Socialists unite for Venezuela, and launch new party

By Greg Butterfield
Los Angeles

During an event-packed weekend in this sprawling Southern California metropolis, people took to the streets for Bolivarian Venezuela, attended an informative conference on socialism, and revolutionary activists from across the U.S. launched a new organization to unite workers and oppressed people in the struggle against capitalism: the Socialist Unity Party.

‘Whose streets? Our streets!’

March 16 was a day of international solidarity with the people and government of Venezuela who continue to resist economic sanctions, political sabotage and military threats from Washington and its allies. That morning, at least 100 people gathered at MacArthur Park in the heart of a Latinx neighborhood to demand “Hands Off Venezuela!” — a protest initiated by Struggle for Socialism-La Lucha por el Socialismo and sponsored by a coalition of 17 organizations.

As working-class families streamed into the park or shopped among the many vendors lining the streets, they were greeted by protesters carrying bright banners and signs demanding “No war on Venezuela — Money for jobs, schools, healthcare and housing,” and “President Maduro: We’ve got your back! Fact sheets in Spanish and English were handed out to passersby, describing the work that Bolivarian Venezuela has done to lift people out of poverty and contrasting President Nicolás Maduro — a former bus operator and union organizer — with billionaire white supremacist Donald Trump.

In Venezuela, “The masses themselves democratically elected their leader,” former USA General Secretary Nicolás Abad called at an opening rally. “But more important, they have chosen to stand up against U.S. intervention.”

Chanting “No blood for oil — again!” and “Whose streets? Our streets!” protesters seized traffic lanes around the park as they marched toward the courthouse, where the trial of political prisoners was set to continue.

“Many of our different organizations are faced with attacks from the state,” Parker continued, “and from state institutions and universities that try to find every kind of way to negate the science of socialism and the class that will bring it to fruition. They try to take the class question out of all other questions and make us blame each other, not our class enemy.”

“Destroying the unity of our working class is a danger to all of our class. We must build our class up, not tear it down. We must educate, not eliminate, our family of working people.”

“Don’t need an invitation to revolution”

Other speakers took up the struggles for migrant rights and the Central American refugee caravans at the border, the strikes by teachers in Los Angeles and other parts of the country, the struggle against police terror and in solidarity with prisoners, fighting capitalism’s destruction of the environment and other issues. Gloria Verdieu of San Diego gave an inspiring talk on the life and struggle of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Another San Diegan, Benjamin Prado of Unión del Barrio, spoke about the work of this organization, which represents the Chicanx-Mexicanx community in California. “Our struggle is to organize our people, regain our land, and build a socialist society in sustainability with Mother Earth.”

Puerto Rican revolutionary Berta Jourbet-Ceci described the takeover of the island nation’s economy by a U.S.-imposed financial control board as a “laboratory experiment for a new kind of dictatorship and economic model.” Speaking by teleconference, Mahtvon Munro of United American Indians of New England talked about the importance of Indigenous struggles and decolonization in the struggle for socialism. Labor activist Andre Powell emphasized the importance of having a Marxist understanding of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two-spirit community.

Jesús Rodríguez, editor of Orinoco Tribune and former revolutionary, spoke briefly by internet from Caracas. The recent U.S. attack on Venezuela’s electrical grid is comparable only to the oil sabotage of 2002-2003 in severity, he said. Unfortunately, Rodríguez’s presentation was cut short by connection problems resulting from the electrical sabotage.

A number of international greetings were sent to the conference from workers’ and anti-imperialist organizations from Brazil, Germany, Russia and the Donbass republics.

Wonderful cultural performances were a highlight, including poets Irene Sanchez and Matt Sedillo, and Conga Poet Julio Rodriguez, who performed “Invitation to the Revolution”: “We don’t need an invitation to the revolution. All are welcome to work for a solution.”

Conference-goers voted unanimously to send a message of solidarity to exiled Palestinian activist Rasmea Odeh, whose freedom to travel and speak at political events has come under attack by the German government through pressure from the U.S. and Israel.

Conference concluded with a special presentation and discussion led by Clarence Thomas, a retired lead organizer of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and co-founder of the Million Worker March movement, who spoke about his experiences in the working-class struggle, from the 1968-1969 San Francisco State College strike led by Black student activists and the 1977’s boycott of apartheid South Africa.

“The nature of a strike is like a small revolution,” Thomas said. “Workers have the right to develop strategies and tactics. Strikes, like revolutions, can lead to defeats and setbacks, but they can also lead to tremendous victories.”

Socialist Unity Party founded

On March 17, workers from many parts of the U.S. — including Black, Latinx, Asian/Pacific, Indigenous, women, oppressed genders and LGBTQ2S workers — met to found a new organization in the fight against capitalism: the Socialist Unity Party.

Together, the group already publishes a bi-weekly newspaper, its website and monthly radio broadcast. Find archives and more information at Struggle-La-Lucha.org. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter. If you like what we are doing, please donate.
Slavery, Settler Colonialism, Gender Oppression and Resistance in the Early Colonial Years

By M. Odom

This year marks 400 years since “20 and odd” enslaved Africans on board a Dutch frigate were traded for supplies to English settlers at Jamestown.

As historians have noted, these African captives were not the first to be enslaved in North America. Enslaved Africans had been a part of the labor force that had been coerced to build the Spanish colonies of Mexico and Florida. As well, enslaved Africans accompanied the English settlers of the “vanished” colony of Roanoke, thirty years earlier. Also, there were very likely Africans in Jamestown before 1609 who might have arrived by way of Florida.

Nevertheless, none of these new findings diminish the importance of 1609 to our study of slavery, capitalism and the American revolution. With the introduction of enslaved Africans, the plantation society of colonial Virginia expanded and the wealth of American colonists was generated. From this, the primary contradiction in American history was generated.

The enslavement of hundreds of thousands of Africans over the following 160 years produced the independence of the bourgeois class of American society — literally. Tobacco farmed by enslaved Africans in Virginia became currency that paid for their decisive support of American colonial rebels.

American culture celebrates the formation of the Plymouth Colony as its national origin because it reinforces national mythology: units of Christian families migrated to the United States in search of religious freedom. No such pretenses in the formation of the Virginia Colony. As historian Annette Gordon-Reed notes, Jamestown is the United States’ Garden of Eden and slavery and white supremacy is the nation’s original sin.

In May 1607, the 104 original settlers arrived in Jamestown. All of them were men and boys contracted as a part of an expedition financed by the Virginia Company of London.

By M. Odom

Free Chelsea Manning now!

By Prisoners Solidarity Committee

U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton in Alexandria, Va., expressed the government’s contempt for every woman, every trans person and every worker when he sent heroic military whistle-blower Chelsea Manning back to jail on International Women’s Day.

Manning spent seven years in a military prison under the Obama administration for sharing evidence of U.S. war crimes in Iraq with the news website WikiLeaks for publishing “The Guardian.” Manning, who recently underwent sex reassignment surgery to become a female, was again imprisoned, anti-war activists for protected political speech.”

Judge Hilton, a Reagan appointee, immediately found Manning in contempt and ordered her imprisoned “until she purges” — i.e., agrees to testify — or for the life of the grand jury. The judge and prosecutors brushing aside serious concerns for Manning’s health and safety raised by her defense attorneys. They asked that Manning, who recently underwent surgery, be confined to her home, where she could receive appropriate, trans-affirmative medical care.

Judge Hilton claimed U.S. marshals can handle her medical care in the Alexandria jail.

Democratic President Barack Obama forced Manning to serve seven years of a 35-year military prison sentence before finally bowing to protests and granting her clemency at the end of his second term. Incoming Republican President Donald Trump tweeted that she was an “Ungrateful TRAITOR” who “should never have been released from prison.”

During her long imprisonment, Manning was tortured with solitary confinement and other forms of extreme isolation. She was also denied appropriate health care.

Manning’s attorney, Moira Meltzer-Cohen, said they will appeal the judge’s ruling.

Fortunately, expressions of support for political prisoner Chelsea Manning were quick in coming.

Roger Waters, the song-writer and musician who has recently distinguished himself with his outspoken support for Bolivarian Venezuela, took to social media in behalf of “giant whistleblower Chelsea Manning.” “We support you completely and we’ll work unreservedly to get you released from this insane incarceration that the US government is imposed on you and I’m for you.”

National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden, who was forced to flee the country after exposing government cyber-spying and torture, saluted Manning’s “courage and said, “She must be released.”

Code Pink founder Medea Benjamin declared that Manning is once again being penalized for her work as a whistleblower in 2010, when she was trying to inform people “about abuses of our government in the invasion of Iraq.”

Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, who helped expose U.S. war crimes in Vietnam, said, “Chelsea Manning is again acting heroically in the name of press freedom, and it’s a travesty that she has been sent back to jail for refusing to testify in a grand jury. An investigation into WikiLeaks for publishing an email threatens all journalists’ rights, and Chelsea is doing us all a service for fighting it.”

“She has already been tortured, spent years in jail and has suffered more than enough. She should be released immediately.”

Break the isolation!

On March 9, the day after Manning was again imprisoned, anti-war activists rallied outside the jail. When supporters asked to visit her, they were turned away by the Alexandria sheriff’s deputies, raising concerns that Manning will again be subject to punishment by isolation.

For updates and information on upcoming actions in support of Manning, follow Chelsea Resists on Twitter. You can also donate to her legal defense fund.

Supporters can help break the isolation campaign by writing to:

Chelsea Manning
Before her grand jury appearance on March 8

Chelsea Manning
2001 Mill Road
Alexandria, VA 22314

service for fighting it.

“Chelsea Elizabeth Manning

William G. Treadesdale

Adult Detention Center

2001 Mill Road

Alexandria, VA 22314

Get involved with the Prisoners Solidarity Committee!!

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VENEZUELA: Calling the arsonist to put out the fire

By Cheryl LaBash

On Sunday morning March 10, electricity was largely restored in Venezuela after the sabotage of its power grid that began on March 7. Even in the midst of the global pandemic, Venezuelan problems are still ongoing.

The power outage, caused by a cyberattack, was named for the fifth U.S. president, slave master James Monroe. It’s named for the fifth U.S. president, slave master James Monroe. It’s named for the fifth U.S. president, slave master James Monroe.

The U.S. government bears much responsibility for these new hardships, as well as the suffering on the Bolivarian people. Equally devastating and lethal methods are now in imperialism’s toolbox, including cyber weapons and possibly a denial-of-service cyber attack. The innocuous and nonthreatening term “sanctions.”

In a March 9 article posted during Venezuela’s power outage, Bolton’s former boss, CNN’s Jake Tapper, quoted Bolton as saying, “It will make a big difference to the U.S. in terms of capabilities in Venezuela.”

In other words, it’s all about oil profits. Turning back the clock to Teddy Roosevelt and U.S. battleships blasting Cuba in 1898, Bolton said CNN’s Jake Tapper on March 3, “In other words, it’s all about oil profits.”

The Monroe Doctrine was used to stop European powers from reoccupying their former colonies in the Western Hemisphere. The Monroe Doctrine recognized the benefits of Wall Street. I helped put Nicaragua for the International Banking House of Brown Brothers in 1902-1912. I brought light to the darkness of Wall Street. I helped put Nicaragua for the International Banking House of Brown Brothers in 1902-1912.

The day before — April 20, 1914 — over 20 people, including 11 children, were killed by the Colorado National Guard over 20 people, including 11 children, were killed by the Colorado National Guard. The Ludlow Massacre was a direct result of the company’s decision to use the income from the natural gas industry to increase its profits.

The Monroe Doctrine is both a relic of slavery and an example of the United States’ deep involvement in Latin America’s history. As Virginia governor, Monroe pursued a campaign of enslavement in 1800. At least 26 Black people were hanged. Among them was the re-volt leader, the blacksmith Gabriel Prosser, and his two brothers Solomon and Martin, who were executed on Oct. 10, 1800.

The Monroe Doctrine aimed to protect U.S. property in Central America. The day before — April 20, 1914 — over 20 people, including 11 children, were killed by the Colorado National Guard over 20 people, including 11 children, were killed by the Colorado National Guard. The Ludlow Massacre was a direct result of the company’s decision to use the income from the natural gas industry to increase its profits.

Smedley Butler told the truth

Smedley Butler was awarded two Medals of Honor for his crime. Hansen was eventually promoted to brigadier general.


Understand the Monroe Doctrine

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The Monroe Doctrine is also a relic of slavery. It’s named for the fifth U.S. president, slave master James Monroe. As Virginia governor, Monroe pursued a campaign of enslavement in 1800. At least 26 Black people were hanged. Among them was the re-volt leader, the blacksmith Gabriel Prosser, and his two brothers Solomon and Martin, who were executed on Oct. 10, 1800.

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El Tribunal sobre crímenes coloniales en Puerto Rico

De la charla en la conferencia Unidad para el Socialismo y la Revolución, convocada por la publicación Struggle – La Lucha, en Los Ángeles el 18 de marzo de 2019. Por Berta Joubert-Ceci, la iniciadora del Tribunal Internacional sobre Crímenes Coloniales de los Estados Unidos contra Puerto Rico – PuertoRicoTribunal.org

El pasado mes de octubre se reunió en la ciudad de Nueva York el Tribunal Internacional sobre Crímenes Coloniales de los Estados Unidos contra Puerto Rico, o Puerto Rico Tribunal. Esta fue una reunión histórica en la que se resolvieron algunos de los crímenes cometidos contra mi pueblo desde 1898.

Los crímenes en el contexto del trauma más grande, el colonialismo y la lucha por el descolonizamiento.

Los crímenes contra el medio ambiente que hoy se están intensificando, crímenes que han quitado la salud y la vida de cientos de personas, y que amenazan la vida de las futuras generaciones.

Las invasiones y la militarización de nuestro archipiélago y una economía agroindustrial que ha crecido y solo ha crecido hasta hoy bajo la supervisión de un poder extranjero.

El jugador del pueblo de Puerto Rico que, en medio de la crisis económica y social, no ha podido satisfacer las necesidades de sus ciudadanos.

El jurado deliberó durante 2 horas y rendió el veredicto: declaró al gobierno de los Estados Unidos responsable de los crímenes cometidos en Puerto Rico.

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

3. Los Estados Unidos paguen indemnizaciones a víctimas del crimen de colonialismo.

La historia de Puerto Rico es un nuevo tipo de experi- miento de laboratorio a la que se somete a una agresión continua. Esta es una lucha por la independencia que ha sido muy intensificada en los últimos años. Es un intento desesperado de la burguesía y el capitalismo destruir Puerto Rico.

El tribunal no ha cesado sus actividades y el mundo está entusiasmado con las conclusiones del tribunal.

I would like to end by placing the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico in a more global context. Puerto Rico has been used as a laboratory by the U.S. In Vieques, the U.S. Navy practiced the exercises that now are being repeated in Grenada and Panama, and tested weapons used in their criminal war against Iraq. Puerto Rican people were used as guinea pigs for the testing of drugs that benefited U.S. pharmaceutical companies.

The tribunal’s message is not just a laboratory experiment; the program was a new kind of dictator and economic model.

No capitalismo es lo que ha nacido de la colonia que ahora serán denegados a los bo- ricúas más pobres con el cierre de cientos de empresas y el retiro del estado de manos de empresas mayormente estadounidenses. In- cluido hay un esfuerzo por destruir nuestra universidad pública nación- nal, la Universidad de Puerto Rico.

Delitos contra cualquier posibili- dad de desarrollo infraestructura del archipiélago y una economía y agricultura sostenibles. De esa manera, las corporaciones estadounidenses tienen una fuente confiable de ganancias. 

Aquí es donde Puerto Rico encaja con los nuevos objetivos de Estados Unidos. ¿Qué mejor lugar para esto? ¿Cómo puede ser imposible que no sea abso- lutamente ninguna soberanía? una Junta de Control Fiscal corrupta y que ha sido instrumentalizada en los últimos años. Es un intento desesperado de la burguesía para mantener un estilo de vida, usar cualquier medio para no denostarse. Inversión masiva en la construcción de edificios que tienen un costo elevado de autonomía y distancia del imperialism.

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Puerto Rico Tribunal — PuertoRicoTribunal.org.

Free Puerto Rico Now!

Long live international solidarity! For Puerto Rico!

Free Puerto Rico Now!