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Struggle-La-Lucha.org

Vol. 6, No. 3 • Feb. 6, 2023  
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## Tanks, jets and missiles to Ukraine U.S.-NATO threaten to unleash new world war

By Gary Wilson

Immediately after the United States and Germany announced that they were sending Abrams and Leopard battle tanks to Ukraine, Politico reported that the Pentagon is preparing to send F-16 fighter jets. "The campaign inside the Defense Department for fighter jets is gaining momentum," the report says.

"Ukraine has identified a list of up to 50 pilots who are ready now to start training on the F-16," says a Pentagon official. "Many of them have already trained with the U.S. military in major exercises before the invasion," starting in 2014, Politico reports.

### 'That's called World War III'

Almost a year ago, in March 2022, President Joe Biden said, "The idea that we're going to send in offensive equipment and have planes and tanks and trains going in with American pilots and American crews – just understand, don't kid yourself, no matter what y'all say, that's called World War III."

Since that statement, the U.S. and NATO have steadily expanded operations in Ukraine, from anti-tank Javelins and portable air-defense systems such as Stingers, to HIMARS rocket launchers and, more recently, surface-to-air Patriot missiles, tanks, and armored vehicles.

On Jan. 24, the New York Times headlined the super-expansion of artillery production. "The Pentagon is racing to boost its production of artillery shells by 500% within two years, pushing conventional ammunition production to levels not seen since the Korean War ... The effort, which will involve expanding factories and bringing in new producers, is part of 'the most aggressive modernization effort in nearly 40 years' for the U.S. defense industrial base, according to an Army report."

The Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles the Pentagon is sending can be equipped with depleted uranium ammunition. Depleted uranium is a byproduct of manufacturing the nuclear weapons. The shells can punch through the thick armor of a tank and ignite everyone inside.

When asked if the Bradleys the U.S. is sending to Ukraine will be equipped with depleted uranium, a senior Biden administration official was slippery: "I'm not going to get into the technical specifics." The official also declined to answer if the Abrams tanks will be equipped with a depleted uranium cage.

The long-term consequences for the people in Ukraine and Donbass are dire. Depleted uranium

ammunition is radioactive, extremely toxic, and linked with a variety of birth defects, cancers, and other illnesses. In Iraq, doctors reported a spike in birth defects and cancers since the Gulf War, when the U.S. fired nearly a million depleted uranium rounds in the invasion of that country.

In 2022, Congress approved more than \$13 billion in U.S. "aid"

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'Today I am announcing that the United States will be sending 31 Abrams tanks to Ukraine,' Joe Biden, Jan. 25.



## Baltimore demands justice for Tyre Nichols

SLPHOTO: RASHA RAKHMANA/HERA

By Lev Koufax

On Jan. 29, a cold but sunny Saturday, organizations and individuals from across Baltimore city gathered at the corner of North and Charles streets to protest the brutal murder of Tyre Nichols at the hands of the Memphis Police Department.

The protesters, numbered around 60, demanded justice for Tyre Nichols and the speedy conviction of his murderers. More broadly, the demonstration

demanded justice for all victims of racist police terror, community control of the police, and the abolition of mass incarceration.

Peoples Power Assembly and the Socialist Unity Party worked with community leaders like Rev. Annie Chambers, Marvin "Doc" Cheatham, and Towanda Jones to organize the emergency protest.

All three gave tremendous speeches. Towanda Jones told the story of her brother, Tyrone West,

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