an attack on the whole working class.

The vicious ruling class attack on reproductive rights made me think about the

essential role of women and other oppressed-gender people in our movements and in the Soviet victory over fascism in World War II. We know the names of heroes like the Red Army sniper Lyudmila Pavlichenko, air fighter Lidya Litvyak and saboteur Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya. But Soviet women also held down the homefront, kept the factories running, and waged guerrilla warfare when their cities and villages were occupied by the Nazis.

On May 9, 2016, I had the great fortune to attend the Victory Day march in Lugansk, capital of the Lugansk People's Republic. It was one of the most moving experiences of my life as a revolutionary. The people of the city poured into the streets to honor not only their ancestors who fought fascism decades before, but also those who fought and died to stop Ukraine's attack on the city in 2014-15. And women were at the center of this mobilization. They were the organizers and leaders, as they are in so many of our organizations, movements, unions and communities.

In this spirit, the Socialist Unity Party is seeking ways to connect the struggle against the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine with the emerging mass movement to fight for abortion rights and other struggles of the working class here at home. There is enormous and growing anger and distrust of the Democratic Party, which poses as the friend of workers and oppressed communities to get elected, while fundamentally serving the interests of the capitalist class just like the Republican Party.

In recent weeks, we have seen the spectacle of Democrats in Congress voting unanimously for an additional \$40 billion for the proxy war in Ukraine, while at the same time failing in a rushed vote to codify abortion rights into law, despite having control of both the House and Senate. At the same time, every member of the Senate, Democrat and Republican, voted to add extra security for the Supreme Court justices who are poised to strip a basic human right from more than half the population.

The imperialist regime of the U.S. wants to mandate forced pregnancy and birth at a time when the cost of food and rent is skyrocketing, there is a frightening shortage of infant formula, and the public health measures of the pandemic have been repealed. And the money that could be used to mitigate some of these life-and-death crises is being spent on weapons and aid to prolong a war on the other side of the world.

The capitalists, in their insatiable drive for profits, can't stop themselves from pushing too far. They are making the contradictions of their system so glaring that it gives us, their enemies, an opportunity to educate and organize the many, many workers whose lives are on the line - especially the most downtrodden, including Black and Brown people, women, trans people and immigrants.

As we mark the 77th Victory Day, our great task is to help our class make the connections between the struggle against imperialist war abroad and the war on workers at home.



Brooklyn middle school students walk out for abortion rights

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 19, 2022

Across the U.S., Bans Off Our Bodies student walkouts took place May 12 to protest the Supreme Court's attack on abortion rights, including in Richmond, Virginia; Brookfield, Connecticut; Austin, Texas; Louisville, Kentucky; Urbandale, Iowa; and Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Students at several New York City public schools participated. Struggle-La Lucha spoke with Dru, a seventh grader at Arts & Letters 305 United in Brooklyn, who joined a walkout by middle-school students and documented the event with videos. She talked about how the students organized the action, and how the school administration worked to sabotage it.

After the draft Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade leaked May 3, "People I talked to were upset about it," Dru told SLL. "Some kids in my class were the ones planning the walkout. They gave out small hand-written leaflets announcing it.

"Before the walkout the co-principal said she was all for it. Most of the teachers said they were in full support. They sent out permission slips to leave the school grounds, but that was about it."

On May 12, she said, "During second period, the majority of the class got up and went downstairs. We passed the other co-principal, and there was a sign taped to the door next to him that said: 'By participating in this walkout you are participating in a civil disturbance. Keep in mind that there could be severe consequences for

doing this.' He didn't say anything, he just watched.

"After a few minutes there was a large crowd of more than 100 people in the schoolyard. People held signs they made. We crowded around a bench where the organizers gave talks with a megaphone."

Handmade signs held by the multinational crowd read, "Free and safe abortions for all," "Our bodies, our choice," "Abortion is a personal decision, not a political debate" and "Access to abortion is a human right."

One powerful sign said, "Texas won't make a 12-year-old wear a mask to school but will force a woman to have a baby?"

Dru continued: "After a few minutes we said we were going to march around the neighborhood so people would hear our message, since standing around in the schoolyard wasn't really a walkout. Then some school staff members locked the gate. We were like, 'What?' So we turned around and went to the entrance to the public park next door, and they locked that too!

"A group of kids rushed to the last open gate and held it open so everyone could flood out. We walked down the sidewalk chanting and carrying our signs.

"When we got to the next block the assistant principal and another staff member said if we didn't go back we'd be in trouble. Even people with parental permission were told we had to go back," she said. "Enough people were scared that we all went back to the schoolyard together.

"People got back up on the bench and continued to speak out. At no point did the cops appear, but all the gates were locked and school staff were guarding every gate. The person standing by the gate we'd escaped from apparently had the list of people with parental permission, but they never made an announcement or told us anything.

“One of my parents talked to the school office, and was told that they’d let us go after informing us we’d be marked absent. But that never happened.

“Everyone in the crowd was chanting. One of my friends said we should start circling in the schoolyard. After we’d been outside for about an hour some people started to give up and went back inside. The school staff were advising people to go back inside, and they were also telling people the [citywide students’] protest at Union Square was happening later than it really was. ‘You guys can’t stay out here that long.’ I was determined to stay as long as there were people out there.

“When there was only a small group left in the schoolyard, after they had been trying to discourage us and run out our time, they finally said, ‘We can’t legally stop those of you with parental permission.’

“They could have let us march in the neighborhood and come with us to make sure we were being safe. The people who went to Union Square went without any adults, even though before they said school staff would accompany the walkout.”

Dru concluded: “The next day during the community meeting the co-principal said: ‘During the walkout yesterday a lot of you were concerned about getting in trouble because of that sign I had. But you won’t be getting in trouble from us. This was an inspiring experience. Protests are meant to be uncomfortable.’

“The kids who organized for the walkout were so excited. And it was kind of a slap in the face to them how the school treated it. They did everything they could to defuse the walkout. And afterward they said all kinds of sweet things about how inspiring it was. I was really angry.”

Dru’s parent Greg told SLL: “I was in constant contact with Dru by text during the walkout. I spoke to the school office. I’ve watched all of Dru’s videos. Everything backs up her version of events, not the spin that school officials put on it.

“It was a rotten way to treat these students who wanted to speak out for their rights that are under attack. In my opinion, this conduct is deeply at odds with the progressive, diverse, community-oriented values this school administration claims to uphold.

“I’m very proud of the students. They did everything they could and left egg on the faces of the school administration and the higher-ups in Mayor Eric Adam’s administration who were calling the shots. Their ‘jailbreak’ from the schoolyard to the street was especially courageous and inspiring.

“I think next time, student organizers and concerned parents will know better than to trust the school officials’ promises and will plan accordingly.”



Denver students march on Colorado Capitol in defense of reproductive

rights

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 19, 2022

Hundreds of Denver-area middle and high school students took to the streets on May 12 to resist the ongoing warfare against a woman's right to choose and reproductive rights generally.

"Hey-hey! Ho-ho! These sexist laws have got to go!" and "My body! My choice!" chants rang through the air as Denver youth and their parents marched on the Colorado state capitol as part of a larger national student walkout in defense of reproductive rights and women's liberation. A recently-leaked draft opinion outlines plans for the Supreme Court to strike down the historic case regarding the right to an abortion.

The march was multinational in nature and led by Black and Brown student leaders. The students marched around the building for hours during an unseasonably warm day.

A 15-year-old woman from East High School in Denver did not mince words: "We're tired of these old white men deciding the future of our country when they'll be dead in 10 years." Another speaker, a Denver native attending Florida A&M University, testified to the horrors she has witnessed while attending college. Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis recently signed HB5, anti-abortion legislation, as well as the repressive HB1557 "Don't Say Gay" bill.

Student organizers noted that this would not be the last action planned in the city.



Cuba: ‘One limited step in the right direction’

written by Struggle - La Lucha
May 19, 2022



Declaration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba.

Havana, May 16, 2022 — Today, the government of the United States announced several measures, which are positive but of a very limited scope, regarding Cuba associated to the granting of visas, regular migration, flights to Cuban provinces, remittances and adjustments to the regulations governing transactions with the non-state sector.

Taking into account the nature of such measures, it would be possible to identify some of the promises made by President Biden during the electoral campaign of 2020 to alleviate the inhumane decisions adopted by President Trump's administration, which tightened the blockade to unprecedented levels and increased the "maximum pressure" policy applied ever since against our country.

These announcements in no way modify the blockade or the main measures of economic siege adopted by Trump, such as the lists of Cuban entities subject to additional coercive measures; nor do they eliminate travelling restrictions for US citizens.

They do not reverse either the arbitrary and fraudulent inclusion of Cuba in the State Department list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism, one of the main causes for the difficulties Cuba comes up against in its commercial and financial transactions in many parts of the world.

However, this is a limited step in the right direction, a response to the denunciations made by the Cuban people and government. It is also a response to the claims made by the US society and the Cubans residing in that country. This has been a demand by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and virtually all members of the United Nations, expressed in the overwhelming vote against the blockade. These are just demands which have been ignored by the government of the United States at a very high cost for our people.

Since 2019, the blockade has been tightened to the extreme, taking advantage, in an

opportunistic way, of the context of the pandemic, the international crisis and the consequent economic depression. It would be no exaggeration to affirm that the consequences of this siege could be described as devastating. The increase in migration is an evidence of that.

In taking these steps, the State Department uses an openly hostile language, accompanied by traditional slanders and new fallacies that have become fashionable in the last few months, which show that neither the goals pursued by the US policy against Cuba nor its main instruments have changed

Understanding the true dimension of this announcement would require waiting until the implementing regulations are published.

The Government of Cuba reiterates its willingness to establish a respectful dialogue, on an equal footing, with the government of the United States, based on the UN Charter, without any interference in the internal affairs of States and with full respect for independence and sovereignty.

([Cubaminrex](#))

