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# STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

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## RESIST U.S. WAR Solidarity with people of Donbass!

By Melinda Butterfield

Remarks given by Melinda Butterfield, Struggle-La Lucha co-editor, at the "No to NATO, War and Racism" protest in the Bronx, New York, on Oct. 15.

I think it's important to bring up the struggle of the people who are directly affected by the conflict in Ukraine – that is, the people of the Donbass region and Ukrainian anti-fascists who have been forced into exile for the last eight-and-a-half years.

This summer, the people in the city of Donetsk, who have lived under Ukrainian bombs for more than eight years, have faced their toughest stretch ever surviving. The attacks have been constant and getting worse because of the infusion of more advanced U.S. and NATO weapons.

This war didn't start last February, when Russia intervened. It started with a coup against the elected Ukrainian government, sponsored by the United States, in 2014. We know how that works – we've seen it many times in Latin America and other places around the world.

The people in the eastern part of Ukraine said "No – we don't want to live under a regime that's filled with fascists. We don't want to live under a regime that answers to Washington and NATO." And they had a big struggle.

Unfortunately, it was crushed in many parts of the country. But in Donetsk and Lugansk, in the Donbass region bordering Russia, they were able to declare independence, form a people's militia, and defend their independence for the last eight-and-a-half years.

When we talk about the struggle here, we use the slogan, "When people's rights are under attack, what do we do? Stand up, fight back!" When trans rights, Black people's rights, abortion rights, immigrant rights are under attack, we say: Stand up and fight back. In Donbass, they stood up and fought back! Just like they are doing now in Haiti. And in the same way, the people there have been demonized and discounted.

Unfortunately, here in the United States, even in the anti-war movement and the left, there's very little consciousness about the Donbass people's struggle. But they are the ones on the front lines. They are the ones who have been taking the brunt of the Ukrainian attacks for almost a decade.

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Protest in the Bronx, N.Y., Oct. 15.

S.U. photo: Melinda Butterfield

## Pakistan's floods, China's heatwave The climate crisis

By Scott Scheffer

The next international climate change conference will start on November 4 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

Tens of millions are struggling to recover from extreme weather disasters that spanned the entire world in 2022. Just a little more than a month will have passed by the time the delegates gather since two of the worst-known weather catastrophes in human history happened in Pakistan and China.

Indeed, this will place more importance on the issue of climate finance at Sharm el-Sheikh, and the conference may become a flashpoint for a long-simmering international dispute. In 2009, at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Denmark, the developed industrialized countries were forced to commit to raising \$100 billion per year to assist the Global South in adapting to the effects of climate change.

They have not met the obligation. The website of the World Resources Institute reports that by October of 2021, "Three major economies – the United States, Australia, and Canada – provided less than half their share of the financial effort."

A fraction of the funds handed over to the Pentagon each year would cover the U.S.'s commitment. But solidarity with

the Global South is not on the imperialist agenda.

While the Western media was reporting every detail of Queen Elizabeth's funeral for weeks on end, they woefully neglected news of two of the most destructive climate change-related events in history that occurred in Pakistan and China almost concurrently.

### Pakistan floods

Southern Pakistan was hit by rains that lasted for weeks beginning in June, killing 1,500 or more people. More than one-third of the deaths were children. Crops were destroyed; at least a million homes were damaged or washed away completely.

Farmers usually welcome the monsoon season. However, this year, melting glaciers from rising global temperatures turned it into a super-monsoon catastrophe. Some 33 million people were affected, most of them tenant farmers. It will take six months for the water to recede so agriculture can become viable again. Estimates of recovery costs are now at about \$30 billion.

So far, international aid pledged is paltry compared to the need. The World Bank has pledged \$2 billion, and a few governments have pledged \$160 million via the United Nations.

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