

Two victories for Cuba, for life

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 31, 2025



Photo: Yanelkys Llera Céspedes

Hurricane Melissa has left a trail of devastation through the Antilles, with over 30 deaths in Haiti and Jamaica to date. The Eastern part of Cuba was also slammed by Melissa, the strongest hurricane to hit in the last 150 years. As of now, no lives have been lost in Cuba, thanks to its national unity and preparedness, which enabled it to evacuate over 700,000 people and their belongings out of harm's way before the storm arrived. - editorial

Oct. 30 — “Our triumph is life itself, that the population of the eastern provinces was able to protect itself from the blow of Melissa, and it is also the life of the entire nation defended without fear in the face of a deceitful and cynical empire,” said

Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, President of the National Defense Council, at the meeting of this body broadcast on the television program Mesa Redonda.

“These days have been very challenging, very tense, but also very instructive and very illustrative of the power of unity and the mobilizing and unifying capacity of our Party at the forefront of the Revolution.”

“The danger has not yet passed. The strong winds and heavy rains left behind by the hurricane, the overflowing rivers, the fallen trees and poles, the pollution generated in these circumstances... all of this can lead to further damage, disease, and even the loss of human lives and material goods that were preserved at the worst of times. We could lose them if there is negligence, if there is inaccuracy.”



Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, inspecting the damage from Hurricane Melissa in Holguín.

“Now it is important to carry out the survey that has been directed of all the

damage; to clean up and control the epidemiological situation; to restore energy, communications, and drinking water services; to ensure a responsible and orderly return of evacuees to their places of residence when directed; to immediately resume health and education services at all levels; to guarantee food production and distribution; save whatever can be saved from the sugar and coffee harvests (...); restore services to the population and begin the rescue of damaged infrastructure, especially housing.”

“Today we are all Fidel and Raúl. Today we are all the Party of unity defending life. Our greatest recognition at a time like this goes to those in the eastern provinces who faced Melissa and those at the United Nations who faced the empire.

“Winning these battles is only the obligation to continue winning those that are yet to come.”

Another no! From the world to the blockade

Cuba was once again supported by the overwhelming majority of the countries that make up the United Nations, 165 of which voted on Wednesday to lift the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed by the United States government against the archipelago.

However, it was not just another victory on the same terms as in previous years, because, as never before, the White House instructed the deployment of a campaign of discrediting, pressure, and direct blackmail against several governments in exchange for an adverse vote or abstention, in the futile aspiration to deny the genocidal nature of that core of economic warfare that is the blockade.

Nevertheless, the resistance of the Cuban people has also been unprecedented, and it is to them that the triumph of reason belongs, which imposed the favorable vote of 165 countries against seven and 12 abstentions: a Pyrrhic result of the dirty

diplomatic maneuvering that characterizes the Washington leadership, in collusion with its usual allies and cronies of the moment.

In the vote count, of course, the United States and Israel, at the head of a lineup bought or forced to demand that the longest policy of economic suffocation against any nation continue to be tried against Cuba. But no one is surprised that the same people who finance and fire the missiles that exterminated 70,000 Palestinians in Gaza are the leading promoters of this other genocide by attrition to kill through hunger, disease, and deprivation.

It is an overwhelming figure that certifies another colossal defeat for imperialist arrogance and exposes the ridicule of that great power that sought to legitimize the crime of the blockade of the largest island of the Antilles in the UN, using its best tools: intimidation and political extortion.

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



Defending Columbus is an insult to Italian-Americans — and to history

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 31, 2025



In New York City’s mayoral race, Andrew Cuomo has made himself the loudest defender of Christopher Columbus — and of the myths that surround him. Facing Democratic Socialist candidate Zohran Mamdani, Cuomo has doubled down on his long-standing crusade to preserve Columbus statues and Columbus Day, calling them “essential symbols” of Italian-American heritage.

In a series of October 2025 campaign appearances, Cuomo accused Mamdani of “insulting Italian-Americans” for his past criticism of the Columbus statue at Columbus Circle — even pointing to a photo of Mamdani giving the statue the

middle finger. Cuomo insists the monuments represent Italian-American struggle and assimilation, not the atrocities committed by the man they honor.

He promises that if elected mayor, Columbus Day will remain untouched, even as he grudgingly acknowledges that “Columbus committed bad acts against Indigenous people.” As governor, Cuomo even had a Central Park Columbus monument added to the State Register of Historic Places to guarantee its preservation.

But defending Columbus in 2025 is more than cultural nostalgia — it’s an attempt to weaponize ethnic pride against truth. Glorifying Columbus is no tribute to Italian-American workers and families who faced discrimination — it’s an insult to them. Columbus was not their forerunner; he was a mercenary for empire, an agent of enslavement and genocide.

Italian-American legacy — from Sacco and Vanzetti to the labor and anti-fascist movements — stands with the oppressed, not with empire. Honoring that real legacy means telling the truth about Columbus and the system he served.

The myth and the merchant

For generations, U.S. classrooms have glorified Christopher Columbus as the daring mariner who “discovered” a new world. The songs and parades celebrate him as a man of vision and courage — the founder of Western civilization in the Americas. But this version of Columbus is one of history’s most successful propaganda campaigns.

When we read his own journals and the accounts of contemporaries such as Bartolomé de Las Casas, a very different figure emerges — not a heroic explorer but a royal-chartered merchant of conquest. He was not the first European to reach these shores — and he didn’t “discover” anything.

From Africa to the Americas

Before crossing the Atlantic, Columbus had spent years studying the Portuguese system of expansion along Africa's coasts. He saw how it worked: Sail under royal orders, seize land in the name of the crown and the church, and profit from gold, trade, and human lives. Enslavement was built into the plan from the start.

But what Columbus found in the Americas changed everything. Unlike the Portuguese, who had to fight powerful African kingdoms, Columbus met peoples who had no reason to expect invasion — and no defense against European weapons or Old World diseases.

That imbalance gave him a free hand. He didn't bother building trade posts or alliances. He went straight to conquest and plunder — enslaving the Taíno, seizing land, and demanding tribute in gold.

Columbus brought the brutal system the Portuguese had pioneered to the Americas. What began on the African coast as raiding and slaving exploded in the Caribbean into total occupation and genocide.

The human ledger

When Columbus landed in the Bahamas on Oct. 12, 1492, he was greeted by the Taíno people — peaceful, generous, and curious about the strangers from across the sea. Columbus's first recorded observations were not of geography or astronomy but of people as potential labor.

In his own log, he wrote that the Taíno “should make good servants.” Within 48 hours, he was calculating the logistics of enslavement: “With 50 men they could all be subjugated and compelled to do anything one wishes.”

Throughout his journal, Columbus remarked on the people's gentleness and lack of weapons — not as virtues but as weaknesses to exploit. His words do not read like those of an explorer, but like those of a profiteer taking inventory of assets.

Just weeks into his mission, Columbus began capturing and shipping men and women to Spain as specimens and slaves. Historian José Asensio called it “a trifling act with fatal consequences.”

He enslaved entire communities, forcing them to mine gold, plant crops, and serve the colonizers under threat of mutilation and death.

Conquest and the birth of a new world order

Columbus’s voyages were at the beginning of modern European colonialism. His actions helped set in motion a transformation of the global economy. Gold and silver from the Americas flooded European markets, feeding a new money economy. Crops, livestock, and diseases crossed oceans, reshaping entire continents. The Spanish Empire, enriched by plunder, helped fuel the early growth of European banking, trade, and industry.

This was the violent accumulation of wealth that began in Africa and laid the foundations of capitalism — a process built on enslavement, dispossession, and genocide. The destruction of Indigenous societies, the rise of the Atlantic slave trade, and the seizure of land across the Americas created the material base for Europe’s later industrial expansion.

The real legacy

The gold ripped from the Caribbean and the lives stolen from Indigenous nations — alongside the centuries of stolen labor and bodies from Africa — formed the basis of the violent accumulation that built European capitalism. Out of that blood-soaked foundation grew a world system that continues to exploit labor and land across the globe.



Voting for Mamdani is voting against racism

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October 31, 2025

Stop the billionaires from stealing the NYC election

On the eve of the Nov. 4 New York City mayoral election, the billionaire class is going all out to defeat Zohran Mamdani.

The chief weapon of the wealthy and powerful is racism against Mamdani, who is Muslim and was born in Uganda.

It's not just Fox News and the New York Post, both owned by the Murdoch family, which are spewing hate nonstop.

Mamdani's chief opponent — former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo — went on Sid Rosenberg's bigoted WABC radio talk show. Cuomo laughed when Rosenberg claimed Mamdani would welcome another Sept. 11, 2001, attack.

Mamdani responded eloquently. “Islamophobia is not seen as inexcusable,” he said



in a video appeal. “Elected officials can sell T-shirts calling for my deportation.”

Cuomo visits Trump-loving neighborhoods in Staten Island, where he denounces Mamdani for being against statues of genocidal Columbus.

He’s also courting a handful of right-wing synagogues, attacking the Muslim Mamdani for demanding an end to the genocide in Gaza — even as tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, of Jewish New Yorkers have joined his call for justice for the Palestinian people, against genocide, and are backing Mamdani’s campaign.

The Nov. 4 election is a referendum on racism. Voting for Mamdani is saying no to Islamophobia and every form of racism and bigotry.

The big money against Mamdani

More than \$40 million is being spent to defeat the Democratic Socialist Zohran Mamdani, who wants to freeze rents and make the buses and child care free.

These absolutely needed reforms horrify former New York Mayor Bloomberg, who has shoveled over [\\$8 million](#) into the Stop Mamdani slush fund. That’s spare change for Bloomberg, whose fortune is estimated at [\\$109.4 billion](#).

During Bloomberg's 12-year reign in City Hall, up to a million people per year were detained by police under "Stop and Frisk" policies. The overwhelming number of people who had their Fourth Amendment rights against illegal searches stolen were Black and Brown.

The money-bags mayor also wanted to close [20 firehouses](#) across the city.

Bloomberg let public housing rot while the average monthly rent for a 691 square foot, one-bedroom apartment in Manhattan has risen to [\\$5,494](#). NYC transit fares are scheduled to rise to \$3 in January, 60 times what they were in 1948, when it cost a nickel to take a bus or subway.

But Zohran Mamdani must not be allowed to be elected mayor!

Other donors to the Stop Mamdani campaign include Joe Gebbia, co-founder of Airbnb, who has given \$2 million. Also giving money is [Alice Walton](#), whose \$111.4 billion fortune comes from the poverty wages paid to two million Walmart workers.

Cuomo's rotten record

When he was governor, Andrew Cuomo was forced to resign for being accused of being a sexual predator. He compelled thousands of seniors hospitalized with COVID-19 to go to nursing homes, where the disease spread, killing thousands more.

His daddy, Mario Cuomo, was also governor. The elder Cuomo took \$8 billion in funds meant for affordable housing and used them to build more prisons than any other governor in New York history.

Zohran Mamdani's campaign has become a mass movement against decades of capitalist austerity and cutbacks. Even more so it's a way to say no to anti-Muslim racism that became official policy after Sept. 11, 2001.

It was the struggle of Palestinians against U.S./Zionist genocide — and all the pro-Palestinian demonstrations — that helped spark Mamdani’s campaign.

Mamdani’s program of mild reforms may not seem extraordinary. But it gives people a chance to mobilize against capitalism in the capital of capitalism.

It’s crucial that revolutionary socialists and all progressive people support Mamdani against racism, against Islamophobia, and against Wall Street’s billionaires. For further analysis, please check out “[The Mamdani NYC mayoral campaign, ‘Which side are you on?’](#)” by Sharon Black.



What’s a billionaire doing paying off the troops?

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 31, 2025

The “anonymous donor” Donald Trump bragged about on Oct. 23 — the one supposedly giving \$130 million to pay U.S. military personnel during the government shutdown — turns out to be billionaire [Timothy Mellon](#), heir to one of the oldest

capitalist dynasties in the United States.

The [donation](#) from the 83-year-old member of the filthy-rich Mellon financial dynasty amounts to \$100 per member of the Armed Forces.

That's about 2% of the Pentagon's monthly payroll for those wearing a uniform. So what's the point?

Is Mellon's money earmarked for elite units who could be mobilized to attack demonstrators protesting ICE raids? Or to pay off key generals and admirals in some future plot like the Jan. 6, 2021, takeover of the United States Capitol?

The \$130 million payoff is likely illegal and violates the Antideficiency Act. Mellon isn't donating paintings to the National Gallery of Art like his granddaddy, Andrew Mellon, did to get off tax evasion charges.

It goes around Congress, which, in a republic, is supposed to decide where the tax money goes. Mellon's money allows Trump to say to GIs, "I'm the one providing for your families, not the liberals in Congress."

SNAP benefits — formerly known as food stamps — for 42 million people are going to run out of money on Nov. 1. Why couldn't Timothy Mellon make a donation to food banks?

Even with increasing food prices, \$130 million could still buy a lot of eggs.

This isn't a random act of generosity.

The Mellon family octopus

What the DuPonts are to Delaware, the Mellons are to Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. For over 150 years, the family has sliced and diced industries while breaking strikes.

Key to Mellon power is their bank, the Bank of New York Mellon, with assets of \$440 billion. Its assets under management — funds belonging to its wealthy clients, which the bank manages — amount to \$2.1 trillion.

Timothy's grandfather, Andrew Mellon, used the family bank to control a whole series of blue-chip corporations, including Alcoa. Because of its patents, the outfit held a virtual monopoly on U.S. aluminum production for decades.

Interior Secretary Harold Ickes declared that if the United States lost World War II, it would be because Alcoa was holding back on producing aluminum for planes. The federal government had to break Alcoa's patent monopoly.

The jewel in the family crown was Gulf Oil, which merged with Texaco to form Chevron in 1985. Andrew Mellon served as Treasury Secretary for three presidents in the 1920s (Harding, Coolidge and Hoover), giving tax cuts to his fellow plutocrats.

Afterwards, he was appointed ambassador to Britain, where he demanded a 50% cut of the British crown colony of Kuwait's petroleum production for Gulf Oil. Sixty years later, the first U.S. war in the Arab/Persian Gulf began.

Machine guns for the miners

Every generation of Mellons has been at war with the working class. After their Pittsburgh Coal Company crushed a miners' strike in the 1920s, a Senate inquiry exposed the firm's private armies. Richard Mellon, Andrew's brother, coolly told senators that "you couldn't run a coal mine without machine guns."

Timothy Mellon carried that tradition into modern times. As owner of several [New England railroads](#), he fought union contracts and ran them into bankruptcy, slashing jobs and safety.

His autobiography drips with racist contempt, describing Black people in [racist](#)

[terms](#). He poured \$1.5 million into defending Arizona's vicious SB 1070 anti-immigrant law, most of which was thrown out by the courts.

No wonder this bigot is a friend of Donald Trump.

The real question

Why should one billionaire decide who gets paid while tens of millions go hungry?

Why can a private fortune fill the gap left by a "shutdown" — but only for the armed forces, never for the poor?

The government always finds money for bullets, never for bread.



Trump approves war escalation

against Russia

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 31, 2025

The so-called “peacemaker” president is at it again. Donald Trump talks peace while preparing war.

Much has been made in the media in recent weeks about whether Donald Trump would deliver Tomahawk cruise missiles to Ukraine. It is without question that sending such missiles would represent a significant escalation in NATO’s proxy war against Russia.

Tomahawks now join a long list of military equipment touted as the [game-changer](#) for Ukraine in the war with Russia. Narratives that a particular weapon will turn the tide of war have saturated the news and social media since the war began in 2022.

If it wasn’t the F-16 fighter jet, it was Germany’s “Leopard” tank. If it wasn’t German tanks, it was cluster munitions, or the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System or Patriot missile systems. And every time, the propaganda was the same: Ukraine just needed one more piece of crucial equipment to achieve its victory.

This narrative was a lie from the beginning, and an intentional one. Ukraine has already deployed all these so-called game-changing weapons. None of them has led to the reversal or even the slowing of Russia’s steady advance.

The ‘silver bullet’ myth

From the beginning, this “silver bullet” narrative was just a smokescreen to justify spending millions upon millions of government funds on a U.S.-NATO war to drain Russia strategically.

Just like the rest of the equipment now burning on the war's long front, Tomahawks will make [little difference](#) in the grand scheme of the war's progress. While these are powerful weapons intended to decimate enemy logistical infrastructure and supply hubs, the math doesn't add up.

The Tomahawk illusion

Currently, the Trump administration has proposed sending 50 Tomahawks to Ukraine. Military analysts note that the number under discussion — just 50 missiles — would barely dent Russia's vast energy infrastructure. Further, the missiles are wildly [expensive](#) to produce.

To make any significant difference in the outcome of the war and have any chance to overcome Russia's advantage in mobilization and war industry over Ukraine - the U.S. would have to send thousands of Tomahawk missiles. [And even that could be futile.](#)

The U.S. would likely exhaust its entire arsenal of an estimated 4,000 missiles without seeing real deterioration in Russia's military capabilities.

The real motive: profit

So why the push for Tomahawks? It's not strategy — it's profit.

The U.S. and European arms industries have made record gains from the war in Ukraine. Each new shipment guarantees new government contracts to replace what's sent. When Washington ships 50 Tomahawks abroad, it must order 50 more — using state funds diverted from social needs to corporate profit.

That's how the system works. The government transfers the public wealth to the monopolies of war. Every missile fired means another payday for Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, and General Dynamics.

Even with the limitations of the Tomahawk missile and the motivation having more to do with profit than with the actual prosecution of a war, the shipment of such missiles to Ukraine for strikes deep in Russia would still represent a dangerous escalation.

Such missiles would allow Ukraine to strike major Russian cities like Moscow and St. Petersburg. There is no other way for Russia to interpret U.S.-supplied Tomahawks to Ukraine than as a signal of escalation from NATO.

For now, Donald Trump has seemingly [decided](#) that he isn't prepared to publicly provide Ukraine with the capability to strike deep in Russian territory via Tomahawks. But in the same stroke as publicly declining to send Tomahawks, Trump's State Department lifted [key restrictions](#) on Ukraine's use of missiles provided by European allies.

Even with Trump's bluster, the escalation is apparent, dangerous, and terrifying.

Trump's administration lifted these restrictions a day after Ukraine used a British-supplied [Storm Shadow](#) missile to strike a Russian chemical plant in Bryansk, deep behind the front lines. The message here seems clear: "Keep it up, but get what you need from [Europe](#)."

This has been Trump's strategy since he took office. The right-wing demagogue claims to be a peacemaker while pushing the war through European allies and enacting new [sanctions](#) against Russia.

The world doesn't need another "peacemaker" who feeds the war machine. The working class of the United States — and everywhere — needs those vast public resources now wasted on war redirected to human needs: housing, healthcare, education, and rebuilding communities, not destroying them.



An Urgent Message from the Peoples Forum for Hurricane Melissa Relief

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 31, 2025



Dear subscribers, colleagues, and friends:

Right now, the people of Cuba are facing an unprecedented crisis: crippling electrical blackouts, the relentless weight of the U.S. blockade, and now the arrival of Hurricane Melissa. We are sending urgently-needed food, clean water, and supplies to the island—and we need your help

This hurricane is not merely a severe storm; it is a catastrophic event that has shredded infrastructure and left entire communities in life-threatening conditions. But this natural disaster is amplified exponentially by a man-made catastrophe. For over six decades, the U.S. blockade has choked the Cuban economy, preventing access to essential goods, medicines, and the materials needed for recovery. This policy of strangulation has been devastatingly intensified by measures put in place under the Trump administration and championed by figures like Marco Rubio.

[DONATE HERE](#)

The direct result of this cruel policy is staggering: the blockade has cost the Cuban people an estimated \$7.5 billion in damages in the last year alone. This deliberate economic warfare prevents Cuba from acquiring the necessities they need right now to survive, including generators, building materials, food, and drinking water.

The resilience of the Cuban people is undeniable, having endured 65 years of economic blockade, but Hurricane Melissa has created an even more challenging situation. The Cuban people urgently need solidarity from us around the world. We have a profound responsibility to act and to deliver urgent, life-saving aid directly to the Cuban people.

Our immediate goal is to raise \$50,000 to send essential food, clean drinking water, and supplies to the areas affected by the hurricane. Every dollar you donate is a lifeline to the Cuban people in this urgent and challenging moment. Please donate what you can today. Rally your community, and let's prove that humanity and neighborly love are stronger than any blockade.

The Hurricane Melissa Relief donation drive is a collaborative effort between The People's Forum, IFCO/Pastors for Peace, The Hatuey Project, The ANSWER Coalition, and The Party for Socialism & Liberation, in partnership with The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center (CMMLK) in Cuba.

[DONATE HERE](#)

All Donations are tax deductible

To donate by check:

- Make check out to: The People's Forum
 - On memo line write: "Urgent Aid"
- Make check out to: The People's Forum
- Mail to: The People's Forum 320 W 37th St New York, NY 10018



Harlem rallies for Cuba, Colombia and Venezuela

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 31, 2025

Oct. 26 — Under the statue of Congressperson Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., people rallied in Harlem today to say no to Trump's war moves in the Caribbean.

The rally's co-chair — long-time Cuba activist Rosemari Mealy, JD, Ph.D. — pointed across the street to the former Hotel Theresa, where Cuban leader Fidel Castro met Malcolm X in 1960. Mealy, a member of the New York / New Jersey Cuba Sí Coalition, wrote about that famous encounter in her book, "[Fidel & Malcolm X: Memories of a Meeting](#)."

Ike Nahem of the coalition also co-chaired the rally. It was held on the eve of the annual vote in the United Nations General Assembly condemning the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba. According to Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, the country has suffered over \$170 billion in losses over the decades because of it.

Just two months of the blockade cost Cuba [\\$1.6 billion](#). That's enough money to pay for the imported fuel needed to power all of Cuba's electricity.

The Trump regime is strong-arming countries to vote against condemning the blockade or at least abstain during the roll call. Trump's flunky Secretary of State Marco Rubio wants to avoid last year's humiliating 187 to 2 vote denouncing the vicious blockade.

Speakers at the rally reminded onlookers of Cuba's aid to oppressed people around the world. As the late Pan-African educator and organizer Elombe Brath declared, "When Africa called, Cuba answered."

Thousands of Cuban volunteers died fighting alongside their African comrades, defeating the Nazi armies of then apartheid South Africa invading Angola.

The Cuban people shielded the Black revolutionary Assata Shakur from U.S. bloodhounds despite a \$2 million bounty on her. Shakur, who became a doctor in Cuba, died free there on Sept. 25.

Thousands of people from around the world, including hundreds from the United States, have received free medical education in Cuba. The only condition is that they go back to their countries and help heal the poor.

Defend Cuba, fight ICE

William Camacaro of the Bolivarian Circle denounced Trump's war threats to Colombia and Venezuela. Ten thousand sailors and marines are on an armada of warships in the Caribbean.

Ed Ventura of the Bronx chapter of JUPI — Youth United for Independence — denounced Trump for using Puerto Rico as a staging ground for threatening Colombia and Venezuela.

The human rights attorney Roger Wareham, a member of the International Secretariat of the December 12th Movement, pointed out that Zimbabwe — like Cuba — has been sanctioned by the United States. Zimbabwe's "crime" was to take back land stolen from Africans by European settlers.

Cesar Santos, a co-chair of the National Network on Cuba, urged people to keep on fighting to defend Cuba. Santos also videotaped the rally.

New York State Senator Cordell Cleare, whose 30th district includes Harlem, mentioned how the blockade of Cuba harms people in the United States as well. She described how the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, New York, is hindered in its collaboration with Cuban scientists to fight lung cancer.

Different artists, including a spoken-word performance from the Harlem Bomb Shelter, gave cultural performances.

Cuba Sí Coalition member Jason Corley urged people to check out books about Cuba.

The rally was held while ICE agents were kidnapping people across the United States. National Lawyers Guild President Suzanne Adely urged people to unite against this terror campaign and connected the struggle with defending Cuba.

Hands off Cuba, Colombia and Venezuela! Stop ICE!



Campaña antisindical en PR

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 31, 2025

La intensificación del modelo neoliberal y colonial se manifiesta en Puerto Rico de muchas formas, en contubernio con figuras políticas y de la prensa subordinada a esos intereses.

Esta semana hemos visto en los medios la proliferación de terribles mentiras y difamaciones en contra de la clase trabajadora boricua, especialmente de la industria energética. Esos trabajadores que por años sirvieron a nuestro pueblo, en muchas ocasiones arriesgando sus vidas para brindarle al pueblo luz hasta en los rincones más recónditos de nuestro archipiélago. Muchos perdieron sus vidas en ese intento.

Pero ahora con la privatización de la energía, esos mismos trabajadores han sido desplazados de sus puestos, sustituidos por extranjeros que no conocen nuestro territorio de montañas y cuerpos de agua difíciles de acceder. Pero lo peor, son las compañías privatizadoras corruptas y mafiosas que generan la energía y la distribuyen: las extranjeras Genera cuya matriz es New Fortress, que por cierto está

en bancarrota, y la incompetente Luma Energy para la transmisión y distribución.

Se privatizó con la excusa de que abarataría el costo. Sin embargo desde que comenzaron, los aumentos han sido continuos.

El colmo ha sido que el gobierno hace ya años, dejó de pagar su parte obligada a las pensiones de los trabajadores de la que fuera Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica pública, ahora privatizada. Así que al descapitalizarse el fondo de pagos de pensiones, la privatizadora, con el aval del gobierno, ha impuesto un recargo a la factura para el pago de las pensiones, aumentando aún más los pagos de luz.

El sindicato Utier ha sometido propuestas para financiar las pensiones, pero el gobierno las ha ignorado. Prefirió montar una campaña de odio hacia los trabajadores utilizando los medios televisivos y radiales que se han prestado, intentando dividir al pueblo para que culpen a los trabajadores y no al gobierno corrupto.

Pero esta semana, uno de esos programas que invitó a Ricardo Santos Ramos, expresidente del sindicato UTIER recibió una sorpresa cuando éste valientemente le contó las verdades sobre la corrupción y el contubernio de los medios al satanizar a los trabajadores. Dio cátedra de lo que hay que hacer con estos medios. Fue un acto de dignidad al cual el presentador del programa no tuvo forma honesta de contestar, quedando en evidencia la complicidad de los medios.

¡Viva la clase trabajadora boricua! ¡La privatización fracasó! ¡Cancelen los contratos Ya!

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



The ‘Big Stick’ is back: And it’s pointed at Venezuela, Colombia and Cuba

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 31, 2025

The U.S. continues to escalate military pressure against Venezuela — and against Colombia and Cuba as well.

On Friday, Oct. 24, 2025, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced the deployment of the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) to the Caribbean.

The USS Ford — the most lethal strike platform in the world — joins an already massive U.S. military buildup in the region: 10,000 U.S. troops, at least eight warships, P-8 surveillance planes, and F-35 jets are now deployed under the Trump administration’s so-called “counter-narcotics” operation. U.S. troops have also landed in Trinidad and Tobago, just miles from Venezuela, for five days of “joint exercises” seen across the region as a clear act of intimidation.

Colombian President Gustavo Petro called it a violation of international law and Latin American sovereignty. Petro charges Washington with illegal acts of imperialist aggression driven by economic motives rather than genuine counter-narcotics efforts.

Petro has condemned the U.S. missile strikes on vessels in the Caribbean and Pacific as “acts of tyranny” and “extrajudicial executions.” He charged that U.S. forces violated Colombia’s sovereignty, describing the attacks as “murders” carried out in territorial waters.

The Colombian leader highlighted the case of Alejandro Carranza, a Colombian fisherman allegedly killed when his small vessel suffered engine failure and raised a distress signal.

“They committed a murder and violated our sovereignty in territorial waters,” Petro said, stressing that the victims were not drug traffickers but “poor young people from Latin America.” He confirmed that at least one Colombian vessel was struck and that Colombian citizens were killed in the attacks.

Cuba is also a target in Washington’s expanding war drive.

Havana’s Foreign Ministry denounced the U.S. military buildup in the Caribbean as “an aggressive show of force” that threatens peace and stability across the region. Cuban officials warned that U.S. maneuvers near the island represent “a real and imminent danger,” aimed at intimidation and destabilization.

Venezuela’s history as a battleground of empire

Venezuela’s long history shows how U.S. imperialism evolved from Teddy Roosevelt’s “big stick” diplomacy to today’s mix of sanctions, economic strangulation, and ‘big stick’ warfare. Oil made Venezuela a prize for foreign capital a century ago; it still makes the country a strategic battleground between imperialist

control and national sovereignty. The Bolivarian Revolution, led by Hugo Chávez, tried to break that pattern — and Washington has treated that challenge as an existential threat.

The oil-looting era

In the early 20th century, U.S. oil barons — anchored to Rockefeller's Standard Oil — carved out vast concessions from the colonial puppet regime that ruled Venezuela on behalf of Wall Street. By the 1920s, companies like Standard Oil of New Jersey (later Exxon) and Royal Dutch Shell dominated production. The profits flowed north; Venezuelan workers remained poor under repressive regimes that enforced foreign concessions.

By mid-century, oil accounted for over 90% of Venezuela's exports, but ownership, technology and pricing power stayed in foreign hands. The state's courts, ports and pipelines served Wall Street; infrastructure and social investment lagged, producing sharp inequality and long dependence on external markets.

The 1976 nationalization and the creation of PDVSA altered ownership on paper, but Big Oil's control remained deep. Technical links, commercial contracts, and international financing meant that de facto control — and much of the profit — remained tied to U.S. and European oil giants.

Big stick imperialism

Teddy Roosevelt turned the Monroe Doctrine into a license for U.S. policing across the Americas — asserting the right to intervene whenever Washington judged instability a “threat.”

Roosevelt's gunboat diplomacy forced Venezuela to satisfy European creditors and put U.S. naval power at the center of Washington's imperialist domination of the Americas.

The pattern never changed: U.S. coups and invasions — in Guatemala, Chile, Grenada, and Panama — were sold as defending “democracy” but served Wall Street and the Pentagon.

The Bolivarian Revolution

Elected in 1998, Hugo Chávez launched the Bolivarian Revolution to reclaim national control over oil and redirect its revenue toward social programs. His government expanded free health care, education and food programs, cut poverty, and deepened Latin American solidarity through ALBA and Petrocaribe.

Oil revenues funded mass literacy drives, subsidized food distribution, new housing and broadened health care — material gains that changed millions of lives and built grassroots organizations that anchored the revolution.

A U.S.-backed coup briefly removed Chávez in 2002; mass popular mobilization returned him to power within 48 hours. That moment crystallized Venezuela’s turn toward a politics of sovereignty — and Washington’s determination to push back.

Sanctions and war

After Chávez’s death in 2013, the U.S. escalated economic pressure. Sanctions aimed at oil, banking and trade were tightened under successive administrations and intensified under Trump. These measures froze assets, choked imports of medicine and spare parts, and restricted Venezuela’s access to global finance — turning sanctions into a tool of collective punishment.

Trump said recently, “When I left [after his first term], Venezuela was ready to collapse. We would have taken all the oil.”

Beyond sanctions, Washington has funded opposition groups, backed parallel leadership claims, and deployed disinformation campaigns in an attempt to erode

the Bolivarian Revolution.

Despite interference, Venezuelans have repeatedly defended their institutions at the polls. International delegations and regional observers have documented consistent mass participation and contested the phony U.S. claim that Venezuelan democracy lacks popular support.

Sovereignty and resistance

Millions remain mobilized — in communal councils, unions and militia structures — defending the Bolivarian Revolution in the streets and at the ballot box.

Venezuelans have shown repeatedly they will resist recolonization — by voting, organizing and arming for self-defense when necessary.

Across Latin America, Africa and Asia, states and movements have condemned U.S. sanctions and military threats. Venezuela, Colombia and Cuba's struggles have become a symbol for the Global South's resistance to imperialist domination.

The U.S. cannot recolonize Venezuela, only destroy it. The Venezuelan people will fight back, and the world will support them.



Rubio and international blackmail

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 31, 2025

Marco Rubio has unleashed an aggressive campaign of falsehoods and bullying to secure votes against Cuba in the United Nations General Assembly. With one week to go before the annual vote on the blockade of Cuba, the Secretary of State has launched a diplomatic offensive to try to shift the balance: not so much to add “no” votes as to transform affirmative votes into abstentions or absences.

A State Department cable, leaked to Reuters and dated October 2, reveals the strategy: to link the resolution on the blockade to the war in Ukraine and present Cuba as a threat to regional peace.

The document, distributed to dozens of embassies, instructs U.S. diplomats to pressure governments to oppose the resolution, based on the accusation that between 1,000 and 5,000 Cubans are fighting alongside Russian forces. “After North Korea, Cuba would be the largest contributor of foreign fighters,” the text states.

The objective is explicit: to significantly reduce the number of affirmative votes in

the UN; “no” votes are “preferred,” but abstentions or non-participation also serve the purpose. Speaking to the press on Wednesday in Havana, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla showed a facsimile copy of the State Department document and stated that Cuban-born congressmen had sent additional letters in which, in a threatening tone, they made the vote conditional on other aspects of the bilateral relationship. These are unmistakable gestures of neighborhood bullies.

The offensive comes in a context of tougher sanctions following Trump’s return to the White House, which does not tolerate the fact that last year the resolution was approved by 187 votes in favor, with the United States and Israel against and Moldova abstaining. This precedent highlights the countercurrent nature of the current maneuver.

Havana’s response has been categorical: Cuba is not part of the armed conflict in Ukraine nor does it participate with military personnel “there or in any other country.” The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has published details of criminal proceedings for mercenary activities related to this front: nine cases (2023-2025) against 40 defendants; eight trials and five convictions involving 26 people, with sentences ranging from five to 14 years; three cases pending sentencing and another in progress. The Foreign Ministry maintains a policy of “zero tolerance” against mercenary activity, trafficking, and the participation of nationals in conflicts abroad.

Meanwhile, the Caribbean is being militarized under the pretext of the “war on drugs.” Washington extrajudicially kills crew members on board ships, reinforces its naval presence, and tests rules of engagement that increase the intensity of the use of force. The campaign to blackmail governments into rejecting the Cuban resolution is not a separate chapter, but rather the narrative cover for this escalation, which also opportunistically takes advantage of a diplomatic operation to divert attention from the profound suffering caused by the blockade of the Cuban people.

Confirmed as Secretary of State in January, Marco Rubio has placed Cuba at the center of his hemispheric agenda. Among his measures is the repeated use of visa restrictions against foreign officials whom he accuses of participating in the alleged “coercive labor export scheme” of Cuban medical missions. Rubio has done everything possible to criminalize one of the island’s most recognized cooperation programs.

The Secretary of State has also amplified controversial narratives from the past—such as hypotheses about the external causes of the so-called “Havana syndrome”—which the U.S. intelligence community considers “highly improbable” following interagency assessments in 2023 and 2025. The contrast between that evidence and political rhetoric illustrates the method: loading the media climate with fallacious national security allegations to weaken support for the resolution.

But historical arithmetic is stubborn. Since 1992, the General Assembly has overwhelmingly approved calls to end the blockade, and in 2024, the score was 187-2-1.

With that precedent, the most likely scenario is that the resolution will again pass by a very large majority, even if Washington manages to scrape together a few abstentions or absences.

If history is any guide, the overwhelming pronouncement of the assembly will be repeated once again.

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

