

Solidarity with Cuba continues to grow in the U.S.

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 2, 2023



Oakland California. Photo: Bill Hackwell

New displays of solidarity with Cuba took place in the United States this weekend as part of that growing movement of support that carries an elementary request: Let

live a people whose only sin has been to build and defend a different model under the very noses of the empire.

That demand means lifting the blockade, the longest in history against any country, and removing Cuba from the list of states that -according only to Washington's criteria- sponsor terrorism.

But Cuba is loved, and it is admired, and that was heard today in Miami by the voices of Cubans who live in the US with other solidarity groups advocating for the lifting of that policy of asphyxiation that has lasted more than 60 years.



Miami

Despite the heavy rain at times, the participants gathered at the Miami International Airport as they often do at the end of every month, with signs that read: "Remove Cuba from the list of sponsors of terrorism," "Bridges of Love," "Down with the blockade", while repeating slogans and calls for support for the island.

"Once again in Miami the seed of love triumphed over hate", Cuban Roberto Yis told Prensa Latina. He also said that " the harassment and provocations we sometimes face is wrong because this is not about politics, it is not about left and right, it is about the right of our people to survive without being blockaded."

From his page on the social network Facebook, activist Carlos Lazo said that Cuban Americans and Americans gathered "regardless of the rain, regardless of the thunder, rejecting hatred, imposing love."

Yesterday in Oakland, California, a similar event for Cuba took place where more than 30 Cuba solidarity activists held banners at the busy farmers' market near Lake Merritt and in front of the iconic Grand Lake Theater in Oakland.



April 2021, Lake Merritt, Oakland, California. Photo: Bill Hackwell

As photojournalist Bill Hackwell recounted, many cars honked as they drove by, and passers-by were receptive to the literature we handed out calling for Cuba to be removed from the list of state sponsors of terrorism, an end to the blockade, and the closure of the illegal U.S. base on occupied Cuban territory at Guantanamo Bay.

It was not lost on some that the last time there was a demonstration in solidarity with Cuba in Oakland was in April of 2021, organized by Alicia Jrapko, a woman who is remembered for her life in the struggle and a dear friend of the Cuban people. That was her last public event.

Other actions also took place this past week in Chicago, Illinois, and in cities in

Minnesota. Many of the people participating in these events for Cuba in the US will be attending the annual meeting of the National Network on Cuba (NNOC) in Boston on October 13-15.



Chicago

Still resonating is the vocal presentations of several world leader in support of Cuba at the high level segment of the 78th regular session of the United Nations General Assembly, calling for the elimination of the blockade against Cuba.

President of Brazil, Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva, for example, once again condemned the unilateral siege maintained by the White House for more than six decades on Cuba when he said, "Brazil will continue to denounce measures taken without the

protection of the UN Charter, such as the economic and financial blockade imposed on Cuba.”

The Bolivian President, Luis Arce, described Washington’s unilateral siege as “inhuman and criminal”.

Speaking in the debate, the dignitary criticized such coercive measures and the reprisals applied by hegemonic powers against peoples to the detriment of their development and the most elementary human rights.

Arce affirmed that these policies confirm the dysfunctionality of a system far removed from international law and multilateralism. “A clear example of these measures is the illegal, inhumane and criminal economic and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba,” he reiterated.

“I want to call attention to the use of unilateral measures of coercion. In accordance with the UN Charter, the only legitimate sanctions are those imposed by the Security Council to enforce its decisions on the maintenance of peace and security,” said Argentine President Alberto Fernández.

By virtue of this, he added, Argentina joins the demands of the peoples of Cuba and Venezuela for the lifting of the blockades suffered by those nations.

The president of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel, denounced on the same stage of the UN that the blockade is an extraterritorial, cruel and silent economic war that is accompanied by a powerful political machinery of destabilization against his country.

“The Cuban people creatively resists and wins in the face of that ruthless economic war, which since 2019, in full pandemic, opportunistically escalated to an even more extreme dimension, the head of state emphasized.

For that reason, speaking later at a solidarity event, he thanked those who stand by his country's side in the demand for an end to the blockade.

To his friends in the United States he said: "Receive a fraternal embrace and solidarity from the people of Cuba, receive a message of friendship for the American people".

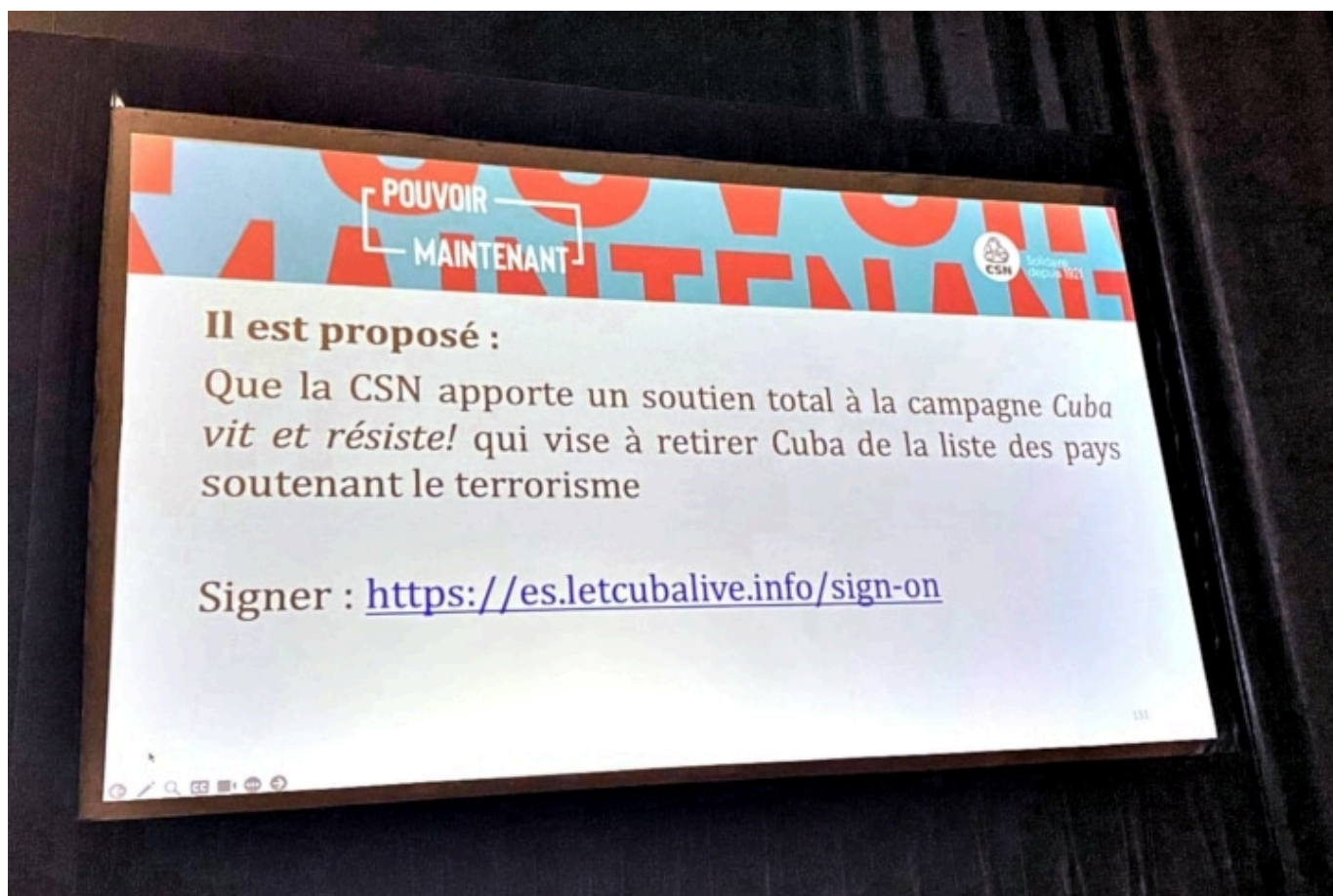
Deisy Francis Mexidor is a Cuban journalist, a regular contributor to *Resumen Latinoamericano* and is a correspondent for *Prensa Latina* in the United States.

Source: [Resumen Latinoamericano - English](#)



#LetCubaLive: Quebec union supports Cuba 'Off the List' million signatures campaign

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The Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) General Assembly, representing roughly 300,000 workers in Quebec, has just adopted a resolution to support the “OFF the List” Million Signature campaign launched by International Peoples Assembly affiliates in Latin America. Online signatures with more information can be found at [LetCubaLive.info](https://es.letcubalive.info).

Addressed to U.S. President Biden, the campaign is part of the growing international demand that Biden write the simple letter to Congress required to remove Cuba from the U.S. State Department “State Sponsors of Terrorism” list. The spurious list falsely uses “terrorism” terminology to prevent any international economic transactions with countries unilaterally added at the whim of the U.S.

administration.

The CSN is the first national labor federation known to support this campaign. However, in the U.S., more than 30 local unions and Central Labor Councils have passed specific “OFF the List” resolutions this year. Most recently, the Los Angeles Labor Federation added its endorsement to this demand.

Through its Resolutions Task Force, the National Network on Cuba (NNOC) has accumulated over 100 declarations from City Councils, County Commissions, State Legislatures, School Boards, labor unions, central labor councils, and other organizations opposing the U.S. anti-Cuba policies. This unilateral war against Cuba intentionally creates hardships and shortages on the island with the 60-year failed goal of restoring capitalist exploitation of Cuba’s resources and people.

On June 25, the NNOC rallied at the White House as part of their “Off the List” campaign.

On Nov. 1 and 2, the United Nations General Assembly will vote on a resolution calling for the U.S. to end the blockade of Cuba. Since 1992, the almost unanimous annual vote representing all but a couple of the world’s 193 countries stands with Cuba. Only the United States and Israel consistently voted to maintain the blockade, except for 2015, when both abstained, making the vote unanimous.

The petitions and resolutions will demonstrate that the people of the U.S. are arm-in-arm with the global sentiment. Biden! Take Cuba “Off the List.”



Hersh reveals U.S. motive for destruction of Nord Stream pipelines

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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Seymour Hersh just published a new piece about the bombing of the Nord Stream pipelines.

When the pipelines were blown up on September 27 2022 I had asked:

[Whodunnit? – Facts Related to The Sabotage Attack On The Nord Stream Pipelines](#)

I had collected the various known facts around the incident and they in sum suggested that it had been the U.S. of A.

Seymour Hersh put the same question to some of his intelligence contacts. He was given the same answer.

He now reports on further facts and final motives to trigger the incident.

A YEAR OF LYING ABOUT NORD STREAM

The Biden administration has acknowledged neither its responsibility for the pipeline bombing nor the purpose of the sabotage
([archived version](#))

At the core of Hersh's report is this:

It was no surprise to the agency's secret planning group when on January 27, 2022, the assured and confident Nuland, then undersecretary of state for political affairs, stridently warned Putin that if he invaded Ukraine, as he clearly was planning to, that "one way or another Nord Stream 2 will not move forward." The line attracted enormous attention, but the words preceding the threat did not. The official State Department transcript shows that she preceded her threat by saying that with regard to the pipeline: "We continue to have very strong and clear conversations with our German allies."

...

The German leader was considered then—and now—by some members of the CIA team to be fully aware of the secret planning underway to destroy the pipelines.

...

What I did not know then, but was told recently, was that after Biden's extraordinary public threat to blow up Nord Stream 2, with Scholz standing next to him, the CIA planning group was told by the White House that there would be no immediate attack on the two pipelines, but the group should arrange to plant the necessary bombs and be ready to trigger them "on demand"—after the war began. "It was then that we"—the small planning group that was working in Oslo with the Royal Norwegian Navy and special services on the project—"understood that the attack on the pipelines was not a deterrent because as the war went on

*we never got the command.”After Biden’s order to trigger the explosives planted on the pipelines, it took only a short flight with a Norwegian fighter and the dropping of an altered off-the-shelf sonar device at the right spot in the Baltic Sea to get it done. By then the CIA group had long disbanded. By then, too, the official told me: **“We realized that the destruction of the two Russian pipelines was not related to the Ukrainian war”**—Putin was in the process of annexing the four Ukrainian oblasts he wanted—**“but was part of a neocon political agenda to keep Scholz and Germany, with winter coming up and the pipelines shut down, from getting cold feet and opening up” the shuttered Nord Stream 2. “The White House fear was that Putin would get Germany under his thumb and then he was going to get Poland.”***

...

All of this explains why a routine question I posed a month or so after the bombings to someone with many years in the American intelligence community led me to a truth that no one in America or Germany seems to want to pursue. My question was simple: “Who did it?”

The Biden administration blew up the pipelines but the action had little to do with winning or stopping the war in Ukraine. It resulted from fears in the White House that Germany would waver and turn on the flow of Russia gas—and that Germany and then NATO, for economic reasons, would fall under the sway of Russia and its extensive and inexpensive natural resources. And thus followed the ultimate fear: that America would lose its long-standing primacy in Western Europe.

The German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will now have to answer some serious questions

...

Added:

This is of course related:

Stephen Stapczynski @SStapczynski - [22:47 UTC · Sep 25, 2023](#) Europe must rely on LNG from the US for decades, said EU's top energy official

“There will be a need for American energy,” said Jørgensen, energy director-general

This is one of the strongest signals that the EU needs US LNG well past 2030

ft.com - [Top EU energy official says US gas will be needed for decades](#)

Source: [Moon of Alabama](#)



Huelga estudiantes Recinto de Ciencias Médicas

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En esta colonia, la administración gubernamental dirigida por el Partido Nuevo Progresista, un partido que busca la anexión a los Estados Unidos, y que cada día más demuestra su carácter mafioso, ha recibido un mensaje contundente de los estudiantes de Ciencias Médicas.

Y es que en la Escuela de Medicina de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, que es la universidad pública del país, se había designado a una rectora que había sido rechazada anteriormente por la misma administración de la Escuela, por actos de corrupción. Pero como es una afiliada muy activa del partido en el gobierno, las presiones políticas ganaron haciendo que se volviera a nombrar.

Ante esto, los estudiantes de medicina iniciaron una huelga a la que eventualmente se adhirieron médicos, sindicatos, profesores, trabajadores del recinto y público en general.

La importancia de la exigencia es que por la presencia en la institución de esta rectora, la Escuela podía perder su acreditación. Ya por situaciones administrativas, el año pasado se perdió la acreditación del Programa de Neurocirugía. Esto quiere decir que tardarán años en que se vuelva a graduar una clase de neurocirujanos. Ya aquí hay una gran escasez de médicos especialistas, la gente tiene que esperar meses para tener una cita. Incluso quienes pueden, optan por irse a los Estados Unidos a recibir sus servicios de salud.

Al gobierno no le importa la salud ni el bienestar del pueblo, todo lo contrario. Su misión es enriquecerse a costa de ese mismo pueblo. Pero gracias al activismo de estos estudiantes, la administración tuvo que remover a la rectora corrupta y así salvar el Recinto.

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



The Red Nation's account of Thursday's shooting

written by Struggle - La Lucha
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

CONTACT

editortherednation@gmail.com

WHAT

THE RED NATION RESPONDS TO RACIST ATTACK ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

WHERE/WHEN

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 RIO ARRIBA COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING

WHO

CALLING ON ALL NATIONAL, STATE, TRIBAL, COUNTY, AND CITY OFFICIALS,

AND MOVEMENT ALLIES, TO CONDEMN THIS RACIST ATTACK AND DEMAND THE PROTECTION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

WHY



An agitator opened fire on a prayerful celebration in Tewa Territory (Española, New Mexico) shortly after 12PM local time on Thursday, September 28. This was a premeditated act of violence. The agitator shot Jacob Johns (Hopi and Akimel O’odham) in the torso. Johns was protecting a peaceful group of community members assembled at the Rio Arriba County Annex Building, along with half a dozen community peacekeepers. The gunman was heard saying “let’s do this” to a small group of men immediately before opening fire. At the time of the shooting, community members were celebrating a postponement of the reinstallation of a Juan de Oñate statue that was previously removed from Alcalde, New Mexico, on June 15, 2020. Rio Arriba County officials planned to reinstall the statue on Thursday morning in its new location in front of the county annex building but postponed the reinstallation after community members and activists mounted pressure earlier in the week. News of the postponement came as a relief to organizers, who turned the planned peaceful protest into an impromptu peaceful celebration with speeches and a community feed.

Before the shooting, the agitator was seen antagonizing the crowd, saying racist remarks, referring to attendees as “Indians,” and at one point proclaimed himself to be a follower of QAnon. The agitator also made a point to introduce himself to the

media present and requested to be photographed and filmed. In the moments leading up to the shooting, the agitator attempted to approach the small crowd of mostly Indigenous women and children congregating around the event's speakers in front of the building's main entrance. Video evidence shows that Jacob Johns and other community peacekeepers successfully stopped the agitator from approaching the crowd. Eyewitnesses speculate that the shooter was trying to break through the crowd to shoot the speaker, or to jump on the cement pedestal to get a vantage point with the intent of carrying out a mass shooting. Video footage also shows that community peacekeepers did not pursue the agitator once they had successfully removed him to the other side of a wall separating the sidewalk from the complex. Despite this, the agitator reached under his sweatshirt with his right hand, drew a pistol, pointed, and shot one round into the crowd, hitting Johns in the torso. Additional ammo was seen tucked into his belt by eyewitnesses and on camera. Eyewitnesses have confirmed that the agitator quickly adjusted his aim after shooting Johns and pulled the trigger a second time with the intention of shooting Malaya Peixinho, one of the attendees, but the gun jammed, preventing the release of further rounds. Upon realizing he could go no further with his planned attack, the shooter turned and fled into the complex's parking lot, got into a white Tesla, and sped off. Additionally, eyewitnesses report the shooter attempted to unjam his gun as he fled. The shooter was later apprehended eleven miles away by New Mexico State Police in Pojoaque, New Mexico.

Despite Rio Arriba County citing concerns for "public safety" as the rationale for postponing the reinstatement, the county offered no protection for Indigenous community members on Thursday. In fact Rio Arriba county and leaders at all levels of government were made well aware of the high possibility of gun violence. Denise Williams, mother of shooting victim Scott Williams, who was targeted at a 2020 Oñate protest, said prior to Thursday's event she called Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham's office, the office of U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich, New Mexico State Police, the office of the New Mexico Attorney General, all members of U.S. Congress

representing Valencia County in New Mexico, and all New Mexico state representatives and senators from Valencia County, to warn them of the high chance of gun violence directed at attendees. State senator Elizabeth “Liz” Stefanics was the only one to respond. Immediately after the shooting Scott Williams’ father, Dan Williams, called the governor’s office again to tell her that she “had blood on her hands” for failing to properly respond to both shootings.

Immediately after the shooting, two Rio Arriba County Annex employees denied children seeking shelter from the shooter entry into the building. They proceeded to come out, yelling at people to leave, and made disparaging comments about attendees and Jacob as he fought for his life feet away from them. The cops did not show up in a timely manner despite the shooter being in the same parking lot as the Rio Arriba County Sheriff’s office, and it took several more minutes for an ambulance to arrive. Eyewitnesses report the complete absence of police intervention. The event’s organizers assembled a community peacekeeping team to provide the only public safety measures present on the ground. Without hesitation, Johns and half a dozen other Indigenous men and allies volunteered. When Johns was shot, it was attendees who provided the first medical response, saving Johns’ life. The first law enforcement officer on the scene ordered the community members providing medical assistance to move away, but they refused because the officer did not identify himself as a medic and made no other attempts to provide assistance.

We are incredibly alarmed that pretrial services have recommended the agitator be released without cash bail. We know from first-hand experience that politically—and racially—motivated shootings like this embolden other like-minded vigilantes who hold the same contempt for Indigenous people and organizers. The agitator and his sympathizers pose a very real and serious threat to all Indigenous people, and to Indigenous women activists specifically. The establishment, which Alex Naranjo himself lauded as “a system that we’ve lived with for 400 years,” circles its wagons to protect Indian killers who are colonialism’s foot soldiers. This means there is

virtually no formal protection or justice for Indigenous people, women, and activists in these times of heightened danger. We call upon all national, tribal, state, county, and city officials, and movement allies, to condemn this racist attack and demand safety and protection for Indigenous people, women, organizations, and communities. We call upon everyone to contact your officials and apply pressure.

Demand the following:

1. Do not release the shooter!!
2. This must be recognized as the racially-motivated hate crime it is at all levels of government.
3. Protect Native women!!

As of now, the shooter is being held at Rio Arriba County Jail in Tierra Amarilla. The bond hearing is scheduled for Monday at 11:30AM at the Rio Arriba Magistrate Court. We will inform the public of any further updates.

Pray for Jacob Johns and his family. A [GoFundMe](#) has been set up to help support him and his family during this recovery. Donate and circulate the donation request.

The Red Nation Podcast will be recording an emergency live episode about Thursday's events on Monday, October 2 at 5PM MT. The Red Nation and NDN Collective will be discussing the event's wider significance for the Native liberation movement.

Further updates, The Red Nation social media channels, news reporting, and other links can be found [here](#).

Our first press release and original demands can be found [here](#).

Source: [The Red Nation](#)



Bob Menendez, morals for auction

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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"In the marrow, in the marrow is the vice, in which life has no object on this earth for love. On this earth there is no other object than the amassing of fortune!". -Jose Marti

From scandal to scandal, American political life is a parade of scandals, from one to the next. Personalities of the jet set of the empire, public officials, and high administrative positions are involved in an endemic impudence that cyclically, shakes the fabric of politics and society.

Senator Bob Menendez, considered "the most Republican of Democrats," architect of many of the "initiatives" proposed to harm Cuba, faces criminal charges brought by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York for conspiracy to commit bribery, fraud, and extortion.

His "leadership position on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee" allowed him to peddle influence, the indictment says.

Menendez allegedly accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes, the U.S. Justice Department said, for which he could face up to 20 years in prison.

The marrow of vice

If we search the annals of the U.S., we will find dozens of stories related to scandals of various kinds involving politicians and public officials. One of the first cases was that of Crédit Mobilier, the company contracted to build the Union Pacific Railroad, which used shares to bribe high officials of the Ulysses S. Grant administration.

Secretary of the Interior Albert Bacon Fall, during the administration of President Warren G. Harding (1921 to 1923), leased Navy oil reserves at Teapot Dome in Wyoming and two other locations in California to oil companies.

Iconic is the 1986 Iran-Contra case, when several government officials organized a complex operation to sell drugs and firearms to finance the Nicaraguan Contras.

Watergate revealed, in 1972, a spying and wiretapping scheme used by the Nixon administration during the election campaign of that year, which forced the President to resign, one of the most shameful acts in U.S. political history.

On the other hand, one of the most “famous” cases in recent years was that of Jeffrey Epstein, a multimillionaire hedge fund manager on Wall Street, accused of sexual abuse of minors between 2001 and 2005. The case involved, directly or indirectly, high officials and powerful businessmen of the empire.

If we follow the graft trail, we will find several Cuban-American politicians, sharks with mud splashed on their immaculate suits.

For example, we have Senator Ted Cruz, a prominent member of the conservative Tea Party group, remembered for having abandoned his constituents in the middle of a terrible winter storm to go to Cancun on vacation with his family.

Cruz belongs to the most conspicuous of the anti-Cuban lobby in the U.S., together with Marco Rubio, senator for Florida, who is suspected of having a not very clear past with mafiosi and drug traffickers.

Bob Menendez, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was one of the main critics, within the Democratic Party, of the rapprochement between Cuba and the US, promoted by Barack Obama's administration.

In the last seven years, Robert has been in the crosshairs of U.S. authorities for crimes of conspiracy, sex trafficking, fraud, and bribery.

In 2017, he was indicted on 18 counts of fraud and bribery offenses. According to prosecutors, he received \$750,000 in donations, gifts, private plane trips, and luxurious vacations paid for by a benefactor.

Previously, the ultra-conservative politician was involved in a scandal with Dominican prostitutes. According to a whistleblower, identified as Peter Williams, who alerted the FBI, Menendez hired and had sex with four teenage girls in that country.

The indictment records state that between August 2006 and January 2013, the politician stayed on several occasions at a resort in the Dominican Republic, known to be an exclusive Caribbean retreat in La Romana province on that country's southeastern coast, for the encounter with the prostitutes.

A federal grand jury found that the politician used his senatorial office to favor projects "in exchange for donations and favors," to encourage false statements under oath from underage sex workers, and to defraud the U.S. Health Care system.

Bob is also notorious for allowing the expansion of prostitution, gambling, and racketeering while he was mayor of Union City, New Jersey, a town near New York City.

How did he manage to get rid of these charges? It is an impenetrable mystery.

How much does a Senator cost?

In the investigation of the Democratic politician and his wife Nadine, the authorities found more than 480,000 dollars, a luxury car, and gold bars in their residence. This was revealed in the indictment of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

"More than \$480,000 in cash was discovered in the house, much of it stuffed in envelopes and hidden in clothing, closets and a safe, along with more than \$70,000 in Nadine Menendez's safe deposit box," quoted La Opinión.

In addition, the Attorney General's Office filed charges against businessmen Wael "Will" Hana, José Uribe and Fred Daibe, beneficiaries of the Menéndez family. The authorities stated that the main implicated party provided "highly confidential" information he obtained from the State Department to his then-girlfriend, Nadine, who forwarded it to Hana, who then forwarded it to an official in Egypt.

According to the indictment, Bob used his power and influence, including his leadership on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to benefit a foreign government.

The investigation shows how both parties attempted to conceal traces, in emails and messages, and how they operated to favor three New Jersey businessmen, and the Government of Egypt.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York argued that Hana obtained lucrative exclusive rights to certify meat exports, thanks to Menendez's influence, including for negotiations on arms sales from the United States.

Menendez, who is up for re-election next year, has been in the Senate since 2006

but now faces the second set of corruption charges brought against him by the Justice Department in a decade.

Senate Democratic Legislative Caucus rules require Menendez to resign as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, but he can still serve on the panel.

However, the senator refused to resign following the indictment and the request of other colleagues, claiming it was a sham: “I’m not going anywhere,” he said.

In a previous trial, in which he was acquitted, Menendez was tried in 2015 by the U.S. Attorney’s Office in New Jersey for conspiracy, bribery, fraud, and abuse of the power of his office.

Prosecutors argued then that the senator accepted more than \$600,000 in political contributions, a luxury hotel suite at the Park Hyatt in Paris, and free rides on the private jet of a wealthy ophthalmologist, Dr. Salomon Melgen, in exchange for favors.

The corruption trial was eventually declared a mistrial in November 2017 after the jury reported that it was deadlocked. Following that, a federal judge acquitted them of several of the charges in 2018, and the Justice Department dropped the remaining ones, BBC referred.

Interestingly enough, Melgen, the wealthy ophthalmologist, was convicted of dozens of healthcare fraud charges and sentenced to 17 years in a separate case, but the sentence was commuted by then-President Donald Trump in 2021.

Source [Granma](#), translation [Resumen Latinoamericano - English](#)



Trans and non-binary activists challenge Florida bathroom ban as unconstitutional prior to national march

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 2, 2023



Contact: press@ccrjustice.org

Temporary restraining order seeks to safeguard rights during October 7 National March to Protect Trans Youth

September 29, 2023 – Today, a group of trans and non-binary people [asked a federal court](#) to declare Florida’s bathroom ban unconstitutional and to issue an order temporarily prohibiting authorities from enforcing it against them while they are in Florida in the coming weeks. The temporary restraining order (TRO) would allow the plaintiffs to use public bathrooms that align with their gender as they travel to, participate in, and return from the National March to Protect Trans Youth in Orlando on October 7.

Plaintiff **Christynne Lili Wrene Wood** issued the following statement in a press release for the march: “This year began with my being targeted by an organized campaign of hatred and lies challenging my legal rights to use the women’s locker room at the Cameron YMCA in Santee, California. Because of the love and support of my community, I was empowered with the strength to stand in a very public, televised forum and call out the lies of the racist, transphobic bigots and religious zealots that sought to vilify me. And I’m bringing that love, confidence, and support to my beloved rainbow family in Florida.”

Under Governor Ron DeSantis, Florida has been at the forefront of a national movement to legislate against trans rights. In May, DeSantis signed [four anti-trans bills](#), including the bathroom ban, which, plaintiffs say, violates their rights to free expression, equal protection, and non-discrimination. The lead defendant is Andrew Bain, the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit in Florida. DeSantis appointed Bain last month to replace Monique Worrell, whom he removed, in part, because she signed a statement pledging not to prosecute people accused of transgender-related “crimes.”

Melinda Butterfield, a 52-year-old transgender woman traveling from New York City; [Anaïs Kochan](#) (she/her) is a 52-year-old transgender woman traveling from

Boston; **Tsukuru Fors**, a 52-year-old nonbinary person traveling from West Hollywood, California; **Lindsey Spero**, a 26-year-old non-binary person from Pinellas County, Florida; and **Ms. Wood**, a 67-year-old transgender woman traveling from Lakeside, California.

A complaint, along with a motion for the TRO, filed on the plaintiffs' behalf by the Center for Constitutional Rights and Southern Legal Counsel says the ban forces trans, gender-nonconforming, and certain intersex people (TGNCI people) to use a bathroom inconsistent with their identities, risk arrest by using a bathroom consistent with their identities, or forego multi-stall restrooms in public facilities altogether. All of these options are legally impermissible because they deny TGNCI people basic freedoms afforded others, according to the complaint.

Ms. Butterfield, of the plaintiff organization Women in Struggle, issued the following statement in a press release: "A protest like this is long overdue. The divide-and-conquer measures of Ron DeSantis, the Florida legislature, and their wealthy backers are echoed in states across the country: banning gender-affirming healthcare, suppressing free speech for queer students and teachers, throttling Pride celebrations and drag performances, banning trans people from using restrooms, and threatening to kidnap trans youth from supportive parents. DeSantis's racist abuse of immigrants, the Black community, and other marginalized groups has contributed to crimes like the recent white supremacist murder of three Black people in Jacksonville, Florida."

Courts have [differed](#) on the constitutionality of bathroom bans in public schools, but Florida's law is much broader, applying to all public and government facilities. In the context of the march, the complaint details the harm inflicted on TGNCI people when the state imposes its view that gender is assigned by doctors at birth and immutable.

Ms. Butterfield, who is also the finance manager at the Center for Constitutional

Rights, will fly to Orlando on October 2 and spend the week helping to prepare for the march. She plans to use women's bathrooms, risking arrest, but if someone asks her to prove she is in the right bathroom, she may have to refrain out of fear. The ban not only denies her the right to live in accordance with her gender; it also impedes her ability to contribute to a First Amendment-protected march.

The march comes in response to a raft of state laws across the country restricting trans rights, part of a broader effort to demonize trans people for political purposes: in 2023, [568 anti-trans](#) bills were introduced in 49 states. In January, plaintiff Christynne Wood became a [target](#) of anti-trans groups after a teenager who had shared a bathroom with her alleged at a City Council meeting in Lakeside, California, that she posed a threat to children. But Ms. Woods [pushed back](#), and many in her community rallied behind her.

Said [Zee Scout](#), a **Bertha Justice Fellow and attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights**, "The State of Florida believes it can eradicate the lives and identities of trans, gender nonconforming, intersex, and queer people through numerous pieces of legislation, including Fla. Stat. § 553.865, otherwise known as the bathroom ban. But this law is an unconstitutional reaction to the growing acceptance of these communities. The state cannot erase viewpoints that it dislikes. It cannot force people to accept its idea of sex and gender. And it cannot demonize these communities by referring to them as 'demons,' 'mutants,' and 'imps.' This lawsuit is a message that trans, intersex, and queer people nationwide will not tolerate this discriminatory behavior against their siblings in Florida or anywhere."

"The bathroom ban is yet another unconstitutional and politically-motivated maneuver in the state of Florida's relentless, multi-faceted attack on the rights, lives, and dignity of transgender Floridians," said **Simone Chriss, Director of the Transgender Rights Initiative at Southern Legal Counsel**. "SLC denounces the state's weaponization of fear and misinformation to strip away the rights of TGNCI

Floridians under the guise of protecting others, and we are honored to stand beside the brave plaintiffs and all others who plan to travel to Florida to speak out and stand up for trans rights on October 7th!”

For more information, see the Center for Constitutional Rights [case page](#).

[Southern Legal Counsel, Inc. \(SLC\)](#) is a Florida statewide not-for-profit public interest law firm that is committed to the ideal of equal justice for all and the attainment of basic human and civil rights. SLC’s Transgender Rights Initiative protects the rights of Florida’s LGBTQ+ community through federal impact litigation, policy advocacy, and individual representation.

The Center for Constitutional Rights works with communities under threat to fight for justice and liberation through litigation, advocacy, and strategic communications. Since 1966, the Center for Constitutional Rights has taken on oppressive systems of power, including structural racism, gender oppression, economic inequity, and governmental overreach. Learn more at ccrjustice.org.



Poverty is growing in Puerto Rico, under U.S. colonialism: 57.6% of children live in poor households

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 2, 2023

Poverty is rising in one of the world's oldest colonies: In Puerto Rico, 41.7% of people, including 57.6% of children, live in poverty. This is nearly four times the U.S. rate. And Puerto Rican workers are getting poorer even while unemployment falls.



Poverty in Puerto Rico, under US colonialism, is getting worse over time, not better.

More than two-fifths of Puerto Ricans suffer from poverty, and nearly three-fifths of Puerto Rican children live in poor households.

In 2022, the poverty rate in the colonized US “territory” grew from 40.5% to 41.7%, according to [US Census Bureau data](#).

A staggering [57.6% of Puerto Rican children live in poverty](#). And 38.8% of families are below the poverty line.

Poverty has been growing in Puerto Rico even at a time when more people are working. The unemployment rate fell from 13.1% to 9.9% in 2022, while poverty got worse.

These statistics from the US Census Bureau may be very conservative. Anti-poverty

activists in Puerto Rico have criticized the official figures and argued they downplay the hardship in the colonized nation.

As Yale University's Genocide Studies Program notes, "[Puerto Rico is one of the world's oldest colonies](#), having been under some form of military occupation or protectorate status since 1508".

The United States seized the nation from its former colonizer Spain in an 1898 war.

Washington claims that being a US "territory" makes Puerto Ricans wealthier, but after more than a century of colonization, their poverty rate is nearly four times the US average, while their incomes are roughly one-third those of the United States.

Puerto Rico's poverty rate of 41.7% stands in stark contrast to the [US national average of 11.5%](#), according to the Census Bureau.

In Puerto Rico, per capita income is just \$14,047, while median household income is \$21,967.

Across the United States, per capita income is \$37,638, and median household income is \$69,021.

In wealthy US states such as [Maryland](#), [Massachusetts](#), or [New Jersey](#), median household income is around \$90,000 - more than four times that of Puerto Rico.

Even the poorest US states, like [Mississippi](#), [West Virginia](#), and [Louisiana](#), still have a median household income of roughly \$50,000 - more than double that of Puerto Rico.

The already dire economic situation for Puerto Rican families has only gotten worse in the past two years, as a rise in consumer price inflation has further eroded their purchasing power.

Meanwhile, the US federal government has fueled mass displacement and outward migration, by turning Puerto Rico into a tax haven.

Right-wing libertarians and corporate oligarchs have happily proclaimed, “[Move to Puerto Rico!](#)”, not because they care about the nation, its people, its culture, and its history, but simply because US citizens who relocate there do not have to pay federal income tax or capital gains tax.



This policy has unleashed colonial gentrification, incentivizing rich North Americans to displace local Puerto Rican residents.

It has also fueled rampant real estate speculation. Skyrocketing housing prices have only exacerbated the cost of living crisis, [forcing many indigenous Boricuas out of the homes](#) their families have lived in for generations.

Journalist Bianca Graulau has done important work [documenting this colonial gentrification](#):

Source: [Geopolitical Economy Report](#)



Communist Party of Kenya condemns Haiti occupation as Nairobi signs five-year ‘security’ deal with Washington

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 2, 2023

On Sep. 25, 2023, in Nairobi, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin signed a five-year deal with Kenya’s Defense Minister Aden Duale in which Washington will give money, weapons, and training to the East African country to work as its proxy in Africa and Latin America.

“Signing the framework for defense cooperation between our two countries today reinforces the importance of our strategic partnership with Kenya, and it will help guide our bilateral defense relationship for the next five years,” Austin said after the signing.

According to the Pentagon's press report on the meeting, "Austin specifically noted Kenya's partnership with the U.S. in countering al-Shabab, an Islamist militant group based in neighboring Somalia."

Duale emphasized that the deal will bring "interoperability and opens avenues for enhanced cooperation on defense technology and innovation," according to the Pentagon's readout, and he trumpeted "the strong, enduring partnership between Kenya and **the United States.**"

The deal comes as Kenya prepares to lead a foreign military intervention into Haiti, even before the UN Security Council has voted on whether to approve such a force. The UNSC has been vigorously debating the matter since last October. The Biden administration pledged that it would raise \$100 million for the force on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York last week.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken urged the UNSC to bless the force - although it would not be under the body's control and oversight - saying it would be ready to deploy "in months" and that Washington would supply "robust financial and logistical assistance."

The Kenyan police are notoriously corrupt and brutal. Just in July, the [UN itself stated that it was "very concerned"](#) about extreme, deadly police violence against demonstrators protesting tax hikes. On Sep. 26, the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) issued a report entitled "Kenya: Police Use Excessive Force in Response to Anti-Government Demonstrations," in which it reported: "The July protests were violently repressed by the police as state forces declared the protests illegal and a threat to national security. These incidents have included mass arrests of protestors, incarceration of Azimio leaders, property destruction, use of teargas, batons, water, and cannons, as well as live bullets that caused injuries and loss of life."

In its last paragraph, ACLED's researcher Caleb Wafula writes: "Kenya recently signed an agreement with Haiti, that will see the deployment of 1,000 police officers who will head a multinational police force in addressing gang violence in the Caribbean nation. However, the increasing police brutality in Kenya necessitates a thorough reassessment of the measures and tactics utilized by security agents."

Other countries that have agreed to contribute troops to the proposed Haiti intervention are Jamaica, Bahamas, Mongolia, Senegal, Belize, Guatemala, Peru, Italy, Antigua and Barbuda, Suriname, and Spain.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of Kenya put out a searing statement on their nation's participation in the Washington-organized intervention. We reproduce the full text below:

The Communist Party of Kenya strongly condemns their nation's involvement in the impending occupation of Haiti.

The Communist Party of Kenya demands that the Kenya Kwanza government rescind their proposal to send 1,000 police to Haiti, while calling on the Kenyan people to join the **Haitian** masses and popular progressive forces worldwide in opposing the intervention, continued occupation and neo-colonial governance of Haiti by the Core Group and the UN.

The Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of Kenya, expresses deep concern regarding the proposed deal between the USA and the Kenyan Government. It is with great displeasure and utmost frustration that we are forced to witness Kenya allowing itself to be recruited into the imperialist activities of the United States, the Core Group and United Nations. The reported plan of involving Kenyan police to carry out actions on behalf of the USA government in Haiti raises serious ethical and moral questions. In its efforts to endear itself to the systems of

power that underpin Western hegemony, Kenya is providing legitimacy for a long-standing series of interventions into Haiti that seek to undermine the aspirations of the Haitian people.

Kenya's motive to send a small contingent of police officers to Haiti is not to solve the so-called problems of insecurity that beset Haiti. Just as it has been done in the past through recruitment of Caribbean and African countries, it is to prevent accusations of racism and oppressive grip of Western foreign powers by having third-world nations give their support for the exploitation of Haiti. "If there is a humanitarian crisis, the response cannot be to send in foreign troops. The countries that today are the first to bemoan the control of Haiti by the various gangs are the first to have sponsored these same kingpins in other times, such as in Afghanistan during the time of the Mujahedin or in Saddam Hussein's Iraq against Iran."

The Communist Party of Kenya firmly rejects any form of neocolonialism and condemns attempts to use a Black face to brutalize Haiti or any other nation by the members of the Core Group, including representatives of the United Nations, Canada, France, Germany, Spain, the **European** Union, the United States, and the Organization of American States. The party recognizes the systems of maintaining a neo-colonial agenda in Haiti, or as dubbed in popular Haitian lingua, "*Sistèm nan*" (The System).

We vehemently stand with the exploited Haitian population and oppose any western led interventions or involvement whatsoever in Haiti. By agreeing to send troops into Haiti, the Kenyan government is diminishing the sovereignty and self-determination of Haitian people, while preserving the neo-colonial interests of the United States, the Core Group and the United Nations. Imperialism, historically rooted in exploitation and subjugation, has caused immense suffering across continents. Similarly, the USA's rise to power was significantly fueled by the enslavement of millions of African people, whose labor laid the foundation for its economic

prosperity. The echoes of this dark past continue to resonate in various forms of systemic racial and social inequalities that persist in the USA today.

As the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of Kenya, we address the historical injustices perpetrated by both Europe and the USA. Europe's wealth and development have, in large part, been built on the stolen resources and exploitation of the global South during colonial times. As advocates of anti-imperialism, we must acknowledge and condemn the historical actions of both Europe and the USA that have contributed to the global inequities we face. Our commitment to a just and equitable world demands that we confront and challenge the oppressive legacies of these colonial and enslavement practices.

The party denounces and urges parliament to intervene in the actions being undertaken by the current administration. Exploiting vulnerable Kenyans for any purpose is unacceptable. President Ruto's actions in this regard must be rejected, and the government's focus should be on empowering its citizens, not auctioning them to willing buyers. Our commitment lies in advocating for policies that uplift the marginalized and create a fair and just society, addressing root causes of societal issues, including land problems and the need for investment in industries to create jobs and improve lives. Furthermore, there must be rigorous discourse in the public sphere with parliament engaging with the masses before such unilateral actions are undertaken. Of course, we recognize that this was done specifically without public involvement as the masses would readily recognize the actions for what they are, efforts to sabotage Haiti's sovereignty, utilization of state instruments in the continual subjugation of the oppressed Haitian people and disruption of Pan-Africanism solidarity. We must therefore, intensify the struggle from below, emphasizing grassroots movements and collective action to bring about transformative change.

Moving forward, we stand resolute in our pursuit of justice and the dismantling of

imperialist structures that perpetuate global exploitation and subjugation. We call on all revolutionary forces, people's movements and organizations across the globe to unite in the struggle for a future that respects the sovereignty of nations, upholds human rights, and ensures the welfare of all people, regardless of their geographic location. The Communist Party of Kenya reaffirms our unwavering commitment to the principles of peace, justice, and sovereignty in Haiti.

Long live the struggles of Haitian People!

Long Live free, liberated Haiti!

Long live the struggle for justice and liberation!

In solidarity with the oppressed peoples of the world

Source: [Haiti Liberté](#)



Zelensky boasts that ‘game changer’ U.S.-made ‘Abrams’ tanks

are already in Ukraine

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 2, 2023

On September 25, the New York Times reported that the Kiev regime frontman Volodymyr Zelensky announced that the delivery of the U.S.-made M1 “Abrams” has started and that the tanks are already in Ukraine, “months ahead of initial estimates and in time to be used in Kyiv’s counteroffensive against Russian forces,” [the infamous neoliberal mouthpiece posits](#). As per its “time-tested tradition,” the NYT quoted two U.S. defense officials “who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren’t authorized to speak publicly,” claiming that more U.S.-made tanks will be delivered in the coming months. The ones that were sent on September 23 will be followed by the rest of the 31 MBTs (main battle tanks) that the troubled Biden administration promised to deliver to its favorite puppet regime.

Although the “anonymous U.S. defense officials” haven’t given an actual number, they said that it was equivalent to two tank platoons. Given that a U.S. Army tank platoon typically consists of four MBTs, this would mean that the Neo-Nazi junta received no more than eight M1 “Abrams” tanks. The NYT claims that these could be the much-needed “game changers” that will supposedly “push the Russians back,” which sounds awfully familiar to other NATO-sourced “game changer” tanks that [the Kiev regime received in months before its much-touted counteroffensive](#). And yet, even the head of the infamous GUR (military intelligence), Kyrylo Budanov, admitted that “the ‘Abrams’ would need to be deployed in a very tailored way, for very specific, well-crafted operations or risk being destroyed.”

[In a recent interview with The Drive, published on September 22](#), the head of the Neo-Nazi junta’s military intelligence stated that “they should be used in a very tailored way for very specific, well-crafted operations because if they are used at the front line and just in a combined arms fight, they will not live very long on the

battlefield”, adding that “they need to be used in those breakthrough operations, but very well-prepared”. I never thought I’d say this, but Budanov is right. The U.S.-made tanks need to be “very well-prepared” to face the Russian military. However, he didn’t really specify how. Apart from the fact that [the heavy and cumbersome Western tanks are unsuitable for usage in countries like Ukraine](#), there’s also the issue of their doctrinal limitations.

Namely, the Kiev regime forces are fighting in a way that would be completely unacceptable to NATO itself – [the absolute lack of air superiority](#). The belligerent alliance often blames [the catastrophic losses of the Neo-Nazi junta troops](#) on their unprofessionalism and lack of compliance with the much-touted NATO standards. However, the main reason is actually [the Russian military’s dominance in several key aspects](#), one being the aforementioned air superiority. Since being inducted into service back in the late 1970s/early 1980s, the M1 “Abrams” MBTs have never been used in conditions where air superiority is absent. The opposing side has absolute dominance in the air when it comes to both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, particularly gunships.

This includes dedicated attack helicopters with unrivaled tank-hunting capabilities, the most prominent of which is the Ka-52 “Alligator.” [This magnificent piece of Russian engineering has proven to be so deadly](#) that it’s causing tank crews to abandon their vehicles just by learning that a Ka-52 is in the vicinity. Considering its payload capacity, as well as the sheer quality of the weapons it can carry, the chances of any tank surviving an encounter with the now legendary “Alligator” are slim to none. The M1 “Abrams” is no different in this regard, especially when taking into account the simple fact that the Kiev regime forces will certainly not be getting the latest version of the U.S.-made MBT. What’s more, even if they did, that wouldn’t make much difference anyway.

So far, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom have all supplied heavy armor,

including tanks that were touted as the “best in NATO.” However, the absolute debacle of these weapons [casts serious doubt on the capabilities of NATO-sourced heavy armor](#), as even older Soviet and Russian MBTs outperformed them. This also includes the Soviet-era T-64BV used by the Neo-Nazi junta forces, as well as older T-72/T-80 types used by the Russian military and to say nothing of the heavily modernized versions of these tanks or the significantly more capable T-90M. Even Russian FPV (first-person view) drones were able to incapacitate NATO heavy armor, causing damage that was further exacerbated by the incomparable cost discrepancy, not to mention the irretrievable losses in trained manpower.

The U.S. was the first to pledge tanks back in January, using the promise to put pressure on its NATO vassals to send theirs. [Germany was the first to fall for this](#), followed by France and the UK. Berlin delivered its overhyped “Leopard 2,” including the A6 variant (one of the latest), while Paris and London sent the AMX-10 light tanks and [“Challenger 2” heavy MBTs](#), respectively. Near-constant supply of ample battlefield footage confirmed that all three types have been neutralized in great numbers, while some have even been captured relatively intact by Russian forces. [This has been a source of great embarrassment for the political West](#), as the mainstream propaganda machine spent decades parroting the narrative that Soviet/Russian heavy armor is supposedly “no match” for its NATO counterparts.

It’s also important to note that the version delivered to the Kiev regime forces is the (First) Cold War-era M1A1, which the U.S. Army replaced with the more modern M1A2 variant decades ago. These U.S.-made MBTs were lost to much less capable opponents in the Middle East, including the Islamic State’s rag-tag militias. The idea they will survive against the Russian military is far more ludicrous, even if manned by Western crews, [as evidenced by recent reports about the capture of a German crew](#) in one of the “Leopard 2” tanks used by the Neo-Nazi junta troops. Russian ATGMs (anti-tank guided missiles) such as the man-portable 9K135 “Kornet” or the air-launched 9M127-1 “Vikhr” (used by the aforementioned Ka-52) have proven

capable of easily destroying German and British tanks, both of which have armor that's far superior to the downgraded M1A1.

Drago Bosnic is an independent geopolitical and military analyst.

Source: [InfoBrics](#)

