

Decaying capitalism can't protect us from not-so-natural disasters

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 10, 2024



People fill up sandbags at Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park in Naples, Florida, as Hurricane Milton approaches the state.

Cuts in public transportation mean more lives will be lost

What happened in Florida is horrendous and preventable. Millions of people were trying to escape as Hurricane Milton approached. Mile after mile of expressways were clogged with cars, and over a thousand gas stations ran out of fuel.

The Pentagon has close to a trillion-dollar budget. At least [\\$175 billion](#) has been spent on the U.S. proxy war with the Russian Federation in Ukraine. Another [\\$18 billion](#) has been spent on the genocidal war against Gaza and all of Palestine.

Yet the U.S. capitalist state is incapable of protecting its own population from disasters as capitalist climate change makes them all the more likely to happen.

What we've seen in Florida is a repeat of the same preventable tragedy that happened during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. At least 1,392 people were killed as President Bush let Black and poor people drown and die in New Orleans.

How are disabled people, prisoners, people needing dialysis treatments, going to survive the current hurricane? To the billionaire class and its stooge, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, all these people are expendable.

One obvious way to evacuate people would be to mobilize public transportation. Instead of Air Force planes being used to send U.S. troops to Western Asia, the aircraft would be used to carry thousands of people to safety. Commercial airliners could move many more, with free fares paid out of the misnamed defense budget.

Buses would be mobilized as well. Meanwhile, hotels and empty apartments — kept off the market to jack up rents — would be prepared to house families.

The labor movement could help organize this evacuation.

Where did the trains go?

A major way to evacuate people would be to use extra passenger trains. But railroad

passenger service has shriveled.

Back in 1955, U.S. railroads owned [32,000 passenger cars](#). Accounting for dining cars and other equipment, this fleet could carry more than a million passengers in coaches and sleeping cars.

Amtrak currently has around 1,500 passenger cars. The commuter railroad agencies have maybe another 2,000.

Railroads used to carry tens of thousands to special events. Just for the Army Navy Game traditionally held in Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Railroad would run dozens of charter trains carrying football fans. (The Pennsylvania's tracks between New York City and Washington D.C. are now part of Amtrak's Northeast Corridor.)

Since railroad passenger cars are roomier than planes or buses, they would be especially needed to carry disabled and older people.

The CSX rail system is headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida, and has nearly 21,000 miles of track throughout the eastern United States. Last year, it had revenues of nearly \$15 billion.

The former railroads that formed CSX dumped their passenger trains back in 1971 when Amtrak was formed. CSX, however, has a [fleet](#) of 14 business cars that carry its executives in luxury.

Used in a relay of several trips, this equipment could carry thousands of people to safety. Why hasn't CSX offered to use this equipment? Former CSX CEO John Snow was Bush's Treasury Secretary while people died needlessly during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Capitalist cutbacks, including cutbacks in passenger trains, can kill. Despite U.S.

economic sanctions, socialist Cuba evacuated [2.6 million people](#) — nearly a quarter of its population — before Hurricane Ike struck in 2008.

We need what Cuba has, a socialist revolution.



Inicio de una histórica presidencia en México, Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo

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El pasado lunes 1ro de octubre, la Ciudad de México se convirtió en una enorme fiesta para celebrar la juramentación de la primera mujer presidenta en la historia de esa nación.

El ambiente rumbo a la Plaza del Zócalo se iba haciendo más festivo y transitado según se avanzaba por las avenidas colindantes donde a las cuatro de la tarde, luego de que juramentara como presidenta esa misma mañana ante el Congreso de la República, aparecería Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo para compartir con su pueblo. La aglomeración era tal, aún mucho antes del tiempo pautado, que esta escritora no

pudo dar un paso más. La muchedumbre, en forma compacta, me arrastraba.

La alegría, el orgullo patrio y sobre todo la Esperanza, se reflejaban en los rostros de cada una de las personas, de todas las edades. Llegaron de muchos de los 32 estados de la nación e incluso desde la Diáspora en Estados Unidos, organizaciones políticas, comunitarias, sindicales. Contingentes indígenas y afros, de mujeres, escolares. Cada cual con su estandarte y sus banderas mexicanas. Enormes marionetas y bandas musicales, vendedoras y vendedores ambulantes ofreciendo desde suculentas delicias típicas como el elote, hasta caretas y muñecos honrando a López Obrador.

Enormes cruzacalles agradecían a la administración de Andrés Manuel López Obrador por los logros obtenidos en su sexenio de gobernación y le daban la bienvenida a Claudia Sheinbaum. Se oía consistentemente con diversos ritmos y musicalización la consigna más cantada: “Es un honor estar con Claudia hoy”. Se le tuteaba, era su Claudia querida, la Claudia del pueblo. “Claudia, amiga, el pueblo está contigo”, decían.

Luego, en el escenario colocado en el Zócalo, fue subiendo una comitiva de 133 mujeres Autoridades indígenas representando las cinco regiones del país, quienes encabezarian la ceremonia de limpieza y purificación y le harían entrega del Bastón sagrado de Mando, símbolo de poder político y espiritual a la nueva presidenta.

El sentimiento que resonaba en las mujeres mexicanas ese día fue expresado por una de las autoridades quien al ofrecer el bastón de mando le dijo a la Presidenta: “Hermanita Claudia, eres la voz de las que no tuvimos voz por mucho tiempo, de nuestros pueblos, eres la esperanza que nosotros teníamos, hoy las mujeres indígenas estamos de fiesta, pero no solamente las mujeres indígenas, también todas las mujeres”.

Luego de la ceremonia, la Presidenta se dirigió al pueblo que llenaba la Plaza, para

agradecerle y anunciar los objetivos de su gobierno. Éstos los ha resumido en un programa de 100 puntos que prioriza los intereses del pueblo, sobre todo de las comunidades más desventajadas, y sus mujeres que han sido objeto de tanta violencia. Frente a la ola de políticas neoliberales privatizadoras que arropa al mundo, Sheinbaum prometió que no habrá privatizaciones. En este vídeo de



YouTube se recogen las propuestas en detalle:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmF32bGL0Vw>

Pero, ¿Quién es Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo? ¿Se podrá confiar en ese discurso tan esperanzador?

La Presidenta corrió bajo la bandera de la coalición Sigamos Haciendo Historia, compuesta por Morena, el Partido del Trabajo, y el Partido Verde Ecologista y es sucesora política de López Obrador, jurando seguir el proceso progresista de la Cuarta Transformación de México que había iniciado éste bajo su coalición Juntos Haremos Historia. Es interesante destacar que ella superó los votos recibidos por Obrador en el 2018.

Claudia Sheinbaum es además una mujer producto de una familia de científicos quienes participaban activamente en la izquierda mexicana. Su padre militaba en el Partido Comunista Mexicano. Es madre y abuela. Tiene un doctorado en ingeniería

ambiental, maestría en ingeniería de la energía y licenciatura en física lo que la cualifica para las posiciones que hasta ahora ha ocupado: Por ejemplo, en el 2000 fungió como Secretaria de Medio Ambiente del Distrito Federal donde ejecutó varios proyectos en beneficio del medioambiente.

En julio de 2018 se convirtió en la primera mujer electa jefa de gobierno de la Ciudad de México donde inició programas que beneficiaban a los estratos más desventajados. Entre ellos, el de centros comunitarios de formación económica, cultural y deportiva llamados “Pilares”, centros de educación

como el Instituto de Estudios Superiores Rosario Castellanos, y la Universidad de la Salud.

Son muchas y variadas sus contribuciones en beneficio del pueblo mexicano. En contra de la violencia de género declaró la Alerta de Violencia de Género que redundó en programas de atención, incluyendo la construcción de 710 kilómetros de senderos seguros bajo el lema “Camina libre, camina segura”, para garantizar la seguridad de las mujeres mientras caminan por la ciudad.

Su programa de gobierno es muy abarcador y ambicioso. Su cumplimiento será un extraordinario avance hacia un futuro más seguro y feliz para todas las personas mexicanas. No queda otra sino desear todo el éxito posible al pueblo de México y a su presidenta Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo.

¡Viva México!

Nota: Joubert-Ceci se encontraba en la Ciudad de México como invitada al Seminario Internacional Los Partidos y una Nueva Sociedad auspiciado por el Partido del Trabajo.



Beginning of a historic presidency in Mexico, Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo

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Last Monday, Oct. 1, Mexico City became an immense festival celebrating the swearing-in of the first female president in the history of that nation.

The atmosphere on the way to the Plaza del Zócalo became more festive and crowded as one advanced along the adjacent avenues where at four in the afternoon, after being sworn in as president that same morning before the Congress of the Republic, Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo would appear to share with the people. The crowd was such, even long before the scheduled time, that this writer could not take another step. The crowd, in a compact form, dragged me along.

The joy, the national pride, and above all the Hope, were reflected in the faces of each and everyone, people of all ages. They came from many of the 32 states of the

nation and even from the Diaspora in the United States, political, community, and union organizations. Indigenous and Afro contingents, women, and schoolchildren. Each one with their distinctive organizational flags along with the Mexican tricolor national emblem. Huge puppets and musical bands, street vendors offering everything from succulent typical delicacies like the elotes (corn), to masks and dolls honoring López Obrador.

Huge banners thanked the administration of Andrés Manuel López Obrador for the achievements obtained during his six-year term as President and welcomed Claudia Sheinbaum. The most frequently sung slogan could be heard consistently with various rhythms and music: “It is an honor to be with Claudia today.” They addressed her informally, it was their beloved Claudia, the Claudia of the people. “Claudia, my friend, the people are with you,” they chanted.

Then, on the stage set up in the Zócalo, a procession of 133 Indigenous women authorities representing the five regions of the country came up to lead the cleansing and purification ceremony and hand over the sacred Staff of Command, a symbol of political and spiritual power, to the new President.

The sentiment that resonated in Mexican women that day was expressed by one of the authorities who, upon offering the staff of command, said to the President: “Sister Claudia, you are the voice of those of us who have not had a voice for a long time, of our people, you are the hope that we had, today Indigenous women are celebrating, but not only Indigenous women, but also Afromexican women, all women.”

After the ceremony, the President addressed the people who filled the Plaza to thank them and announce the objectives of her government. These have been summarized in a 100-point program that prioritizes the interests of the people, especially of the most disadvantaged communities, and the women who have been the object of so much violence. Faced with the wave of neoliberal privatization policies that is

sweeping the world, Sheinbaum promised that there will be no privatizations.



This YouTube video collects the proposals in detail:
[youtube.com/watch?v=KmF32bGL0Vw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmF32bGL0Vw).

But, who is Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo? Can we trust this encouraging speech?

The President ran under the banner of the coalition Sigamos Haciendo Historia (Let's Keep Making History), made up of Morena, the Labor Party, and the Green Ecologist Party and is the political successor of López Obrador, swearing to continue the progressive process of the Fourth Transformation of Mexico that he had started under his coalition Juntos Haremos Historia (Together We Will Make History). It is interesting to note that she surpassed the votes received by Obrador in 2018.

Claudia Sheinbaum is also a woman from a family of scientists who actively participated in the Mexican left. Her father was a member of the Mexican Communist Party. She is a mother and grandmother; has a PhD in environmental engineering, a master's degree in energy engineering and a bachelor's degree in physics, which qualifies her for the positions she has held so far: For example, in 2000 she served as Secretary of the Environment of the Federal District where she propelled several projects to benefit the environment.

In July 2018 she became the first woman elected head of government of Mexico City where she initiated programs that benefited the most disadvantaged strata. Among them, the community centers for economic, cultural and sports training called "Pilares," educational centers such as the Rosario Castellanos Institute of Higher Studies, and the University of Health.

Her contributions to the benefit of the Mexican people are many and varied. Against gender violence she declared the Gender Violence Alert that resulted in care programs, including the construction of 710 kilometers of safe paths under the motto "Walk free, walk safely," to guarantee the safety of women while walking throughout the city.

Her government program is very comprehensive and ambitious. Its fulfillment will be an extraordinary step towards a safer and happier future for all Mexicans. We can only wish all possible success to the Mexican people and their president Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo.

Long live Mexico!

Note: Joubert-Ceci was in Mexico City as a guest of the International Seminar The Parties and a New Society sponsored by the Labor Party.



No more war! Young working-class activists expose U.S. imperialism

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Two speakers at the Oct. 5 rally and march at Baltimore City Hall

The following are addresses given by young working-class activists Jace Carter and Colby Byrd at the rally for Palestine and Lebanon in front of Baltimore City Hall on Oct. 6.

Jace Carter representing Struggle-La Lucha for Socialism and People's Power Assembly

Good afternoon sisters, brothers, and siblings! My name is Jace, and I am a proud member of both the Baltimore chapter of Struggle-La Lucha (aka the Socialist Unity

Party) and the People's Power Assembly.

I just wanted to start off by saying that as a recent Loyola graduate, Shame on my university! Shame on all the universities across America repressing encampments and our international solidarity movement for Palestine!

Struggle-La Lucha, the Socialist Unity Party, is dedicated to uniting all workers and the oppressed to overthrow our murderous capitalist system, and the People's Power Assembly has fought against racist police terror and for the rights of poor and working-class people since the murder of Trayvon Martin.

Over the past year, our organizations have been tirelessly organizing people in and around the Baltimore community to show solidarity and our commitment to Palestine through marches, rallies, and direct actions, as well as education campaigns against our notorious misleaders: Mayor Brandon Scott and District Attorney Ivan "the Terrible" Bates right here in Baltimore, and Governor Wes Moore in greater Maryland.

They shamelessly continue to throw their support behind Genocide Joe and the genocidal entity of Israel! They know that participation in this graft can get them one step closer to a democratic party nomination for president. Imagine that. ...

By the way, if you didn't already know this, remember around May of last year when Ivan Bates shamelessly tweeted out pictures of himself smiling with the IDF soldiers he welcomed into our city without our consent? The same IDF Soldiers that annually train Baltimore Police Department officers! The same BPD that just received over \$500 million in funding for this year! The same BPD that's currently training in a \$330 million Cop City facility right down the street next to Coppin State! Yeah, Ivan finally took that shit down, who's surprised? But we will never forget.

Exactly a month from now, we will have undeniably the most important election in

our lifetime, an election that either will save our precious democracy or plunge us in over our heads in terrible, terrible fascism.

That's what our complicit mainstream media always loves to tell us every four years, right? For the past couple decades?! But oh, wait, what's that? The fascism's already here?! Well gee, I never would've guessed! All it takes is a quick look at TikTok and a quick look around you and our communities, our country, and the current state of the world!

You know what's actually really funny though? This illusion that the people even have a choice, if we ignore the fact that we haven't had a choice really since the founding of this country. This "choice" between one side that promises to "finish the job" in the Gaza strip and then across the rest of the Middle East, and the other side that even way before Oct. 7 has been happily throwing away billions upon billions of our taxpayer dollars to fund genocide and endless destruction in occupied Palestine, while workers continue to be starved of living wages, affordable housing, and healthcare, and students continue to have their First Amendment rights heavily repressed by ultra-liberal universities pretending to care about basic human rights!

Not to mention, FEMA recently announced a few days ago over a \$9.7 billion shortfall for relief and aid for Hurricane Helene. Let that sink in for a second. A \$9.7 billion shortfall for hurricane relief. Our government would rather intentionally manufacture another Katrina situation by sending over \$8.7 billion to a genocidal entity to murder Palestinians and the people of Lebanon than do even the bare minimum to help those affected by Helene in the South!

Where does that leave us, where does this leave our movement, on this, the one year anniversary of one of the greatest lies our terrorist government and the terrorist Israeli entity and their media puppets have ever told before?

Our movement is at a critical juncture, a movement that's worked so hard to make

our voices heard and our actions seen. No doubt this feels like another 1968, doesn't it? But we have an important choice to make this time.

Will we allow this country to be overtaken by a significantly stronger wave of fascism, whether it has a red or a blue face?!

I said: Will we allow this country to be overtaken by a significantly stronger wave of fascism, whether it has a red or a blue face?!

We, the people, choose socialism and national liberation!

We, the people, choose international solidarity over U.S. hegemony!

We, the people, say long live Palestine and long live Lebanon!

No boots on the ground, no bombs in the air! U.S. out of everywhere!

Thank you, comrades!

Colby Byrd representing Struggle-La Lucha for Socialism

I have no love for the Uniparty. I do not want to and will not cooperate or reach across the aisle with racists, misogynists, war profiteers, and genocide enablers. The Uniparty is trying to bury the Palestinian struggle. It is trying to delegitimize it and hide it away somehow behind a mountain of corpses. They do all of this because they are scared of the struggle and what it means. They tremble and panic as the continued resistance in occupied Palestine tears open and exposes the old contradictions that propped up imperialist domination of the globe. A domination that leads to the systematic destruction of different cultures around the world, continuing into today.

When I hear stories like the massacres at Nuseirat, Al Rashid, al-Mawasi, Tal al-Sultan, and Tulkarem my heart gets heavy with sympathy. My mind begins to race and my breathing becomes erratic as I fill with a sadness that I know all too well. It is the same feeling when I think of the Tulsa massacre or the Rosewood massacre, or Vicksburg, Memphis, Atlanta, and Springfield, to name others. All of these and the many others I didn't name were attacks by the colonizer on my people. Videos of settlers and soldiers storming mosques and homes, I close my eyes and see the Charleston church or Breyonna Taylor's apartment. The other random and targeted attacks and killings of Palestinians wound my soul in the same way the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Micheal Brown, George Floyd, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray, Daunte Wright, Atatiana Jefferson, Ahmaud Arbery, Botham Jean, Philando Castile, Eric Garner, and Donnell Rochester did.

I of course cannot continue without saying that my heart bleeds for the many other Black victims of white supremacy and the insidious systems that uphold and nurture it.

These systems that oppress and kill black people here are the same systems that oppress and kill Palestinians over there. Even down to the label it's stamped with. From Amazon to police agencies, U.S. investments in Palestinian oppression and genocide are the continuation, evolution, and exportation of the systems that have systematically killed my people.

"There will be no retreat from the path of confrontation, no matter how great the sacrifices are." - Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

After nearly a year of War and Genocide. ...

Palestine Lives after over 70,000 tons of explosives were dropped across the occupied strip. ... Palestine Lives.

After Israeli soldiers and settlers have pillaged, and razed the land. ... Palestine Lives.

Through countless atrocities, massacres, forced starvation, and forced displacement. ... Palestine Lives.

The People, the Palestinian People live on. Through impossible odds and hardships, they claw every moment closer to true freedom. Through this brutal confrontation for national liberation, the Palestinian people have been placed by Fate and Time to champion the Struggle and lead the fight. This fight stretches across the entire globe and encompasses each and every one of us. It is a fight, a brawl, a war for human decency and survival.

Around the world, the ruling class is consolidating its gains wherever it can and brutally suppressing those in their way. We see it clearly in Palestine, where everyday people are fighting against Occupational forces and roaming gangs of settlers. Fighting to defend their homes, their culture, and their very way of life from extermination. We see this fight in Lebanon where the people are fighting back against the Israeli terrorists invading their country. We see this kinetic action also in Sudan, Iraq, Yemen, and Iran, all against the outstretched imperialist enemy.

As the fight intensifies abroad, we here must rise to the challenge. Continue to organize and fight back in any way available. It will take all of us. The capitalists have declared total war. They show us every day, whether it be overseas or here, they have no problem killing men, women, and children, of all possible varieties for just one more dollar. We see it on the bodies of our class siblings who bear the scars of being overworked and maimed for an executive to get a bonus states away. We see in the countless recalls of food, the rising housing costs, crumbling infrastructure, and the lack of good employment, how they have tried over and over to waste us away, all to increase profits for the upper few.

They will continue to try, they will continue to harass and harm us, continue to shoot us, and stomp out our voices. They will do everything they can to sever our connection to the beating heart of revolutionary change going on in Palestine but we will break through! We will continue to live, march, protest, and fight back over here for as long as the resistance needs us to.

From the river, around the world, and back to the river, we stand united. It is indeed a revolution until the liberation of the land and of the human being.

Long Live Palestine!

Long Live Lebanon!

Long Live Yemen!

Long Live Iran!

Long Live the Resistance, and Long Live International Solidarity!



From Cuba to Palestine: The

enduring spirit of Che Guevara inspires global resistance

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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Ernesto "Che" Guevara was killed Oct. 9, 1967. Che was an Argentine-born doctor who contributed tremendously to the Cuban Revolution, both in the military struggle against the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship and in the building of socialism after 1959. He also participated in the African liberation struggle, fighting alongside anti-colonial forces in the Congo. Che died at only 39 years old during another epic of internationalist solidarity in Bolivia. While organizing with guerrillas there, he was captured by CIA-trained and directed Bolivian paramilitaries. Che's example lives on. For almost 60 years since his death, he has inspired revolutionaries from the Black Panthers, right in the belly of the beast, to contemporary Palestinian freedom fighters. Following, Colby Byrd, a worker living in Baltimore, honors Che Guevara as a revolutionary force against oppression.

Che Guevara's story is not just about an individual. Rather, it captures the many stories of all those who worked, fought, struggled, and died during the Cuban Revolution. It is the collection of all of those stories, all of those lives lived and ended, that freed Cuba from its imperialist domination. This focus on others is important to keep close to the heart of any revolutionary struggle at any level of intensity.

Before his execution, Che proclaimed these final words: "I know you've come to kill me. Shoot, you are only going to kill a man."

Before he was a revolutionary, he was a person — a man with passion, dreams, and love. This movement, this forever struggle against the ever-invasive tendrils of

imperialism, this epic endeavor ... is championed by normal people.

Che and the fighting people of the Cuban Revolution were students, workers, peasants, parents, and children. It was only when they entwined themselves with the struggle that they became revolutionaries. Fred Hampton said that you can kill a revolutionary, but you can't kill The Revolution. Che Guevara was executed — murdered by imperialist forces — yet Cuba stands, defying U.S. imperialism to this day. Countless people have fallen victim across the world, bombed, beaten, and battered by U.S. imperialism, and still today, people go out and fight in the name of international solidarity. The love of our class siblings guides us to challenge the systems that brutalize us every day.

"Let me say, at the risk of seeming ridiculous, that the true revolutionary is guided by great feelings of love." — Che Guevara

This Love that Che speaks about is not your typical love. It is not the same love you have for your favorite foods, your fond memories of the past, your hobbies and passions. It is not even the love you may share with a significant other. No, the Love Che speaks of is different. It manifests differently in everyone and is not fully explainable.

It is a transformative, ever-amplifying, and anarchic feeling that leads people to abandon or break the capitalist shackles that restrained them; to lift their arms and voices in the creation of a better future shaped by the collective struggle. The struggle is enacted by this tremendous feeling of love.

This love can be seen today in both the direct struggle in Palestine and in the international support for that struggle. To put it plainly, the Palestinian Resistance of today is fighting for its people's very right to exist. And I do not just mean the fighters engaged in direct combat against the U.S.-backed Israeli Occupation Forces and roaming gangs of Zionist settlers. I mean everyone. Every living soul that

continues to stay and find a way to survive against the genocidal occupation.

In this digital age, all forms of defiance are captured and uploaded online to be shared and immortalized by all who come into contact with it. During this time of relentless Israeli brutality, it is not just images of combat that show defiance, but also images of people sharing what little food they have with animals; videos of people cleaning the debris out of their homes or what is left of them, and moving back in to stay; videos of children expressing that they are unafraid of the Zionist enemy.

Many other depictions of love for their culture and way of life are documented and shared across the world.

Around the world, this love is seen as millions take to the streets, demanding an end to the slaughter of their class siblings in occupied Palestine. Students on campuses creating tent encampments, workers striking in support of the Resistance, and more and more people seeing the horror for what it is and finding a way to say enough is enough.

People around the world are joining the struggle however they can. Through any means available the people of the world are showing their solidarity with the struggle in Palestine.

The People of Cuba, forever fighting alongside those in the struggle, are offering free schooling to the people of Palestine on critical skills they will need to rebuild their society. The people of China and Russia meet with Palestinian dignitaries and leaders of the Resistance, offering aid and assistance wherever they can.

Forget about the lines on maps that divide us and focus on the real human emotions that connect us all. This love lives there.

Marcellus Williams, a man murdered by the state of Missouri, in his last moments,

wrote a poem honoring the resilience of Palestinian children in the face of their evil oppressors. Marcellus Williams, chained on death row, locked far away from the struggle outside, felt something within him. He felt something pull on that little red string of Fate, and in those final moments, it wasn't a message of hate that came out.

He didn't curse the state for its illegal and barbarous actions; he didn't ask for forgiveness or look to a future that wasn't coming. No, as he was meeting his end, he championed within himself the resilience of the Palestinian children who go out every day and live their lives, not knowing if that day could be their last. Over two million people attempted to get the decision to execute Marcellus Williams reversed. Over two million people felt the love in their hearts move them enough to fight back against the system within the belly of the beast.

The struggle needs more Che Guevaras and Marcellus Williams. Normal people guided by love to achieve or face down the unimaginable. Through love, connections and communication can form. Through connection and communication rises organization and collective power. Finally, this collective power - reinforced and powered by the People, shaped into a united fist - will fight Imperial domination wherever it resides.



‘Create Two, Three ... Many Vietnams’

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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In April 1965, Che Guevara departed from Cuba to lend his skills as a guerrilla commander in revolutionary movements in other parts of the world, from the Congo to Bolivia. The following undated message was directed to the Organization of Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America (OSPAAAL), also known as the Tricontinental, which was founded after a conference held in Havana in January 1966. This message was published on April 16, 1967, in a special inaugural edition of Tricontinental magazine, released by the Executive Secretariat of OSPAAAL. It was featured under Guevara's title, “Create Two, Three . . . Many Vietnams, That is the Watchword.” Manuel Piñeiro, who was responsible for Cuba's relations with Third World revolutionaries at that time, stated in 1997 that the “Message” was composed by Che while he was in a training camp in Pinar del Río, Cuba, before his departure for Bolivia in 1966.

“Now is the time of the furnaces, and only light should be seen.”

Jose Marti

Twenty-one years have already elapsed since the end of the last world conflagration [World War II]; numerous publications, in every possible language, celebrate this event, symbolized by the defeat of Japan. There is a climate of apparent optimism in many areas of the different camps into which the world is divided.

Twenty-one years without a world war, in these times of maximum confrontations, of violent clashes, and sudden changes, appears to be a very high figure. However, without analyzing the practical results of this peace (poverty, degradation, increasingly larger exploitation of enormous sectors of humanity) for which all of us have stated that we are willing to fight, we would do well to inquire if this peace is real.

It is not the purpose of these notes to detail the different conflicts of a local character that have been occurring since the surrender of Japan, neither do we intend to recount the numerous and increasing instances of civilian strife which have taken place during these years of apparent peace. It will be enough just to name, as an example against undue optimism, the wars of Korea and Vietnam.

In the first one, after years of savage warfare, the Northern part of the country was submerged in the most terrible devastation known in the annals of modern warfare: riddled with bombs; without factories, schools, or hospitals; with absolutely no shelter for housing 10 million inhabitants.

Under the discredited flag of the United Nations, dozens of countries under the military leadership of the United States participated in this war with the massive intervention of U.S. soldiers and the use, as cannon fodder, of the South Korean population that was enrolled. On the other side, the army and the people of Korea, and the volunteers from the People's Republic of China were furnished with supplies and advice by the Soviet military apparatus. The U.S. tested all sorts of weapons of

destruction, excluding the thermo-nuclear type but including, on a limited scale, bacteriological and chemical warfare.

In Vietnam, the patriotic forces of that country have carried on an almost uninterrupted war against three imperialist powers: Japan, whose might suffered an almost vertical collapse after the bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; France, who recovered from that defeated country its Indo-China colonies and ignored the promises it had made in harder times; and the United States, in this last phase of the struggle.

There were limited confrontations in every continent, although in our America, for a long time, there were only incipient liberation struggles and military coups d'etat until the Cuban revolution resounded the alert, signaling the importance of this region. This action attracted the wrath of the imperialists, and Cuba was finally obliged to defend its coasts, first in Playa Giron and again during the Missile Crisis.

This last incident could have unleashed a war of incalculable proportions if a U.S.-Soviet clash had occurred over the Cuban question.

But, evidently, the focal point of all contradictions is, at present, the territory of the peninsula of Indo-China and the adjacent areas. Laos and Vietnam are torn by a civil war that has ceased being such by the entry into the conflict of U.S. imperialism with all its might, thus transforming the whole zone into a dangerous detonator ready at any moment to explode.

In Vietnam, the confrontation has assumed extremely acute characteristics. It is not our intention, either, to chronicle this war. We shall simply remember and point out some milestones.

In 1954, after the annihilating defeat of Dien-Bien-Phu, an agreement was signed at Geneva dividing the country into two separate zones; elections were to be held

within a term of 18 months to determine who should govern Vietnam and how the country should be reunified. The U.S. did not sign this document and started maneuvering to substitute the emperor Bao-Dai, who was a French puppet, for a man more amiable to its purposes. This happened to be Ngo-Din-Diem, whose tragic end – that of an orange squeezed dry by imperialism — is well known by all.

During the months following the agreement, optimism reigned supreme in the camp of the popular forces. The last pockets of the anti-French resistance were dismantled in the South of the country, and they awaited the fulfillment of the Geneva Agreements. But the patriots soon realized there would be no elections – unless the United States felt itself capable of imposing its will in the polls, which was practically impossible even resorting to all its fraudulent methods. Once again, the fighting broke out in the South and gradually acquired full intensity. At present, the U.S. army has increased to over half a million invaders while the puppet forces have decreased in number and, above all, have totally lost their combativeness.

Almost two years ago, the United States started bombing systematically the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in yet another attempt to overcome the belligerence of the South and impose, from a position of strength, a meeting at the conference table. At first, the bombardments were more or less isolated occurrences and were adorned with the mask of reprisals for alleged provocations from the North. Later on, as they increased in intensity and regularity, they became one gigantic attack carried out by the Air Force of the United States, day after day, for the purpose of destroying all vestiges of civilization in the Northern zone of the country. This is an episode of the infamously notorious “escalation.”

The material aspirations of the Yankee world have been fulfilled to a great extent, regardless of the unflinching defense of the Vietnamese anti-aircraft artillery, of the numerous planes shot down (over 1,700), and of the socialist countries aid in war supplies.

There is a sad reality: Vietnam — a nation representing the aspirations, the hopes of a whole world of forgotten peoples — is tragically alone. This nation must endure the furious attacks of U.S. technology, with practically no possibility of reprisals in the South and only some of defense in the North — but always alone.

The solidarity of all progressive forces of the world towards the people of Vietnam today is similar to the bitter irony of the plebeians coaxing on the gladiators in the Roman arena. It is not a matter of wishing success to the victim of aggression but of sharing his fate; one must accompany him to his death or to victory.

When we analyze the lonely situation of the Vietnamese people, we are overcome by anguish at this illogical moment of humanity.

U.S. imperialism is guilty of aggression — its crimes are enormous and cover the whole world. We already know all that, gentlemen! But this guilt also applies to those who, when the time came for a definition, hesitated to make Vietnam an inviolable part of the socialist world; running, of course, the risks of a war on a global scale but also forcing a decision upon imperialism. And the guilt also applies to those who maintain a war of abuse and snares — started quite some time ago by the representatives of the two greatest powers of the socialist camp.

We must ask ourselves, seeking an honest answer: is Vietnam isolated, or is it not? Is it not maintaining a dangerous equilibrium between the two quarreling powers?

And what great people these are! What stoicism and courage! And what a lesson for the world is contained in this struggle! Not for a long time shall we be able to know if President Johnson ever seriously thought of bringing about some of the reforms needed by his people — to iron out the barbed class contradictions that grow each day with explosive power. The truth is that the improvements announced under the pompous title of the “Great Society” have dropped into the cesspool of Vietnam.

The largest of all imperialist powers feels in its own guts the bleeding inflicted by a poor and underdeveloped country; its fabulous economy feels the strain of the war effort. Murder is ceasing to be the most convenient business for its monopolies. Defensive weapons, and never in adequate number, are all these extraordinary soldiers have - besides love for their homeland, their society and unsurpassed courage. But imperialism is bogging down in Vietnam, is unable to find a way out, and desperately seeks one that will overcome with dignity this dangerous situation in which it now finds itself. Furthermore, the Four Points put forward by the North and the Five Points of the South now corner imperialism, making the confrontation even more decisive.

Everything indicates that peace, this unstable peace which bears that name for the sole reason that no worldwide conflagration has taken place, is again in danger of being destroyed by some irrevocable and unacceptable step taken by the United States.

What role shall we, the exploited people of the world, play? The peoples of the three continents focus their attention on Vietnam and learn their lesson. Since imperialists blackmail humanity by threatening it with war, the wise reaction is not to fear war. The general tactics of the people should be to launch a constant and a firm attack in all fronts where the confrontation is taking place.

In those places where this meager peace we have has been violated which is our duty? To liberate ourselves at any price.

The world panorama is of great complexity. The struggle for liberation has not yet been undertaken by some countries of ancient Europe, sufficiently developed to realize the contradictions of capitalism, but weak to such a degree that they are unable either to follow imperialism or even to start on its own road. Their contradictions will reach an explosive stage during the forthcoming years-but their problems and, consequently, their own solutions are different from those of our

dependent and economically underdeveloped countries.

The fundamental field of imperialist exploitation comprises the three underdeveloped continents: America, Asia, and Africa. Every country has also its own characteristics, but each continent, as a whole, also presents a certain unity.

Our America is integrated by a group of more or less homogeneous countries and in most parts of its territory, U.S. monopolist capitals maintain an absolute supremacy. Puppet governments or, in the best of cases, weak and fearful local rulers are incapable of contradicting orders from their Yankee master. The United States has nearly reached the climax of its political and economic domination; it could hardly advance much more; any change in the situation could bring about a setback. Their policy is to maintain that which has already been conquered. The line of action, at the present time, is limited to the brutal use of force with the purpose of thwarting the liberation movements, no matter of what type they might happen to be.

Behind the slogan "We will not permit another Cuba" hides the possibility of cowardly acts of aggression they can get away with—such as the one against the Dominican Republic; or, before that, the massacre in Panama and the clear warning that Yankee troops are ready to intervene anywhere in Latin America where a change in the established order endangers their interests. This policy enjoys almost absolute impunity. The OAS is a convenient mask, no matter how discredited it is. The UN's ineffectiveness borders on the ridiculous or the tragic. The armies of all the countries of Latin America are ready to intervene to crush their own people. What has been formed, in fact, is the International of Crime and Betrayal.

On the other hand, the indigenous bourgeoisie have lost all capacity to oppose imperialism—if they ever had any—and are only dragged along behind it like a caboose. There are no other alternatives. Either a socialist revolution or a caricature of revolution.

Asia is a continent with many different characteristics. The struggle for liberation waged against a series of European colonial powers resulted in the establishment of more or less progressive governments, whose ulterior evolution has brought about, in some cases, the deepening of the primary objectives of national liberation and, in others, a setback towards the adoption of pro-imperialist positions.

From the economic point of view, the United States had very little to lose and much to gain from Asia. These changes benefited its interests; the struggle for the overthrow of other neocolonial powers and the penetration of new spheres of action in the economic field is carried out sometimes directly, occasionally through Japan.

But there are special political conditions, particularly in Indo-China, which create in Asia certain characteristics of capital importance and play a decisive role in the entire U.S. military strategy.

The imperialists encircle China through South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, South Vietnam and Thailand at least.

This dual situation, a strategic interest as important as the military encirclement of the Peoples' Republic of China and the penetration of these great markets — which they do not dominate yet — turns Asia into one of the most explosive points of the world today, in spite of its apparent stability outside of the Vietnamese war zone.

The Middle East, though it geographically belongs to this continent, has its own contradictions and is actively in ferment; it is impossible to foretell how far this cold war between Israel, backed by the imperialists, and the progressive countries of that zone will go. This is just another one of the volcanoes threatening eruption in the world today.

Africa offers an almost virgin territory to the neocolonial invasion. There have been changes which, to some extent, forced neocolonial powers to give up their former

absolute prerogatives. But when these changes are carried out uninterruptedly, colonialism continues in the form of neocolonialism with similar effects as far as the economic situation is concerned.

The United States had no colonies in this region but is now struggling to penetrate its partners' fiefs. It can be said that following the strategic plans of U.S. imperialism, Africa constitutes its long-range reservoir; its present investments, though, are only important in the Union of South Africa, and its penetration is beginning to be felt in the Congo, Nigeria, and other countries where a violent rivalry with other imperialist powers is beginning to take place (in a pacific manner up to the present time).

So far, it does not have there great interests to defend except its pretended right to intervene in every spot of the world where its monopolies detect huge profits or the existence of large reserves of raw materials.

All this past history justifies our concern regarding the possibilities of liberating the peoples within a long or a short period of time.

If we stop to analyze Africa, we shall observe that in the Portuguese colonies of Guinea, Mozambique, and Angola, the struggle is waged with relative intensity, with a concrete success in the first one and with variable success in the other two. We still witness in the Congo the dispute between Lumumba's successors and the old accomplices of Tshombe, a dispute which at the present time seems to favor the latter: those who have "pacified" a large area of the country for their own benefit — though the war is still latent.

In Rhodesia, we have a different problem: British imperialism used every means within its reach to place power in the hands of the white minority, who, at the present time, unlawfully holds it. The conflict, from the British point of view, is absolutely unofficial; this Western power, with its habitual diplomatic cleverness —

also called hypocrisy in the strict sense of the word — presents a facade of displeasure before the measures adopted by the government of Ian Smith. Its crafty attitude is supported by some Commonwealth countries that follow it, but is attacked by a large group of countries belonging to Black Africa, whether they are or not servile economic lackeys of British imperialism.

Should the rebellious efforts of these patriots succeed and this movement receive the effective support of neighboring African nations, the situation in Rhodesia may become extremely explosive. But for the moment, all these problems are being discussed in harmless organizations such as the UN, the Commonwealth, and the OAU.

The social and political evolution of Africa does not lead us to expect a continental revolution. The liberation struggle against the Portuguese should end victoriously, but Portugal does not mean anything in the imperialist field. The confrontations of revolutionary importance are those which place at bay all the imperialist apparatus; this does not mean, however, that we should stop fighting for the liberation of the three Portuguese colonies and for the deepening of their revolutions.

When the black masses of South Africa or Rhodesia start their authentic revolutionary struggle, a new era will dawn in Africa. Or when the impoverished masses of a nation rise up to rescue their right to a decent life from the hands of the ruling oligarchies.

Up to now, army putsches follow one another; a group of officers succeeds another or substitute a ruler who no longer serves their caste interests or those of the powers who covertly manage him — but there are no great popular upheavals. In the Congo these characteristics appeared briefly, generated by the memory of Lumumba, but they have been losing strength in the last few months.

In Asia, as we have seen, the situation is explosive. The points of friction are not only

Vietnam and Laos, where there is fighting; such a point is also Cambodia, where at any time a direct U.S. aggression may start, Thailand, Malaya, and, of course, Indonesia, where we can not assume that the last word has been said, regardless of the annihilation of the Communist Party in that country when the reactionaries took over. And also, naturally, the Middle East.

In Latin America, the armed struggle is going on in Guatemala, Colombia, Venezuela and Bolivia; the first uprisings are cropping up in Brazil. There are also some resistance focuses which appear and then are extinguished. But almost all the countries of this continent are ripe for a type of struggle that, in order to achieve victory, can not be content with anything less than establishing a government of socialist tendencies.

In this continent, practically only one tongue is spoken (with the exception of Brazil, with whose people, those who speak Spanish, can easily make themselves understood, owing to the great similarity of both languages). There is also such a great similarity between the classes in these countries that they have attained identification among themselves of an international americano type, much more complete than in the other continents. Language, habits, religion, a common foreign master, unite them. The degree and the form of exploitation are similar for both the exploiters and the men they exploit in the majority of the countries of Our America. And rebellion is ripening swiftly in it.

We may ask ourselves: how shall this rebellion flourish? What type will it be? We have maintained for quite some time now that, owing to the similarity of their characteristics, the struggle in Our America will achieve in due course, continental proportions. It shall be the scene of many great battles fought for the liberation of humanity.

Within the frame of this struggle of continental scale, the battles which are now taking place are only episodes — but they have already furnished their martyrs, they

shall figure in the history of Our America as having given their necessary blood in this last stage of the fight for the total freedom of man. These names will include Comandante Turcios Lima, padre Camilo Torres, Comandante Fabricio Ojeda, Comandantes Lobaton and Luis de la Puente Uceda, all outstanding figures in the revolutionary movements of Guatemala, Colombia, Venezuela and Peru.

But the active movement of the people creates its new leaders; Cesar Montes and Yon Sosa raise up their flag in Guatemala; Fabio Vazquez and Marulanda in Colombia; Douglas Bravo in the Western part of the country and Americo Martin in El Bachiller, both directing their respective Venezuelan fronts.

New uprisings shall take place in these and other countries of Our America, as it has already happened in Bolivia, and they shall continue to grow in the midst of all the hardships inherent to this dangerous profession of being modern revolutionaries. Many shall perish, victims of their errors, others shall fall in the tough battle that approaches; new fighters and new leaders shall appear in the warmth of the revolutionary struggle. The people shall create their warriors and leaders in the selective framework of the war itself - and Yankee agents of repression shall increase. Today there are military aides in all the countries where armed struggle is growing; the Peruvian army apparently carried out a successful action against the revolutionaries in that country, an army also trained and advised by the Yankees. But if the focuses of war grow with sufficient political and military insight, they shall become practically invincible and shall force the Yankees to send reinforcements. In Peru itself many new figures, practically unknown, are now reorganizing the guerrilla. Little by little, the obsolete weapons, which are sufficient for the repression of small armed bands, will be exchanged for modern armaments and the U.S. military aides will be substituted by actual fighters until, at a given moment, they are forced to send increasingly greater number of regular troops to ensure the relative stability of a government whose national puppet army is disintegrating before the impetuous attacks of the guerrillas. It is the road of Vietnam, it is the

road that should be followed by the people; it is the road that will be followed in Our America, with the advantage that the armed groups could create Coordinating Councils to embarrass the repressive forces of Yankee imperialism and accelerate the revolutionary triumph.

America, a forgotten continent in the last liberation struggles, is now beginning to make itself heard through the Tricontinental and, in the voice of the vanguard of its peoples, the Cuban Revolution, will today have a task of much greater relevance: creating a Second or a Third Vietnam, or the Second and Third Vietnam of the world.

We must bear in mind that imperialism is a world system, the last stage of capitalism — and it must be defeated in a world confrontation. The strategic end of this struggle should be the destruction of imperialism. Our share, the responsibility of the exploited and underdeveloped of the world is to eliminate the foundations of imperialism: our oppressed nations, from where they extract capitals, raw materials, technicians and cheap labor, and to which they export new capitals — instruments of domination — arms and all kinds of articles; thus submerging us in an absolute dependence.

The fundamental element of this strategic end shall be the real liberation of all people, a liberation that will be brought about through armed struggle in most cases and which shall be, in Our America, almost indefectibly, a Socialist Revolution.

While envisaging the destruction of imperialism, it is necessary to identify its head, which is no other than the United States of America.

We must carry out a general task with the tactical purpose of getting the enemy out of its natural environment, forcing him to fight in regions where his own life and habits will clash with the existing reality. We must not underrate our adversary; the U.S. soldier has technical capacity and is backed by weapons and resources of such

magnitude that render him frightful. He lacks the essential ideological motivation that his bitterest enemies of today — the Vietnamese soldiers — have in the highest degree. We will only be able to overcome that army by undermining their morale — and this is accomplished by defeating it and causing it repeated sufferings.

But this brief outline of victories carries within itself the immense sacrifice of the people, sacrifices that should be demanded beginning today, in plain daylight, and which perhaps may be less painful than those we would have to endure if we constantly avoided battle in an attempt to have others pull our chestnuts out of the fire.

It is probable, of course, that the last liberated country shall accomplish this without an armed struggle and the sufferings of a long and cruel war against the imperialists — this they might avoid. But perhaps it will be impossible to avoid this struggle or its effects in a global conflagration; the suffering would be the same, or perhaps even greater. We cannot foresee the future, but we should never give in to the defeatist temptation of being the vanguard of a nation which yearns for freedom, but abhors the struggle it entails and awaits its freedom as a crumb of victory.

It is absolutely just to avoid all useless sacrifices. Therefore, it is so important to clear up the real possibilities that dependent America may have of liberating itself through pacific means. For us, the solution to this question is quite clear: The present moment may or may not be the proper one for starting the struggle, but we cannot harbor any illusions, and we have no right to do so, that freedom can be obtained without fighting. And these battles shall not be mere street fights with stones against tear-gas bombs, or of pacific general strikes; neither shall it be the battle of a furious people destroying in two or three days the repressive scaffolds of the ruling oligarchies; the struggle shall be long, harsh, and its front shall be in the guerrilla's refuge, in the cities, in the homes of the fighters - where the repressive forces shall go seeking easy victims among their families - in the massacred rural

population, in the villages or cities destroyed by the bombardments of the enemy.

They are pushing us into this struggle; there is no alternative: We must prepare it and we must decide to undertake it.

The beginnings will not be easy; they shall be extremely difficult. All the oligarchies' powers of repression, all their capacity for brutality and demagoguery will be placed at the service of their cause. Our mission, in the first hour, shall be to survive; later, we shall follow the perennial example of the guerrilla, carrying out armed propaganda (in the Vietnamese sense, that is, the bullets of propaganda, of the battles won or lost — but fought — against the enemy). The great lesson of the invincibility of the guerrillas taking root in the dispossessed masses. The galvanizing of the national spirit, the preparation for harder tasks, for resisting even more violent repressions. Hatred as an element of the struggle; a relentless hatred of the enemy, impelling us over and beyond the natural limitations that man is heir to and transforming him into an effective, violent, selective and cold killing machine. Our soldiers must be thus; a people without hatred cannot vanquish a brutal enemy.

We must carry the war into every corner the enemy happens to carry it: to his home, to his centers of entertainment; a total war. It is necessary to prevent him from having a moment of peace, a quiet moment outside his barracks or even inside; we must attack him wherever he may be; make him feel like a cornered beast wherever he may move. Then his moral fiber shall begin to decline. He will even become more beastly, but we shall notice how the signs of decadence begin to appear.

And let us develop a true proletarian internationalism; with international proletarian armies; the flag under which we fight would be the sacred cause of redeeming humanity. To die under the flag of Vietnam, of Venezuela, of Guatemala, of Laos, of Guinea, of Colombia, of Bolivia, of Brazil — to name only a few scenes of today's armed struggle — would be equally glorious and desirable for an American, an Asian, an African, even a European.

Each spilt drop of blood, in any country under whose flag one has not been born, is an experience passed on to those who survive, to be added later to the liberation struggle of his own country. And each nation liberated is a phase won in the battle for the liberation of one's own country.

The time has come to settle our differences and place everything at the service of our struggle.

We all know great controversies rend the world now fighting for freedom; no one can hide it. We also know that they have reached such intensity and such bitterness that the possibility of dialogue and reconciliation seems extremely difficult, if not impossible. It is a useless task to search for means and ways to propitiate a dialogue which the hostile parties avoid. However, the enemy is there; it strikes every day, and threatens us with new blows and these blows will unite us, today, tomorrow, or the day after. Whoever understands this first, and prepares for this necessary union, shall have the people's gratitude.

Owing to the virulence and the intransigence with which each cause is defended, we, the dispossessed, cannot take sides for one form or the other of these differences, even though sometimes we coincide with the contentions of one party or the other, or in a greater measure with those of one part more than with those of the other. In time of war, the expression of current differences constitutes a weakness; but at this stage it is an illusion to attempt to settle them by means of words. History shall erode them or shall give them their true meaning.

In our struggling world every difference regarding tactics, the methods of action for the attainment of limited objectives should be analyzed with due respect to another man's opinions. Regarding our great strategic objective, the total destruction of imperialism by armed struggle, we should be uncompromising.

Let us sum up our hopes for victory: total destruction of imperialism by eliminating

its firmest bulwark: the oppression exercised by the United States of America. To carry out, as a tactical method, the peoples' gradual liberation, one by one or in groups: driving the enemy into a difficult fight away from its own territory; dismantling all its sustenance bases, that is, its dependent territories.

This means a long war. And, once more we repeat it, a cruel war. Let no one fool himself at the outstart and let no one hesitate to start out for fear of the consequences it may bring to his people. It is almost our sole hope for victory. We cannot elude the call of this hour. Vietnam is pointing it out with its endless lesson of heroism, its tragic and everyday lesson of struggle and death for the attainment of final victory.

There, the imperialist soldiers endure the discomforts of those who, used to enjoying the U.S. standard of living, have to live in a hostile land with the insecurity of being unable to move without being aware of walking on enemy territory: death to those who dare take a step out of their fortified encampment. The permanent hostility of the entire population. All this has internal repercussions in the United States; propitiates the resurgence of an element which is being minimized in spite of its vigor by all imperialist forces: class struggle even within its own territory.

How close we could look into a bright future should two, three or many Vietnams flourish throughout the world with their share of deaths and their immense tragedies, their everyday heroism and their repeated blows against imperialism, impelled to disperse its forces under the sudden attack and the increasing hatred of all peoples of the world!

And if we were all capable of uniting to make our blows stronger and infallible and so increase the effectiveness of all kinds of support given to the struggling people — how great and close would that future be!

If we, in a small point of the world map, are able to fulfill our duty and place at the

disposal of this struggle whatever little of ourselves we are permitted to give: our lives, our sacrifice, and if some day we have to breathe our last breath on any land, already ours, sprinkled with our blood let it be known that we have measured the scope of our actions and that we only consider ourselves elements in the great army of the proletariat but that we are proud of having learned from the Cuban Revolution, and from its maximum leader, the great lesson emanating from his attitude in this part of the world: "What do the dangers or the sacrifices of a man or of a nation matter, when the destiny of humanity is at stake."

Our every action is a battle cry against imperialism, and a battle hymn for the people's unity against the great enemy of mankind: the United States of America. Wherever death may surprise us, let it be welcome, provided that this, our battle cry, may have reached some receptive ear and another hand may be extended to wield our weapons and other men be ready to intone the funeral dirge with the staccato singing of the machine-guns and new battle cries of war and victory.

Source: [Marxists Internet Archive](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1919/struggle-la-lucha/13.htm)



U.S. cities join world in solidarity with Palestine and Lebanon

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 10, 2024

Al-Aqsa Flood anniversary

Oct. 7 marks the one-year anniversary of the Al-Aqsa Flood operation, the Palestinian people's heroic break through the concentration camp walls built by the Zionist regime around Gaza.

It is also the one-year anniversary of the U.S.-Israeli genocide, while these imperialists have launched a horrific war on the Lebanese people, murdering over 2,000. The resistance forces of Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and other parts of the region remain undaunted.

This weekend of Oct. 5-6, people worldwide from [Caracas](#), Venezuela, to Baltimore, Maryland, have demonstrated solidarity with Palestine and Lebanon.

20,000 march for Palestine and Lebanon in NYC

Twenty thousand people came to Manhattan's Times Square on Oct. 5 to mark the one-year anniversary of the Al-Aqsa Flood uprising. Since then, at least 50,000 Palestinian and Lebanese people have been killed by the Zionist apartheid state using U.S.-made and paid-for weapons. The actual figure may be far higher.

Speakers denounced the genocide of Palestinians and the invasion of Lebanon. They pointed out that none of these war crimes would have been possible without the backing of the Pentagon and the Biden-Harris administration. Speakers also linked the Palestinian struggle to struggles in Haiti, Sudan, and Congo.

The militant action was called by the Shut It Down for Palestine Coalition. People marched downtown to Washington Square Park in Lower Manhattan.

People marched downtown to Washington Square Park in Lower Manhattan. There were labor, healthcare, Puerto Rican, Filipino, and Korean contingents in the march.

Along the street, onlookers showed their support. A hot dog vendor kept waving a Palestinian flag even after the marchers passed.

Caribbean women linked their arms together and chanted “Free, free Palestine” while waiting for a bus. Supporting Palestine and Lebanon has become the cause of the world.

A shorter, very spirited rally was held in Washington Square Park. Palestine and Lebanon will win!

Thousands gather in San Diego to protest Israeli genocide

Over 2,000 showed up in solidarity with Palestine on Saturday, Oct. 5, in front of the County Administration Building in San Diego for a rally and march.

Large banners on the grass with body bags and pictures of men, women, and children honoring 27,000 Martyrs of Palestine killed by Israeli Genocide using U.S. Dollars.

The Rally began with chants in Arabic and English. The Palestinian Youth

Movement, Healthcare Workers for Palestine, National Lawyers Guild SD, Code Pink, Jewish Voice for Peace, and BDS Movement (Boycott, Divestment & Sanction) spoke at the rally. Then, the people took it to the streets.

New Orleans coalition shuts downtown in support of Palestine

On Oct. 5, several hundred rallied at the historic African American cultural site Congo Square and marched downtown, shutting down busy areas, including Canal Street. The action was called by a coalition led by the Palestinian Youth Movement New Orleans and Masjid Omar.

Contributors: Struggle-La Lucha New York bureau, Gloria Verdieu in San Diego, and Gregory E. Williams in New Orleans



Protesters assaulted as illegal

Palestinian land sales continue in New York and New Jersey

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 10, 2024

PAL-Awda NY/NJ called protests against the illegal sales of Palestinian land held on Sept. 15 and 16 in Cedarhurst, New York, and South Hackensack, New Jersey. The following is their statement on the Cedarhurst action.

This week, both in Cedarhurst, New York, and South Hackensack, New Jersey, illegal sales of stolen Palestinian land were conducted — sales reserved exclusively for vetted Zionists who undergo an extensive and discriminatory registration process. And yet another is scheduled for Tuesday in Pikesville, Maryland.

In a scene reminiscent of attacks on civil rights marches in the South, protestors of the segregated land sale in Cedarhurst were confronted by a mob of violent bigots and brutally attacked by Nassau County police on horses. Officers on horseback trampled over protesters, including women and children, as they forcibly relocated us into a confined “free speech zone,” out of sight and sound of the venue we were protesting.

The chief executive and police commissioner were present, overseeing this blatant infringement of our rights. A deputy inspector threatened that anyone who “protested” while walking would be arrested. The Nassau County police and government put the greed of racist real estate interests over the rights of the people.

The cops chose to assault protesters rather than shut down the illegal land sale, which is being held in violation of U.S. civil rights laws, Biden’s executive order on

the West Bank of 2/1/24, and 20 some additional state, federal, and international laws. Nassau County police swiftly arrested a protester for wearing a mask, all while ignoring the both domestically and internationally illegal sale happening in their own jurisdiction, right under their noses. Their selective enforcement of the “law” underscores a troubling double standard and their continuous efforts to protect domestic Zionist terrorists, thereby further facilitating Palestinian land theft, occupation, and Gazan genocide in the belly of the beast.



Sales of stolen Palestinian land must be stopped!

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 10, 2024

Super bigot Tom Cotton is no friend of Jewish people

Across the United States, demonstrations have been organized against the illegal sale of stolen Palestinian lands. Protesters compare these events to the “Indian Land Sales” that were conducted in the U.S. West.

Many of these protests have been viciously attacked by police and Zionist thugs. That was the case in [Los Angeles](#) at the Adas Torah synagogue on June 25. Brutal police attacks against protesters have also occurred in Pikesville, Maryland (just outside Baltimore), and Nassau County, New York (near New York City.)

These sales of stolen land are usually conducted in Jewish neighborhoods, often inside synagogues. Protesters — many of whom are Jewish — make clear that they are demonstrating in solidarity with Palestinians, not attacking Jewish people.

That doesn't prevent the corporate media and capitalist politicians from smearing these righteous protests as "anti-Jewish." Arkansas statesman Tom Cotton issued a [statement](#) demanding "action from DOJ [Department of Justice] and White House on synagogue attack by pro-Hamas mob."

This is the same Sen. Tom Cotton who demanded that federal troops be used to smash the protests that followed the police murder of George Floyd. The senator urged invoking the Insurrection Act that was passed in 1807 to crush revolts of enslaved Africans.

Cotton did so in a June 3, 2020, [New York Times](#) op-ed piece. This led to a revolt by the newspaper's reporters and the forced resignation of editorial page editor James Bennet.

The following month Cotton described the enslavement of African people by U.S. plantation owners as "[a necessary evil](#)." Cotton was attacking the "1619 Project," a series of New York Times articles that pointed out the racist foundation upon which the United States was built.

Civil Rights organizations, including the NAACP and the Urban League, [demanded](#) that the U.S. Senate censure Cotton for his defense of slavery. Cotton's fellow senators, half of whom are Democrats, refused to do so.

[Six senators](#) instead joined Cotton in sponsoring legislation to cut off federal funds to school districts that include material from the 1619 Project in their curriculum. This was really an attempt to drive Black history out of the schools, just like Gov. DeSantis is trying to do in Florida.

Tool of Walmart and Tyson Foods

More recently, Cotton was [under fire](#) for his Jan. 31 questioning of TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew. Cotton refused to believe that the corporate executive, born in Singapore, wasn't a citizen of the People's Republic of China or a member of the Communist Party of China.

"Tom Cotton can't tell Asians apart even when they tell him," journalist [Heidi Moore](#) tweeted. The AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) Victory Fund [tweeted](#), "This line of questioning from Senator Tom Cotton is disgraceful, blatantly racist, and deeply dangerous."

Cotton doesn't represent the [140,000](#) poor people in Arkansas who were kicked off Medicaid last year. He's a political servant of the Walton family who owns Walmart, headquartered in Bentonville, Arkansas.

The reason why the [Walton family](#) is so filthy rich with their \$267 billion fortune is that 2.1 million Walmart workers are so poor.

Another billionaire Tom Cotton serves is the dead animal capitalist John H. Tyson. His family's Tyson Foods — based in Springdale, Arkansas — had sales of nearly \$53 billion last year.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, John Tyson took out full-page [newspaper ads](#) demanding that all meatpacking and poultry plants be immediately reopened. Within two days, President Trump issued an executive order doing so.

This resulted in [2,866 cases](#) of the coronavirus in Tyson's Arkansas plants from May 19, 2020, to April 8, 2021, nearly a third of the state's workplace COVID cases. Across the country, [twice as many](#) workers died in Tyson's plants than any other meatpacker.

Unite against hate

Eleven Jewish people were murdered by a neo-Nazi at the Tree of Life - Or L'Simcha Congregation - synagogue in Pittsburgh on Oct. 27, 2018. The local Muslim community raised more than [\\$150,000](#) for the victims.

The gunman, [Robert Gregory Bowers](#), blamed Jewish people for transporting migrants on his Gab.com account. Anti-immigrant hate is a weapon used by all reactionaries.

Anne Frank's family and thousands of other Jews were prevented from escaping the Nazis by the bigoted 1924 U.S. Immigration Act. It was repealed in 1965, the same year the Voting Rights Act was passed after demonstrators in Selma, Alabama, were clubbed by George Wallace's state troopers.

Tom Cotton, J.D. Vance, and two other senators are sponsoring [legislation](#) that would strip citizenship from the children of immigrants.

This unconstitutional bill would overturn the 14th Amendment, which was written in the blood of hundreds of thousands of Union Army soldiers who died in the Civil War. Cotton is a neo-Confederate.

[President Biden](#) also catered to anti-immigrant bigotry when he curbed the right to asylum for immigrants.

When he began his first presidential campaign, Trump denounced Mexican immigrants as "rapists." The next day, on June 17, 2015, Hitler supporter Dylann

Roof murdered nine Black people in the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, in Charleston, South Carolina.

It's been Black places of worship that have been the biggest targets of racist violence. Ku Klux Klan members bombed the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama on Sept. 16, 1963. Four Black girls — Addie Mae Collins (14); Carol Denise McNair (11); Carole Robertson (14); and Cynthia Wesley (14) — were murdered.

Everybody knew it was the Klan or some other hate group that was responsible. Not so the National Review, which in its Oct. 1, 1963, issue asked: "Whether in fact the explosion was the act of a provocateur - of a Communist, or of a crazed Negro." Today this rag supports the genocide of Palestinian and Lebanese people.

The same Los Angeles Police Department that attacked demonstrators on June 25 protesting the sale of Palestinian land, attacked the Nation of Islam's Mosque No. 27 on April 27, 1962.

They shot Mosque secretary Ronald X Stokes in the heart, killing him. Six other NOI members were wounded, including William X Rogers who was left paralyzed.

The campaign to stop the sales of stolen Palestinian land is linked to every other progressive struggle. Palestine and Lebanon will win!



Baltimore banner drop for Palestine and Lebanon

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 10, 2024

Oct. 4, Baltimore - Peoples Power Assembly holds a rush hour banner drop in answer to international calls for Friday actions to end aggression on Palestine and Lebanon.

