

# **Ka Joma Lives! A tribute to Jose Maria Sison - Jan. 7**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
January 5, 2023

# ***Ka Joma Lives!***

A tribute to the life and contributions of Jose Maria Sison to the movement for genuine social and national liberation in the Philippines and to the international anti-imperialist movement.

**January 7, 2023**

**1pm PST · 2pm MST · 3pm CST · 4pm EST**

**RSVP: [tinyurl.com/kajomalives-us](https://tinyurl.com/kajomalives-us)**

**BAYAN**  
U.S.A.  
INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF PEOPLES' STRUGGLE  
**ILPS**



Join us on January 7th to pay tribute to Jose Maria “Ka Joma” Sison, a lifelong revolutionary who diligently served the people of the Philippines and the world. Ka Joma dedicated his life to advancing the national Democratic Revolution of the

Philippines, and uplifting the struggles of all oppressed peoples & workers fighting back against imperialism.

This tribute, “Ka Joma Lives!”, is the National U.S. Tribute, co-hosted by ILPS-US, BAYAN-USA, and Friends of the Filipino People in Struggle. It will take place on Zoom, and will highlight the life and contributions of Ka Joma with solidarity messages, videos of Ka Joma, and cultural performances. It will begin on Saturday, January 7th, at 1pm PST / 2pm MST / 3pm CST / 4pm EST and is programmed for 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Let us honor his legacy of organizing and his revolutionary spirit together!

Please RSVP here to receive the Zoom link: [tinyurl.com/kajomalives-us](https://tinyurl.com/kajomalives-us)



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## **Minneapolis Public Forum & Discussion Jan. 7: Say NO to World**

# **War Three - Say NO to Nuclear War**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

January 5, 2023

# Is the world on the brink?

Public Forum and Discussion

**SATURDAY  
JANUARY 7,  
2023  
3:00 P.M.  
MAYDAY  
BOOKS**

301 Cedar on  
the West Bank  
in Minneapolis

**Say NO to  
World War  
Three!  
Say NO to  
Nuclear  
War!**

**Speakers  
include:**

**Mike  
Madden**

Member,  
Twin Cities Assange  
Defense and  
Veterans for Peace

**JoAnn  
Blatchley**

Convener of the Hiroshima  
Nagasaki Commemoration  
Committee for 20 years;  
visited both Hiroshima and  
Nagasaki; coordinated  
Hiroshima Nagasaki Peace  
Exhibition at Landmark Center  
in 2015; retired Edina Public  
Schools teacher; member of  
WAMM End War Committee.

**Melinda  
Butterfield**

is co-editor of Struggle-  
La Lucha newspaper.  
She's a longtime antiwar  
activist who's traveled  
twice to the region  
of Ukraine's war  
on Donbass.

## **Sponsored by Mayday Books**

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2023, AT 3 PM

Public Forum & Discussion: Say NO to World War Three – Say NO to Nuclear War  
301 Cedar Ave S, Minneapolis

Is the world on the brink?

Forum & Discussion

Say NO to World War Three

Say NO to Nuclear War

Speakers include:

- Mike Madden – Member, Twin Cities Assange Defense and Veterans for Peace
- JoAnn Blatchley – Convener of the Hiroshima Nagasaki Commemoration Committee for 20 years; visited both Hiroshima and Nagasaki; coordinated Hiroshima Nagasaki Peace Exhibition at Landmark Center in 2015; retired Edina Public Schools teacher; member of End War Committee.
- Melinda Butterfield – Co-editor of Struggle-La Lucha newspaper. She's a longtime antiwar activist who's traveled twice to the region of Ukraine's war on Donbass.

Sponsored by Mayday Books.

For more information 612 333-4719

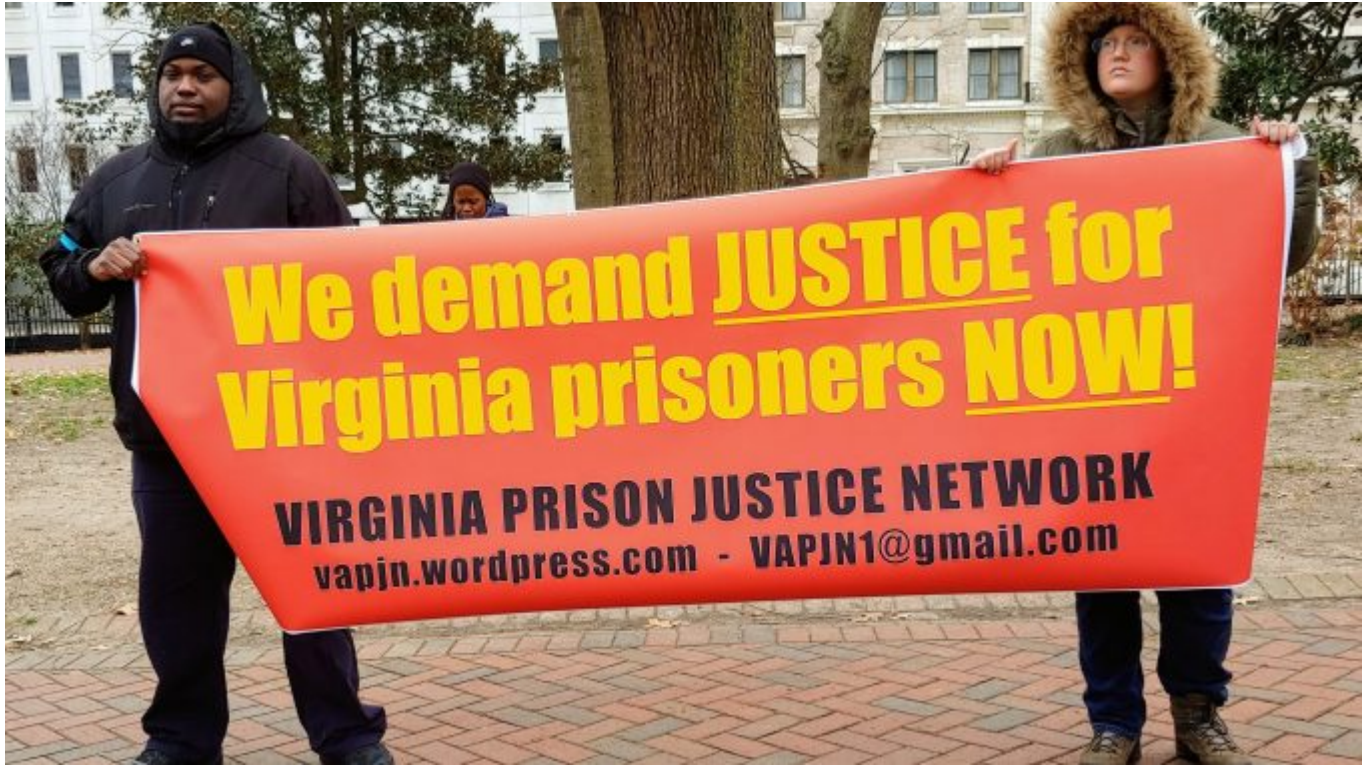


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# **6th Annual Virginia Prison Justice Rally, Jan. 14**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
January 5, 2023





SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023 AT 1 PM – 3 PM

6th Annual Virginia Prison Justice Rally

Monroe Park – 620 W. Main St., Richmond, VA 23220

Every January since 2018, the Virginia Prison Justice Network holds a rally in Richmond, the state capital, to raise public awareness about the key concerns of Virginia’s incarcerated people. The rally takes place on a Saturday near the opening of the General Assembly.

This year, the rally will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, at Richmond’s Monroe Park.

2023 RALLY DEMANDS:

\* BRING BACK PAROLE!

\* REINSTATE THE ENHANCED EARNED SENTENCE CREDIT – FOR EVERYONE!



\* END SOLITARY CONFINEMENT!

\* INDEPENDENT OUTSIDE OVERSIGHT to end inhumane conditions in Virginia's prisons, including:

\* Shut down prisons with no AC: Augusta, Buckingham & Nottoway!

\* Close Lawrenceville, Virginia's only privately owned, for-profit prison!

\* Raise the wages for prison labor, and make it voluntary for all jobs!

\* Allow calls from personal tablets to end violence at prison phones!

\* End guard brutality!

\* Seriously deal with the drug overdose crisis in prisons!

\* Prompt and efficient medical care for all prisoners!

NOTE: All suggestions submitted to the VAPJN will be raised at the Jan.14 rally.

We are asking incarcerated people, formerly incarcerated, family members and supporters to send us suggestions for which issues should be spotlighted at the 2023 rally.

Please send the suggestions to: DefendersFJE@hotmail.com or call or text 804.644.5834.

And please help spread the word about the rally! The bigger it is, the more pressure it will put on the General Assembly. You can help by marking yourself "going" on this page, by inviting your Facebook friends, by sharing the information on social media and by sharing this Facebook page.

And let us know if you'd like to help at the rally itself. Together, we are strong!



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# Japan rearms at U.S. urging: Targets China, North Korea, Russia

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
January 5, 2023

The radical new defense strategy announced on Dec. 16 by Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida doubles military spending — a five-year, \$320-billion military buildup to secure offensive strike capacity, which is forbidden in Japan's 1947 U.S.-created constitution.

The constitution says that Japan renounces war as a sovereign right and declares that "land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained."

The new defense strategy, intended to counter this constitutional provision directly, was initiated at the urging of Washington. The U.S. is actively militarizing the Pacific region – especially Japan – to target China.

The [New York Times](#) praised Japan's remilitarization, saying it met the need for a

“more muscular military” aimed at China.

The U.S. ambassador to Japan, Rahm Emanuel, said in a statement that “the Prime Minister is making a clear, unambiguous strategic statement about Japan’s role as a security provider in the Indo-Pacific.”

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said, “We welcome the release of Japan’s updated strategy documents ... which reflect Japan’s staunch commitment to upholding the international rules-based order and a free and open Indo-Pacific,” adding that “we support Japan’s decision to acquire new capabilities that strengthen regional deterrence, including counterstrike capabilities.”

Japan’s Minister of Defense Nobuo Kishi, younger brother of the late [Prime Minister Shinzo Abe](#), declared last year that Japan’s Self-Defense Forces (SDF) should have the right and capability to launch a “preemptive strike” against areas of some neighboring countries.

[Salman Rafi Sheikh](#), a professor of politics at Lahore University in Pakistan, noted that the U.S. empire has instructed both of its two former World War II enemies, Germany and Japan, to rearm:

“Japan’s drive to arm itself has an interesting parallel in Europe, where Germany, too, has decided to massively increase its total defense spending to 100 billion euros. With Washington actively supporting these critical changes to establish powerful militaries around its core rival states – Russia and China in Europe and Asia – new forms of conflict are likely to emerge, with prospects of major counter alliances on the horizon, too.”

Salman Rafi Sheikh continues: “Japan’s increasing defense budget comes on top of the full possibility of ‘interoperability’ between the U.S. and Japanese units, allowing the latter to ‘practice its forward-deployed attack capabilities.’ What is extremely

important to note here is that the core purpose of the ‘interoperability’ is not defensive; it is offensive, which means that Japan’s so-called ‘pacifism’ is nothing more than a rhetoric that Tokyo uses – and will continue to use – to mask its rapidly growing military preparedness against Russia and China.

“That this process is being actively supported by the U.S. is evident from Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida’s announcement, on the sidelines of Biden’s Tokyo visit, to ‘drastically strengthen’ its military capabilities.

“According to a new economic policy draft released by the Kishida administration, the decision is a response to ‘attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by forces in East Asia, making regional security increasingly severe.’ If this assessment sounds vague, it is by design to camouflage Japan’s rise as a new military power that can rival Russia and China as a U.S. ally.

“In fact, it is already acting as a U.S. ally against Russia in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. In April, Japanese officials announced that they will send defense equipment – drones and protective gear – to Ukraine to help the Ukrainian military fight the Russian forces.

“While Japan’s Self-Defense Forces rules prohibit the transfer of defense products to other countries, Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi justified this transfer as ‘commercial’ and ‘disused items.’ More self-serving justifications will be invented to mask Japan’s so-called ‘pacifist militarization.’”



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# Charlene Mitchell presente!

written by Struggle - La Lucha

January 5, 2023

Charlene Mitchell, an extraordinary African American leader, died on Dec. 14 in New York City. She was 92 years old. The story of her life's achievements evokes profound respect.

The daughter of a trade unionist, Mitchell joined the Communist Party USA in 1946 when she was only 16 years old. She quickly rose to leadership while the party was under attack by the McCarthy witch hunt, becoming the youngest member of the party's national committee in 1958.

In the 1960s, she founded the all-Black chapter of the Che-Lumumba Club in Los Angeles. They chose the names of Che Guevara and Patrice Lumumba to show their internationalist view. She was among the first in the U.S. to initiate a movement against apartheid and to fight for the freedom of Nelson Mandela.

Charlene Mitchell became the first Black woman to run for president of the U.S. when she was 38. She was nominated at a Communist Party convention in 1968

under a banner that read: “Black and White Unite to Fight Racism – Poverty – War!”

When Angela Davis was arrested in 1970, Mitchell led her defense committee with the demand, “Free Angela Davis and All Political Prisoners.”

Mitchell went on to create the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NAARPR). She said, “Lead our people not in their frustration, but lead them out of it.”

In a tribute, Frank Chapman — the current executive director of NAARPR — wrote in Fight Back News: “Every time we organize the fight to free a political prisoner; every time we organize a fight against police crimes and police brutality and murder; every time we work with families who have lost loved ones; with families who still have loved ones that are languishing in prison; every time we do this here and now, we pay tribute to Charlene Mitchell, who started this fight for us almost five decades ago.”

Charlene, her parents, and her seven siblings were part of the great migration of Black southerners who moved north in the first part of the 20th century. When she was 9 years old, they moved to Chicago, where her father, a labor activist, worked as a Pullman porter and a hod carrier.



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# **16,000 nurses say they are ready to strike across New York City**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
January 5, 2023

An estimated 16,000 unionized nurses from private hospitals across the New York City metropolitan area announced strike authorizations on Friday as current contracts are set to expire and the region continues to experience a “tridemic” health crisis that includes Covid-19, flu, and the respiratory illness known as RSV.

The New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) issued ten-day notices on Friday for strikes to begin on January 9 if contract agreements are not reached at eight hospitals, including NewYork-Presbyterian, Montefiore, Mount Sinai Hospital, Mount Sinai Morningside and West, Maimonides, BronxCare, Richmond University Medical Center, and Flushing Hospital Medical Center.

Nurses at each of the hospitals voted separately on whether their union members would go on strike as they called for better caregiver-to-patient ratios, increased benefits, and a sustainable and fair solution to chronic staffing shortages.



In a statement, the NYSNA said the notices “give hospitals time to plan care for patients while nurses are on strike. But the best way for management to protect patients is to listen to nurses and settle fair contracts that protect patient care in the next 10 days.”

*BREAKING: NYSNA nurses at eight hospitals delivered 10-day notices to strike today. NYSNA will continue to bargain non-stop between now and January 9th in the hopes of reaching agreements. [#NYCNurseStrike](#) [#PatientsBeforeProfits](#) [#SafeStaffingSavesLives](#)<https://t.co/nxSK8TWLtL> [pic.twitter.com/FZdMReFWAS](https://t.co/FZdMReFWAS)*

— NYSNA (@nynurses) [December 30, 2022](#)

“We are truly struggling,” Michelle Gonzalez, a registered nurse and NYSNA member, [told](#) local NBC affiliate News 4 outside a hospital in Yonkers on Friday. “We have been telling the institution that there is not enough of us, that we can not split ourselves into two people—if we could, we would easily have done that already.”

“This is about our communities,” added Vanessa Weldon, another nurse and member of the union. “This is about providing the best patient care to our community.”

Weldon said the message to management “is that we need a fair contract.” According to Gonzalez, the strike authorizations at the various hospitals are about making sure the voices of nurses are being heard.

“Somebody has to hear us,” she said. “Somebody needs to understand that we are struggling. This is not going to be sustainable for much longer and we’re only continuing to lose more healthcare workers” if action is not taking to improve working conditions and benefits for the nursing staff.

Ahead of the vote and Friday's announcement, NYSNA president Nancy Hagans, BSN, RN, [said](#) the union does not take the strike threat "lightly."

"Striking is always a last resort," Hagans said. "But we are prepared to strike if our bosses give us no other option. Nurses have been to hell and back, risking our lives to save our patients throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, sometimes without the PPE we needed to keep ourselves safe, and too often without enough staff for safe patient care."

"Instead of supporting us and acknowledging our work," she added, "hospital executives have been fighting against Covid nurse heroes. They've left us with no other choice but to move forward with voting to authorize a strike for better patient care."

Source: [Common Dreams](#)



# Peru's dictatorship shows true colors: Alderpeople dismissed, national strike called for January 4

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
January 5, 2023



Caracas, December 28, 2022 ([OrinocoTribune.com](https://www.orinoco-tribune.com)) — On Monday, December 26, the de facto government of Peru, led by Dina Boluarte, annulled the appointment of 312 district sub-alderpeople across 23 regions of the country, in a move that seems to advance the erasure of any traces of opposition to Boluarte's controversial rule. These sub-alderpeople had been appointed by President Pedro Castillo, in accordance with local legislation, during his mandate by popular election.

The de facto ministry of the interior justified their decision on the basis that “these officials, instead of responding to the guidelines established regarding the functions of district sub-alderpeople, instead of representing and defending the state as the law indicates, had various degrees of participation in the popular demonstrations,” the repression of which has resulted in almost 30 deaths in less than three weeks.

“After receiving intelligence information on the actions of these district sub-alderpeople appointed by former President Castillo,” the ministry added, “as organizers, instigators or participants in the violent protests, the situation of these officials was evaluated and their services were dispensed with.”

The 312 dismissed officials comprise of 46 from the town of Ayacucho, 34 from San Martín, 33 from Junín, 31 from Puno, 19 from Cajamarca, and over 150 more. The de facto ruler, Dina Boluarte, accused the leftist parties and their elected and appointed officials last week of being “behind the vandalism,” as she termed the popular uprising, the repression of which she enabled with the declaration of a state of emergency for 30 days.

### **Controversial imprisonment**

This Wednesday, December 28, a Peruvian court heard the arguments of the defense of President Pedro Castillo, in an attempt to appeal the decision of Judge Juan Carlos Checkley Soria, who imposed 18 months of preventive detention upon President Castillo as a precautionary measure. During the investigation of the alleged crimes of rebellion and conspiracy, the defense requested a restricted appearance order be applied.

Protestors have continued to repudiate any success of the political persecution of the Peruvian parliament, that, even before Castillo took office, had been carrying out all kinds of political tricks against the now-ousted head of state, including the arrest of President Castillo, which protestors denounce as illegal. The repression to

dissolve the protests has already left 28 dead and hundreds more injured and detained since the coup d'état was consummated.

President Castillo insisted that his deposition and subsequent imprisonment “is political revenge,” during his hearing, which could be followed live on social media platforms and on television. “The one who has risen up in arms is this government against the people,” he stated. “The one who has committed the crime of conspiracy is congress.”

Castillo and his defense — as well as many legal experts in Peru — pointed out that he did not commit rebellion; he did not rise up in arms, nor did he ask anyone to do so. They stated that it was his announcement of the dissolution of congress—following Peruvian Constitutional Article 134—and his calling for parliamentary elections for a new assembly with constituent powers—the basis of which were the campaign promises with which he came to power less than two years ago, and which have been consistently rejected by the current congress—that led to the coup against him.

### **National Strike called for January 4**

Almost in parallel, this Tuesday, December 27, leaders of the 13 provinces of the department of Puno in southeastern Peru agreed to resume an indefinite national strike on January 4, demanding the closure of congress and calling for a constituent assembly.

According to Radio Pachamama, the popular leaders also decided to prepare a march to Lima, the capital of the South American country. The strike itself will involve the total closure of roads, as well as mass marches and mobilizations. In addition to the closure of congress and the formation of the new constituent assembly, the protesters demand the resignation of Dina Boluarte, freedom for President Pedro Castillo, and early elections for 2023.

Source: [Orinoco Tribune](#)



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# Peru: The coup plot

written by Struggle - La Lucha

January 5, 2023

Since last December 7, a military-parliamentary dictatorship has been consolidating in Peru, using as its “institutional” façade the former Vice-President Dina Boluarte, who betrayed the ousted President Pedro Castillo and became a hostage of the army, Fujimorism and the racist and classist Lima oligarchy at the service of the large international extractivist corporations. A rampant coup d’état that always had the backing of the United States.

In connection with the generals, the main operator of the coup plot in the Parliament was its current president, retired general José Williams Zapata, former head of the Joint Command of the Peruvian Armed Forces and representative of the conservative group Avanza País, who, during the second round of the 2021 elections supported the ultra-right Keiko Fujimori, against her opponent, Pedro Castillo, who was elected.

Like many members of the Peruvian Congress, José Williams Zapata's curriculum vitae exposes his repressive and corrupt side. According to the Peruvian Superintendence of Banking, Insurance, and Pension Fund Administrators, in 2006, when he was still president of the Joint Army Command, Williams was accused of illicit enrichment to the detriment of the State and had five bank accounts withheld. In 2021, he was accused of cover-up in the massacre of Accomarca (1985), where 69 community members were murdered. Likewise, and according to the National Police Anti-Drug Division (Divandro), the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and WikiLeaks, when General Jose Williams Zapata was head of the Northern Military Region of Piura (from 2004 to 2005), he was linked to the Tijuana cartel, founded in Baja California, Mexico, by the Arellano Felix brothers in the 1980s.

According to Wayka.pe, in 2010, when WikiLeaks leaked secret diplomatic documents from the US embassy in Lima, Williams, then head of the military region in Piura, had ties to collaborators of the Mexican criminal organization. On March 12, 2009, the US ambassador in Lima, Michael McKinley, sent a secret cable to the State Department warning that Williams Zapata was allegedly linked to former Captain Jonathan Huacac Torrico (identified by Divandro as a collaborator of the Tijuana cartel), and had been seen meeting with Mexican drug lords in the Military Casino of that military region.

With this record, Williams Zapata would have been one of the main articulators of the coup plan from Congress against Castillo, in coordination with the Peruvian military high command and the US ambassador in Lima, Lisa Kenna, a former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), who relied on the military attaché of that diplomatic mission, Mariano Alvarado, operations officer of the Pentagon's Military Assistance and Advisory Group (MAAG), who maintains close contact with the Peruvian generals.

According to sources linked to the hierarchs of transnational corporations in Lima,



the coup plot had been hatched since last September as part of a sophisticated intelligence operation. As Congress did not have the necessary votes to remove him from office, they made President Castillo believe that he had the support of the armed forces and the police and induced him to dissolve the Parliament (so that he would deliberately break the constitutional order). For that purpose, they forged polls (which they only showed him) and made him believe that he had more than 40 percent of popular support and the Congress only 8 percent so that it would be very easy to overthrow him and he would be acclaimed by the crowd.

In addition to the army and the police, the plan involved the attorney general's office, the comptroller's office, ministers, congressmen, and Vice President Boluarte. After the president read his message to the nation dissolving the House and installing a "government of exception", several ministers resigned in series. Castillo then sought the support of the armed forces through his military aides-de-camp and got no response. There he realized that he had been set up, but it was too late. State security even held him in the palace while they waited for the congressional vote to strip him of his immunity. He was then told that a supposed plan B had been agreed upon: to seek asylum in the Mexican embassy. Already then, one of the plotters had arranged for Castillo's diplomatic asylum in the Mexican mission. But moments after Congress declared the presidential vacancy, accusing him of alleged rebellion, Castillo was arrested by a SWAT commando of the national police. He was taken to the Comptroller's Office, and the Attorney General immediately appeared while Boluarte was waiting at home to be called to assume as President of the Republic.

The only one who was not involved in the coup plot was the general commander of the army, Walter Córdova, who, according to the newspaper *La República*, on December 5 had been pressured by the head of Parliament, José Williams, to leave his post because there were "serious accusations" against him that affected the "institutionality" of the Army. Another version states that the joint army command intimidated him: "You align yourself or you resign." Likewise, on the eve of the coup,

U.S. Ambassador Lisa Kenna met with Defense Minister Gustavo Bobbio, who, like Córdova, resigned on December 7. According to the Lima newspaper, the last phone call Castillo took before leaving the presidential palace came from the U.S. embassy. On December 7, Kenna sent a tweet denouncing Castillo's measure to dissolve Congress, and from Washington, making use of the old gringo mythology on representative democracy, the Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, blessed the coup.

The long hand of the US is also behind the appointment of the new head of the National Intelligence Directorate, retired Colonel Juan Carlos Liendo O'Connor, a former liaison officer in the Pentagon's Southern Command closely linked to the dictatorship of Alberto Fujimori and his alter ego, Vladimiro Montesinos, both imprisoned for crimes against humanity. Liendo guarantees the ongoing repression and militarization in Peru.

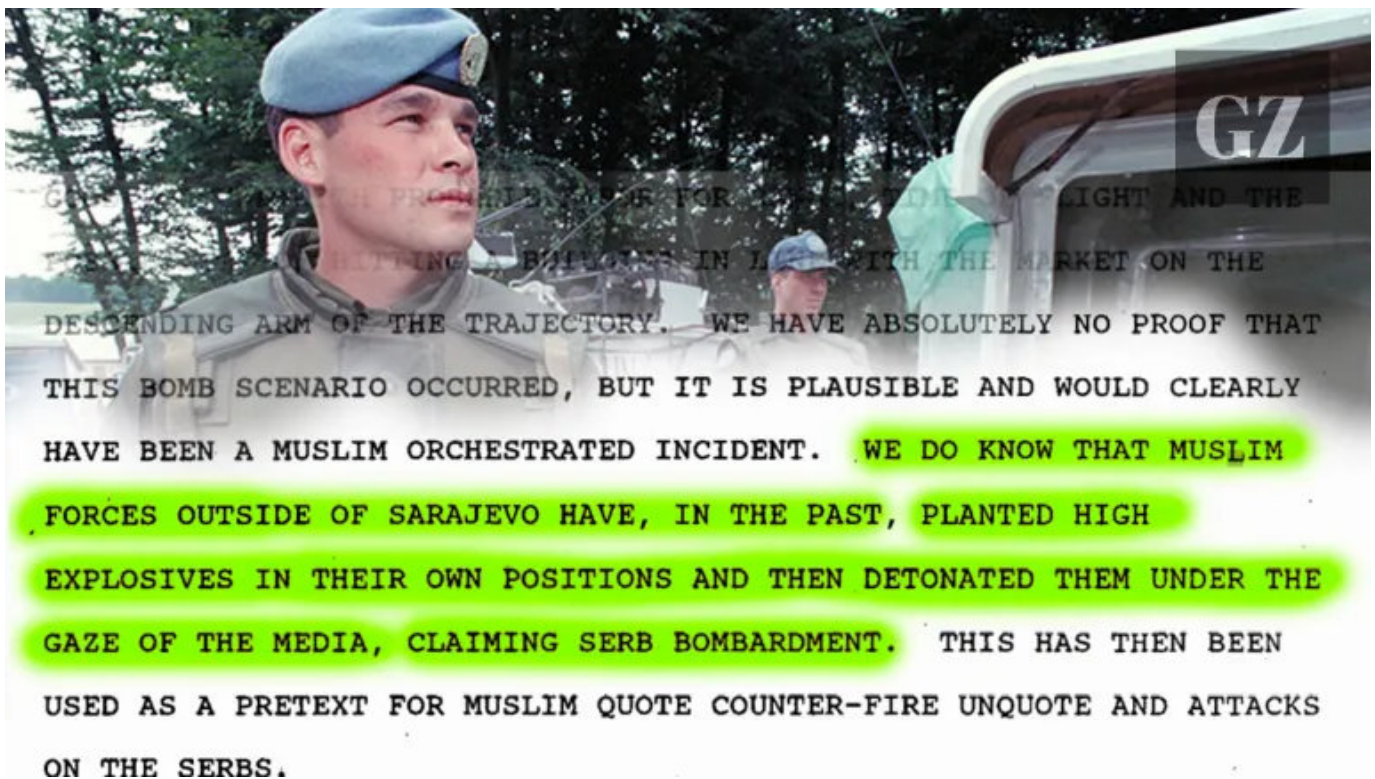
Source: [La Jornada](#), translation [Internationalist 360°](#)



# Declassified intelligence files expose inconvenient truths of Bosnian war

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
January 5, 2023

## Declassified intelligence files expose inconvenient truths of Bosnian war



## **A trove of intelligence files sent by Canadian peacekeepers expose CIA black ops, illegal weapon shipments, imported jihadist fighters, potential false flags, and stage-managed atrocities.**

The [established mythos](#) of the Bosnian War is that Serb separatists, encouraged and directed by Slobodan Milošević and his acolytes in Belgrade, sought to forcibly seize Croat and Bosniak territory in service of creating an irredentist “Greater Serbia.” Every step of the way, they purged indigenous Muslims in a concerted, deliberate genocide while refusing to engage in constructive peace talks.

This narrative was aggressively perpetuated by the mainstream media at the time, and further legitimized by the UN-created International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) once the conflict ended. It has become axiomatic and unquestionable in Western consciousness ever since, enforcing the sense that negotiation invariably amounts to appeasement, a mentality that has enabled NATO war hawks to justify multiple military interventions over subsequent years.

However, a vast trove of intelligence cables sent by [Canadian peacekeeping troops](#) in Bosnia to Ottawa’s National Defence Headquarters, first [published](#) by Canada Declassified at the start of 2022, exposes this narrative as cynical farce.

The documents offer an unparalleled, first-hand, real-time view of the war as it developed, with the prospect of peace rapidly degrading into grinding bloodshed that ultimately caused the painful death of the multi-faith, multi-ethnic Yugoslavia.

The Canadian soldiers were part of a wider UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) dispatched to former Yugoslavia in 1992 in the vain hope tensions wouldn’t escalate to all-out war and an amicable settlement could be reached by all sides. They stayed until the bitter end, long past the point their mission was reduced to [miserable, life-](#)

[threatening failure](#).

The peacekeepers' increasingly bleak analysis of the reality on the ground provides a candid perspective of the war's history that has been largely concealed from the public. It is a story of CIA black ops, literally explosive provocations, illegal weapon shipments, imported jihadist fighters, potential false flags, and stage-managed atrocities.

*Read the complete Canadian UNPROFOR cables [here](#).*

*See key excerpts of the files referred to in this article [here](#).*

## **“Outside interference in the peace process”**

It is a little-known but openly acknowledged fact that the U.S. laid the foundations for war in Bosnia, [sabotaging](#) a peace deal negotiated by the European Community in early 1992. Under its auspices, the country would be a confederation divided into three semi-autonomous regions along ethnic lines. While far from perfect, each side generally got what it wanted – in particular, self-governance – and at the least, enjoyed an outcome preferable to all-out conflict.

However, on March 28th, 1992, U.S. Ambassador to Yugoslavia Warren Zimmerman met with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, a Bosniak Muslim, to [reportedly offer](#) Washington's recognition of the country as an independent state. He further promised unconditional support in the inevitable subsequent war if rejected the Community proposal. Hours later, Izetbegovic went on the warpath, and fighting erupted almost immediately.

[Received wisdom](#) dictates the Americans were concerned that Brussels' leading role in negotiations would weaken Washington's international prestige and assist in the soon-to-be European Union emerging as an independent power bloc following the

collapse of Communism.

While such concerns were no doubt held by U.S. officials, the UNPROFOR cables expose a much darker agenda at work. Washington wanted Yugoslavia reduced to rubble and planned to bring the Serbs violently to heel by prolonging the war as long as possible. To the U.S., the Serbs were the ethnic group most determined to preserve the troublesome independent republic's existence.

These aims were very effectively served by Washington's absolutist assistance to the Bosniaks. It was an article of faith in the Western mainstream at the time and remains so today that [Serb intransigence](#) in negotiations blocked the path to peace in Bosnia. Yet, the UNPROFOR cables make repeatedly clear this was not the case.

In cables sent July - September 1993, the time of a [ceasefire and renewed attempt](#) to amicably partition the country, the Canadian peacekeepers repeatedly attribute an obstinate character to Bosniaks, not Serbs. As one representative excerpt states, the "insurmountable" goal of "satisfying Muslim demands will be the primary obstacle in any peace talks."

Various passages also refer to how "outside interference in the peace process" did "not help the situation," and "no peace" could be achieved "if outside parties continue to encourage the Muslims to be demanding and inflexible in negotiations."

By "outside" assistance, UNPROFOR, of course, meant Washington. Its unconditional support for the Bosniaks motivated them to "[negotiate] as if they had won the war," which they had to date "lost."

"Encouraging Izetbegovic to hold out for further concessions" and "clear U.S. desires to lift the arms embargo on the Muslims and to bomb the Serbs are serious obstacles to ending the fighting in the former Yugoslavia," the [peacekeepers recorded on September 7, 1993](#).

The next day, they [reported](#) to headquarters that “Serbs have been the most compliant with the terms of the ceasefire.” Meanwhile, Izetbegovic was basing his negotiating position on “the popular image of the Bosnian Serbs as the bad guys.” Validating this illusion had a concomitant benefit – namely, precipitating NATO airstrikes on Serb areas. This was not lost on the peacekeepers:

“Serious talks in Geneva will not occur as long as Izetbegovic believes that airstrikes will be flown against the Serbs. These airstrikes will greatly strengthen his position and likely make him less cooperative in negotiations.”

Simultaneously, Muslim fighters were “not giving peace talks a chance, just going hell for leather,” and very much willing and able to assist in Izetbegovic’s objective. Throughout the final months of 1993, they launched countless broadsides on Serb territory throughout Bosnia in breach of the ceasefire.

In December, when Serb forces launched a “major attack” of their own, a cable that month asserted that since early Summer, “most of the Serb activity has been defensive or in response to Muslim provocation.”

A September 13th UNPROFOR cable noted that in Sarajevo, “Muslim forces continue to infiltrate the Mount Igman area and shell BSA [Bosnian Serb Army] positions around the city daily,” the “assessed aim” being to “increase Western sympathy by provoking an incident and blaming the Serbs.”

Two days later, “provocation” of the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) was continuing, although “the BSA is reported to be exercising restraint.” This area remained a key Bosniak target for some time afterward. The July – September volume concludes with an ominous cable:

“BSA occupation of Mount Igman is not adversely affecting the situation in Sarajevo. It is simply an excuse for Izetbegovic to delay negotiations. *His own troops have*



*been the worst violators* [emphasis added] of the [July 30th] ceasefire agreement.”

## **Enter the Mujahideen: “The Muslims are not above firing on their own people or UN areas”**

Throughout the conflict, the Bosnian mujahideen worked ceaselessly to escalate the violence. Muslims from all over the world flooded into the country beginning in the latter half of 1992, waging jihad against the Croats and Serbs. Many had already gained experience on the Afghan battlefield through the 1980s and early 90s after arriving from CIA and MI6-infiltrated fundamentalist groups in Britain and the U.S. For them, Yugoslavia was the next [recruitment ground](#).

The Mujahideen [frequently arrived](#) on “black flights,” along with an endless flow of weapons in breach of the UN embargo. This started off as a joint Iranian and Turkish operation, with the financial backing of Saudi Arabia, although as the volume of weapons increased, the U.S. took over, flying the deadly cargo to an airport in Tuzla using fleets of C-130 Hercules aircraft.

Estimates of the Bosnian mujahideen’s size vary vastly, but their pivotal contribution to the civil war seems clear. U.S. Balkans negotiator Richard Holbrooke [in 2001](#) declared that Bosniaks “wouldn’t have survived” without their help and branded their role in the conflict a “pact with the devil” from which Sarajevo was yet to recover.

Mujahideen fighters are never explicitly mentioned in the UNPROFOR cables, and neither are Bosniaks – the term “the Muslims” is used liberally. Still, oblique references to the former are plentiful.

A Winter 1993 intelligence report observed that “the weak and decentralized command and control systems” of the three opposing sides produced “widespread proliferation of weapons and the existence of various official and unofficial

paramilitary groups, who often have individual and local agendas.” Among those “unofficial” groups was the Mujahideen, of course.

More clearly, in December that year, the peacekeepers recorded how David Owen, a former British politician who served as the European Community’s lead negotiator in the former Yugoslavia, “had been condemned to death for being responsible for the deaths of 130,000 Muslims in Bosnia,” his sentence “passed by the ‘Honour Court of Muslims’.” It was understood that “45 people were in place all over Europe to carry out the sentence.”

**BRITISH EMBASSY IN ZAGREB CLAIMED THAT EC MEDIATOR LORD OWEN HAD BEEN CONDEMNED TO DEATH FOR BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF 130,000 MUSLIMS IN BOSNIA. SENTENCE WAS PASSED BY THE QUOTE HONOUR COURT OF MUSLIMS UNQUOTE ON 07 DEC. IT WAS CLAIMED THAT 45 PEOPLE WERE IN PLACE ALL OVER EUROPE TO CARRY OUT THE SENTENCE**

#### **OUTLOOK**

Owen certainly wasn’t responsible for the deaths of 130,000 Muslims, as nowhere near that many Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs were killed over the course of the war in total. Nor were the Bosniaks religious extremists with a network of operatives across the continent, on standby to carry out fatwas passed down by an “Honour Court.”

Subsequent to this incident, which has never previously been publicly revealed, there are reports of “the Muslims” preparing false flag provocations. In January 1994, one cable observed:

“The Muslims are not above firing on their own people or UN areas and then claiming the Serbs are the guilty party in order to gain further Western sympathy. The Muslims often site their artillery extremely close to UN buildings and sensitive

areas such as hospitals in the hope that Serb counter-bombardment fire will hit these sites under the gaze of the international media.”

6. (S/REL NATO) THREAT TO UN FORCES. THE MUSLIMS ARE NOT ABOVE FIRING ON THEIR OWN PEOPLE OR UN AREAS AND THEN CLAIMING THE SERBS ARE THE GUILTY PARTY IN ORDER TO GAIN FURTHER WESTERN SYMPATHY. THE MUSLIMS OFTEN SITE THEIR ARTILLERY EXTREMELY CLOSE TO UN BUILDINGS AND SENSITIVE AREAS SUCH AS HOSPITALS IN THE HOPE THAT SERB COUNTER-BOMBARDMENT FIRE WILL HIT THESE SITES UNDER THE GAZE

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OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA. SERB FIRE ALSO HITS UN AREAS ON OCCASION, BUT THIS IS MUCH LESS LIKELY TO BE AN ORCHESTRATED EFFORT AS OPPOSED TO A LOW LEVEL DECISION ON THEIR PART. IN SOME CASES, ENGAGEMENTS OF THE UN WITH INDIRECT FIRE BY EITHER FACTION ARE

Another cable records how “Muslim troops masquerading as UN forces” had been spotted wearing UNPROFOR’s blue helmets and “a combination of Norwegian and British combat clothing,” driving vehicles painted white and marked UN. The peacekeepers’ Director General feared that if such connivance was to become “widespread” or “be used for infiltration of Croat lines,” it would “greatly increase the prospects for legitimate UN forces to be targeted by the Croats.”

“This may be exactly what the Muslims intend, possibly to provoke further pressure for airstrikes on the Croats,” the cable adds.

That same month, UNPROFOR cables speculated “the Muslims” would target

Sarajevo airport, the destination for humanitarian aid to the Bosniaks, with a false flag attack. As “the Serbs would be the obvious culprits” in such a scenario, “the Muslims would gain a great deal of propaganda value from such Serb activity,” and it was “thus very tempting for the Muslims to conduct the shelling and blame the Serbs.”

BEEN HIT WITH INDIRECT FIRE TWICE IN THE PAST MONTH, CAUSING A TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE FACILITY ON BOTH OCCASIONS . IT IS NOT CLEAR WHICH FACTION WAS RESPONSIBLE, ALTHOUGH THE ACTION WAS LIKELY INTENTIONAL HARASSMENT OF THE UN IN BOTH CASES. ALL FACTIONS SEE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AS MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY BECAUSE FOOD AND FUEL ARE DIVERTED TO THE VARIOUS MILITARY FORCES. THUS, IN A TIME OF INCREASED FIGHTING IN SARAJEVO, THE SERBS WOULD BE THE OBVIOUS CULPRITS IN AN ATTEMPT TO INTERRUPT THE FLOW OF COMBAT SUPPLIES TO THE MUSLIMS. FOR THIS VERY REASON, HOWEVER, WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE MUSLIMS WOULD GAIN A GREAT DEAL OF PROPAGANDA VALUE FROM SUCH SERB ACTIVITY. IT IS THUS VERY TEMPTING FOR THE MUSLIMS TO CONDUCT THE SHELLING AND BLAME THE SERBS.

## U.S. proxy wars, then and now

Against this backdrop, cables related to the Markale Massacre take on a particularly striking character. On February 5th 1994, an explosion tore through a civilian market, causing 68 deaths and 144 casualties.

Responsibility for the attack - and the means by which it was executed - has been hotly contested ever since, with separate official investigations yielding inconclusive

results. The UN at the time [was unable](#) to make an attribution, although UNPROFOR troops have [since testified](#) they suspected the Bosniak side may have been responsible.

Accordingly, cables from this time refer to “disturbing aspects” of the event, including journalists being “directed to the scene so quickly,” and “a very visible Muslim Army presence in the area.”

“We know that the Muslims have fired on their own civilians and the airfield in the past in order to gain media attention,” one concluded. A later memo observes, “Muslim forces outside of Sarajevo have, in the past, planted high explosives in their own positions and then detonated them under the gaze of the media, claiming Serb bombardment. This has then been used as a pretext for Muslim ‘counter-fire’ and attacks on the Serbs.”

GOOD FORTUNE WITH PROBABLE ERROR FOR RANGE, TIME OF FLIGHT AND THE POSSIBILITY OF HITTING A BUILDING IN LINE WITH THE MARKET ON THE DESCENDING ARM OF THE TRAJECTORY. WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO PROOF THAT THIS BOMB SCENARIO OCCURRED, BUT IT IS PLAUSIBLE AND WOULD CLEARLY HAVE BEEN A MUSLIM ORCHESTRATED INCIDENT. WE DO KNOW THAT MUSLIM FORCES OUTSIDE OF SARAJEVO HAVE, IN THE PAST, PLANTED HIGH EXPLOSIVES IN THEIR OWN POSITIONS AND THEN DETONATED THEM UNDER THE GAZE OF THE MEDIA, CLAIMING SERB BOMBARDMENT. THIS HAS THEN BEEN USED AS A PRETEXT FOR MUSLIM QUOTE COUNTER-FIRE UNQUOTE AND ATTACKS ON THE SERBS.

11. (S/REL NATO) DISTURBING ASPECTS OF THE 05 FEB INCIDENT ARE THAT THE PRESS WAS DIRECTED TO THE SCENE SO QUICKLY AND THAT THERE WAS A VERY VISIBLE MUSLIM ARMY PRESENCE IN THE AREA. THIS INDICATES A VERY RAPID DETERMINATION OF WHAT HAD OCCURRED ON THE PART OF THE MUSLIM AUTHORITIES. IN SPITE OF THIS, MUSLIM RADIO ISSUED A CLEARLY FALSE REPORT OF WHAT HAD OCCURRED SOME 90 MINUTES

Nonetheless, [in its 2003](#) conviction of Serb general Stanislav Galić for his role in the siege of Sarajevo, the ICTY concluded the Massacre was deliberately perpetrated by Serb forces, a ruling [held up](#) on appeal.

The authors of this article make no judgment on what did or did not happen at Markale that fateful day. However, the murkiness surrounding the event foreshadowed pivotal events that justified escalations in every subsequent Western proxy war, from Iraq to Libya to Syria to Ukraine.

Since the onset of the Ukraine proxy war this February 24th, deliberate war crimes,

real incidents misleadingly framed as war crimes, and potentially staged events are virtually daily occurrences, along with accompanying volleys of claims and counterclaims of culpability. [In some cases](#), officials on one side have even gone from celebrating and claiming credit for an attack to blaming the other within days, or simply hours. Substance and spin have become inseparable, if not symbiotic.

In years to come, who did what to whom and when could well, in the manner of the ICTY, become matters decided in international courts. There are already moves to set up a similar body once the war in Ukraine is over.

Parliamentarians in the Netherlands [have demanded](#) that Vladimir Putin be tried in The Hague. France's Foreign Ministry [has called](#) for a special tribunal to be created. Kiev-based NGO Truth Hounds [is collecting](#) evidence every day of purported Russian atrocities across the country in service of such a tribunal.

There can be little doubt that both Kiev and Moscow's forces have committed atrocities and killed civilians in this conflict, just as it's indisputable all three sides in the Bosnian War were guilty of heinous acts and massacres of innocent and/or defenseless people. It's reasonable to assume the savagery will become ever-more merciless as the war in Ukraine grinds on in the precise manner as Yugoslavia's breakup.

Just how long the fighting will continue isn't certain, although EU and NATO officials [have forecast](#) it could be several years, and Western powers clearly intend to keep the proxy war active for as long as possible. On October 11th, *The Washington Post* [reported that](#) the U.S. privately conceded Kiev was incapable of "winning the war outright," but had also "ruled out the idea of pushing or even nudging Ukraine to the negotiating table."

This highlights another myth that arose as a result of the Yugoslav wars and which endures to this day. It is the widely-held notion that negotiation and attempts to



secure a peaceful settlement only emboldened Serb “aggressors.”

This dangerous myth has served as justification for all manner of destructive Western interventions. Citizens of these countries live with the consequences of those actions to this day, often as migrants after fleeing cities and towns scorched by regime change wars.

Another toxic legacy of the Balkan wars also endures: Westerners’ concern about human life is determined by which side their governments back in a given conflict. As the Canadian UNPROFOR cables demonstrate, the U.S. and its allies have cultivated support for their wars by concealing a reality even their own militaries documented in clinical detail.

Source: [The Grayzone](#)

