

Christynne Lilly Wood: Trans women are a threat to no one

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 14, 2023



The March 21 Santee School Board meeting was my first time seeing Christynne Lilly Wood in action. Wood — mother, grandmother, auntie, retired health care worker, and community activist — was on the list to speak to the Santee school board members along with many others, including parents, students, teachers, and community activists. The subject centered on adding a children’s book, “[I Am Jazz](#)” — number 2 on the list of banned books in all Santee public schools and libraries.

As the room filled, Wood greeted and directed people to sit and went to the staff, asking for more chairs, reminding people who wanted to speak to sign in to get on the list. She seemed to know most of the people, which was comforting knowing that this meeting was not filled with haters. Banned Books was going to be first on the agenda.

Christynne Wood, pronounced Kris-tin, is the African American trans woman who

was the most recent target of the racist, anti-trans panic that continues to sweep through the country. I am sure most people have heard about this incident or rather some version of it because it made national news.

Showered with lies

On December 29, last year, Wood showered after her weekly water aerobics class at a Santee YMCA, where she has been a member for quite some time. But this day, a 17-year-old white girl reported to the YMCA staff that she was traumatized when she saw a naked man in the women's changing area. The staff explained that the person she saw was a trans woman and she had every right to use the women's bathroom and dressing area.

The 17-year-old did not like that answer. She repeated her made-up, well-rehearsed, descriptive, and emotionally dramatic story to the Santee City Council and news broadcasters like Tucker Carlson. Carlson and other fascist mouthpieces rebroadcast the lie until the truth came out.

Wood initially did not know about the incident until a friend from her aqua class called her, expressing how sorry she was about what had happened in the dressing room, and sent a video of the 17-year-old on Instagram. After viewing the video, Christynne started crying and shaking.

The YMCA was forced to close when a hate rally was staged outside the facility. Wood listened to the lies as she stood with the counter-protesters and supporters. Many were patrons of the Santee YMCA.



At the Santee City School Board meeting. SLL photo: Maggie Vascassenno

‘We Love Chrissy’

After weeks of being demonized by right-wing media and listening to repeated lies, Wood spoke at the January 25 Santee City Council meeting, where she explained what happened. She showered and dressed in a private stall after her water aerobics class. Wood said, “I am a mom and Grandma. I am a threat to no one.” Her supporters filled the Council chambers, many holding signs with a heart that read, “We Love Chrissy.” Her statement was recorded and posted on [YouTube](#).

The 17-year-old girl then slightly changed her story, saying she saw the backside of a man and hid in a nearby shower stall until he left.

Christynne and I met for breakfast at her favorite restaurant in Santee a week before the school board meeting. When I arrived, I walked in and told the woman at the counter that I was there to meet up with someone, and instantly she pointed me

in the direction of the table where Christynne sat, waving me over. She commented how much she appreciated people who pay attention to time. Then, she told me to look over the menu, order what you want, “everything is good,” and insisted on paying the bill.

She knew most of the waitresses by first name and ordered her “usual” breakfast. After breakfast, she was scheduled for a photo shoot at the San Diego Union-Tribune, so we were on the clock. I introduced myself and told her that I and a few friends from Los Angeles came to the Santee City Council to show our support earlier this month. I thanked her for making time in her busy schedule to speak with me.

She said you and your group must attend the Santee School Board meeting next week. “We are going to demand that ‘I Am Jazz,’ a book on the list of Banned Books, is added to all Santee public schools and libraries.”



John Parker, Christynne Lilly Wood, and Gloria Verdieu. SLL photo: Maggie Vascassenno

The story of Jazz Jennings

“I Am Jazz” is the story of a transgender child based on the real-life experience of a transgender activist, Jazz Jennings.

According to PEN America, a national advocacy group for literacy and free

expression, this children's book is one of [several banned picture books](#) in the United States in the school year 2021-2022.

At breakfast, I spoke about the 17-year-old who reported to the Santee YMCA staff that she was terrified when she saw a naked male in the women's changing room.

Christynne said she was shocked by the teen's complaint and that the most graphic part of the story could not be true because she has had gender reassignment surgery. The whole incident was a manufactured lie.

I asked if she could talk about her childhood and journey to become a community activist and advocate for LGBTQ+ rights.

Wood, a Black woman born in 1956, grew up in Ohio during the '60s and '70s and originally moved to California in 1975 during her first Navy enlistment. She returned to San Diego County to stay in 1980, which Woods said "was the best decision I ever made."

SLL: When did you realize that "I have a girl brain but a boy body," a quote from the book "I Am Jazz"?

CLW: Oh, I knew when I was four years old. My kindergarten teacher told my Grand Auntie, who raised me, that I identified with the girls. She would let me lie down with the girls for nap time.

My Auntie told me not to share this with everybody; People can be cruel, and it could be dangerous. We would play "dress-up" inside the house; it was our secret.

In the 8th grade, I checked out "Christine Jorgensen: A Personal Autobiography" from the library. I would keep it and just renew it over and over. Jorgensen, a celebrity, entertainer, and memoirist, was the first internationally known transsexual personality of the 20th century to become widely known in the United States for

having sex reassignment surgery in the early 1950s and provided an unprecedented example for thousands of gender dysphoric individuals who followed in her footsteps.

SLL: You had some support from your auntie; what about your parents and other relatives?

CLW: My mother didn't raise me. She was rarely around, visiting on rare occasions. I am a self-reliant woman. I've been on my own for over 36 years. I began medical transition in July of 2016 when I started estradiol and HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy). I legally changed my name and gender in San Diego Superior Court in February 2017. My first surgery, breast augmentation, was in May of 2019 at Sharp Grossmont Hospital. My final surgery was at Sutter Mills-Peninsula Hospital in San Francisco with Dr. Marci Bowers on Wednesday, January 29, 2020.

I visited my mother with my daughter, granddaughter, and niece. I hadn't seen her for over 30 years. My mother did not recognize me at first. When she did, her response was, "You finally became the person you wished to be." She never got it. It was not a choice. It is all about who I am. My daughter and granddaughter are happy that I am fully transitioned.

After my mother died, I had no reason to go to the state of Ohio, and I don't plan to go there ever again.

SLL: Do you have times when you think back on who you were before?

CLW: Everything from my life in Ohio is dead, including the person I was. I have moved on. It's dead and buried. I feel liberated — free to be who I am.

SLL: Were you working when you transitioned? If so, how did your job react when you completed the surgery and changed your name?

CLW: I was employed by the San Diego County Health and Human Services Association (HHSA) for 29 years, retiring on June 30, 2018.

I chose to actively report to my supervisor, who was supportive. When it came to using the bathroom, there was resistance from some of my co-workers as to which bathroom I was to use. My supervisor told me that it is company policy that it is my right to use the female bathroom, but she did offer a suggestion. She could arrange for me to speak to all my co-workers about my gender identity and name change if I chose to do so. I agreed to talk to my co-workers, and even though there was still some resistance, I *gained a lot of support*.

SLL: What about the cost of your transition? Was it difficult getting a doctor using your health insurance plan?

CLW: My PCP doctor referred me to have a psychological examination, which confirmed that there is no doubt that I was a candidate for and should get the hormone medications, and I was cleared to prepare for full transition surgery if that was my choice.

Not every transgender person wants to get bottom surgery. It is up to the individual. In my case, I knew I had to have a full-depth vaginoplasty, and it had to be with Dr. Bowers.

Everything was covered through my insurance, and my co-pay was within my budget.

When it was time for my name change, a lawyer at the San Diego LGBT center took my case pro-bono, and I got my name changed along with all my papers. So, I am fully transitioned and ready to move forward with my life.

SLL: I've seen the word women with an X or Y replacing the E. What do you think about that spelling when it comes to trans or gender-neutral women?

CLW: I can understand this generation's usage of the spelling as a means of expanding the word "women" to be more inclusive, but as for me, I don't want to be characterized or given a category. I am a woman.

Christynne Wood praises the compassion, courage, and love of the Cameron Family YMCA in Santee, her Aqua Sisters, and the faith leaders who openly support her.

Wood was named Transperson of the Year at the Transgender Empowerment Day at the SD LGBTQ Center in San Diego - April 7, 2023.

She received the Bayard Rustin Award in February 2023.

She is actively speaking out against banning books, especially those that teach about love, acceptance, and understanding.



Outside Santee City Council showing our support for Christynne Lilly Wood. SLL photo



Help send a LGBTQ+ delegation to Cuba

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 14, 2023



Dear friend,

We are asking for your help to send an important LGBTQ+ delegation to Cuba this May to learn about the inclusive new Families Code and the impact of the U.S. blockade.

We're all aware of the terrible attacks on the LGBTQ+ community in the United States, especially targeting our transgender and Two Spirit siblings. People's rights to life-saving gender-affirming healthcare, and even to exist in public, are being legislated away in state after state. Queer spaces are besieged by right-wing mobs, including in cities like New York and San Francisco that were considered safe. Truly, we need to revive the spirit of Stonewall.

All the more remarkable, then, is Cuba's incredible leap forward in LGBTQ+ rights with the passage of its new Families Code last year. Not only same-sex marriage, but

equality of queer families before the law, equal standing for chosen families with biological families, parent-child relations based on rights and responsibilities, and mandated education promoting acceptance, support and full rights for all people – all this just 90 miles from Ron DeSantis’s Florida!

Cuba has long been a beacon to the people of the world, despite a grueling 60+-year U.S. blockade. And the LGBTQ+ community in the U.S. is no stranger to the Cuba solidarity movement.

This May a delegation of LGBTQ+ activists from the U.S., organized by Women in Struggle-Mujeres en Lucha, will travel to Cuba for a week of activity to learn about the new Families Code, how it was accomplished, and the detrimental impact of U.S. policies on queer communities and all Cubans. This delegation includes veteran organizers as well as several young people from across the country. **Your donation will help ensure that these activists can bring these lessons back to our communities, where they are urgently needed!**

To donate: Please [DONATE HERE](#) on PayPal or contribute through Venmo@SolidarityCenter. You can also make checks out to Solidarity Center and mail to 703 E. 37th Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. **Do not write Cuba on checks or on electronic donations!** You can use “for trip” in the memo.

Please give generously!

Yours in solidarity,

Bob McCubbin

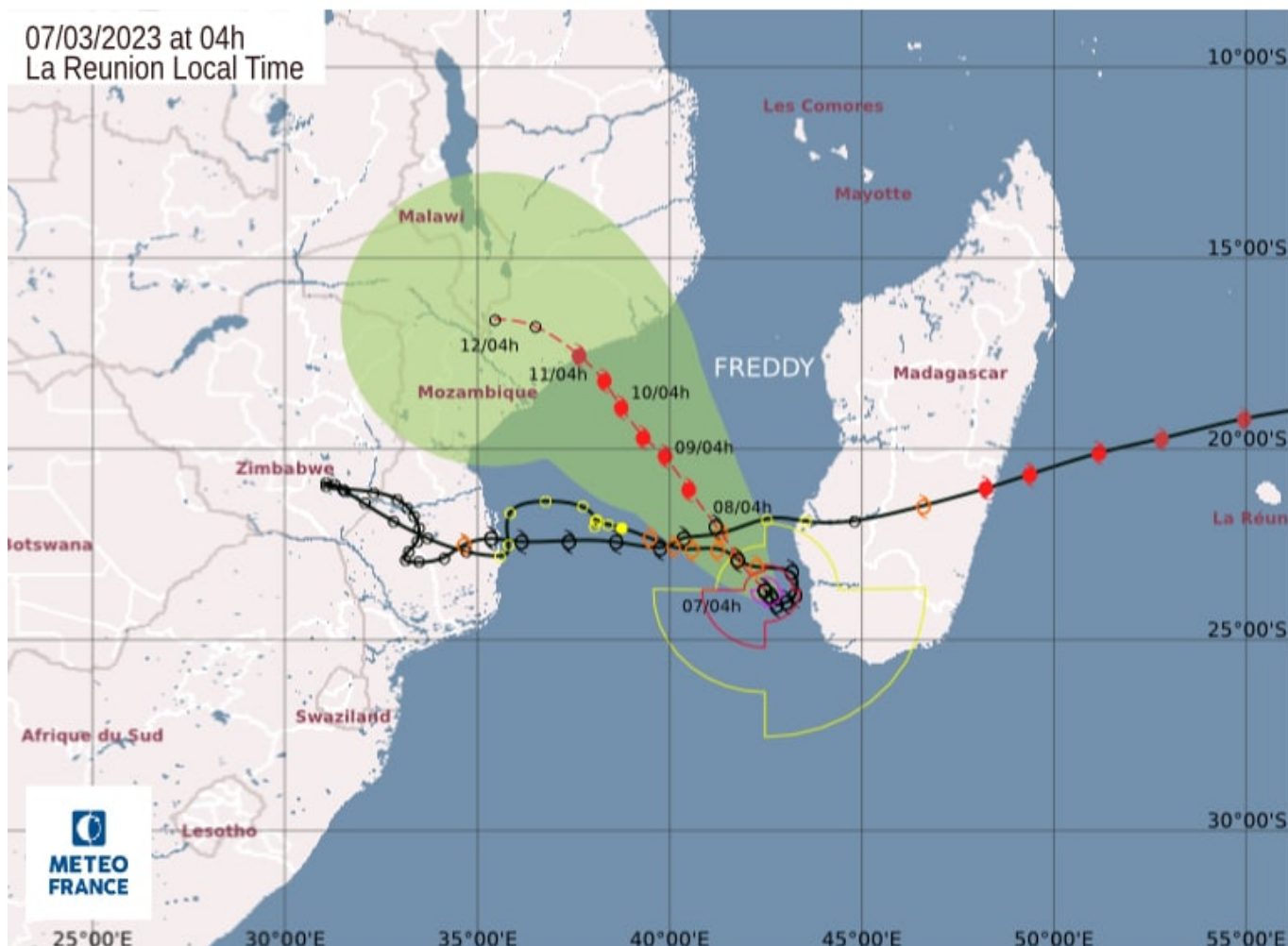
Bob McCubbin is the author of the ground-breaking 1976 book, ‘The Roots of Lesbian & Gay Oppression—A Marxist View.’ McCubbin’s achievement was to offer a historical analysis of when, where, why and how LGBTQ+ oppression developed. In 2019, Struggle-La Lucha published McCubbin’s ‘Socialist Evolution of

Humanity—Marx & Engels were Right!,’ an in-depth study focusing on human social/sexual relations and the changing status of women.



While Biden unleashes climate bomb in Alaska, Cyclone Freddy ravages eastern Africa

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 14, 2023



The U.S. corporate-controlled media are concealing the climate crisis's severity and breadth. Coverage of extremely destructive weather is so slanted, biased, and Eurocentric that people in the United States and Europe may not even realize how calamitous the situation is for the Global South.

Weeks of rain and snowstorms, a cyclone, and a tornado that slammed the West Coast of the U.S. were all over the headlines. The damage was horrific. There was extreme flooding from breached levees near Sacramento. Flooding and debris flow throughout the state.

A rare double-eyed cyclone attacked the Bay Area. Snow in the San Bernardino and Sierra Nevada mountains left 10-foot drifts. A tornado hit the Los Angeles area, leaving thousands without power and trapped in their homes. Dozens died.

Earth's longest-lived tropical storm ever

There was no way to downplay what happened to the West Coast. But during March, the deadly tropical Cyclone Freddy slammed Malawi, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, and Mozambique. Most U.S. media did not cover the immense death toll and damage to eastern Africa.

As of March 27, the [Institute for African Studies reports](#), more than 700 people died, and almost an equal number are reported missing. Most of the deaths occurred in Malawi. Nearly 700,000 people in the region have been displaced. Floods have destroyed power structures, washed away infrastructure, and contaminated community wells. Mozambique and Malawi were already dealing with a cholera outbreak, and the case numbers are rising.

Cyclone Freddy was [the longest-lasting storm ever](#) and traveled a greater distance than any before. The energy equaled an average entire hurricane season in the North Atlantic. Winds blew for ten minutes straight at 140 mph. Its peak wind was 168 mph, mowing down wood-frame buildings as it moved. It hit Madagascar after crossing the entire Indian Ocean, then Mozambique and Zimbabwe a few days later. It headed out over the water and regained strength, only to return to land and carry out more destruction, then repeated that two more times.

Industrial capitalism has been the driver of global warming. The biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere today are the United States and Great Britain. Today on a per-capita basis, the United States is still the worst.

Global South nations are responsible for only a tiny fraction of carbon emissions. But after more than a century of wars, trade sanctions, and the theft of their natural resources at the hands of U.S., British, and French imperialism, they are far less able to recover.

‘A litany of broken climate promises’

Deep poverty, debt to the giant banks in the U.S., and the IMF’s debt-trap aid have left much of the world extremely vulnerable. At the most recent conference that took place in Egypt – COP27 – representatives from the Global South took a united stand. Finally, they forced the imperialist countries into an agreement for a “loss and damage fund” after decades of the U.S. and other imperialist countries resisting. But predictably, there are already delays in nominating members to a committee to carry it forward.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reacted to the latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued on March 20, which followed the pattern of not naming the U.S. directly. In an April 4 Op-Ed in the Washington Post, Guterres described the report as “a litany of broken climate promises,” revealing a “yawning gap between climate pledges, and reality.”

Guterres wrote that high-emitting governments and corporations “are adding fuel to the flames by continuing to invest in climate-choking industries. Scientists warn that we are already perilously close to tipping points that could lead to cascading and irreversible climate effects.”

Since Biden’s whittled-down legislation that was supposed to be a big step toward mitigating global warming was finally passed, and promises were made to curtail fossil fuel production, the administration has done an about-face. Instead, their proxy war against Russia has escalated the lucrative exploitation of fossil fuels. The Willow project in Alaska – a gift to Conoco Phillips and a climate change bomb – is

only the latest in a series of betrayals of the goals set at international conferences.

In this era of the “New World Order,” imperialist wars and punishing sanctions are not fought for victory alone. Even if U.S. troops pull out from a war as they did in Afghanistan, the destruction they leave behind continues the process of concentrating wealth and power in the hands of mega-corporations and banks. It strengthens them against workers at home as well. The climate crisis is a by-product of capitalism that adds to that process.

Contributing to a full-blown, cooperative, international effort to deal with climate change, fulfilling the “loss and damage fund,” helping the Global South recover as fast as possible, and ending the destructive exploitation of fossil fuels are simply not on the agenda of the U.S. ruling class. The climate crisis won’t be whittled away with a few reforms here and there. It has never been more evident than now. A militant and international workers’ movement for socialism and the end of imperialism is the only solution to keeping the planet habitable for the future.



Hands off Al-Aqsa!

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 14, 2023

In dozens of cities across the United States, people took to the streets on April 8 to stand with the Palestinian struggle for freedom and say, “Hands off Al-Aqsa!” They expressed outrage at the Zionist occupation police invading Al-Aqsa Mosque in Al Quds (Jerusalem) and attacking people at prayer during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. While the Biden regime has criticized the openly fascist regime now running the occupation regime in Palestine, it has not cut one dime from the massive flow of arms and money to the Zionist colonial project. In New York City, hundreds rallied and marched in Times Square, above.



Los Angeles: Queer Liberation Party

for LGBTQ+ Cuba Trip, April 23

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 14, 2023

QUEER Liberation Party

SUNDAY 5 P.M. APRIL 23
Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice
5278 W Pico Blvd. L.A.

*A celebration fundraiser
to help send Jordan David
on the LGBTQ+ delegation
to Cuba, to learn about Cuba's
Code of Freedom for Families
featuring Maebe A Girl ✨ Cinnamon Babe
& Special guests*

**Video message from Mariela Castro
Director of CUBA's
National Center for Sex Education
(CENESEX)**

♥ **DRAG** 🎸 **ROCK** ★ **Violin** ✨
💬 **Spoken Word** & **COMMUNITY** ♥

Donation: \$10 - \$15 No one turned away for lack of funds jordandavid4weho@gmail.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023 AT 5:00 PM PDT
Queer Liberation Party for LGBTQ+ Cuba Trip
Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice - L.A.

A celebration fundraiser to help send Jordan David on the LGBTQ+ delegation to Cuba, to learn about Cuba's Code of Freedom for Families.

Featuring: Maebe A Girl & Pain Behaviour, Crook, Shantilly, Artem & Melan

Video message from Mariela Castro Espin, Director of Cuba's

National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX)

DRAG & ROCK & Violin

Spoken Word & COMMUNITY

Donation \$10 \$15 No one turned away for lack of funds

jordandavid4weho@gmail.com



San Diego: Mobilize to Bring

Mumia Abu-Jamal home, April 22

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 14, 2023

69th Birthday Celebration-

Mumia has been wrongfully imprisoned for 41 years ▶ spending the first 28.5 years on Pennsylvania's death row until his death sentence was confirmed unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2011 ▶ this innocent man is now serving a sentence of 'life in prison' without parole.

Mobilize to bring Mumia Abu-Jamal HOME



Join us on Saturday

April 22

3 pm @ 5:30 pm

@ **Malcolm X Library**

5148 MARKET STREET

Performance Annex RM
San Diego, Ca.

- ▶ Learn about the undisclosed evidence long buried in the District Attorney's closet that exposes truth about the police frameup and the racist mistrial
- ▶ Watch a videos explaining Pennsylvania Judge Clemons' decision to deny Mumia's right to a fair trial
- ▶ Participate in a discussions on his case, on movement to end mass incarceration and Mumia's demand to free all political prisoners like Leonard Peltier
- ▶ Take a photo and sign a card to send to Mumia from his supporters in San Diego

TOGETHER WE CAN FREE MUMIA

Hosts: **Coalition to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal** 🌐 **San Diego Black Panther Party**

Labor donated April 2023

Saturday, April 22 – 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Malcolm X Library, 5148 Market Street, Performance Annex Room, San Diego

Hosted by San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia & San Diego Black Panther Party



Baltimore Community Outreach Event – Food is a Right, April 15

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 14, 2023

WEST BALTIMORE COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT

Saturday, April 15, 12 noon

**At Easterwood/Sandtown Park,
1534 McKean Ave. Balto 21217**

Anniversary
of the
Easterwood
Park



Rollback prices
Expand & Restore
Food Stamps
End Food Deserts
Feed the People,
Not War

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023 AT 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM EDT

Community Outreach Event – Food is a Right

1534 McKean Ave, Easterwood/Sandtown Park, Baltimore

Demand Rollback Prices, Restore & Expand Food Stamps, End Food Deserts, Feed the People, Not War

12 noon to 1 pm Gather at Easterwood/Sandtown Park, 1534 McKean Ave. Share food & prepare for Community Outreach Walk through the neighborhood from 1 pm to 2 pm and return to Park.

We will be petitioning. This neighborhood is one of the many food deserts in Baltimore City. This event will also commemorate the founding of the Easterwood/Sandtown Park.



New York City: U.S. out of the Philippines! End unequal military agreements! April 10

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 14, 2023



**U.S. OUT OF THE
PHILIPPINES!
END UNEQUAL
MILITARY
AGREEMENTS!**

**MONDAY APRIL 10TH
MOBILIZE @ 7PM**

**END BALIKATAN AND
ALL IMPERIALIST
MILITARY EXERCISES!**

**MEET @ US MILITARY RECRUITING STATION
TIMES SQUARE, W 43RD ST + 7TH AVE**

BAYAN
USA

Defend Filipino people and lands against imperialist war!

WHAT: Stationary action

WHEN: Monday, Apr 10, 7pm EST

WHERE: Times Square

This month, the Armed Forces of the PH (AFP) & the US military will hold their largest joint-military exercises to date, fortifying 1-sided military agreements that allow US imperialism to develop more platforms for war.

Join BAYAN-USA NE in a Natl Day of Action to denounce further military expansion across the Asia-Pacific under Biden & Marcos Jr., & call for an end to all unequal military agreements!



Fascists threaten, Biden concedes: Organize and fight for trans rights!

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 14, 2023

The Trans Day of Vengeance was a long-planned protest in Washington, D.C., scheduled for April 1. People were coming to D.C. from across the country to participate. It was called in response to the growing legal and extralegal violence

against the transgender community, egged on by far-right politicians and corporate media.

In the words of event initiator Tsukuru Fors, as [reported by Struggle-La Lucha](#): “Vengeance means fighting back with vehemence. It is our battle cry to declare to the world that we the transgender/non-binary communities will neither be silenced nor eradicated. And we are calling to our allies, members of other marginalized communities to make themselves known and to fight with us.”

On March 30, organizers were forced to cancel two days before the event because of “a credible threat to life and safety.” The reason: fascist mouthpieces like [Tucker Carlson and other social-media bottom feeders](#) whipped up a hate campaign targeting the event, falsely claiming it had caused a mass shooting at a Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee, on March 27, where three students and three staff members were killed.

The alleged shooter was Aiden Hale, a former student of the school who happened to be a trans man. Hale was shot dead by police. He was consistently misgendered and deadnamed for the first 24-48 hours after the tragedy, and some right-wing social media used this to claim that Hale was a trans woman.

[According to the Gun Violence Archive](#), by the end of March 2023 - that is, in just three months - there have been at least 130 mass shootings in the United States this year. The Nashville shooting is the only one reported to have been carried out by a trans person.

And yet, according to the right-wing, from Fox News and the New York Post to internet-famous white supremacists, Hale’s acts represented the “dangerous” nature of the whole trans community, and particularly the planned April 1 civil rights protest.

At least two specific threats to the Trans Day of Vengeance march took the form of mass shootings. According to independent anti-fascist researchers working with the John Brown Gun Club DMV, a [Minnesota-based white supremacist](#) named Adam Murray made credible threats to the event. After this was reported to the FBI, Murray was briefly detained in Baltimore and then released.

Another white supremacist said to be one Benjamin Ryder of Pennsylvania, was detained by police when [he pulled out a gun](#) outside the Supreme Court on April 1, where the Trans Day of Vengeance march had been scheduled to gather.

The right-wing tried to turn the Nashville tragedy into a Reichstag fire moment to frame up the entire trans community and justify the acts of violence it encouraged from stooges like Murray and Ryder – who much more fit the profile of the typical U.S. mass shooter.

Biden's concession fuels attacks

On March 25, a member of the “White Lives Matter” neo-Nazi group [attempted to firebomb](#) the Community Church of Chesterland, Ohio, for hosting a drag story hour. Just a week before, the [Nazis staged](#) an anti-trans, anti-drag demonstration in the Ohio town of Wadsworth, chanting, “There will be blood.”

So far this year, 450 anti-trans bills have been introduced in state legislatures across the U.S. Some 14 states have banned life-saving gender-affirming care for trans youth, with more expected to join them. In addition, bans on trans youth participation in school sports and use of school restrooms have been enacted.

On April 5, Kansas passed a law explicitly aimed at trans girls and young women that [could require genital inspections](#) for participation in sports programs. Florida and other states are expected to follow suit. Tennessee, where the March 27 shooting took place, is one of the worst offenders, even enacting a so-called “drag

ban” that places the public existence of trans people in jeopardy.

On March 31, International Trans Day of Visibility, President Joe Biden repeated his occasional claim to support “love, dignity and respect” for trans people. Yet less than a week later, the Washington Post reported: “The Biden administration on Thursday proposed new regulations that would [allow schools to bar transgender athletes](#) from participating in competitive high school and college sports but disallow blanket bans on the athletes that have been approved across the country.”

A few state legislators like Nebraska State Senators Machaela Cavanaugh and Megan Hunt, both parents of trans children, and Montana State Representative Zooey Zephyr, who is trans herself, have used their platforms to fight for trans rights relentlessly.

But Biden and the national Democratic Party leadership have done nothing to counter the onslaught of anti-trans hate that has engulfed the country since he entered office. Instead, the first significant act of the administration on this issue concedes trans rights.

This shouldn’t come as a surprise. Biden rode to victory in 2020 on the back of the Black Lives Matter movement and the fight for reproductive freedom – then immediately oversaw a huge shift of funds to police while refusing to take the necessary action to codify abortion rights in law before the Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade.

Now, as Democrats gear up for the 2024 elections, where Biden’s likely Republican opponents are notorious bigots Donald Trump and Ron DeSantis, Biden is preparing to throw trans people – and the whole LGBTQ+ community – under the bus.

Whatever the good intentions of some individual Democrats, the Democratic Party ultimately answers to the same capitalist class that has decided to double down on

anti-trans hate as a divide-and-conquer strategy to protect their system as people's suffering grows.

Biden's lack of action to protect trans lives, now exacerbated by his concession on sports participation, will encourage more legal attacks and more violence like the attempted church firebombing in Ohio and the armed threats to civil rights protesters in Washington.

When I spoke to participants in the March 31 march for Queer and Trans Youth Autonomy in the capital, I found enthusiasm and desire for bold action to protect trans youth and fight for trans liberation.

I heard young and older people eager to link the struggle for trans rights with the fight for Black and Indigenous lives, solidarity with migrants, defense of reproductive rights, union organizing, and climate justice.

It's time for bold, independent action, like the [National March to Protect Trans Youth](#) proposed by Women in Struggle-Mujeres en Lucha. It's time to organize for self-defense and take to the streets to push back the violent anti-trans attacks.

It's time to change the political climate of the U.S. from one where oppressed peoples live in fear to one where politicians and the super-rich behind them fear the people.



The capitalist crisis is just beginning

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 14, 2023



Worldwide there is a “cost-of-living” crisis. Inflation is raging. Food prices are out of reach. Access to housing is collapsing, with unsheltered homelessness [up more than 30%](#) in U.S. cities. [New apartment sizes](#) have dropped severely across the U.S., making Manhattan-style micro apartments the new affordable norm.

[Oxfam reports](#) that with the post-COVID-19 recession came the “largest increase in global poverty since World War II. ... Tens of millions more people are facing hunger. Hundreds of millions more face impossible rises in the cost of basic goods or heating their homes. Climate breakdown is crippling economies and seeing droughts, cyclones and floods force people from their homes.”

Oxfam concludes: “Poverty has increased for the first time in 25 years. At the same time, these multiple crises all have winners. The very richest have become dramatically richer and corporate profits have hit record highs, driving an explosion

of inequality.”

Capitalism has had economic crises every 10 years or so since 1825. Recessions are built into capitalism’s cycle of boom and bust.

Recent recessions have occurred in 1973, 1980, 1981, 1990, 2000, 2007, and 2020. That’s a recession about every seven-to-ten years, with the exception of the back-to-back recessions of 1980 and 1981.

The [Great Recession of 2007](#) lasted the longest (almost two years). The [2020 recession](#) produced the most severe decline in GDP (down 19.2% in the U.S.).

Until capitalism is overturned worldwide, the boom-and-bust crises will return, again and again, each one destroying jobs, housing, and food while at the same time increasing the centralization of capital and expanding monopoly domination.

Capitalist overproduction always causes these recessions. This is because of the laws of competition. The capitalists are in a permanent race to outproduce each other to gain the most profit. So capitalist production expands, but the market does not equally grow.

While production expands rapidly under capitalism during a boom period, the bosses eventually find that they cannot sell at a profit. So they shut down businesses and cut workers’ hours; an unemployment crisis begins. Inventory must be reduced or destroyed.

This is the law of capitalism. It cannot operate in any other way. This is the boom-and-bust cycle.

The capitalist drive to expand is also the drive to war – the imperialist drive for big business to control the raw materials such as oil and ores, the agricultural production, and most of all, the labor in every part of the globe.

But that's never the way the talking heads on TV explain recessions. There's always some other explanation, usually blaming financial corruption, like Lehman Brothers' lending practices for the 2008 recession. Never is it said that capitalism or overproduction is responsible for the crisis. Yet that is the underlying cause.

Congress recognizes the capitalist roots of the crisis, of course, and its sole act (Democrats and Republicans together) in response to the looming recession was to [pass a resolution denouncing socialism](#).

