

Venezuela denounces U.S.-based smear campaign against migrants

written by Struggle - La Lucha

February 22, 2024



Venezuelan migrants, 2024. Photo: X/ @DCNhoy

On Feb. 21, Venezuela's Communication Minister, Alfred Nazareth, denounced a smear campaign generated by U.S.-based media and networks against Venezuelan migrants.

"Through posts paid for by the Voice of America, which is the White House's spokesperson, as well as through a swarm of right-wing bots and influencers, it is intended to inoculate a dangerous matrix of public opinion in which Venezuelans are falsely linked to armed gangs operating in the United States," he said.

The Bolivarian minister explained that the new wave of xenophobia is accompanied

by an implicit threat against Venezuela that Washington began to shape since the time of the administration of President Barack Obama (2009-2017).

More specifically, Nazareth alluded to the defamatory messages posted on social networks that attempt to link Venezuelans with an alleged “Unpunished Rise of the Aragua Train.”

US Threatens Venezuela with Oil Sanctions Amidst Political Tensions. Roger Harris breaks down the implications of this move, shedding light on its potential impact on both countries. Learn more at: <https://t.co/0QiIdJWUXb> #Venezuela #elections #sanctions

— Venezuelananalysis (@venanalysis) [February 14, 2024](#)

According to this smear campaign, this gang would be operating in several U.S. cities and would be composed mainly of Venezuelan gang members who carry out criminal actions ranging from cell phone theft to shootings.

In response to this, the Communications Minister recalled that Venezuelan migration was induced by the economic war that the United States has unleashed against the Bolivarian Revolution for more than a decade.

“However, neither the U.S. nor the Venezuelan far-right have done anything to alleviate the sanctions and allow the conditions for mass repatriation. The propaganda use of Venezuelan migration has a very clear objective: to justify any aggression against our country.”

#FromTheSouth News Bits | United States: 2023 closes with over 225 thousand migrants detained. pic.twitter.com/Z2mPbSUV5h

— teleSUR English (@telesurenglish) [January 2, 2024](#)

[Source](#)



Stop the attack on Rafah! NYC students mobilize for Gaza

written by Struggle - La Lucha

February 22, 2024

Thousands of New York City students mobilized again on Friday, Feb. 16, to protest the genocidal attacks on Gaza. They gathered from all over the city at the big reference library on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue.

Hundreds of them were high school students. Two hundred students marched out of Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn. Other schools had smaller walkouts.

One long banner carried by members of the Palestinian Youth Movement read, "Stop Arming Israel / Arms Embargo Now!" Genocide Joe Biden is demanding another \$14 billion of weapons for the Zionist regime's assault on Rafah.

As was done during the 1980s struggle against the then apartheid South Africa,

students are demanding their schools divest from the apartheid regime occupying Palestine. Students from the State University of New York carried a banner, "Israel Bombs / SUNY Pays."

Another banner read, "SVA [School of Visual Arts] Students Against Genocide Apartheid Zionism."



Among the speakers at the rally were representatives of Al-Awda: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition and the Party for Socialism and Liberation. Roger Wareham, a member of the December 12th Movement's International Secretariat, reminded people of the struggle against the Vietnam War. Palestine, like Vietnam, will win.

Despite police harassment, people marched down Fifth Avenue, turning west on

34th Street. Many people on the busy shopping street showed their support.

The march went north on Eighth Avenue, with people stopping by the New York Times headquarters to protest its lying coverage. Hundreds of people made it to 48th Street before dispersing, vowing to continue the struggle for Palestine.





Washington readies thousands of bombs for continued Gaza genocide

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 22, 2024

U.S. President Joe Biden and other White House officials are preparing to send additional bombs and other weapons to Israel even as the U.S. claims to be pushing for a ceasefire in Gaza, the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) [reported](#) on 16 February.

Citing current and former U.S. officials, the WSJ says the proposed arms delivery includes 500-pound MK-82 bombs, KMU-572 Joint Direct Attack Munitions that add precision guidance to bombs, and FMU-139 bomb fuses.

The value of the weapons deliveries is estimated to be “tens of millions of dollars.”

The proposed delivery is still being internally reviewed and must be approved by a congressional committee.

As of December 2023, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has twice used emergency measures to bypass congressional review to send weapons to Israel.

Israeli warplanes wipe out an entire residential square in the Shujaeya neighborhood of Gaza City. [#IsraelWarCrimes](#) [#IsraelTerroristeState](#) [#GazaGenocide](#) pic.twitter.com/q9ozD7RSUv

— Palestine Info Center (@palinfoen) [December 3, 2023](#)

While publicly asking Israel to kill fewer Palestinians during its military operations, Blinken and Biden have been staunch supporters of Israel’s military, refusing to set any red lines on the use of U.S. weapons.

President Biden recently stated that the U.S. would take no action against Israel should it invade Rafah, the city in southern Gaza where over 1 million displaced are sheltering, despite warnings from aid agencies that such an invasion would be a “bloodbath.”

Israel has dropped tens of thousands of U.S. bombs, including [hundreds](#) of 2,000-pound BLU-109 bunker-buster bombs, on Gaza, destroying entire residential neighborhoods, creating 40-foot craters in crowded refugee camps, and killing dozens at one time.

Israel's air and ground offensive on Gaza since 7 October has killed 28,775 people, mostly civilians, and displaced nearly all of its more than 2 million inhabitants from their homes.

The Israeli campaign is widely viewed as genocide, while Israeli leaders openly discuss their desire to ethnically cleanse the besieged enclave, annex it, and establish Jewish settlements on the remains of destroyed Palestinian cities.

Source: TheCradle.co



South Africa: Gaza genocide is in the hands of the countries that supply Israel with money and weapons

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 22, 2024



South Africa Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor's Official Statement, Feb. 14, 2024

"Israel was not deterred by the decisions of the Court of Justice, and the evidence is to continue its war in Rafah.

The decision to stop the fighting in Gaza is in the hands of the countries that supply Israel with money and weapons.

What concerns us is that Israel is allowed to ignore the ruling of the Court of Justice and not protect civilians.

The actions of the Israeli government prove what we submitted to the Court of Justice regarding genocide.

We condemn the targeting of journalists in general and Al Jazeera journalists in particular, and this is a criminal act.”



⌚ Sat Feb 17 protest & march. All out for Rafah! Stop genocide!

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 22, 2024

**EMERGENCY PROTEST
SAT. FEB 17, 1 PM**

All Out for Rafah ! Stop the Genocide

**Baltimore Protest & March
at the Federal Building,
Lombard St & S. Hanover St**

STAY IN THE STREETS NOISE PROTEST - BRING POTS & PANS, DRUMS

PEOPLES POWER ASSEMBLY

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Saturday, 2/17 Global Day of Protest for Palestine

Emergency Noise Protest

All Out for Rafah!

Stop the Genocide

Baltimore Protest & March at the Federal Building

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Noise protest: Bring pots & pans, drums

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Haiti still smoldering: Carnaval fizzles after uprising flops, as

skirmishes continue

written by Struggle - La Lucha

February 22, 2024

Despite three days of nationwide demonstrations, barricades, and street fighting, Haiti's de facto Prime Minister Ariel Henry still clings to power after the Feb. 7 deadline on which opposition leaders, would-be revolutionaries, and Haiti's masses had wanted him to step down.

Feb. 5 to 7 saw burning tire blockades throughout the capital, Port-au-Prince, as the Haitian National Police (PNH) fired teargas at demonstrators who riposted with rock throwing.

On Feb. 8, the capital's streets were practically deserted, with the barricades' charred remains littering dozens of arteries and intersections.

On Feb. 6, Guy Philippe, former 2004 coup d'état leader and 2017 Senator-elect for the South, finally appeared in Port-au-Prince after [two months of exhorting Haitians](#) to revolution from his rural base in the south through radio interviews and YouTube videos, as well as with truck-top speeches in several towns.

His long-awaited arrival in the capital was decidedly underwhelming, however, when he briefly popped up unannounced in Pétionville's central St. Pierre Park and began shaking hands with surprised passers-by as a cameraperson clumsily recorded the event on a cellphone. Philippe just as quickly disappeared to a secret location, although Haitians began rushing from far and wide to the park, eventually provoking someone to fire at the massing crowd from the nearby Kinam luxury hotel.

The same day, Philippe's representatives [announced an alliance](#) with former Lavalas Sen. Moïse Jean-Charles, now the leader of the Dessalines Children (*Ptit Desalin*) party. (In 2004, the two leaders battled each other when Philippe's troops passed

through Jean-Charles' northern hometown of Milot.) The "Heads Together to Save Haiti" alliance (*Tèt Ansanm Pou Sove Ayiti*) "aims to transcend the traditional political divides so as to use our efforts for progress and social and economic well-being" as well as "a firm and reasoned rupture with an inhuman, irresponsible, corrupt, gangsterized system." Their eight points of unity include to "re-establish justice, law, and order" throughout Haiti, maintain "regular consultations," and implement "a common program of governance."

But if such an accord raised hopes of imminent success, they were dashed the next day - Feb. 7 - when the PNH ambushed a pick-up truck of Surveillance Brigade for Protected Spaces (BSAP) agents, killing five of them (Zéphyrin Daniel, Mackendy Veillard, Dorvil Jean Fontange, Chrisner Désir, and Clersaint Thomas), while three were arrested and several others escaped. For two days, the cops had laid in wait with machine guns at a gas station on the road running through Laboule (above Pétionville), apparently believing (erroneously) that Philippe would be in the vehicle. Although the PNH claimed its officers fired in response to the BSAP, an informed source confirmed what Philippe later angrily told a radio station: that the attack was unprovoked, with the BSAP totally blindsided and never drawing their rudimentary weapons (shotguns, pistols, and such).

Most Haitians hope that BSAP, which has grown from a small contingent of armed park rangers formed in 2017 into a ragtag militia of many thousands today, will usher in the revolution to liberate Haiti from the widely decried "system." BSAP is commanded by Jeantel Joseph, the head of Philippe's National Consortium of Political Parties and director of the National Agency of Protected Areas (ANAP), whom Ariel unsuccessfully tried to fire earlier this month. To avoid assassination attempts, Joseph remains in the Central Plateau town of Hinche, planning his next move. Although Ariel's regime does not see Joseph or BSAP as legal, the BSAP maintains cordial relations with the PNH officers throughout most of Haiti except for greater Port-au-Prince.

The U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Eric Stromayer sprang to Ariel’s defense during the uprising, saying with typical paternalism on *Radio Caraïbes*: “It is necessary that all the political parties, civil society, and the business sector gather together with Ariel Henry to organize elections as soon as possible, to put an end to the Transition and the deplorable state in which the Haitian people find themselves.”

Despite such U.S. backing, Ariel is practically on the run, sleeping in different spots nightly, accompanied by a robust security detail of the General Security Unit of the National Palace (USGPN) and riding in a car with a “temporary registration” (IT) license plate rather than an “Official” one, for better camouflage.

For example, late in the evening of Feb. 8, he and his itinerant security unit rented rooms in a distant corner of the hotel Le Plaza on the capital’s Champ de Mars central square. At breakfast the next morning, the cops surprised the only other guests in the hotel: a film crew dispatched by *Haïti Liberté* and *Uncaptured Media*. When the journalists learned that the PM was their neighbor, they scrambled to grab their gear and buttonhole Henry, but the security detail hustled him from the hotel before they could.

Such refuge wouldn’t be possible in times gone by. The Champ de Mars plaza is traditionally the central site of Haiti’s Carnaval, which was from Feb. 11-13 this year. Normally Le Plaza would be filled with guests coming for the celebration, but this year, it was all but empty. The government built almost no stands, had few sound trucks (*char*), and the turnout was dismally tiny: a few hundred instead of the normal tens of thousands. On the second day of Carnaval, Feb. 12, authorities had to stop the parade because of heavy gunfire near the National Palace, sowing a wave of panic. Several people were reportedly wounded.

This paltry turn-out is not just due to hatred for Ariel’s regime but also to the resumption of kidnapping and violence by criminal gangs and the battles they are waging against the anti-crime armed coalition, the Revolutionary Forces of the G9

Family and Allies (FRG9), headed by former cop Jimmy “Barbecue” Cherizier.

Following Cherizier’s failed attempt last September to negotiate a truce between all the capital area’s armed groups, the FRG9 experienced several defections, betrayals, and killings. Now Cherizier’s lower Delmas quarters (Delmas 2, 4, 6) are in a bitter conflict with the new leaders of La Saline and Rue St. Martin, adjoining neighborhoods that used to be FRG9 affiliates.

“Ariel Henry is paying them to attack us as part of his effort to hold on to power,” Cherizier told *Haïti Liberté*, “and handicap our efforts to contribute to the nationwide uprising against his power and policies.” In other words, for the regime, the best defense is a good offense.

Despite the battle on lower Delmas’ western flank, Cherizier has been able to maintain a truce with the gangs of the Belair neighborhood to his south and east, headed by his long-time foe Kempès Sanon, a convicted kidnapper who escaped from jail in 2021.

Once the truce took effect last summer, Kempès stepped up murderous attacks on the historically neutral and gang-free neighborhoods of Solino and Fort National.

When asked about the attacks, which resumed last month, Cherizier remains prudently neutral. “I can’t say anything for or against one side or the other,” he told *Haïti Liberté* and *Uncaptured Media*. “But we hope those two neighborhoods can work out their differences.”

The fighting with Rue St. Martin and La Saline has caused small merchants to flee the giant Croix des Bossales market, while Kempès’ raids on Solino – the most recent in mid-January – has caused similar small merchant flight from its giant Péan Market, which now stands deserted.

However, our team found the small merchants of Croix des Bossales and Péan

Market now relocated on the Delmas Road between Delmas 10 and 12.

"I used to sell in the Péan Market," said one merchant, who would not give his name and covered his face to be interviewed on camera. "But I had to leave there because Ariel Henry and his collaborators sent bandits to destroy everything there, and to destroy the country generally. Whatever happens to us, he never says anything. But he put the bandits."

(Indeed, on Jan. 15, when Kempès resumed his latest attacks on Solino, a PNH unit stopped four vehicles with official plates entering his Belair neighborhood. Local residents say the cars carried money, arms, and ammunition for Kempès' gang. A policeman and two other individuals in the vehicles were arrested.)

"We lost our merchandise and things in our homes when the gangs attacked," the man in the Delmas 12 market continued. "The bandits chased us. Only here have we found a little relief. Even though some talk bad about Barbecue, Barbecue is a good guy, a good thing. He's the one that gave us a little break and this market here. Barbecue is a good thing, and we don't need Ariel."

As the man spoke, nearby, numerous small merchant women who had been reticent to speak on camera broke out in dance, chanting: "Viv Bâbe," a shortened form of "Long Live Barbecue."

Indeed, actions speak louder than words.

Earlier that day, when touring Delmas 6 unaccompanied, our crew interviewed internally displaced women and men living in a tarp-roofed, unfinished community center. Its construction had been halted for four months due to the crisis.

"We're from Solino," one woman told the journalists. "I left because bandits broke into my house. They didn't set it on fire, but there was fire next door. I gathered all my things. All my merchandise was lost. I didn't know where to go. But when we

arrived here, Jimmy Cherizier took us in with open arms. He said we could stay here until we figure something out. He helps us, gives us food and water each day, and water to bathe with. We can't go back to where we were because we could be killed. Many people have already died there."

As of Feb. 11, Guy Philippe had returned to Jérémie. The same day, Justice Minister Emmelie Prophète and PNH chief Frantz Elbé traveled to Washington to discuss with officials from Kenya and the U.S. how to get the boots of 1,000 Kenyan police into Haiti as fast as possible, despite a Kenyan court's order prohibiting the deployment.

Following the failure of the mobilization to oust Henry on Feb. 7, Haiti's disparate forces of revolution are racing the forces of foreign intervention to see which side will gain the upper hand in what remains a stalemate as Haiti still smolders with anger, discontent, and desperation.

These are clearly just the opening stages of a longer, even rougher period of struggle ahead.

Source: [Haïti Liberté](#)



Crawfish in the coal mine: Climate disruption is here

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 22, 2024

Last weekend, my partner and I ate at a local restaurant in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Crawfish season had clearly begun. People were crowded at the bar with trays piled with these “mud bugs.”

It’s a typical Louisiana scene. Crawfish boils are part of the culture here, a time-honored ritual. From the rural parishes to New Orleans, people gather in backyards to cook and dine on crawfish – like at a barbecue. It’s part of the Cajun, Creole, and even Vietnamese cuisine here.

But this year, scenes like the one at that Baton Rouge restaurant will no doubt be less common and more expensive. [LSU AgCenter experts](#) have been making the rounds explaining the ongoing shortage.

The combination of winter cold fronts and summer heat and drought took a toll on

crawfish, which are mostly grown in water-logged rice fields. [2023 was the hottest year on record](#). Those same heat and drought conditions caused multiple crises in the state, including the [saltwater intrusion](#) and an [epidemic of wildfires](#).

An [LSU AgCenter report](#) released in November 2023 said that the drought and heatwave cost the state's agricultural sector \$1.67 billion. If the Louisiana agricultural sector as a whole is valued at \$11.7 billion, that would mean that the 2023 losses are equal to 14.27% of the sector's value.

The AgCenter projects that 2024's crawfish industry losses will be about \$140 million, that is, equalling 60% of the industry's \$230 million value. This will be the worst crawfish season on record.

Losses like that should be frightening to the capitalist class. But this comes at a time when the capitalists and their politicians are doubling down on protecting fossil fuel industry profits at the expense of life on earth. That was the thrust of the debacle that took place at the [2023 COP 28 conference in Dubai](#).

That isn't stopping U.S. Representative Clay Higgins (R-Louisiana) from [trying to get federal relief money for the industry](#). He wants a crawfish bailout.

Meanwhile, Louisiana's knock-off Trump governor, Jeff Landry, just appointed Tyler Gray as secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. Gray is not even a former but rather the CURRENT corporate secretary of the Placid Refining Company. Seems like a conflict of interest.

But what can we expect? Racist Landry is an oil-and-gas investment millionaire who doesn't care whether we live or die.

What's clear is that the capitalists are going to try to squeeze out every last bit of value (even if it means killing the planet) while unloading the burden onto working-class and oppressed people, whether that means higher crawfish and other food

prices, flooded homes, or layoffs as agriculture and other industries are disrupted by climate shocks.

I say enough. Let's give these scoundrels a run for their money. We're coming for you Jeff, Trump, Biden, and all the rest. Time to hit the streets.



Taiwan elections: U.S. beats the war drums despite the vote

written by Struggle - La Lucha

February 22, 2024

When the election results for Taiwan's president and legislature were announced on January 13, the U.S. corporate media seemed jubilant. Three parties competed for president: The ruling pro-Taiwan-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), the nationalist opponent of independence Kuomintang Party (KMT), and another opponent of Taiwan independence, the Taiwan People's Party (TPP).

All three are bourgeois parties reflecting a split in Taiwan's business class. Although there were several domestic issues raised in the campaign, the main issue was and

is relations with mainland China. The People's Republic of China has always maintained that Taiwan is, in fact, a province of China and that the goal of the PRC is "peaceful unification."

However, just as Abraham Lincoln waged war against the enslavers' Confederacy to prevent its "separation" from the Union, China asserted the right to use force if necessary to prevent Taiwan's "Independence."

Taiwan belongs to all the people of China, including all of its provinces, not just residents of that island. Recognition of that fact forced the U.N. to expel Taiwan as a separate nation and even forced the U.S. to recognize China as "one country" in 1979. But U.S. imperialism has continued to bully dependent countries to continue to recognize Taiwan as China and continues to supply Taiwan with massive shipments of weapons and military "trainers."

A January 20 Wall Street Journal [article](#) proclaimed: "China's Strongest Ally in Taiwan Is Weaker Than Ever." The article states that the KMT was losing its hold on the island "as more Taiwanese embrace a local identity separate from China and reject the KMT's perceived coziness with Beijing."

Yet further down that same article, the WSJ had to provide the actual election results in Taiwan that give a far different picture. In 2020, the DPP presidential candidate won 57 percent of the vote. In 2024, he won only 40 percent of the vote. The two other parties, both of whom oppose the call for independence, combined for 60 percent of the vote, with 33.5 going to the KMT candidate and 26.5 percent to the TPP.

The DPP also fared badly in the legislative elections. Before, they held the majority with 61 seats in the 113-seat legislature. They lost 10 seats in the vote, while the KMT now has 52 seats to the DPP's 51, with two independents lining up with the KMT. And the TPP won eight seats, giving the two opposition parties effective

control.

On the international scene, two days after the election, the small Pacific Island nation of Nauru switched recognition from Taiwan to the PRC. And another island nation, Tuvalu, just elected a prime minister who campaigned on the promise of switching recognition from Taiwan to the People's Republic of China.

In Central America, the recently elected president of Guatemala, Bernardo Arevalo, faces a cruel choice. On the one hand, he campaigned with the promise of switching recognition to the PRC from Taiwan in order to develop his desperately poor country, devastated by global warming, causing a cycle of droughts and floods.

On the other hand, that same devastation has forced thousands of Guatemalans to migrate to the U.S., [220,000](#) in 2022 alone. Arevalo is trying to get work permits for these people from the Biden administration, which has now taken an openly hostile view, just like the Trumpist Republicans, towards migrants.

So far, Arevalo has been unable to carry out the switch to the PRC because of this.

Despite enormous U.S. pressure, only 11 countries now recognize Taiwan as a nation, including the Vatican, a “nation” consisting of the residence of the Roman Catholic pope.

All in all, during the eight years of the pro-independence rule of the DPP in Taiwan, ten countries switched recognition from that island to the People's Republic.

China-Taiwan relations in flux

All three Taiwan parties are hostile to the PRC and are enemies of socialism. But before the DPP took power in 2016, the KMT government, while maintaining the absurd fiction that it was the legitimate government of all of China, agreed with the People's Republic on the “one China” principle, so they were able reach a series of

important economic agreements with the PRC.

China and its city, Hong Kong, became Taiwan's top trading partners, and many social and cultural agreements were reached as well.

But in 2014, the U.S. engineered a “recolonization” campaign in Hong Kong, aiming to tear that former British colony (a war prize from the first Western Opium War) away from China. China's successful effort to prevent that frightened Taiwan's ruling class. So, it switched its support to the pro-independence DPP and called on the U.S. for increased military backing.

The U.S. obliged by sending its fleet into waters just offshore of China and Taiwan and began a steady series of provocations. Taiwan became the “linchpin” of U.S. imperialism's effort to effect “regime change” in China itself, which has made a steady turn to the left since President Xi Jinping took office in 2012.

The U.S. beats the drums of war, but no echo in Taiwan or the PRC.

Despite the weakening position of the DPP from these elections, the U.S. corporate media has stepped up its campaign to mobilize the population here for war against China. Here is just a sample:

- February 1, The Guardian, “**A race against time': Taiwan strives to root out China's spies.**”
- January 25, Benzinga, “**Amid Tensions With China, US Navy Sends First Warship Through Taiwan Strait Post-Election.**”
- January 27, NY Times, “**What Worries Me About War With China After My Visit to Taiwan.**”
- February 7, NBC, “**Chinese hackers spent 5 years waiting in US infrastructure, ready to attack, agencies say.**”
- February 8, Newsweek, “**China's Spies Hacked NATO Ally's Defenses',**

Official Says.”

- February 9, Newsweek, “**US and Japan Fight China in Allied War Game.**”
- February 9, GB News, “**China opens Antarctic base right next to US site as Americans fear it could be used for espionage.**” (Some of those penguins could be Chinese spies.)

But, the response by the Chinese government and military to the elections in Taiwan has been far more restrained. For example, during her 2022 visit, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi openly tried to incite the DPP government to declare Taiwan’s “independence,” which would have the island become a “Ukraine-style proxy” in a conflict with China. China’s navy and air force responded with a show of strength.

Many polls, along with these election results, show that most of Taiwan’s residents see any calls by the DPP for “independence” as a threat to peace and their livelihood. Efforts by the U.S. to stop the reunification process between Taiwan and the PRC, just like the U.S. efforts to force regime change on the Chinese people, are bound to fail.

Source: [Fighting Words](#)



On Philippines Solidarity Month: Pass the Philippines Human Rights Act!

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 22, 2024



JOHN PARKER FOR CONGRESS

SOCIALIST FOR CALIFORNIA'S 37TH ▼ PEACE & FREEDOM PARTY

JohnParker4Congress.org ▼ 323-306-6240 ▼ John.Parker@VoteForSocialism.org

CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

ON PHILIPPINES SOLIDARITY MONTH



- ▶ PASS THE PHILIPPINES HUMAN RIGHTS ACT!
- ▶ U.S. OUT OF THE PHILIPPINES!
- ▶ VICTORY TO THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION!

U.S. out of the Philippines! Victory to the People's Democratic Revolution!

Black History Month happens to share February with Philippines Solidarity Month,

though through no fault of either. Forget that February is already the shortest month. It is more a function of what imperialism and white supremacy will tolerate from oppressed nationalities.

John Parker, socialist candidate for California's 37th Congressional District, explains: "For the rich and powerful, the less time the colonized, occupied, and exploited spend thinking about their histories and what connects them, the better. The less time we spend discovering our common enemy, the better."

So, of course, we honor Philippines Solidarity Month. We salute not only the revolutionary legacy of the Filipino people, we hold in the highest regard their living revolution - their People's Democratic Revolution.

"The role of the U.S. in the Philippines, much like its role in Palestine and in so many other countries," said John Parker, "is both deeply buried and deeply repugnant."

In the late 1800s, the Filipino people, under the working-class leadership of Andrés Bonifacio's Katipunan movement, organized a nationwide armed struggle to free themselves of Spain, their 300-year colonizers.

The U.S. seized the opportunity to strike a deal with Spain, buying the Philippine islands for a clearance rate of \$20 million U.S. Adjusted for the current value of the U.S. dollar, the U.S. made off with an entire country for under \$800,000.

To quell the people's movement and establish its imperial domination, the U.S. invaded as an occupying force. The first waves of military occupation in 1898 and 1899 wiped out a sixth of the Filipino population.

By 1905, the end of the hot war, the U.S. had murdered 1.4 million Filipinos. After the first two decades of military occupation, 3 million Filipinos were dead at the hands of the United States.

How U.S. maintains control

Though the Philippines gained nominal independence in 1934, the U.S. ruling class stayed in control through its various puppet governors and, thus, the entirety of the Philippines' political and economic life. This system gave the U.S. ruling class free rein to maintain its military occupation and rule through sheer force of violence – all without paying a cent on overhead.

"President" Ferdinand Marcos Sr., for example, in September of 1972, implemented a martial law so brutal, it left in its wake thousands of known extrajudicial killings and "disappearances" and tens of thousands of documented tortures and political incarcerations.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (the "IDF" of the Philippines) and the Philippines National Police adopted a tactic called "salvaging," in which they would leave the tortured and mutilated bodies of suspected activists in places to be discovered by the public. For these, the United States footed the bill. The top brass of these operations were trained by the CIA. All of these details are eerily reminiscent of the coup against Chile's Salvador Allende.

The U.S. and its puppet ruling class in the Philippines, however, were right to be so desperately afraid of the Philippine masses.

"A genuine People Power Revolution ousted Marcos Sr.," John remarks. "And another one ousted 'President' Joseph Estrada, another U.S. stooge, who was about to get impeached anyway."

Bonifacio's revolution was never truly defeated. The armed struggle, like any struggle, waxed and waned through the decades, but nonetheless survives and remains a vital, necessary, and influential tool for the people's revolutionary struggle. The New People's Army, in fact, has only grown stronger under the

leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The story of the Philippines must never remain buried. It must be one more tool wielded by people's movements everywhere.

"This is our solidarity message," said John Parker. "On Philippine Solidarity Month, this campaign commits to never let the true story of the Philippines be buried. We commit to expose the imperialist United States for what it is - vicious, hideous, repugnant."

"If I am elected, I will support the passage of the Philippines Human Rights Act as introduced by Representative Susan Wild. If it fails, I will reintroduce it to every session of Congress thereafter if I have to. Just as I will demand an end to funding genocide in occupied Palestine, I demand an end to funding the political and military occupation of the Philippines."



Struggle La Lucha PDF - February

12, 2024

written by Struggle - La Lucha

February 22, 2024

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U.S. hands off Iraq, Syria, Yemen & Palestine! Will the Pentagon attack Iran?

By Stephen Millies

After frame-up victims Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were executed in 1953, French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre wrote that the capitalist United States was "sick with rabies."

Seven decades later, Wall Street's Big Oil empire is even more rabid and bloodthirsty. Using U.S.-supplied bombs and shells, the Zionist regime occupying Palestine has killed 30,000 people in Gaza. Behind the fascist Benjamin Netanyahu is Genocide Joe Biden.

In less than a month the Pentagon has attacked Iraq, Syria and Yemen, killing dozens with bombs and missiles. Over 106 million people live in these three sovereign countries.

Twenty-one years after the Second Gulf War, U.S. troops are still in Iraq despite the country's parliament demanding that they leave. The U.S. occupies oil fields in Syria and steals the petroleum.

Beginning in 2014, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — both vassal states of Big Oil — invaded Yemen, killing 377,000 people before being beaten back. Meanwhile Yemen was blockaded by the U.S. Navy as its children starved.

Now the U.S. and Britain are bombing Yemen because the country has closed the Red Sea to ships owned by or going to apartheid "Israel." Yemen's people, led by the Ansarullah movement, are doing so in righteous solidarity with Gaza.

In the last week the Biden administration has struck Iraq and Syria over 75 times. A Feb. 7 attack killed two commanders of a resistance group in Baghdad. Iraqis responded by chanting "America is the devil."

The White House's excuse for these devi-lish attacks was a drone that hit a U.S. base in Jordan near the Syrian border on Jan. 28. Three Black GIs from Georgia were killed.



Emergency responders at the site of a burned vehicle hit by a U.S. drone strike in east Baghdad, Iraq, Feb. 7.

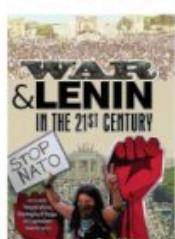
As with over 7,000 Black GIs killed in the dirty war against Vietnam and Laos, it's the Pentagon that has the blood of these three soldiers on its hands.

Demonizing the oppressed

The wealthy and powerful always slander freedom fighters. The U.S. State Department kept Nelson Mandela on its terrorist list until he was 89 years old.

The response of the Zionist state to the International Court of Justice chastising its crimes in Gaza was to attack the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. Netanyahu's regime claimed that a dozen of the UNRWA's 13,000 employees took part in the Oct.

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