Indigenous and allies respond: Shut Down Canada!

By M. Tiahui

Indigenous people and allies who support Indigenous sovereignty have taken to the streets throughout Canada in resistance to multiple raids on peaceful encampments in Wet’suwet’en territory in British Columbia.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) with guns, dogs, and helicopters have conducted raids against Wet’suwet’en clan camps. The camps, located along a road in Wet’suwet’en lands, are part of an effort to block the Coastal GasLink pipeline company from entering Wet’suwet’en lands.

Twenty-eight people have been arrested by police as part of enforcement operations in Wet’suwet’en territory. All have since been released, with some facing future court dates.

On Feb. 6, the RCMP launched a pre-dawn raid on the first Wet’suwet’en camp at kilometer 39 of the Morice Road. They arrested six people, de-tained journalists and dismantled the camp.

On Feb. 7, the RCMP—including tactical squad members with rifles—moved in via helicopters and vehicles on the Gidimt’en camp at kilometre 44, eventually arresting four people. On Feb. 10, the RCMP entered the Unist’ot’en camp and arrested seven there who were in a prayer ceremony for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (#MMIW2G25).

All of these raids have included dogs, snipers, helicopters flying overhead, and removing or dis-tancing journalists so that they often could not record what was happening.

Years of resistance

The RCMP raids have been in response to years of resistance by the traditional clans of the Wet’suwet’en Nation to TransCanada’s Coastal GasLink pipeline. Their stolen lands are unceded, not subject to any treaty. They do not consent to the pipeline. They do not consent to their homes and lands and protect corporate profits.

The RCMP is enforcing their interpretation of laws and court orders to allow Coastal GasLink pipeline workers into the area. Wet’suwet’en hereditary chiefs, title holders to the land, have refused to con-sent to the pipeline.

Canadian law had previously recognized the rights of the Wet’suwet’en hereditary chiefs and five clans, in addition to recognition of the government-sanctioned “Indian Act” band council chiefs. A Supreme Court of Canada ruling confirmed the land’s unceded status in 1997.

Nonetheless, the British Columbia Supreme Court recently declared that Coastal GasLink lines could pass through their lands.

According to a Unist’ot’en statement, “Each clan within the Wet’suwet’en Nation has full juris-diction under their law to control access to their territory. Under ‘Kmus niiw’iet’en (Wet’suwet’en law) all five clans of the Wet’suwet’en have unanimously opposed all pipeline proposals and have not provided free, prior and informed consent to Coastal GasLink/TransCanada to do work on Wet’suwet’en lands.”

The Wet’suwet’en have their own laws. Their laws and systems of governance predate Canada by thousands of years. The collective will of the people is the final law, not the signatures of single chiefs or band councils (Canada-approved tribal governments).

In addition to protecting the future of the lands, the Wet’suwet’en are also trying to protect their people from violence. Coastal GasLink was building a work camp that would house up to 400 men only 20 km. from the Healing Center on Wet’suwet’en Yintah (lands). As a result, the hereditary chiefs had closed a road to protect the people from harm, since man camps are well-known to be dangerous to nearby Indigenous women.

“Just these past two years we’ve had two women from our own community of Witset go missing,” Dr. Karla Tait from the Healing Centre said. “One was discovered murdered. Despite being such a small Indigenous community, I think we’ve lost about seven women, that I’m aware of, that we don’t have any suspects or any leads on their whereabouts.”

Witset has a population of about 855.

Red dresses symbolizing #MMIW

As the RCMP entered the Unist’ot’en camp, there were dozens of red dresses hanging from trees symbolizing Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (#MMIW). The Wet’suwet’en, as a result, have hung dozens of red dresses, symbolizing #MMIW.

Red dresses hanging from trees symbolizing #MMIW

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Freda Huson wears her blanket, a nighthawk, before RCMP invasion of Unist’ot’en Healing Center. As the RCMP entered the Unist’ot’en camp, there were dozens of red dresses hanging from trees symbolizing Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (#MMIW). Coastal GasLink workers and the RCMP tore them down.

By Sharon Black

We have no illusions about the Democratic Party. It is a billionaire and bankers’ War Party. Any illusion that the Democratic Party represents the working class is a sugar-coated charade. At its core, it remains a neoliberal institution bent on preserving capitalist rule. Destabilizing imperialist wars have been waged under Democratic Party administrations; workers’ rights and benefits for the poor have been stripped under every single administration, regardless of party. What is constant regardless of which party prevails is the system of capital-ism and imperialism that is the root cause of so much human misery.

So why are we calling for critical support of the Sanders movement?

Bernie Sanders as the candidate is not the piv-otal issue. What’s critical is the struggle that his campaign has unleashed against the Democratic Party establishment. A struggle which has struck fear in the ruling class.

This campaign is a working-class movement, mostly of young people and increasingly of the oppressed, that deeply distrusts the Establish-ment of both parties. It is a movement fueled by increasing anger against the rule of billionaires and the growing gap between rich and poor that has left so many workers feeling outstripped.

The fact that the ruling class is so worried and so frantic to cut this movement off at the pass is a clear indicator of their own fear that the movement, galvanized by the Sanders campaign, will win the primary. Of course, there are a million tricks between now and the July Democratic Convention, and the likelihood of a stolen elec-tion looms large.

The Iowa Caucus debacle was a sickening reminder that forces behind the curtain pull the strings. That they would go so far as to wreck the Iowa Caucus in an attempt to slow the Sanders campaign demonstrates their real contempt for their own so-called democracy.

Billionaires reject even mild reforms — Imperialist war is their answer

The class of billionaires and bankers aren’t inclined at this point to give much in the form of concessions — whether it’s to provide health care, education, curb predatory landlords or raise the minimum wage — let alone push back against the white supremacist system driving it, shutting down the immigrant deten tion centers, respecting Indigenous rights, pro-

Freda Huson wears her blanket, a nighthawk, before RCMP invasion of Unist’ot’en Healing Center. As the RCMP entered the Unist’ot’en camp, there were dozens of red dresses hanging from trees symbolizing Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (#MMIW). Coastal GasLink workers and the RCMP tore them down.

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Chuck Africa goes home

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

For over 40 years, Chuck Sims Africa, member of the famed MOVE 9, veteran of the MOVE confrontation of Aug. 8, 1978, has been imprisoned in state joints across Pennsylvania, serving what is arguably an illegal sentence of 30 to 100 years for third-degree murder. Several days ago, he walked out of prison and went home.

Chuck, the youngest of the MOVE 9, was one of the feistiest members. During the 1980s, he was on the prison boxing team and went around the state trying guys’ chins. He was a devastating puncher — in and out of the ring.

Cops raid Wet’suwet’en camps
Indigenous and allies respond: Shut Down Canada!

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“When Unist’oten needs support, block the trains and block the ports!”

The sight of Mounties (RCMP) invading Wet’suwet’en lands and of the peaceful defenders being arrested inflamed people across Canada and in other countries, as well. Many Indigenous people were already outraged by the December 2019 Guardian revelation that the RCMP had secretly been ready with snipers during previous Wet’suwet’en raids in January of 2019, with RCMP officers calling for “lethal overwatch” to protect the Coastal Gaslink project.

Calls to #ShutDownCanada rose up, and people around Canada engaged in fast and furious actions to intervene economically and politically so that Canada would take notice. Supporters of the Wet’suwet’en hereditary chiefs blocked roads and bridges in cities across Canada. Access to the busy Port of Vancouver was blocked for days before dozens of protesters were arrested. In Halifax, on the other side of the continent, part of the port was blocked for some hours. The Tyendinaga Mohawks in Ontario and other defenders elsewhere have blocked train tracks to shut down service on the CN Rail and Via Rail. “When justice fails, Block the rails!” From coast to coast, marchers round danced at public places, marched, and demand that Canada back down from Wet’suwet’en and from its destructive defense of oil and gas extraction.

Youth-led occupations of the offices of federal cabinet ministers and members of Parliament have occurred across the country. Indigenous youth locked themselves down to the main entrance to the British Columbia Legislature, where hundreds more people later joined and blocked the doors on the opening day of the legislative session.

Reconciliation Is dead

When the RCMP arrived at the gate to Unist’oten, the matriarchs were in ceremony and cremated a Canadian flag marked with the words “Reconciliation is dead.” Matriarch Freda Huson threw the paper with the court injunction against the Wet’suwet’en into the fire, shouting “This is all it’s worth, the paper it’s written on.”

The RCMP has a lengthy and bloody history as an occupying army whose role for generations has been removing Indigenous people from their lands, suppressing Indigenous resistance, breaking strikes and more. The red dresses are part of the campaign to remember missing and murdered Indigenous women.

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Please donate to the legal fund: https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/Unistoten2020LegalFund
The movement for Bernie Sanders: Which side are you on? Why revolutionary socialists call for critical support

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Why revolutionary socialists call for critical support

The movement for Bernie Sanders: Which side are you on?

if it takes a critical turn — so that we can agitate, nists be in the Sanders movement — especially stolen, subverted or bought off in the interests of democratic. Just look at who can and cannot vote and many in the Democratic Party establishment. parties. Trump is already defining this, as are defined by the bourgeois establishment of both Democrat” — socialism is how the issue is being Sanders is or is not a real socialist or a “New Deal capitalism and socialism.

decisive will tell you that most workers do not want to go on strike. Why would they? It means going without a paycheck, taking the risk that you’ll lose your job completely and facing major hardships that could impact not only yourselves but your young children. A strike, a sit-down action, a workplace take-over only materializes around the actual fight — after easier routes are exhausted. Maybe not in stages, but usually not as the first choice. And it takes painstaking preparation and work by organizers who consistently do the work of distilling lessons and of raising consciousness, as we popularly used to call it. It should not be surprising then, that the many workers and those in the community, both young and old, would want to go with what they are most accustomed to and what seems easiest, and that is to vote for change at the ballot box. It is only necessity that drives class struggle forward. Critical support

Finally, no one is proposing that revolutionaries joi...
The real State of the Union

By Greg Butterfield

February 12 — Let’s talk about the State of the Union.

No, not Trump’s speech. Don’t worry, I’ll get to that shortly.

I’m talking about the real deal: the political reality facing poor and working people living in the United States.

In Brooklyn, N.Y., on Feb. 6, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) cops attempted to grab Gaspar Avendaño-Hernández, a construction worker from Mexico, as he was leaving his home.

They weren’t wearing uniforms or badges. They didn’t have a warrant, so they attacked Gaspar with a taser.

So Eric Diaz, a son of Gaspar’s partner, Carmen Cruz, intervened to stop the kidnapping. He was unarmored.

And one of Donald Trump’s ICE goons shot Diaz in the face.

New York City Bill de Blasio likes to portray himself as a progressive. He says New York is a sanctuary city and that he’s standing up to Trump. That with the basis for the mayor’s short-lived presidential bid last year.

But what happened when the New York Police Department showed up at the scene of the crime? Did they arrest the ICE agent who shot Eric Diaz? Did they free Gaspar and send the ICE gangsters packing?

Of course not. Instead, they helped ICE make a clean getaway.

The NYPD militarized Maimonides Hospital, where Diaz was taken and where his family gathered. Activists who came to support the family, including health-care union members, clergy and local officials, were kept out. Many stayed outside around the clock anyway.

Police roughed up protesters as ICE dragged Gaspar off to the Hudson County Correctional Center in New Jersey, where he is now awaiting deportation.

This happened just two days after Trump’s State of the Union address to Congress on Feb. 4, a racist, anti-worker rant that demonized migrants and refugees like Gaspar, including thousands of children who’ve been separated from their families and kept in conditions that constitute torture.

The cops also Trump’s campaign rally on Capitol Hill, and two days after Eric Diaz was shot in Brooklyn, 500 masked white supremacists marched through the streets of Washington, D.C.

Apparently D.C. police only people wearing masks when they are Black and Brown and anti-fascists. Because, according to reporters and counterprotesters on the scene, the various Washington police agencies assigned to the march pampered the fascists and gave them first-class protection.

The cops even closed off the lawn in front of the Capitol for the fascist rally. Commenting on this, Zach Roberts of Vusa News said, “I’ve covered rallies in Washington. The seat nearly 20 years now. I’ve never seen a group allowed to have a private space protected by the police department and no one else was allowed in.”

These weren’t just any bigots, either. This was Patriot Front, formerly known as Vanguard America — one of the main groups behind the “Unite the Right” invasion of Charlottesville in 2017. The fascist who killed Heather Heyer was one of them.

You may remember that Trump referred to the white supremacists who terrorized Charlottesville at that time as “very fine people.” But not just that. At the State of the Union, Trump awarded bigoted rabid “personality” Rush Limbaugh, a hero of the Charlottesville set who is dying of lung cancer, with the Congressional Medal of Freedom.

Is it wonder that the racist filth are emblazoned to march through the streets of Washington — a city that is still nearly half Black, despite advancing gentrification?

By Stephen Millies

People are protesting New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s vicious campaign against folks who can’t pay New York City’s $2.75 subway fare. Over a thousand people gathered at Grand Central Terminal on Jan. 31 and marched across midtown Manhattan on Feb. 3.

The real crime is that New York City transit fares have increased 55 times since 1948. Back then, it cost a nickel to ride a bus, and now the price of a weekly MetroCard is $33.

It’s tragic that Malaysia Goodson fell to her death on Jan. 28, 2019, while protecting her baby. The Black mother died falling down the stairs because the subway station at 53rd Street and 7th Avenue — like three quarters of New York’s stations — lacks elevators. That’s illegal and a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s law breaking doesn’t bother Gov. Cuomo too much. Cuomo’s outrage is reserved for people who jump a turnstile or enter the back door of a bus because they can’t afford the fare. The greatest crime in capitalist society is to be poor.

Cuomo demanded that the MTA hire 500 more cops to arrest and harass people. This will cost at least $50 million, enough money to buy 62 electric buses. But the already-con­trolled MTA board rubber-stamped the governor’s ultimatum.

The Community Service Society rightly called Cuomo’s actions “antiquated broken window policing” that will “not reduce police bias, but rather enable it.” Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez wrote on Twitter that “ending mass incarceration means challenging a system that jails the poor to free the rich. Arresting people who can’t afford a $2.75 fare makes no one safer and destabilizes our community.”

Never forget Michael Stewart and Darryl Goodwin

Between October 2017 and June 2019, 90 percent of those arrested for allegedly not paying the fare were Black or Latino, according to New York Attorney General Letitia James.

“I got tired of hunting Black and Hispanic people because of arrest quotas,” said a former police officer, Christopher LaForce.

Adding 500 cops will mean even more racism.

Instead of “fare-beating,” 37 years ago the capitalist media were screaming about graffiti. One result was that the 25-year-old Black artist Michael Stewart was beaten and choked to death by 11 transit cops in September 1983.

Andy Cuomo’s father, Mario Cuo­mo, was New York governor at the time. Mario built more prisons than all the other New York governors put together. To do so, the elder Cuomo stole billions from the state’s Urban Development Corporation that was supposed to have built affordable housing.

Latino women selling snacks are victimized by the police. The Ecuador­ian immigrant Elsa Morochoduchi was arrested on Nov. 8, 2019, inside the Broadway Junction station for selling chocolate to Vere­zu’s state-owned airline Conviasa. As the perfectly engineered meme of the Pope ripping Trump’s speech made the rounds of the corporate media, many progressives were think­ing: Wouldn’t it have been better if she and the Democrats had ripped up the $738 billion war budget that they have Trump in December.

Of course. But while they may differ on details of how to administer the capitalist state, Republicans and Democrats, Trump and Pelosi are all united in the main cause of the bosses they serve: to wage a war for exploitation against the workers and oppressed, both here and abroad. ■
China mobilizes to combat coronavirus

By Scott Scheffer

Feb. 3 — A newly discovered coronavirus in China has infected nearly 13,000 people over a period of weeks, and as of this writing there have been more than 250 fatalities. The disease was discovered in Wuhan, the largest city in Hubei Province. Similar to the SARS virus, the new outbreak that hit China in 2003-2004, it is believed to have originated in bats, traveled to an intermediate animal—as yet unknown—and then transmitted to humans. There are a handful of reported cases of human to human transmission outside of China. The virus presents symptoms similar to influenza, and can lead to pneumonia, which has generally been the cause of death.

The outbreak happened during the Spring Festival, when millions of people are traveling in celebration of the Lunar New Year. This contributed to its rapid transmission.

Outside of China, it was fear that spread of the virus, in general, and has been promoted by the Western capitalist press. There have been instances of anti-Asian racism; a U.S. state with ties to China has suspended flights in and out of China; travelers returning from or near Wuhan have been quarantined; and many businesses from outside of China have closed their operations temporarily.

The symptoms of the viral infection are relatively mild compared to the SARS virus and other outbreaks. The fatality rate is between 2 and 2.5 percent, is relatively low. For perspective and comparison, many experts cite the death toll of 650,000 from this year’s flu season, which is not yet over. That toll is not out of the ordinary for annual flu outbreaks.

Nearly 200 workers who are considered to be essential in Hong Kong were tear gassed, and for the second time in a week. The government there has been under relentless pressure to allow travel to and from mainland China.

Chinese officials, medical professionals and scientists have declared war on the virus. Health care workers from across China have mobilized to go to Wuhan and other hard-hit areas.

China’s extraordinary measures

Travel to and from all of the cities in the region where Wuhan is located, is shut down. More than 50 million residents are effectively on lock down. Travel inside the city is greatly restricted too, and asymptomatic people are asked to stay at home.

According to the Journal nature, there are concerns that the virus could become endemic, meaning that it circulates continuously, as does influenza or chicken pox. It is still unknown whether or not infected but asymptomatic people can spread the virus, which would compound the risk that the virus represents.

And so, regardless of how mild the symptoms are, and the fact that nearly all people recover, the Chinese authorities have taken extraordinary steps. First and foremost, the objective is to contain the coronavirus and minimize loss of life, and then to research the makeup of the virus.

When the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak to be a global emergency on Jan. 31, Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters: “This declaration is not a vote of no confidence in China. On the contrary, WHO continues to have confidence in China’s capacity to control the outbreak. … Our greatest concern is the potential for this virus to spread to countries with weaker health systems.”

An Associated Press article also acknowledged the remarkable efforts by China. “Chinese authorities are striving to keep 50 million people in cities at the center of the outbreak both isolated and fed in the biggest anti-disease effort ever attempted. Few governments could attempt such drastic restrictions on a population bigger than both South Korea and Australia.”

China opened its first hospital dedicated exclusively to the coronavirus in a city near Wuhan. The building had been completed but was vacant. Incredibly, in just 48 hours, a team of volunteers, worked around the clock loading medical equipment, installing electricity, communications equipment and the internet, and readied the hospital for a full medical staff to begin working.

At least three other hospitals are being constructed and will be run by the first week of February, using prefabricated steel boxes similar to shipping containers that can be stacked. The boxes are pre-wired and can be converted into operational hospitals almost immediately.

The fatality rate, between 2 percent and as yet unknown, is relatively high. The SARS virus and other outbreaks.

Asymptomatic people can spread the virus, which would compound the risk that the virus represents.

In a remarkable breakthrough, just ten days after the virus was identified, Chinese scientists figured out the DNA sequence and sent it electronically to health agencies all over the world so that study could be global.

In the Science section of the Washington Post, reporter Carolyn Johnson wrote: “That precious bit of data, freely available to any researcher who wanted to study it, unleashed a massive collaborative effort to understand the mysterious new pathogen.”

Postdoctoral fellow at Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Michael Letko, said, “The speed and openness of the scientific response to the coronavirus has been unprecedented. … This is one of the first times we’re getting to see an outbreak of a new virus and have the scientific community sharing their data almost in real time.”

It is the socialist foundation of China’s economic and social system, the legacy of the 1949 revolution, that made these accomplishments possible.

Speaking at a Communist Party leadership meeting, President Xi Jinping said that his country was “faced with the grave situation of an accelerating spread of the new coronavirus,” but that the country would “definitely win this battle,” according to state media.

“Life is of paramount impor- tance,” Xi said.

Andy gets to live in a rent-free executive mansion set on 10 acres of land. To travel around the state, he gets a brand new $12.5 million helicopter in 2017.

Police also target transit workers. Station agent Darryl Goodwin was arrested on May 16, 2017, at the Cumbus Circle station for supposedly unlocking a subway gate too slowly for a police officer. The rear-locking member of Transit Workers Union Local 100 was eligible to retire the following year.

Because of the stress caused by his illegal arrest and the need to work overtime to make up for being suspended, Goodwin said, “I don’t make it.” The Black worker died three months later on Aug. 15, 2017.

Coomo was even going to send armed state police last year to take attendance and check the overtime of Long Island Railroad workers.

That smells of fascism.

Tax-free interest and stolen wages

A trillion dollars of Manhattan real estate would be worthless without a rapid transit system. It’s union workers on subways, buses and commuter railroads, as well as in repair shops and offices, that move millions of people everyday.

That’s why, in the billionaire class, the function of the Mass Transit Authority is to pay interest on its $44 billion debt.

In 2018, capitalist bankers and other capitalist bondholders lapped up over $2.5 billion in tax-free interest like pigs at the MTA feeding trough.

Next year, this massive robbery will gobble up 19 cents of every dollar in fares. But we’re supposed to get upset over some poor person who couldn’t pay $2.75?

The capital of capitalism actually has fewer miles of rapid transit than it did in 1940. That’s largely because elevated lines, like on Third Avenue, were torn down but not replaced by the late 1960s, though they should have been. Twenty-one cities in the socialist People’s Republic of China have opened subway systems just since 2009. It can be done.

Meanwhile, Gov. Cuomo celebrates New Year’s Day by vetoing legislation that would help workers recover their stolen wages. Bosses in New York State steal more than $1 billion in wages from workers annually, according to a U.S. Department of Labor study.

The Securities Wages Earned Against Theft (SWEAT) act would have closed loopholes by putting liens on sweatshop owners who cheat workers out of their pay.
Palestinians: Trump-Netanyahu plan intends to cement apartheid

By Bill Dores

New York

A Palestinian flag as long as a city block was carried outside New York’s City Hall on Jan. 27 as hundreds called to protest “the deal of the century” that Trump and Netanyahu seek to impose on the dispossessed Palestinian people.

Among the protesters was a large contingent of religious anti-Zionist Jews from Neturei Karta International (NKI), the working-class community has observed several anniversaries dating back to World War II. These anniversaries include the Soviet Red Army soldiers chatting with children just liberated from the Auschwitz concentration camp.

The 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz

By Lev Koufax

Over the past two weeks, the global working-class community has observed several anniversaries dating back to World War II. These anniversaries include the defeat of the Nazis, the battle of Stalingrad, and the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. The 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz is another Nakba, all prior similar declarations of the Palestinian population.

The evil of fascism should never be forgotten. And we must reject the capitalist line that the United States and Britain defeated Hitler. Nazi fascism only rose in the first place as an outgrowth of capitalist crisis in the wake of World War I. Many in the U.S. capitalist class supported the Nazis, who drew inspiration from the murderous racism and “white supremacy” which still was the law of the land in the United States. The socialist Soviet Union, aided by Communist-led Partisan movements across Europe, played the decisive role in their defeat.

The blood was not dry on Europe’s battlefields — its ruined cities still smoldered — when the U.S. and Britain allied with former Nazis to launch a “Cold War” against the USSR and the new socialist countries of East Europe and Asia. This was also a war against the liberation struggles of oppressed people in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Today, despite its “Cold War victory,” the global capitalist system is in contraction. The specter of fascism again raises its ugly head. The danger of a new world war looms on the horizon. Working-class and oppressed peoples around the world must draw inspiration and lessons from our struggles in the past. The writer is a Jew who has ancestors perish in the Holocaust.
Interview with Julia ‘Pachamama’ Fernández and Gualberto Arispe Maita

‘It is clear that this is U.S. neoliberal interference in Bolivia’

Struggle—La Lucha’s Scott Scheffer spoke with Los Angeles Native/Quechua/Chicana activist Julia “Pachamama” Fernández, and with Gualberto Arispe Maita, a MAS (Movimiento al Socialismo) representative and MAS deputy candidate in Chapare and the president of MAS Youth. Julia interpreted our questions to Gualberto by phone and relayed his responses to us.

Struggle—La Lucha: Evo Morales expelled the United States Agency for International Development from Bolivia in 2013. Now, the Trump administration has sent its agents back into Bolivia in January to “assist” the coup regime. What role is the U.S. and USAID playing in the May 3 elections?

Gualberto Arispe Maita: The presence of the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] /USAID was to make us fight between Bolivians, dividing the social sectors in our politics. That is why President Evo [Morales] made the decision to expel them and now, after the coup, they will return to our country. It is clear that this is U.S. neoliberal interference. Those institutions have not given good results nor have they helped the Bolivian people; on the contrary, they have always left us massive problems, causing destabilization. The OAS [Organization of American States] and other accredited institutions like them will oversee the elections on May 3, but they do not have the confidence of the Bolivians because they were the ones that supported the privatization of the coup in our country. We are asking other organizations to come to see the elections to make the results transparent.

SL: What has been the impact on the Indigenous and working-class population of the expulsion of Cuban health care workers?

Gualberto: On the issue of our Cuban medical brothers/sisters, it is unfortunate because thanks to them many Bolivians recovered their eyesight. On the issue of literacy, they have also helped us a lot, but the so-called transitional government, which clearly is a U.S. backed coup, expelled them and their accredited embassy in Bolivia. We want the social sectors to repudiate those dictatorial acts. ... Our effort is to recover democracy for our people, which we are currently lacking.

Julia “Pachamama” Fernández: I was just told by a woman in Bolivia who does not want to have her name publicized that the Juana Azurduy program has been suspended by the de facto government today. And, it’s a stipend program that’s designed to provide health and nutrition benefits, basically for pregnant mothers and young children in underserved sectors of the population — so that’s been suspended.

And it’s clear that most of the most vulnerable communities which predominantly comprise our Indigenous peoples in the rural areas are the ones obviously being most affected. And that, along with the expulsion of our Cuban medical doctors, has basically created panic within the sectors.

PFLP mourns internationalist fighter for Palestine, Richard Reilly

Richard Reilly with his fist in the air. Peoples and liberation movements inside the U.S. and around the world. On this occasion, the Front sends its deepest condolences to his companion, Christine Geovanis and all of the comrades, family and friends of this dedicated fighter for Palestine in the United States and Ireland.

We know that Palestine has lost one of the most deeply committed voices that has always stood with the Palestinian people in the most difficult of stages, a comrade who always struggled on the front lines, a fighter for oppressed communities and Black and Indigenous liberation movements. He always believed deeply in the inevitability of the victory of the Palestinian people and the liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea.

During the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982, he was involved in launching widespread media, political and popular campaigns to defend Beirut within the United States. In 1988, during the first Intifada, he led a solidarity delegation that joined a march in Ramallah organized by Palestinian women’s organizations on the anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre. After that protest, the Zionist occupation forces deported him from Palestine and prevented him from returning ever since. Palestine, however, and the Palestinian people, remained in his heart, mind and actions, as he consistently mobilized against imperialism, Zionism and racism, fighting for a liberated society always.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine pledges that we will not forget this great comrade. We will remain true to his path of struggle and continue to adhere to the principles for which he fought and lived his life, until victory over imperialism and Zionism. Rest in power, comrade Richard. Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine February 11, 2020
El movimiento por Bernie Sanders:
¿De qué lado estás?
Por Sharon Black
8 de febrero de 2020

No tenemos ninguna expectativa hacia el parti- do Demócrata. Es un partido guerrillero de multimenos y banqueros. Cualquier noción de que el Partido Demócrata representa a la clase tra- bajadora es una farsa. En su esencia, sigue siendo una institución neoliberal empeñada en preservar el dominio capitalista. Cuando estos sistemas destructivos han sido liberales bajo las administraciones del Partido Demócrata; los derechos de los trabajadores y beneficios para los pobres han sido despojados por cada administración, independientemente del partido. Lo que sí es constante, independien- temente de qué partido gane, es el sistema de cap- tialismo e imperialismo que es el origen de tanta miseria humana.

Entonces, ¿por qué convocamos a un apoyo crítico al movimiento Sanders?

Bernie Sanders como candidato no es la cuestión crucial. Lo que sí es crítico es la lucha que su cam- paña ha despertado contra la cúpula del Partido Demócrata. Una lucha que ha causado miedo en la clase dominante.

Esta campaña es un movimiento de la clase tra- bajadora, principalmente de jóvenes y cada vez más de los oprimidos, que desconfían profundamente del sistema de ambos partidos. Es un movi- miento alimentado por la creciente ira contra el gobierno de los multimillonarios y la creciente brecha entre ricos y pobres que ha dejado a tantos trabajadores empobrecidos.

El hecho de que la clase dominante esté tan preocupada y tan frenética por parar este movi- miento, indica claramente su propio temor de que el movimiento, galvanizado en torno al cuidado de la salud, la educación gratuita, la solidaridad, la contención de la crisis climática, etc., bien podría perder el control. Lo que significa que podría abandonar la apretada camisa de fuerza del Partido Demócrata.

Los ataques cada vez más virulentos contra Bernie Sanders han ido ganando fuerza desde que se hizo evidente que la campaña de Sanders po- dría tener una chance de ganar en las elecciones de 2020. Habrá mil- lones de trucos desde ahora hasta la Convención Demócrata en julio, y hay una gran probabilidad que esta basada en el discurso de poder médico, la educación gratuita, la contención de la crisis climática, etc., bien podría perder el control. Lo que significa que podría abandonar la apretada camisa de fuerza del Partido Demócrata.

En el debate de los candidatos demócratas para las presidenciales, desde que Sanders ha expresado sus críticas claras y efectivas.

Multimillonarios rechazan hasta pequeñas reformas — su respuesta es la guerra imperialista

La clase de multimillonarios y banqueros no está inclinada en este punto para dar mucho en forma de concesiones, ya sea para proporcionar servicios de salud, educación, frenar a los propi- etarios de las casas de cigarros, aumentar el salario míni- mo — ni mucho menos detener el terror policial y el sistema supremacista blanco que lo impulsa, cerrar los centros de detención de inmigrantes, respetar los derechos de los indígenas, dar justicia a la mujer, a los géneros oprimidos y la comunidad LGBTQ2S o salvar el planeta.

El capitalismo como sistema está en crisis y por esto, ese sistema tiene que cerrar los centros de detención de inmigrantes, y el sistema supremacista blanco que lo impulsa, para hacer frente a una minería alimentado por la creciente ira contra el gobierno de los multimillonarios y la creciente brecha entre ricos y pobres que ha dejado a tantos trabajadores empobrecidos.

El sistema electoral como está constituido en los EUA no cubre a la policía ni al ejército que no son elegidos, pero sus actos pueden ser una cuestión de vida o muerte. Tampoco son clase trabajadores, que ejercen el poder diario en nuestras vidas.

Sin embargo, fue el arquitecto de la revolución Bolchevique, V.I. Lenin, quien abogó por que los revolucionarios participaran en la política parla- mentaria, no como un fin sino como un medio. Las elecciones son un barómetro de la lucha, el más importante en este caso, son donde se está llevando a cabo la lucha de un gran sector de la clase trabajadora.

¿Por qué es así? Muchos de nosotros tenemos un historial dentro del movimiento sindical y obrero. Cualquier trabajador con experiencia o repre- sentante sindical dirá que la mayoría de los tra- bajadores no quiere irse en huelga. ¿Por qué lo hacen? Siguiendo sus instrucciones, arriesgarse a perder su trabajo y enfrentar grandes dificultades que podrían afectar no solo a él, sino a sus hijos y el futuro de sus descendientes.

La huelga, una sentada, una toma del lugar de trabajo solo se materializa en torno a la lucha real, después de que se agotan las rutas más fáciles.

Finalmente, nadie está proponiendo que los revolucionarios nos unamos al Partido Demócrata, abandonemos nuestro llamado al socialismo revolucionario o suavicemos nuestras críticas a Bernie Sanders. Todo lo contrario. Él no es un antiantiimperialista; ni siquiera se puede afirmar que es completamente anticapitalista. En estos temas y quizás en otros, encontraremos formas de hacer críticas claras y efectivas.

Quizás la crítica más importante de su cam- paña en el frente interno ha sido su incapacidad para aceptar el llamado a reparaciones para los des- scendientes de los esclavizados. Podemos expli- car por qué apoyar las reparaciones y oponerse a la supremacía blanca fortalecerá el movimien- to y de la clase trabajadora por un nuevo Estado. Es un puente necesario para construir la solidaridad.

Pero ninguna de estas críticas será efectiva o sig- nificativa al margen de la lucha en carne y hueso. Necesitamos estar con la clase trabajadora, la cual aprenderá intentando y errando a través de la experiencia, que solo podemos ganar nuestra liber- eración si estamos en las calles, realizando senta- das, mediante huelgas y, en última instancia, or- ganizando el poder de clase a escala global. Como dijo Frederick Douglass, “Si no hay lucha, no hay progreso”.

Debemos recordar que la Revolución Rusa de 1917 se basó en el llamado a la “paz, el pan y la tierra”. Las palabras del vicepresidente Mike Pence en un mitin de campaña en Atlanta, el 11 de agosto de 2019 no deberían olvidarse. Él dijo: “El momento en que Estados Unidos se convierta en un país so- cialista es el momento en que Estados Unidos deje de ser Estados Unidos”.

Para la clase capitalista, realmente no impor- ta qué tipo de socialismo se esté considerando (al menos en este momento), ya sea una versión rev- olucionaria o simplemente una reforma que cree que reducido su margen de ganancias. Por supues- to, todo eso cambiaría si se enfrentaran a estas dos opciones, reforma o revolución. Es nuestro trabajo ver que la última opción esté finalmente sobre la mesa.