

Youth movement organized for social change in Honduras

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 28, 2022



Struggle-La Lucha correspondents Berta Joubert-Ceci and ...



... John Parker at educational center in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Jan. 27 — Hector Ulloea — a former student leader and member of the Libre Party — spoke at the College of Middle Education Professors in Honduras (COPEMH) to an international delegation that had been invited by President-elect Xiomara Castro to witness her inauguration.

Ulloea spoke of the overwhelming support that Castro has, especially amongst the youth of today and those who were youth when the coup of 2009 occurred. In fact, he said, much of the anger of those youth who witnessed the denial of elected former President Manuel Zelaya to remain in office in 2009 fueled their passionate support for Castro.

Those youth and the youth of today, he said, have organized into a powerful force for social change. That change Ulloea spoke of had to overcome the U.S.-supported coup leaders and their collaborators and, in spite of that, successfully made way for the will of the people. Xiomara Castro is the first woman and the first pro-socialist elected in Honduran history and also the first candidate to receive 1.7 million votes

in an election, the biggest victory ever.

“A large amount of the youth who were shaped by events of the coup are now a formalized alliance and now a continuation of the process that was started in 2009,” said Ulloea.

The University Student Movement (MEU), which Ulloea belonged to, is not new to the struggles against the coup leaders of 2009 and waged a powerful campaign to keep the National Autonomous University from being privatized, like much of industry in the years after the coup. The students faced massive repression but remained steadfast and determined. Because of the repression, Ulloea said he was forced to leave Honduras in 2019 and just returned three weeks ago to continue his work here on the new government transition.

“These groupings absolutely trust Xiomara and make up those that wanted retribution against the narco dictatorship. The 1.7 million votes shows Xiomara’s ability to unify the opposition against reactionaries,” said Ulloea.

Ulloea mentioned three areas of concentration for the government now as a result of the debt that Honduras is in and the destruction of the economy by the leadership of the government after Zelaya, which sabotaged public industries, destroyed water sources for the people and increased poverty with austerity programs.

“We can’t trust the statistics and reporting of the outgoing government,” said Ulloea. As a result, he said they are forced to gather that information regarding issues like national debt and relative health of various sectors of the economy in order to make budget decisions.

In addition to questions of the budget, they also must consider the needs and demands of the people with the understanding that “we are a socialist government so we cannot cut social services to balance the budget, we must find other means,”

declared Ulloea. This refreshing unwillingness to use austerity against the people should help any honest critiques of Xiomara Castro take into consideration the difference between those governments keeping their economies tied to capitalist economics with further privatization and depletion of social welfare programs and those moving toward socialist economics, as Castro has promised in continuing the programs like wage increases and expanded social programs that Manuel Zelaya began shortly after becoming president.

Finally, Ulloea said, the functioning of the government is another one of the three priorities to ensure that people begin to get their lives back and counter the last 12 years of dysfunction, poverty and repression.



Special Briefing on U.S./NATO war on Russia & Donbass, Jan. 29

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 28, 2022



SATURDAY AT 5 PM Eastern, 4 PM Central, 2 PM Pacific
Special Briefing on U.S./NATO war on Russia & Donbass
Online event

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qsMczvt1Q6ilshwipFHZ2A

Join Struggle-La Lucha for a special briefing

Tell Biden: No war! U.S./NATO hands off Russia and Donbass!

What is behind U.S. war threats in the region. Understand what is at stake for workers at home & abroad.

Hear Greg Butterfield

Struggle-La Lucha co-editor Greg Butterfield is the coordinator of Solidarity with Novorossiya & Antifascists in Ukraine. He has written extensively on developments in Ukraine and Donbass since 2014. In September 2014, he visited Crimea to meet

with exiled Ukrainian activists; when he attempted to visit the city of Kharkov in eastern Ukraine, he was deported at gunpoint. In 2016, he went to Donetsk and Lugansk, attending an anti-fascist conference and visiting the people's militia near the front line. Many of his articles and translations can be found at Red Star Over Donbass.

Register here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qsMczvt1Q6iIshwipFHZ2A



Honduras prepares to celebrate inauguration of Xiomara Castro of the Libre Party

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 28, 2022

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Jan. 26 — A delegation of activists representing organizations from various countries arrived in Tegucigalpa yesterday, at the

invitation of the Libre Party, to celebrate with them the inauguration of President-elect Xiomara Castro, who is also a member of the Libre Party.

President Castro's overwhelming victory follows the rapid deterioration of life for the people of Honduras after the 2009 coup that kidnapped and overthrew the elected government of self-described pro-socialist President Manuel Zelaya. That coup — with technical, logistical and monetary support from the U.S. — was led by two Honduran military officers who had trained at the Pentagon's notorious ["School of the Americas."](#) The school made headlines in 1996 when the Pentagon released training manuals used at the school that advocated torture, extortion and execution.

After the coup, fraudulent elections were imposed on the country, seeking to give legitimacy to the coup regime. But the economy and social well-being of Honduras was destroyed by rapid privatizations, environmental destruction and brutal repression and torture targeting any supporters of Zelaya, especially those in the National Front of Popular Resistance (FNRP) which formed after the coup to bring back the legitimate presidency of Zelaya. Women and LGBTQ2S members were also severely targeted and tortured.

In spite of the repression, the courageous people of Honduras continued to grow their resistance. In the presidential election held in November 2021, the popular resistance overwhelmed the vote, with a 53% vs. 34% victory for President Xiomara Castro. And, as our delegation witnessed in arriving at the airport, her win and the movement's growth go far beyond the elections or electoral battles only.

Some in the international delegation had previously witnessed the brutal repression in 2009 by the military after the coup and had faced dangerous situations, forcing them to flee because of the repression. Now the delegates were met at the airport by escorts from the presidency who whisked us through customs and had us on our way to do interviews, meet with local Libre Party cultural activists and more.

The inauguration on Jan. 27 is sure to also be a qualitative change from the ceremony after the November 2013 election of coup supporter Juan Orlando Hernandez whose government continued the policies of privatization, militarization and added drug corruption. On Jan. 27, 2014, the city saw protests and boycotts, not celebrations.

The mood today can be seen on some walls in Tegucigalpa with graffiti cheering the end of Hernandez as president.



Struggle-La Lucha correspondents land in Honduras for presidential inauguration

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 28, 2022

Two correspondents for Struggle-La Lucha have travelled to Honduras to be part of the U.S. delegation attending the inauguration of newly-elected President Xiomara

Castro of Libertad y Refundación, referred to as the Libre Party.

One of the correspondents, John Parker, is himself a candidate for the U.S. Senate on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket in California. He is also a founder of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and active in his neighborhood with the Harvard Blvd Block Club in Los Angeles.

The other correspondent is Berta Joubert-Ceci, who was an initiator of the historic October 2018 “International Tribunal on U.S. Colonial Crimes Against Puerto Rico.” Joubert-Ceci writes regularly on struggles in Puerto Rico and the Global South and is also a regular commentator on Radio Clarin of Colombia from her home in Puerto Rico. Joubert-Ceci is a founding member of Women In Struggle/Mujeres En Lucha.

Both are organizers with the Socialist Unity Party.

They are traveling to Honduras in the midst of a struggle that has broken out between the left forces of the Libre Party and more conservative elements who are attempting to stand in the way of substantial reforms promised by President Xiomara Castro and Libre.

For an up-to-date description see the report in the [Orinoco Tribune](#).

Please support people’s reporters! Your donations help to provide independent socialist news and analysis. [DONATE HERE](#) .

Most importantly check the coverage on [Struggle-La-Lucha.org](#), [facebook.com/strugglelalucha](#) and [Twitter @StruggleLaLucha](#)



Brooklyn, NYC: School bus rights press conference for TRANSIT EQUITY DAY, Feb. 4

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 28, 2022

NYC Children with and without disabilities need a

SCHOOL BUS BILL OF RIGHTS

We call on Mayor Bloomberg, the Chancellor, and the Office of Pupil Transportation under Deputy Chancellor Grimm to:

1. Plan ahead, prevent chaos—stop late summer layoffs!

Any vehicles that are underutilized on the first day of school will fill up soon enough, so get them ready and rolling with a full complement of workers.

2. Respect educational mandates for adequate supervision

On special education vehicles, student-to-adult ratios and the range of grades/disabilities grouped together should align with the limits that apply during the school day.

3. Stop creating route schedules that make disabled children consistently miss lessons in the morning and/or afternoon.

4. Respect physical and neurological needs of the children

- a) Enforce regulations on limited time travel and air conditioning.
- b) Minimize unsolicited changes in routine.



5. Simplify bus itineraries—limit the number of schools or dismissal times on each route.

6. SAFETY ABOVE ALL!

- a) Equip wheelchair vehicles with harnesses and headrests.
- b) Restore general education busing through 8th grade in Staten Island.
- c) Enforce mandate for schools to work with drivers and escorts to provide bus evacuation drills twice a year.
- d) Inspect for safety matters, not excuses to fine and harass bus workers.
- e) Study the feasibility of snow chains and other bad-weather needs.

7. Proactively inform parents and special educators on how to secure transportation rights on the Individualized Education Program

8. Improve communication about emergency and long-term changes

9. Empower a panel of elected representatives of organizations of parents, educators and bus workers to either approve or renegotiate OPT plans for achieving the above goals and more

10. Maintain an experienced, skilled and dedicated transportation workforce: Support the EPP (Mollen Agreement) bill in Albany

To endorse this effort, contact

**Parents
TO
Improve
SCHOOL
Transportation**

pistnyc@gmail.com
347.504.3310
www.pistnyc.org

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022 AT 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

School bus rights press conference for TRANSIT EQUITY DAY

65 Court St, Brooklyn, NY

Who: NYC school bus riders' families and advocates

Why: announce 2022 campaign for a School Bus Bill of Rights referendum. Where: in front of the Dept of Education's Contracts office

What: to discuss problems and solutions for student transportation justice.

Why now?

*February 4, the birthday of Rosa Parks, is Transit Equity Day; we say this equity should begin with the youngest riders!

**In the time of Covid-19, crowded buses that each serve multiple schools are a public health risk.

Why there?

*The current system -of awarding route contracts to the lowest bidders- has led to lower quality conditions, civil rights violations and human suffering for riders, and 8 years of attrition in the school bus workforce. The DOE must take responsibility to provide safer, shorter, more stable and fully staffed school bus routes for all who need them.

**We want to know where the Covid Relief / Infrastructure money is going-how much of the budget for this public service goes to private profits, and how much actually benefits the people on the bus?

OUR TOP DEMANDS:

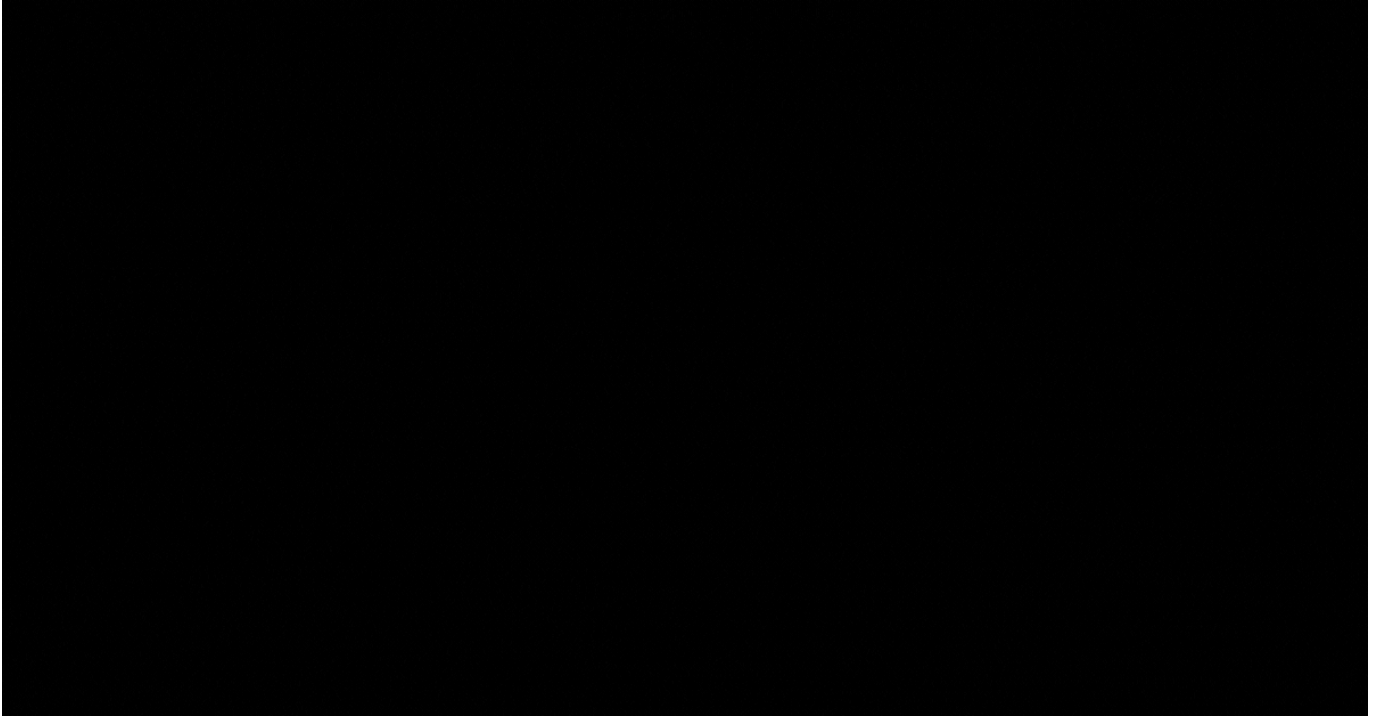
- 1) Stop making route decisions that undermine educational access for students with disabilities and for students in transitional housing.
- 2) Reverse the driver & attendant shortage by restoring Employee Protection Provisions and expanding all layers of pandemic control measures.
- 3) Recruit and retain more school bus paras and nurses, so students with urgent behavioral or medical issues can get to school every day.
- 4) Empower a panel of true stakeholders to oversee all policy decisions, from enhanced training to realistic transportation plans for Academic Recovery/ Special Education Recovery services.
- 5) Provide proactive communication in all home languages and don't rely only on the

internet!



Washington, D.C.: Emergency rally - NO war with Russia, Jan. 27

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 28, 2022



We are on the brink of a massive war between the US and Russia—two nuclear-armed states. The time to speak out is now!

President Biden has just ordered 8,500 US troops to be on heightened alert for possible deployment to Eastern Europe, as the dangerous escalation at the Russian/Ukrainian border standoff intensifies. Biden is also considering sending more warships and aircraft, and has already delivered more “lethal aid” to Ukraine. The \$500 million Congress is set to pass through a fast-track vote, could and should be used on communities and climate. **The Pentagon has said that there is the possibility of sending as many as 50,000 troops!!!**

Join an emergency rally to say Negotiate, Don’t’ Escalate: No War With Russia.

Sponsored by CODEPINK, Black Alliance for Peace, ANSWER, Maryland Peace Action and others. For more information contact olivia@codepink.org, [\(215\)](tel:215)

[384-8035.](#)

WHEN

January 27, 2022 at 1:00pm – 2:00pm (EST)

WHERE

White House

Washington D.C., DC 20229, United States,

<https://www.codepink.org/j272022>



Havana Syndrome, the U.S.'s monumental hoax

written by Struggle - La Lucha

January 28, 2022

Jan. 23 — Last week, the United States decided to recognize for the first time in five years that the phenomenon baptized as “Havana Syndrome” is nothing more than a

big farce. On Thursday, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) admitted that its allegations against Cuba for the so-called “health incidents” against its diplomats in Havana back in 2016 were not caused by “a deliberate attack.”

A report released by the CIA on the events confirms what the scientific community in Cuba and the rest of the world has said to exhaustion, “There is no evidence that an attack of such magnitude was planned by a government.”

“The new study confirms Cuba’s position, strongly held since the first alleged cases came to light,” Johana Tablada, deputy director-general for the United States at the Cuban Foreign Affairs Ministry, told local journalists.

According to the CIA security report, the symptoms – nausea, drowsiness, fatigue, headaches, and hearing and vision problems – cannot be attributed to a common cause and even less to such a far-fetched hypothesis as a “sonic attack.”

That hypothesis has been advocated by the Donald Trump administration and his successor, the current president, Joe Biden and has been used as the primary justification for keeping Cuba on their list of countries supporting terrorism, slapping on over 240 sanctions, cutting the staffs of the embassies to skeleton crews while maintaining in full force the over 60 year blockade on the island nation.

Experts overwhelmingly agree that for an ultrasound to be capable of destroying molecular tissue, it would need to involve huge weapons. They explained that such devices would have to be placed close enough to the target to avoid being blocked by walls but hidden as much as possible to cause such damage invisibly.

In January 2019, biologists with expertise in tropical insects suggested that the most plausible explanation would be that the noise perceived by the diplomats was the mating song of one particularly noisy species, the short-legged guinea fowl crickets.

Now, the U.S. intelligence agency acknowledged that most cases could be

categorized as “environmental causes, undiagnosed medical conditions, or stress.” The information dismisses the “attacks” being perpetrated by Russia or other enemy foreign powers, as U.S. politicians have tried to make them seem during the last five years.

Consequences of such lies

Cuba denounced to exhaustion the political manipulation behind this scandal due to the lack of scientific foundations and the proliferation of increasingly less credible excuses, such as the use of microwaves and supersonic weapons, as if we were dealing with a James Bond movie.

The United States relied on the disease to apply a battalion of sanctions against Cuba that are still in force today. The “syndrome,” which seems more a phenomenon of collective hysteria than a disease per se, complicated the process of visa applications by Cubans wishing to travel to the country.

Washington decided to transfer those procedures to embassies in other nations, a situation that is still maintained along with other measures that were born to “weaken relations between the two countries,” Johana Tablada explained.

“Although incidents have been reported in several countries, the United States has only taken Draconian measures against Cuba, which has had a negative impact on the Cuban family,” she complained.

Why is the U.S. discourse changing now?

There was never a scientific consensus on the issue. The United States was never able to prove that this symptom exists but that didn’t stop them from punishing Cuba on a failed assumption. Today, five years later, the great farce has become untenable.

The new report does not mean that the neighboring country will cease its hostilities against the island, nor that they will stop investigating the alleged events recorded in their diplomatic community.

In fact, the CIA assured that, although it is not a “deliberate event,” they will continue to analyze specific cases. They maintain the rhetorical hook to continue encouraging the anti-Cuban far-right in Florida, key voters for the new administration.

Just last week, U.S. Foreign Affairs Minister Antony Blinken assured that the U.S. was continuing to “get to the bottom” of the issue to find out who was behind the attacks. He said so after the country documented new cases in Geneva Switzerland, and Paris France.

But this sudden decision to acknowledge that Cuba, Russia, and other “enemies” are not behind the events is the first stone they lift in the Hollywood movie story they no longer have a way to sustain.

The report is also an effort to contain the cascade of denunciations and new cases that have proliferated in various parts of the world since the U.S. Congress approved in September 2021 a resolution to grant economic aid to diplomatic officials afflicted by the alleged syndrome.

Why hasn't the White House dismissed this fantasy altogether? Because they do not want to admit that the “phenomenon” has become a boomerang for them, bringing them more losses than gains. They want to make the whole story go away in a fade, without recognizing the great ridicule.

They neither want to admit that it has been a farce, because they know that, historically, whatever story they make up against Cuba, the world will believe it without asking questions, even if it includes supersonic weapons, murderous

microwaves, deafening sounds in the middle of the night, or malicious short-legged crickets.

Source: [Resumen Latinoamericano - English](#)



Tell Biden: No war! U.S./NATO hands off Russia and Donbass!

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 28, 2022

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 seems the U.S. and its allies are instead rushing recklessly ahead.

Along with the move to pull embassy personnel out of Ukraine, the weekend of Jan.

22-23 saw a new propaganda barrage from Washington's junior partner Britain, alleging that Russian President Vladimir Putin was planning a coup to replace the current U.S.-backed Ukrainian government of President Volodymyr Zelensky with one friendly to Russia.

Moscow immediately [refuted the claim](#). But it was taken as gospel by all the big-business media, despite the fact that, as even the [New York Times admitted](#), "The British communique provided no evidence to back up its assertion."

Meanwhile, another provocation was carried out by Kiev on Jan. 22, as a [Ukrainian military sabotage team](#) illegally crossed the ceasefire "line of contact" into the Lugansk People's Republic and kidnapped a soldier of the People's Militia. It was the [third such kidnapping](#) since October.

After a weekend at Camp David with his military and diplomatic advisers - when they were supposed to be preparing their written response to Russia's draft security agreement - President Biden's spokespeople announced that the administration was likely planning the deployment of [thousands of additional U.S. troops](#) and more military hardware to the region. A decision is expected from Biden this week, according to the New York Times.

The real invasion threat

While corporate media whip up fears because Russia has deployed approximately 100,000 troops to defend its Western border, they never mention that 125,000 Ukrainian troops - that is, half the country's entire military - are now concentrated at the contact line with Donetsk and Lugansk, near Russia.

This fact cannot be ignored by the residents of Donbass or Russia, however. Especially since those deployed to the front are the most notorious [ultra-nationalist, neo-Nazi Ukrainian battalions](#), armed with NATO-supplied weapons and trained by

the U.S., British and Canadian military.

The Ukrainian fascists have been hell-bent on war with Russia since they toppled Ukraine's democratically-elected government eight years ago. In keeping with their genocidal ideology, inherited from anti-Soviet Nazi collaborators of World War II, these armed groups regard the multinational, mostly Russian-speaking residents of Donbass as "cattle" and "insects."

For weeks, U.S. media have published glowing accounts of how the CIA and other Western police-military agencies have been training these forces for "resistance" in the event of a Russian invasion. In fact, they are being armed and trained to launch a murderous attack on the population of Donbass.

Since Ukraine launched its war on the Donbass region in 2014, when its people voted overwhelmingly for independence, more than 14,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

Donetsk and Lugansk have warned for months about the [dangers of a new Ukrainian invasion](#) as the buildup of troops and heavy weapons unfolded. The last time Kiev invaded, in 2015, the People's Militias routed the Ukrainian forces and handed them a humiliating defeat.

"In terms of the numbers, if we take personnel, then from the Ukrainian side [near the contact line] it is two-to-three times higher than ours," [explained Denis Pushilin](#), the Donetsk People's Republic head of state, on Jan. 18. "The amount of equipment also exceeds ours. But we are at home, we are defending our land, so we have many more chances to resist."

While the Donbass republics are confident in their ability to defeat the invaders again, as they did in 2015, the influx of NATO high-tech weaponry would mean massive devastation to the civilian infrastructure and high casualties in a region

already suffering under a nearly eight-year economic blockade by Ukraine and the West.

And this time, the danger of direct NATO military intervention – forcing Russia to defend itself and potentially igniting a new regional or even world war – is very real.

[Alexander Skubchenko](#) of the Housing Union of Ukraine summed up the situation: “What is happening now is not an attempt by NATO to protect Ukraine from a Russian invasion – it is an attempt by Russia to protect the Donbass republics from Zelensky’s military adventure, which NATO is pushing him to do.”

Flooding Ukraine with weapons

A Jan. 22 Washington Post headline screamed, [“Military trainers, missiles and over 200,000 pounds of lethal aid: What NATO members have sent to Ukraine so far.”](#)

“Last December, the White House authorized a \$200 million security assistance package that provides Ukraine with small arms and ammunition, secure radios, medical equipment and spare parts. Other lethal equipment, including Javelin anti-tank missiles and other anti-armor artillery, as well as heavy machine guns, also were included,” according to the Post. “The U.S. Embassy in Kiev said late Friday that a first shipment of nearly 200,000 pounds of lethal aid had recently arrived in Ukraine. ...

“British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace told Parliament on Monday that a ‘small number’ of British personnel would join an existing British operation to build up Ukrainian military capacity. ‘Light, anti-armor, defensive weapon systems’ also will be supplied ...

“Canada also has a military training program with Ukraine, and Ottawa recently sent a small contingent of special forces to assist Kiev, according to Canadian media. The Department of National Defense declined to comment on potential troop

deployments, citing operation sensitivity.

“The Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia also have received permission from the Biden administration to send U.S.-made weapons, such as Stinger air defense systems and Javelins, to Ukraine, the countries’ defense ministers said Friday.

“Turkey, which has a sizable weapons manufacturing industry, has previously sold Bayraktar TB2 drones to Ukraine. The weapon has been used to strike Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine [That is, the Donbass republics – including the [murder of 5-year-old Vladik Shikhov](#) by drone strike last April – GB].

“The Netherlands and Spain also have deployed warplanes and warships, respectively, to the region to support NATO,” the Post concluded.

“The United States and its allies have already delivered billions of dollars in military assistance to Ukraine, with Washington alone contributing about \$400 million in 2021 alone,” [Sputnik News noted on Jan. 18](#). “Total U.S. outlays have topped \$2.5 billion since 2014, and have included ‘non-lethal’ items, such as Humvees and artillery-locating mobile radar, as well as lethal systems like U.S.-made sniper rifles and Javelin anti-tank missiles.

“NATO allies have provided hundreds of millions of dollars more, including Turkish Bayraktar drones, British-made Saxon armored common centers, Czech 152 mm howitzers and Italian and German engineering and medevac vehicles.”

Stop a new war!

Significantly, Germany blocked Estonia from transferring German-manufactured artillery to Ukraine, as an incensed [Wall Street Journal reported Jan. 21](#). NATO member Germany, the economic powerhouse of the European Union, is reliant on Russian gas and heating oil, and is eager for the completion of the NordStream2

pipeline to increase the flow of affordable fuel from the east – something the U.S. is desperate to stop.

Russia has made it clear that Ukraine's takeover by NATO is a red line for its security and independence. Washington refuses to even negotiate on the issue of NATO's further eastward expansion, despite the [promise made by U.S. officials](#) at the end of the Cold War not to do so – some 14 new NATO members ago!

Poor and working people are wracked with crisis after crisis here at home. Rampant spread of COVID and the deliberate dismantling of public health measures to control the pandemic. Wages slashed by inflation. Capitalism's climate destruction intensifies by the month. The end of eviction moratoriums threatens the lives of hundreds of thousands of families in the dead of winter. Far-right attacks, from the streets to state legislatures to the Supreme Court, against voting rights, reproductive rights and trans rights.

U.S. war threats against Donbass and Russia are a greedy grab for profits and continued Pentagon military dominance. But they are also an ugly, xenophobic attempt to distract workers in the U.S. from fighting the bosses' attacks on them, and instead turn us against people in other countries. The billionaires who dominate both the Democratic and Republican parties rely on this divide-and-rule strategy to maintain their power.

Don't fall for it. Let's fight for the things we need here at home – and fight to stop another bloody war.

Tell Biden and Congress: Sign Russia's proposed defense agreement! Withdraw all U.S. troops and weaponry from Eurasia! Dismantle NATO!



Aprobado Plan de Ajuste de Deuda

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 28, 2022



El martes pasado la jueza federal de bancarrota Laura Taylor Swain, con todo el cinismo del mundo, anunció que aprobó el Plan de Ajuste para reestructurar la deuda pública de PR, de 70 mil millones de dólares, recalcando que había tomado en consideración las muchas peticiones de personas jubiladas que le habían escrito objetando ese plan.

Muchos achichincles del gobierno local celebran esa aprobación porque según ellos nos ahorrará el 80% del monto de la deuda de 70 mil millones.

Lo que no dicen es que este plan llevará a PR a un desastre económico peor del que ya estamos viviendo, y a una segunda deuda mucho más peligrosa, porque aquí no hay la capacidad para pagar los 3.150 millones al año que se requieren.

Tampoco dicen que todo este manejo de la deuda se hizo a espaldas del pueblo; que la Junta de Control Fiscal impuesta en el 2016 por el Congreso de EUA bajo la Ley PROMESA, rechazó auditarla - considerando que mucha parte de esos bonos fueron emitidos ilegalmente. No dicen que rehusaron establecer cuáles son los servicios esenciales como salud, educación, vivienda y seguridad que deben estar resguardados en todo proceso de quiebra.

Este Plan en contra del pueblo suspende 40 leyes para poder imponer su austeridad y ahondará la división entre ricos y pobres. Y aunque no recorta las pensiones ahora, no se podrán ajustar para compensar el alza en el costo de vida por los próximos 10 años. Incluso, prohíbe que la legislatura local legisle sobre las pensiones por esos 10 años. ¡Esto es lo que significa ser colonia!

Por eso, la agenda del movimiento tiene que ser por obligación la descolonización!

¡Que viva Puerto Rico Libre!

Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci

Por los fosfatos, Marruecos promueve una guerra en Sahara Occidental

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 28, 2022

En noviembre de 2020, el Gobierno de Marruecos [envió](#) a sus militares a la franja de Guerguerat, una Zona de Amortiguamiento entre el territorio reclamado por el Reino de Marruecos y la República Árabe Saharaui Democrática (RASD). Este franterizo de Guerguerat se encuentra en el extremo sur del Sahara Occidental, junto con la carretera que va a Mauritania. La [presencia](#) de tropas marroquíes en la Franja de Protección en la zona de Guerguerat” viola el cese al fuego de 1991, acordado entre la monarquía marroquí y el Frente Polisario de los saharauis. Este acuerdo de cese se elaboró bajo el supuesto de que las Naciones Unidas convocarían a un referéndum en el Sahara Occidental para decidir su destino; no se ha celebrado ningún referéndum de este tipo, y la región lleva tres décadas de estancamiento.

A mediados de enero de 2022, las Naciones Unidas [mandaron](#) a su enviado especial

para el Sahara Occidental, Staffan de Mistura, a Marruecos, Argelia y Mauritania, para [empezar](#) un nuevo diálogo “hacia una reanudación constructiva del proceso político del Sahara Occidental”. De Mistura fue [enviado](#) previamente para resolver la crisis de las guerras estadounidenses en Afganistán, Irak y Siria: ninguna de sus misiones ha terminado bien. La mayoría han sido causas perdidas. La ONU ha nombrado, hasta ahora, [cinco](#) enviados especiales para el Sahara Occidental (incluyendo a De Mistura) [empezando](#) con James Baker III, ex secretario de Estado de los EE. UU., quien ejerció de 1997 a 2004. De Mistura, por su parte, [sucedió](#) al ex presidente alemán Horst Köhler, quién renunció en 2019. El principal [logro](#) de Köhler fue reunir, en diciembre de 2018, a las cuatro partes principales (Marruecos, el Frente Polisario, Argelia y Mauritania) en una primera [reunión](#) de mesa redonda en Ginebra: este proceso se tradujo en algunos avances, donde todos los participantes estuvieron de acuerdo con la “cooperación y la integración regional”, pero desde entonces no parecen haber habido más avances para resolver los problemas de la región. Cuando la ONU propuso a De Mistura para este puesto, Marruecos se resistió - [inicialmente](#) - pero luego, en octubre de 2021 y bajo la presión de Occidente, finalmente aceptó su nombramiento. El ministro de Asuntos Exteriores marroquí, Nasser Bourita, le dio la [bienvenida](#) en Rabat el 14 de enero. De Mistura también se [reunió](#) (en Nueva York, el 6 de noviembre de 2021) con el representante del Frente Polisario ante la ONU, antes de [reunirse](#) con otros representantes en Tinduf, Argelia, en los campamentos de refugiados saharauis en enero. No hay muchas expectativas de que estas reuniones den lugar a una solución productiva en la región.

Los acuerdos de Abraham

En agosto de 2020, el Gobierno de Estados Unidos conquistó una importante hazaña diplomática denominada “[Acuerdos de Abraham](#)”. Estados Unidos consiguió un acuerdo entre Marruecos y los Emiratos Árabes Unidos (EAU) para que aceptaran un acercamiento a Israel, a cambio de que EE. UU. vendiera armas a estos países,

además de legitimar la anexión del Sahara Occidental por parte de Marruecos. Las ventas de armas se tradujeron en importantes cantidades de dinero: 23.000 millones de dólares en [armas](#) para los EAU y 1.000 millones de dólares en [drones](#) y municiones para Marruecos. El principal premio para Marruecos fue que Estados Unidos - rompiendo décadas de precedentes - decidió respaldar su reclamo por el vasto territorio del Sahara Occidental.

Cuando el presidente Joe Biden asumió en enero de 2021, se esperaba que pudiera revisar partes de los Acuerdos de Abraham. Sin embargo, su Secretario de Estado, Antony Blinken, dejó [claro](#) durante su reunión con Bourita en noviembre de 2021, que el Gobierno estadounidense seguiría manteniendo la postura adoptada por la anterior administración Trump (de que Marruecos tiene soberanía sobre el Sahara Occidental). Estados Unidos, por su parte, ha [continuado](#) con su venta de armas a Marruecos, pero ha [suspendido](#) la venta de armas a los Emiratos Árabes Unidos.

Fosfatos

Para finales de noviembre de 2021, el Gobierno de Marruecos [anunció](#) que había ganado 6.450 millones de dólares por la exportación de fosfatos del Reino y del territorio ocupado del Sahara Occidental. Si se suman las reservas de fosfatos de toda esta región, [asciende](#) al 72% de todas las reservas de fosfatos del mundo (el segundo mayor [porcentaje](#) de estas reservas está en China, que tiene alrededor del 6%). El fosfato, junto con el nitrógeno, constituye un fertilizante sintético, elemento clave en la producción moderna de alimentos. Mientras que el nitrógeno se puede recuperar del aire, los fosfatos, que se encuentran en el suelo, son una reserva finita. Esto permite a Marruecos controlar la producción mundial de alimentos. No cabe duda de que la ocupación del Sáhara Occidental no tiene que ver únicamente con el orgullo nacional, sino que se debe en gran medida a la presencia de un gran número de recursos - especialmente fosfatos - que pueden encontrarse en el territorio.

En 1975, una delegación de la ONU que visitó el Sahara Occidental [señaló](#) que “con el tiempo el territorio estará entre los mayores exportadores de fosfato del mundo”. Aunque las reservas de fosfato del Sahara Occidental son menores que las de Marruecos, la empresa estatal marroquí OCP SA ha estado extrayendo el [fosfato](#) del Sahara Occidental y fabricando fertilizantes del mismo con grandes beneficios económicos. La mina más [espectacular](#) del Sahara Occidental se encuentra en Bou Craa, de la que procede el [10%](#) de los beneficios de OCP SA; Bou Craa, que se [conoce](#) como “el sistema de cinta transportadora más largo del mundo”, transporta la roca fosfórica más de 60 millas hasta el puerto de El Aaiún. En 2002, el entonces Secretario General Adjunto de Asuntos Jurídicos de la ONU, Hans Corell, [señaló](#) en una carta dirigida al presidente del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU que “si se llevan a cabo nuevas actividades de exploración y explotación sin tener en cuenta los intereses y deseos del pueblo del Sahara Occidental, se estarían violando los principios del derecho internacional aplicables a las actividades relacionadas con los recursos minerales en los territorios no autónomos”. Una campaña internacional para [impedir](#) la extracción del “fosfato conflictivo” del Sahara Occidental por parte de Marruecos ha llevado a muchas empresas de todo el mundo a dejar de comprar fosfato a OCP SA. Nutrien, el mayor fabricante de fertilizantes de Estados Unidos que utilizaba fosfatos marroquíes, [decidió](#) dejar de importar de Marruecos en 2018. Ese mismo año, el tribunal sudafricano [impugnó](#) el derecho de los barcos que transportaban fosfato de la región a atracar en sus puertos, dictaminando que “los cargadores marroquíes del producto no tenían ningún derecho legal sobre él”.

Solo [tres empresas conocidas](#) continúan comprando fosfato conflictivo extraído del Sahara Occidental: [dos de Nueva Zelanda](#) (Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited y Ravensdown) y una de la India (Paradeep Phosphates Limited).

Derechos Humanos

Después del cese al fuego en 1991, la ONU creó una Misión para el Referéndum en

el Sahara Occidental ([MINURSO](#)). Esta es la única fuerza de mantenimiento de la paz de la ONU que no tiene el mandato de informar sobre los derechos humanos. La ONU hizo esta concesión para apaciguar al Reino de Marruecos. El Gobierno marroquí ha intervenido en varias ocasiones cuando el equipo de la ONU en el Sahara Occidental ha intentado hacer el más mínimo ruido sobre las violaciones de los derechos humanos en la región. En marzo de 2016, el Reino [expulsó](#) al personal de la MINURSO porque el entonces secretario general de la ONU, Ban Ki-moon, se [refirió](#) a la presencia marroquí en el Sahara Occidental como una “ocupación”.

La presión de Estados Unidos asegurará que el único resultado realista de las negociaciones sea la continuación del control marroquí sobre el Sahara Occidental. Todas las partes implicadas en el conflicto se están preparando para la batalla. Lejos de la paz, los Acuerdos de Abraham van a acelerar la vuelta a la guerra en esta parte de África.

Este artículo fue producido para [Globetrotter](#).

Vijay Prashad es un historiador, editor y periodista indio. Es miembro de la redacción y corresponsal en jefe de Globetrotter. Es editor en jefe de [LeftWord Books](#) y director del [Instituto Tricontinental de Investigación Social](#). También es miembro senior no-residente del [Instituto Chongyang de Estudios Financieros](#) de la Universidad Renmin de China. Ha escrito más de 20 libros, entre ellos [The Darker Nations](#) y [The Poorer Nations](#). Su último libro es [Washington Bullets](#), con una introducción de Evo Morales Ayma.

