

# **Meat monopolies ripped off McDonald's and everybody else**

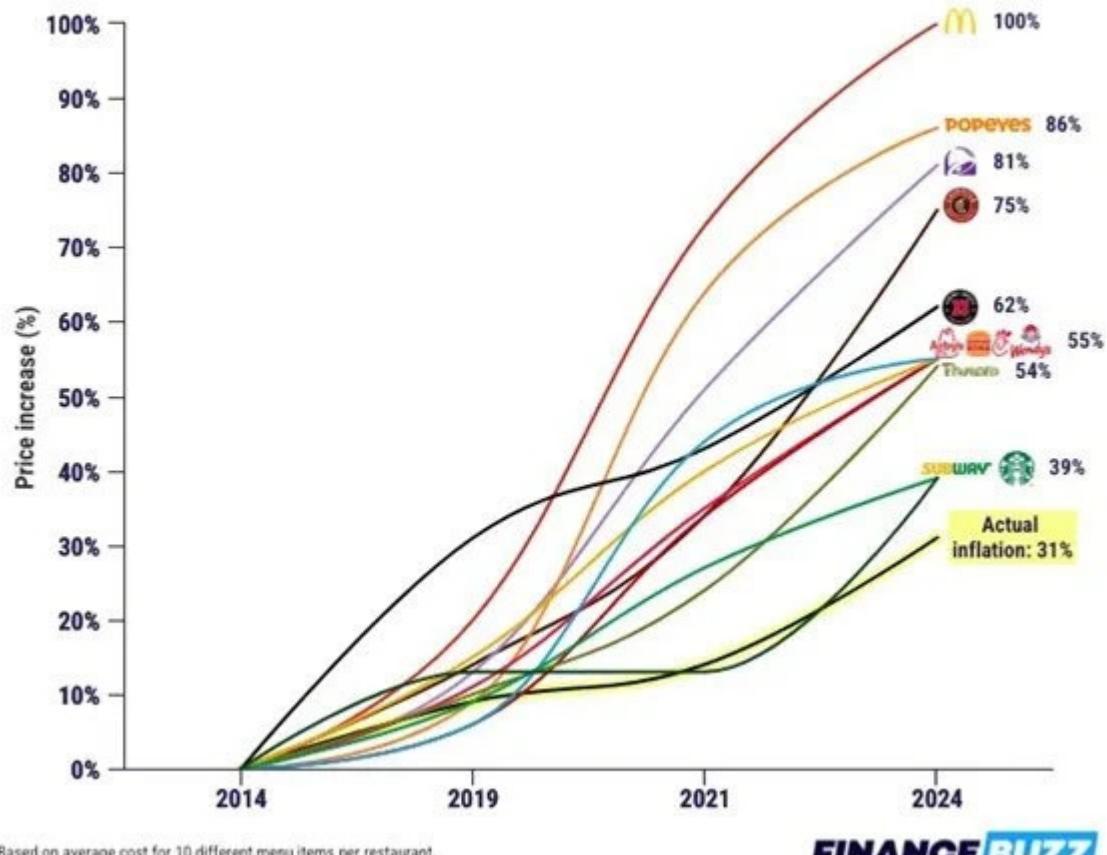
written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 18, 2024

## **Skyrocketing food prices are a corporate conspiracy**

# Fast food price inflation

Menu prices have outpaced national inflation rates at every fast food restaurant since 2014.



McDonald's filed an [antitrust suit](#) on Oct. 4 against the four biggest meatpackers, claiming the outfits conspired to jack up beef prices since at least 2015. The four accused dead animal monopolists — Cargill, JBS, National Beef Packing Company, and Tyson — had total sales of \$315 billion last year.

Meanwhile, McDonald's — the world's #1 junk food pusher — raked in \$25 billion. Its local franchises, which exploit over two million workers, had sales of tens of billions more.

All these mega-rich corporations are criminal cartels. When they start accusing each

other, the working class can learn some of the truth.

According to [government figures](#), food prices rose by 27% between January 2020 (the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic) and September 2024. Many families and individuals are paying even more.

Millions of poor and working people can't afford to shop at supermarkets anymore. Instead, they're buying bags of noodles and other food items at so-called dollar stores.

There were nearly [22 million](#) millionaires in the United States in 2021. The same year, [53 million](#) people lined up at food banks across the country to get something to eat for themselves and their families.

The dramatic increase in food prices wasn't the result of droughts, although capitalist climate change is harming agriculture. The supply chain issues at the seaports hardly affected grocery prices since most food is produced domestically.

The price gouging certainly isn't the fault of immigrant workers, who account for a majority of U.S. farmworkers, many of whom are undocumented. Billionaire Trump supporter Nelson Peltz — who controls McDonald's archrival Wendy's — refused to pay farm workers more than a penny per pound for picking tomatoes.

Monopoly allowed Cargill, JBS, National Beef Packing Company, and Tyson to boost beef prices. The four outfits now control more than 80% of the beef market.

### **Take over the packers and the supermarket chains!**

As McDonald's [suit](#) points out, "Conspiracies are easier to organize and sustain when only a few firms control a large share of the market."

McDonald's should know. It's being [sued](#) for antitrust violations for denying the

right of employees to work at another McDonald's location for better wages. This "no-poach" rule is illegal yet common in the corporate world.

As far back as 1888, the United States Senate investigated the meatpackers' price-fixing in the buying and selling of livestock. Numerous anti-trust [suits](#) followed over the decades.

None of these cases stopped the continuing monopolization of meatpacking, poultry production, or any other industry. Nor did antitrust laws stop grocery chains from swallowing each other.

The [proposed acquisition](#) of Albertsons by Kroger will create a supermarket monster with 5,000 stores and 700,000 employees. Along with the even bigger Walmart, these outfits will control 29% of U.S. grocery sales.

While the meat monopolies raised prices through the roof, over 59,000 workers in their plants fell ill from COVID-19. At least [269 died](#).

During the pandemic, people were urged to keep six feet apart. Meat bosses sneered at social distancing. On many meat and poultry production lines, workers were just two feet away from each other, almost guaranteeing sickness and possible death.

Then, Smithfield Foods CEO Kenneth Sullivan wrote to Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts that "social distancing is a nicety that makes sense only for people with laptops." In a [letter](#) to Senators Elizabeth Warren and Cory Booker, Sullivan declared, "For better or worse, our plants are what they are."

"For better or worse," hundreds of workers died while the meat monopolists collected billions more in profit. All the capitalist monopolies need to be taken over by the people.



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# **Los Angeles emergency protest: Stop U.S./Israel burning patients, children and families alive - Oct. 18**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
October 18, 2024





Latest US/Israeli Horror:  
**BURNING CHILDREN, PATIENTS AND FAMILIES ALIVE!**

# **EMERGENCY PROTEST FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18**

*4 pm at the CNN Building*

*6430 Sunset Blvd*



**End the Genocide in Gaza**

**No THAAD Missile System, No US Troops in Occupied Palestine**

**Stop bombing Beirut, Stop Assassinations of Resistance Leaders**

**No War with Iran**

**US media report the truth**

For more info email [info@harriettubmancenterla.com](mailto:info@harriettubmancenterla.com) or call 323 306-6240

**Friday, October 18 - 4:00-6:00 p.m.**

# **CNN Building, 6430 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles**

## End the genocide in Gaza

No THAAD missile system, no U.S. troops in occupied Palestine

Stop bomb Beirut, stop assassinations of Resistance leaders

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Tell U.S. media: Report the truth!

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# Biden-Harris administration

# escalates war drive against Iran

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 18, 2024

Recent weeks have seen the U.S. war machine substantially escalate its proxy war against Iran via “Israel” and other regional partners. On Sept. 27, the U.S.-backed Zionist regime assassinated Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah, a key Iranian ally and leader in the Axis of Resistance.

United States President and war-monger-in-chief Joe Biden issued a statement in full support of Nasrallah’s assassination and “Israel’s” general escalation against Lebanon. Biden didn’t stop there. He proudly declared that the “United States fully supports Israel’s right to defend itself against Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis, and any other Iranian-supported terrorist groups.”

As an apartheid regime built on the back of colonization and genocide, “Israel” has no right to self-defense. The fact is, the people of Palestine and their regional allies will fight for the complete liberation of the Arab world from U.S.-Israel terror. Palestine’s struggle for liberation, whether it be the armed struggle or the political struggle, is a fight for the very survival of a people.

So when the U.S. president, the face of imperialism, declares that the imperialist military structure will support Zionism in “self-defense,” what he means is that the U.S. will provide the Zionist entity with whatever it needs to fight its masters’ enemies. In this case, that enemy is Iran. Since Biden’s speech, the U.S. military and propaganda machine has only escalated the saber-rattling against Iran.

On Oct. 4, six days after Biden’s statement, U.S. aircraft and warships launched strikes against 12 military and civilian sites across Yemen. Ansar Allah, Yemen’s ruling political party, is a key ally to Iran in the region. Yemen’s strikes against U.S.

naval vessels and disruption of Red Sea shipping lanes are a crucial part of the Axis of Resistance's overall fight to stop the Zionist entity. The U.S. cannot allow this sort of coordination in resistance to threaten its strongest and most profitable military base, known as "Israel."

As such, the U.S. imperialist class, including the defense industry, big tech, and automotive companies, will support whatever action is needed to secure the Zionist entity, even if this means marching toward war with Iran.

To that end, the Biden administration has already taken several steps to militarily escalate against Iran. On Oct. 8, State Department Spokesman Mattew Miller clarified the Biden regime's position on "Israel's" current war in Southern Lebanon. Miller announced that the regime no longer supports any ceasefire between occupation forces and Hezbollah. Further, the Biden regime is now fully behind the IOF's ground incursions into Lebanon. Hezbollah is another key player in the Axis of Resistance and a close ally of Iran.

In its latest move, the Biden regime deployed a THAAD missile system and 100 U.S. troops to occupied Palestine in support of the anticipated Zionist response to Iran's Oct. 1 ballistic missile attack on the Zionist military infrastructure.

The Zionist regime's counter-strike on Iran is being planned in close coordination with the White House and the Pentagon. Such plans could include missile strikes on the Iranian oil industry and other civilian sectors.

As The Cradle reported, the expanding Zionist war has meant big profits for the Western defense industry. The [Quincy Institute](#) published a report: "Israel's wars mean 'massive' returns for U.S. arms company investors."

"Investors in weapons stocks have enjoyed record gains over the past year, dramatically outperforming the major stock indexes in a stock rally that analysts are

attributing to violence and instability in the Middle East," the report says.

Military escalation against Iran serves to keep the gravy train rolling at the cost of millions of starving and dying people across the Middle East. As long as that is the case, then the U.S. will continue to fund and coordinate the Zionist war against Iran and its allies.

*Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.*



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## **Free after 59 days: Detained #EndBadGovernance protesters released in Nigeria**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 18, 2024

Abuja, Nigeria, Oct. 3 — Detained End Bad Governance protesters released on bail after spending 59 days in detention are shown in this video.

This movement began on July 29 of this year using the hashtags #EndBadGovernance and #EndBadGovernanceInNigeria in response to worsening conditions in the country.

President Bola Tinubu's government has implemented austerity measures (cutting social services and fuel subsidies, etc.) at the direction of the neocolonial World Bank, dominated by the U.S. and its imperialist junior partners like the U.K., Germany, and Japan.

As of Oct. 16, Nigeria's inflation rate was 32.70% based on the Consumer Price Index.

The World Food Program says that in June-August, 26.5 million Nigerians faced acute hunger, up from 18.16 million at the end of 2023, an increase of 31.5%.

Instead of working to meet the needs of the people, the government has responded to the protests with repression. State security forces killed at least 21 people and arrested over 1,000.

The working-class people of the U.S. have more in common with the struggling Nigerian people than we do with Trump and Harris or any billionaire.

Solidarity with the people of Nigeria!



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# **The dirty war against Cuba: The sublimation of infamy**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
October 18, 2024



Whenever a powerful nation plans to invade, control, dominate another, the truth suffers a disruption. In the relationship between Cuba and the United States, lies have been a warlike resource used by the Empire to achieve its objectives of domination over the island.

Let us remember how already in the 19th century, to the racist and manipulative attack of the American newspapers The Manufactures and The Evening Post, Martí responded with "Vindication of Cuba" on March 25, 1889.

On February 17, 1957, the interview granted by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro to Herbert Matthews of The New York Times in the Sierra Maestra destroyed the fable constructed by the tyranny that the leader of the Rebel Army had died.

It took just a few days after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in January 1959, for a virulent campaign of falsehoods against the Caribbean nation to be launched from

the United States.

Major media outlets, among them the Associated Press, United Press, the Inter American Press Association, magazines such as Life, Newsweek, Us News and World Report were determined to show the world just how “criminal” Cuba was.

This is how Fidel would describe it: “In the cables there is a permanent insidiousness (...) They always mention -the rapid trials of Batista’s supporters-. They emphasize it. Apparently, they are impartial, but they use certain words and subtleties, as masters of intrigue (...)”.

The trials of the revolutionary tribunals against a group of the most notorious war criminals of the Batista dictatorship, important figures of the Eisenhower administration and numerous congressmen presented them as “acts of barbarism”.

Most of the CIA’s media operations in Latin America during the 1960s were directed against the Cuban Revolution and Fidel Castro. “No more Cubas” was a concrete policy for the CIA. What has changed, in terms of mass manipulation, since then, since the first covert action plans? What has changed since the bastard Radio and TV Marti was created?

Essentially two things: the eruption of the Internet and the advance of new technologies. Thousands of audiovisual materials, books, encyclopedias, electronic sites carry out this task relentlessly, broadcasting their false messages.

The fake news against Cuba, fabricated and replicated by social networks and the popular and powerful technological platforms of communication, are the vanguard of the attack against the Revolution, they are in charge of inventing and reiterating lies, to destroy the ideological defenses and make us vulnerable.

President Trump’s June 16, 2017 National Security Presidential Memorandum, “Strengthening U.S. Policy toward Cuba,” to promote through the internet “the free

and unregulated flow of information to Cuba and within the Island,” resulted in the creation of the Cuba Internet Task Force.

On the same day that mobile internet access began in Cuba, the “information” strategies made public in the budget documents for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 of the U.S. Broadcasting Board of Governors were implemented, where it is oriented to use native and unbranded Cuban Facebook accounts to disseminate content created by the U.S. Government, without informing Cuban Facebook users.

These documents have been ratified year after year by the Biden administration.

One of the objectives to be fulfilled by the Task Force is to promote the so-called “independent” Internet sites in Cuba, to create fake accounts and profiles in different social networks, including Twitter, to disseminate anti-Cuban content.

A task force is a temporary unit established to work on a specific operation or mission.

In this case, they propose to analyze “the technological challenges and opportunities of extending Internet access in Cuba to help the Cuban people enjoy a free and unregulated flow of information”. Translated to the truth it means the opposite. What it really is to regulate information, to control in order to take advantage of the advances of new technologies to dominate the space and the flow of content to subvert the internal order in our country.

In the instruction manuals of the Yankee special services, psychological warfare is defined in the following terms:

“Coordination and use of all means, including physical and psychological (excepting the military operations of the regular army, but exploiting their psychological results), that serve to destroy the enemy’s will to win, to undermine his political and economic capacity....”.

The key to persuasion is the control of the information that is consumed, that the person, according to the CIA manuals, only reads what we want him to read, sees what we want him to see, hears what we want him to hear.

The CIA defines “psychological warfare” as “the struggle to win the minds and wills of men.”

The geniuses of the CIA have come up with everything, including trials of “paranormal” warfare. Any infamy can be expected from the U.S. government.

Source: [Cuba en Resumen](#)



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## **Elections at a time of growing war budget and shrinking wages**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 18, 2024

The polls published by the mainstream media all say that the presidential race between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump is extremely close.

The money race is not so close. In the big money competition between the billionaires, the Harris campaign had raised more than \$1 billion as of Oct. 9, three times as much as the Trump campaign had raised. While billionaire Elon Musk has made a public show of buying into Trump, Harris is still getting most of the big money from the billionaires and millionaires so far.

Trump could win anyway.

In the U.S., the Electoral College decides the presidential election, not the popular vote. Harris could win the popular vote — though it's not guaranteed — yet still lose to Trump in the electoral college.

This system has dominated presidential elections this century. In 2000, Al Gore received more votes than George W. Bush, but the Supreme Court intervened and gave Bush the Electoral College selection. In 2016, Hillary Clinton received almost three million more votes than Donald Trump, but the Electoral College gave Trump the presidency.

Donald Trump is counting on the Electoral College system to put him back in the White House. (Read more about the Electoral College from 2016 when it gave Trump the presidency in "[Black voter suppression near 1950s level](#).")

Because of the restrictions imposed by the Electoral College system, the presidential election is now said to hinge on just six "swing states" — Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Nevada. These states will essentially override all votes in the rest of the country.

### **Enforce an Israeli ceasefire now**

Harris could win these "swing states" if the Biden administration would enforce an Israeli ceasefire right now. Instead, Harris has repeatedly declared that she supports Israel's war. That's commonly known as support for genocide.

Nobody missed the fact that when Israel escalated its war, expanding into Lebanon, Biden responded by increasing the delivery of weapons systems and, for the first time, openly deploying U.S. troops in support of the expanded war.

When hurricanes Helene and Milton hit the Southeast, devastating Florida and the Appalachian region of North Carolina, there was no similar response. FEMA responded, but more was needed. There was no bonus equivalent to the \$billions in bunker-buster bombs going for hurricane relief.

Harris' militarism and enthusiasm for Israel's war are costing her votes in the swing states, where a majority support an immediate ceasefire and an end to the war.

During an interview on ABC News' "The View" on Oct. 8, when asked if she would have approached anything differently than President Biden, Vice President Harris said that "there is not a thing that comes to mind."

Any worker watching the show might have said "Wow" and politely changed the channel. Many likely cursed the TV screen.

## **Most feel it is a recession**

Most working people think that the economy is in a recession. It certainly feels that way; there is no need for data analysis or AI to figure that out.

Even though inflation is beginning to slow down, the price increases are cumulative, meaning things still cost much more than they did back in 2019 — and prices continue to rise. The price of a Big Mac has gone up 21% since 2019, and it's expected to go higher. McDonald's says it has to raise prices more because meat prices continue to rise.

One of the primary drivers of inflation is military spending. There were inflation crises during World Wars I and II, as well as the Korean and Vietnam wars. Behind

the inflation today, with the U.S./NATO proxy war against Russia in Ukraine, the U.S.-armed and -funded war on Gaza, and the increasing war buildup in Taiwan, is the trillion dollar annual war budget and a national debt of \$34.38 trillion.

## **Wages stagnant**

Rising prices have hit working-class wages hardest. While there are fewer middle-income jobs available, inflation is biting hard even for those who still have these jobs.

Wages have increased slightly, but purchasing power has decreased. Stagnant wages are a concern, especially for many young people who are struggling to find employment.

The official poverty rate has increased every year of Biden's term in office. Currently, 25% of seniors are attempting to get by on \$15,000 or less. They can't afford to pay for essential services, including prescription medications, healthcare, and other fundamental necessities.

High interest rates have put the possibility of home ownership out of reach for most working people. But rising rents make any housing harder to get and keep. Homelessness has reached record levels, with nearly a million homeless every night, many without shelter. This is the highest number of homeless people ever documented in the U.S.

As of August 2024, credit card debt in the U.S. is \$1.14 trillion, a 5.8% increase from the previous year and \$215 billion higher than the previous record set in 2019. Credit card delinquency is rising, and many are overextended.

Millions of workers (at least 20 million) had full-time jobs earning less than the official poverty level for a family of four (that's \$29,950). Many workers hold two jobs to try to make ends meet. Good jobs are not available; most of the jobs created

during Biden's years have been low-pay, non-union service jobs.

Another 3 million workers have lost their jobs due to hurricanes or other natural disasters in the last year. FEMA assistance primarily goes to businesses and infrastructure; a fraction goes to job assistance, which is hard to impossible to get.



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## **Cubans march for peace in solidarity with Palestine**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 18, 2024

Havana, Oct 14 (Prensa Latina) — Thousands of Cubans of all ages marched Monday here demanding an end to the genocide committed by the Zionist Government of Israel against the Palestinian people and its attacks on other nations in the Middle East.

Participants in the march, led by Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel and other top

leaders, denounced the complicity of the United States in the Zionist military onslaught that has killed more than 42,000 people in the Gaza Strip, including many women and children, and more than 2,000 in Lebanon.

At the Anti-Imperialist Tribune in Havana, final destination of the march that began at downtown Havana's Fragua Martiana, Palestinian students in Cuba expressed their compatriots' will to resist until they recover their nation, and achieve their inalienable rights and a just and lasting peace.

They denounced the expansionist interests of the State of Israel, and its aggression against nations such as Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and the entire region, with the complicity of the United States, while the world remains paralyzed, unable to stop the tragedy.

It is not a war, it is a generalized and progressive genocide, they stated at the political-cultural event, at which they expressed their infinite gratitude to Cuba for its permanent solidarity with the just cause of the Palestinian people.

The first secretary of the Young Communist League (UJC), Meyvis Estévez, stated that this march and the mobilizations held nationwide in recent days demonstrate Cuba's support for the Palestinian people, whom she described as an impressive example of self-sacrifice and patriotism.

She stressed Cuba's commitment to peace, justice and the defense of Palestinian sovereignty.

We will not close our eyes to the massacre; we will not forget the heroism of those attacked or the barbarity of the aggressors, Estévez noted.

Source: [Prensa Latina](#)







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# **2024 National Day of Mourning, Nov. 28**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
October 18, 2024







## 2024 National Day of Mourning

**Thursday, November 28, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST  
Cole's Hill, Plymouth, MA**

Join us as we continue to create a true awareness of Native peoples and history. Help shatter the untrue image of the Pilgrims, and the unjust system based on white supremacy, settler colonialism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth that they and other European settlers introduced to these shores.

**Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world!**

**From Turtle Island to Palestine, Colonialism is a Crime!**

**Free Leonard Peltier! [www.freeleonardpeltiernow.org](http://www.freeleonardpeltiernow.org)**

While many supporters will attend in person, we will also [livestream](#) the event from Plymouth.

**United American Indians of New England (decolonizing since 1970)**

**[info@uaine.org](mailto:info@uaine.org) \* [UAINE website](#) \* [UAINE Facebook Group](#)**

**[Facebook event](#)**

**[Watch the 2024 National Day of Mourning Livestream on Youtube](#)**

**[Donate](#)**

**#NDOM2024 #NoThanksNoGiving**

**No sit-down social, but box lunches will be available.**

**Masks required!**

## **2024 orientation**

### **What Is National Day Of Mourning?**

An annual tradition since 1970, National Day of Mourning is a solemn, spiritual and highly political day. Many of us fast from sundown the day before through the afternoon of that day (and have a social after NDOM so that participants in NDOM can break their fasts). We are mourning our ancestors and the genocide of our peoples and the theft of our lands. NDOM is a day when we mourn, but we also feel our strength in action and solidarity.

## **When and where is day of mourning?**

Thursday, November 28, 2023 (U.S. "thanksgiving" day) at Cole's Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts, 12 noon SHARP. Cole's Hill is the hill above Plymouth Rock in the Plymouth historic waterfront area. The rallies and marches will last until approximately 3 pm (sometimes later).

## **Will there be a march?**

Yes, there will be a march through the historic district of Plymouth. Plymouth agreed, as part of the settlement of 10/19/98, that UAINE may march on National Day of Mourning without the need for a permit as long as we give the town advance notice.

**PROGRAM:** Although we very much welcome our non-Native supporters to stand with us, it is a day when only Indigenous people speak about our history and the struggles that are taking place throughout the Americas. Speakers are by invitation only. This year's NDOM will be livestreamed from Plymouth.

-Note that NDOM is not a commercial event, so we ask that people do not sell merchandise or distribute leaflets at the outdoor program. We might have UAINE t-shirts available for sale following the march.

-We also ask that you do not eat (unless you must do so for medical reasons) at the outdoor speak-out and march out of respect for the participants who are fasting.

-Dress for the weather!

**SOCIAL:** There will be box lunches available, but we will not have a full sit-down social due to ongoing health concerns.

**TRANSPORTATION:** If you cannot get to Plymouth, you can watch our livestream! We will also post information about buses and carpools from NY (Brooklyn and Bronx), CT, western MA, Boston, Maine and elsewhere if applicable at the UAINE facebook event.

**ELDERS/DISABLED PEOPLE:** We have some chairs available for any Elders and others who need to sit during the initial rally on Cole's Hill. We also will have ASL interpreters on-stage.

**FOR UPDATES:** Please join and check out the UAINE facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UAINE> for updates on National Day of Mourning this year. Our website [uaine.org](http://uaine.org) will be updated, but not as quickly or frequently.

Facebook event: <https://bit.ly/NDOM2024>

UAINE on Twitter & Insta: @mahtowin1

COVID-19 has hit Indigenous communities very hard, and we want to ensure that no one gets sick from attending National Day of Mourning. Please wear a mask!

[#NDOM2024](#) [#nothansksgiving](#)



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# **The Sword and the Cross of Colonization in the Americas**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
October 18, 2024



Every October 12, the peoples of the Americas remember the first arrival of Christopher Columbus to the New World, in 1942, as a date that marks a milestone in the history of genocide, plunder and exploitation. Far from being a day of celebration, it is a day of struggle, of resistance to oblivion.

The Trinidadian historian C.L.R. James summarizes in two lines what happened that morning in 1492, in his book The Black Jacobins: "The first landing of Christopher Columbus in the New World was on the island of San Salvador, and after praising God he urgently inquired about gold". A few years later, Father Las Casas, the first

voice to condemn the cruelty to which the indigenous American communities were subjected to, would say that those first conquerors had arrived “with the cross in their hands and an insatiable thirst for gold in their hearts”.

It is impossible to deny the transcendence of what happened in 1492: the arrival of the values and appetites of the nascent capitalist society, the beginning of the globalization of the world and the conversion of human history into one single history, and even the division of the world as we know it today.

But the peoples of the Americas have never forgotten what Columbus' arrival on the imposing caravels La Niña, La Pinta and Santa María signified. The colonizers exterminated 90% of the native inhabitants in the first century of the invasion alone, 90 million people. The Europeans wielded “the sword and the cross”, tore the bodies of the natives with swords and gunpowder, and ravaged their culture and identity using God as a pretext.

The Catholic religion was imposed by blood and fire, being a far-reaching instrument of domination, which to this day alienates and subdues. The invasion of America by Europeans -in the words of José Martí- constituted “the interference of a devastating civilization, two words that, being an antagonism, perfectly describe this process of humankind”.

In a joint statement, the Cuban institutions Casa de las Americas, the Office of the Programa Martiano and the World Council of the José Martí Project of International Solidarity did not miss other implications of this date, stating “The colonizers of the various powers also unleashed one of the most atrocious crimes known to mankind: that of the trafficking and enslavement of African peoples who were kidnapped and forced to work in the lucrative business of plantations. An unknown amount numbering in the tens of millions of human beings were taken from that continent between the 16th and 19th centuries.”

It is not a question at this point of demonizing modernity, nor of spreading hatred about one country or another for its participation in or benefits obtained from domination and dispossession. The demand now must condemn all forms of colonialism, neocolonialism, and exploitation of which may be in different variations but still remains in the present time.

Proof of this are the constant hostilities to which some nations of the world are subjected to, such as Cuba, because the great powers do not tolerate a world order different from the one ruled by Capital. Proof of this is also the brutal genocide to which the Palestinian people are subjected to by Israel, which now threatens the entire region and the world. We must not forget the source of the evils afflicting humanity, the lust for power, inequality, just to mention a few of them.

"We must denounce any attempt to impose a rosy legend or glorify the perpetrators and ideologues of such atrocities. We, the inhabitants of our America, do not deny the past, nor will we renounce the heritage of the best of the so-called Western culture, which also belongs to us. But we vindicate the legacy of the oppressed and the resistance of those who rose up five centuries ago against the oppressors, and all those who, since then, have decided to cast their lot with the poorest on earth," the joint statement concluded.

**Alejandra Garcia** is the Havana correspondent for Resumen Latinoamericano in English and an evening news anchor for Telesur in English.

Source: Resumen Latinoamericano - English



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# Promise of change in Puerto Rico

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 18, 2024

With each passing day, Puerto Rico sinks deeper into a neoliberal process that threatens its very existence. From the purely geological issue, with supposed legal approvals for construction in coastal locations that involve the removal of mangroves and corals that are the natural barriers against coastal erosion, to the displacement of communities that give way to luxury housing for millionaire foreigners. There is a replacement of our population.

Basic health and education services are almost nonexistent. In short, life in Puerto Rico has become very difficult. While our central problem is the colonial state, it is imperative to stop this destructive bleeding.

And urgent measures are needed such as the removal of the corrupt, neoliberal and right-wing administration in the government represented by the New Progressive Party (PNP) that aspires to make PUR a U.S. state. However, it also has its collaborators in the People's Democratic Party (PDP), who favor the colonial situation.

To remove them, there is a chance in the upcoming November 5 elections. Despite the prohibitions of the right wing, an electoral alliance has been formed between two progressive forces, the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) and the Movimiento Victoria Ciudadana.

In the streets, talking to the people, a new hope for change can be perceived. And the support for the Alliance's gubernatorial candidate, Juan Dalmau of the PIP, is growing.

Even Puerto Rican rapper, singer Bad Bunny, who despite the likes or dislikes of his songs, has shown a great love for his country, and has always been present in progressive political campaigns, hired a billboard signing to send messages against the corruption of both parties and to urge the people to vote for a better country, which implies a vote for the Alliance. Other artists such as René from Calle 13, (the author of Latin America) have also published through the networks their adhesion to the Alliance as the best electoral option.

But in the face of this boom, there are also the corrupt maneuvers of the government that has done everything possible to combat the Alliance. From prohibiting an electoral front and making it difficult to register new voters, to closing permanent registration centers, excluding minority parties from the State Elections Commission so they cannot monitor the processes, increasing fraudulent advance votes including already deceased voters.

But the need for profound change is increasing the awareness of the people, and it will be difficult for them to stop the change.

Source: [Struggle-La Lucha](#), translation [Resumen Latinoamericano - English](#)

