



# Kenosha cops and fascists work hand-in-hand

By Stephen Millies

The 12-year old Black youth Tamir Rice had a toy gun when he was shot to death by a white Cleveland cop on Nov. 22, 2014.

Armed fascist terrorists are driving up and down the streets of Kenosha, Wis., without interference by police or sheriff's deputies.

Nightly demonstrations have taken place in the city against police violence.

Videos show 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse carrying his AR-15 semi-automatic rifle. On the night of Aug. 25, the white teenager allegedly shot to death two anti-racists, Anthony Huber and Joseph Rosenbaum, and wounded a third, Gaige Grosskreutz.

Wannabe cop Rittenhouse had been a police cadet and plastered his Facebook page with "Blue Lives Matter" lies.

The killings occurred two days after Jacob Blake was shot and paralyzed by Kenosha policeman Rusten Sheskey. A video showed the white cop firing seven shots into Blake's back while the Black father was entering his own car. Three of Blake's children were in the back seat.

Police officers in an armored car can be seen on video tossing water bottles to Rittenhouse and his fellow vigilantes, all of whom are armed.

No attempt is made to arrest any of these racist thugs, even though it was after an 8 p.m. curfew. Instead, an officer is heard saying, "We appreciate you guys. We really do."

Another video shows Rittenhouse walking past police with his AR-15 over his shoulder. Members of the crowd were yelling for him to be arrested because he had shot people.

Police did nothing and Rittenhouse was allowed to return to Antioch, Ill., 20 miles away. There, in his hometown, Rittenhouse was finally arrested.

Meanwhile, the paralyzed Jacob Blake is chained to his hospital bed.

## Defending fascist terrorism

The Kenosha city police chief, Daniel Miskinis, refused to call the killings an act of homicide. He blamed the victims of fascist violence for their own deaths, since the killings occurred after curfew.

But Miskinis says that it's okay for vigilantes to break the curfew. The police chief claimed they were just "armed civilians who have come out to



From video of police shooting Jacob Blake in front of three of his children waiting in the car.

exercise their constitutional right and to potentially protect property."

Many of the armed thugs belong to the "Kenosha Guard," an outfit formed by Kevin Mathewson. The former member of Kenosha's City Council posted a "call to arms" on its Facebook page. It was only taken down by Facebook after Huber and Rosenbaum were killed.

Tucker Carlson justified the shootings on Fox News. He asked, "How shocked are we that 17-year-olds with rifles decided they had to maintain order when no one else would?"

To this ten-million-dollar-a-year hatemonger, killing anti-racists is "maintaining order." Carlson had earlier defamed Jacob Blake.

Another fascist — Ann Coulter — applauded the shooter, Rittenhouse, writing, "I want him as my president."

The Kenosha County sheriff, David Beth, is just as racist. In 2018, referring to five accused shoplifters who were Black, Beth said, "We need to build warehouses, to put these people into it [sic] and lock them away for the rest of their lives."

Is it any wonder that a Kenosha cop felt free to pump seven bullets into Jacob Blake's back?

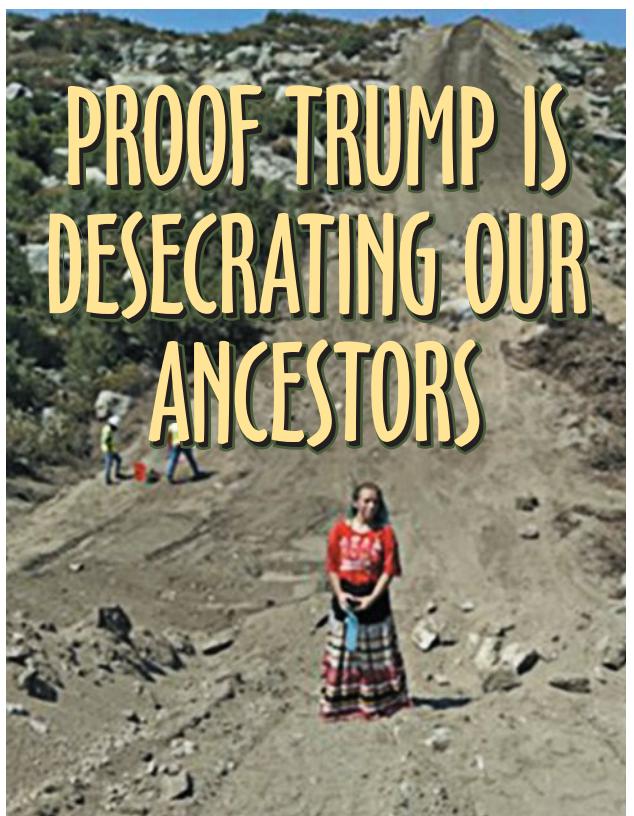
## Counterattacking Black Lives Matter

Then there's the bigot-in-chief who presided over a four-day hate fest known as the Republican National Convention. Kyle Rittenhouse loves Donald Trump and was in the front row of Trump's Des Moines, Iowa, rally in January.

The Black Lives Matter movement is the biggest

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KUMEYAAY ancestral burial and sacred sites desecrated to make way for a wall along the Southern border

By Zola Fish

On Aug. 19, a group of Kumeyaay Natives and local activists went out into the 105-degree heat to hold a Sacred Space prayer circle at a Kumeyaay ancestral burial ground and ancient village at the U.S.-Mexico border. The line is now spray painted by the Border Patrol to remind us not to cross.

We met early in the morning and caravanned up the mountain to be met by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) drilling into Mother Earth to plant dynamite to blow up the Kumeyaay ancestors and their historical villages for the wall of white supremacy. We held circle and prayed at many different sites and at each site the ACOE had to stop all work.

Due to the efforts of some dynamic female youth leaders from the La Posta Band of Diegueño Mission Indians, one of the twelve bands of the Kumeyaay Ipai, Tipai Nation, the ACOE is behind schedule, three weeks now.

The Kumeyaay have historically lived in the San Diego border region for over 12,000 years. Places along the border line play a part in their creation story. Among places scheduled to be dynamited and dug up, then filled with concrete and steel, is an ancestral cemetery near the community of Jacumba. The Kumeyaay believe there are souls attached to bones and the bones are being desecrated so the U.S. president can get his monument to himself and to white supremacy.

Midden soil has been found where the ACOE is currently working. Within the midden soil is proof that this land has always been Native. The artifacts found in midden soil tell a story of villages, religious life and cemeteries of the Kumeyaay ancestors. Middens are an archive of ancient lifestyles and environments. Middens can pre-

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# Baltimore #SayHerName protest elevates voices of women vets

By Sharon Black

Baltimore — The Peoples Power Assembly and Women In Struggle/Mujeres En Lucha held a rally and march to "Say Her Name" at the Garmanz Federal Courthouse in downtown Baltimore July 30. It coincided with a march in Washington, D.C., for murdered Army Spc. Vanessa Guillén, who was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. The event also highlighted women killed by police, including Breonna Taylor, Sandra Bland, Korryn Gaines and others.



Annetta Johnson, a veteran from Baltimore, led the protest. Earlier, she attended the march for Vanessa Guillén in D.C. Johnson is the founder of Purpose Driven Journeys and has spoken out on the lack of services for women and Black veterans.

Ellen Barkfield, an organizer with the Philip Berrigan Memorial Chapter of Veterans for Peace, also spoke out. Barkfield was also stationed at Fort Hood. She gave a moving account of her own experience of sexual assault and

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# Trump, China, TikTok, Tulsa. Free speech?

By Jasmine Johnson

On Aug. 5, President Donald Trump announced that he's planning on banning TikTok due to "security risks" and the fact that the app collects data of the users. There are lots of people happy (mostly right-wing Trump supporters) about this decision due to the fact they're not okay with the idea of their information being collected by someone in China.

That's despite the fact that TikTok, like many other websites and apps, has a terms-of-service in which it explains that "by agreeing you accept our privacy policy." This privacy policy explicitly explains the information they collect. The irony of all this being that before TikTok was even available on the app store, websites and apps like Google, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube,



Snapchat, WhatsApp, Amazon and so many more were already collecting users' data. It's evident that this has nothing to do with security and everything to do with the anti-China sentiment that Trump loves to promote.

While many people aren't self-aware enough to recognize the irony of wanting to ban the app; most Tik-

Tok users see the hypocrisy in banning one app for collecting the user's personal information but not the other apps. It's obvious that Trump and his supporters' only issue is that this is someone from China who is collecting this information.

Not once has Trump ever mentioned banning Facebook or Amazon for their collection of data information. An alternative to the ban is for ByteDance, the company that owns TikTok, to give up ownership to companies like Microsoft. Even if Microsoft were to buy TikTok, Trump said a fee would have to be paid to the U.S. Treasury. This isn't just among Trump and the right. This anti-China propaganda is common among liberals and Democrats. Sen. Chuck Schumer said that he was the one that had first "exposed" TikTok's links to China and

is in full support of this ban.

Another factor that may have played into this was the sabotage of Trump's Tulsa rally. TikTok users had shared videos on how to get free tickets for Trump's June 20 rally in Tulsa, Okla. He went on Twitter to say, "Almost One Million people requested tickets for the Saturday Night Rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma!" Despite bragging about getting one million RSVPs, fewer than 6 thousand turned out. Trump couldn't fill his 19,000-person capacity arena.

I'm not defending any of the companies, but it's obvious that this is Trump and his supporters being very anti-China. This is also his way of retaliating against the sabotaging of his rally. Many supporters of his are pro-free speech but they don't realize (or make him accountable) that Trump is against free speech. □

## PROOF TRUMP IS DESECRATING OUR ANCESTORS

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serve a record of a thousand years of ancestral occupation.

There is proof of what the Kumeyaay have been trying to tell the government. Protesters were told the ACOE would be skipping a consultation with the tribe for "national security reasons." On several days, there was work with no Native monitor on site.

The La Posta Band of Digueno Mission Indians filed a lawsuit to get an injunction to stop all work at the wall. The lawsuit was filed against the Trump administration; Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, who oversaw the military funds diverted from the military to the border wall; Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf; and Lt. Gen. Todd Seemonite, commander general of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

The lawsuit states: "Defendants are currently constructing the border wall directly through Kumeyaay Burial Sites and Sacred Lands, causing irreversible and easily avoidable damage to Kumeyaay remains, cultural items, history and religious practice."

More of the court filings say: "Since the arrival of Europeans in the region, the Kumeyaay territory, culture, religion and very existence have been under attack to make way for non-Indian settlement. In the most recent episode of Indigenous erasure, the President of the United States and his administration



Midden soil, the dark layer on top, has been found where the ACOE is working.

are desecrating Kumeyaay ancestral burial and sacred sites to make way for a wall along the Southern border."

Another part of the lawsuit says the construction is "excavating and desecrating Kumeyaay remains and prohibiting Tribal members from properly treating the remains and participating in religious ceremonies at the Tribe's sacred sites where the border wall construction is taking place." It further states that no tribal consultation has taken place between the federal government and the tribe.

The lawsuit was announced by Save the Homelands of the Indigenous and End Land Desecration (SHIELD), a coalition of advocates battling the Trump administration's construction of a border wall on sacred Kumeyaay sites and burial grounds.

"We cannot sit back and continue to watch the bones of our ancestors being dug up and strewn about like random debris. Ancestral Kumeyaay burials are being impacted, and construction continues to tear through our former village sites along the border wall areas," Cynthia Parada, spokeswoman for SHIELD and council member with the La Posta tribe, said.

"With no prior consideration or attempt to mitigate impacts, our sacred sites are being carved into and desecrated for construction of the Border Wall. We have asked for

formal government-to-government consultation, yet the Border Patrol and Army Corps of Engineers continue to move forward with grading and bulldozing through our ancestral lands. With no other options, we now ask the court to intervene and stop the construction so that consultation can take place to mitigate the impacts to our sacred sites," Parada continues.

In a statement published in the San Diego Union Tribune, Jeff Stephenson, the supervisory agent for the U.S. Border Patrol's San Diego sector, said, "No biological, cultural or historical sites were identified within the blasting area located within the Roosevelt Reservation."

The "Roosevelt Reservation" Is not a Native reservation. President Theodore Roosevelt created it in 1907 to discourage smuggling. It is a 60-foot-wide piece of land owned by the federal government that runs for 2,000 miles down the U.S.-Mexico border. Federal and Tribal lands make up about one-third of the Roosevelt Reservation and private and state owned lands make up the other two-thirds. The current monitor is from the ACOE and is using a 10-year-old survey done by the ACOE. They claim there are no burial sites being interrupted. If that's true, then why not allow a monitor from the Kumeyaay Nation?

The protests will continue until the Kumeyaay ancestors are no longer being dug up and desecrated. The struggle against colonization is an ongoing struggle that Native peoples have been fighting since the beginning of the genocide of our people. The fight for liberation, freedom and justice is an uphill battle against the anti-Indian, anti-Immigrant, pro-wall, pro-Trump sentiment. The struggle continues. □

## Baltimore #SayHerName protest elevates voices of women vets

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the futility of reporting it to the U.S. military command.

The protesters pointed out that rape and sexual violence are an integral part of police and military culture. It is a form of terror used by U.S. imperialism both abroad and inside its own military as a method of genocide and control.

The Rev. Annie Chambers, Peoples

Power Assembly organizer, said, "Our fight is right here in the U.S." She emphasized, "We live in a capitalist, racist country, and if we never fight them then it won't change."

The action ended with a march around the courthouse under the watch of an overwhelmingly large presence of Department of Homeland Security agents, which included dogs and a score of white vans lined up close to the protest. □

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# Brooklyn march: Stop unsafe school reopening plan!

By Greg Butterfield

Brooklyn, N.Y. — A protest led by Black and Brown teachers and students drew hundreds of people to Grand Army Plaza on Aug. 20. Their call was to “oppose unsafe opening of New York public schools.” Organizers provided masks, hand sanitizer, water and snacks to those who needed them.

Solidarity with the mass movement to defend Black lives from police terror was central to the action. Many signs demanded “Defund the NYPD, fund public schools” and “Police out of schools.”

Speakers called out the racist character of the city’s plan to reopen schools for in-person classes on Sept. 10. The unsafe conditions would fall on the backs of Black and Brown communities and working-class families, where and with whom the vast majority of public school students live.

Special education teacher Amy Tan works at a school in Brooklyn’s Sunset Park neighborhood, where the infection rate is now 7 percent. Tan described a “climate of fear” in the multinational neighborhood, which has also been terrorized by the threat of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids.

“Are we going to ask our students to go into these conditions that have been defunded for decades?” she asked. “No!” shouted the crowd.

Earlier this year, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza delayed closing schools while the virus spread, until a virtual mutiny by teachers, students and parents forced them to do so in late March. Some protesters held signs with the names and photo-

tos of teachers who died from COVID-19.

The city was hard-hit by the pandemic in the spring, with hundreds dying daily, mostly in Black and Brown communities. Lockdown measures finally brought down the death rate by June.

But the uncontrolled spread of the virus throughout the rest of the U.S. now threatens a new surge here. Infection rates were rebounding by mid-August in neighboring states and in some Brooklyn neighborhoods.

All summer, school workers, students and parents have argued that de Blasio’s plan to reopen public schools in September is not only inadequate, rushed and underfunded, but downright dangerous for the community. Today, New York is the only major school system in the country that plans in-person classes for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

Some smaller school systems across the U.S. that began in-person classes, as well as some colleges and universities, have been swiftly forced to shut down as COVID-19 continues to spread. A growing number of studies show that young people can spread the virus and become seriously ill.

On Aug. 20, United Federation of Teachers President Michael Mulgrew said that city teachers could strike if they feel returning to work is unsafe, despite the state’s anti-union Taylor Law, which prohibits strikes by public employees. Mulgrew’s announcement came after unions representing principals, cafeteria workers,



SLL PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

janitors and administrative workers joined the teachers in demanding a delay in reopening schools.

## Tax big business

One chant at the Brooklyn protest was, “We need money for education! We don’t have soap or ventilation!”

This reflects the reality of New York’s underfunded, overcrowded and often decrepit school facilities — a reality that cannot be hidden from the parents, students and school workers who have struggled

daily with the lack of basic supplies, inadequate medical staffing and unhealthy classrooms, even before the coronavirus.

Speakers at Grand Army Plaza demanded that the government tax the wealthy and big business to provide an income for everyone to stay at home until a vaccine is available and school facilities can be adequately renovated. They said the Department of Education should focus on making sure all teachers and students have adequate equipment and training for remote learning.

They pointed out that de Blasio’s stubborn refusal to delay reopening schools is actually driven by Wall Street’s desire to make parents return to work (also in dangerous conditions).

Meanwhile, according to the Movement Of Rank-and-File Educators (MORE-UFT), New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo plans to cut the public education budget by 20 percent, firing 20,000 school workers statewide. Cuomo has refused calls to tax billionaires and stop giveaways to big business in order to fund essential services.

Protesters marched south through Prospect Park, fired up with chants led by young activists, and were greeted by many families and workers along the way. They ended with a rally in front of Chancellor Carranza’s home, vowing to keep organizing and protesting for the safety of students, school workers and their communities. ▀

# ‘Billionaire landlords have to go!’

By Stephen Millies

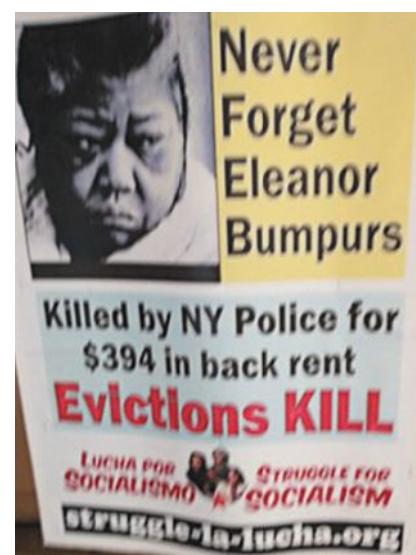
Aug. 20 — Over five hundred people came to New York City’s public research library on Manhattan’s Fifth Avenue this afternoon. They were determined to stop the wave of evictions that is coming.

New York Gov. Cuomo’s ban on evictions will expire on Sept. 4. Tenant groups across the state are preparing to stop the slumlords and sheriffs from throwing families into the street.

The action today was called by the Right To Counsel NYC Coalition, Housing Justice for All and the Metropolitan Council on Housing. People belonging to local tenant organizations came from all over the city.

Members of the Crown Heights Tenant Union, the Flatbush Tenants Union, the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA), Tenants & Neighbors and other neighborhood groups came with their colorful banners.

“Cops and landlords have to go!” was a favorite chant. Speakers in both Spanish and English denounced evictions with their re-



SLL PHOTOS: STEPHEN MILLIES

marks translated.

One woman talked of how she wanted to move to another state so she could be near her terminally ill mother, but the big landlord refused to break her lease.

This writer carried a sign from Struggle-La Lucha that said, “Never Forget Eleanor Bumpurs.” The 66-year-old Black grandmother was killed on Oct. 29, 1984, as police enforced an eviction from her Bronx apartment. New York policeman

Stephen Sullivan fired two blasts from his 12-gauge shotgun at her.

Bumpers owed \$394 in back rent. As the sign read, evictions kill!

## REBNY here we come

People were eager to march through the biggest concentration of corporate criminals on the planet. They chanted, “We believe that we will win!” as they left Fifth Avenue and went east on 42nd Street.

Hundreds of people trooped up

Madison and Park avenues past dozens of skyscrapers that house much of U.S. big business.

There were probably at least 100 construction workers who died building these structures. Nowhere was there a plaque remembering those who were killed.

People ended up at 51st Street and Lexington Avenue, the headquarters of the Real Estate Board of New York. Known as REBNY, it’s the united front of all the landlords and developers in the city.

If it was up to REBNY, every poor person would be driven out of the Big Apple. People held a speakout right in their face.

Tiffany King of the Crown Heights Tenant Union told listeners of her family’s righteous struggle against their greedy landlord. Ms. King is determined to persevere.

That spirit is shared by thousands who are determined to stop evictions. ▀

# Wrecking the post office and the election

By Stephen Millies

From Harlem to Seattle, mail boxes are being removed by orders of Trump's handpicked postmaster general, Louis DeJoy. Trump is sabotaging the post office in an attempt to steal the 2020 presidential election.

The mail is being deliberately delayed with processing machines being removed from postal facilities. Postal workers have been told to leave mail behind if delivering it will result in overtime pay.

The first victims will be seniors and all other persons whose prescription medicines are arriving late. For people with diabetes, the delay in receiving insulin could be fatal.

To Trump and DeJoy, anyone dying as a result is just "collateral damage." That's the lying term used by the Pentagon to justify the deaths of children and other civilians in bombing raids carried out for Big Oil.

Being targeted are the tens of millions of voters who will be mailing in their ballots because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The postal service sent letters to 46 states and Washington, D.C., warning that the mail-in ballots may be delayed and thus not counted.

DeJoy sent out this threat not only to discourage people from voting by mail but also to cast doubt on the result. It's part of a White House campaign that's meant to enable Trump to claim vote fraud if he's losing the election.

This attempted election tampering is a follow-up to Trump's June 1 coup attempt. Millions of people were in the streets demanding that Black lives matter!

Trump threatened to invoke the 1807 Insurrection Act — which was enacted to suppress rebellions of enslaved Africans — to send troops to shoot protesters.

It's absurd to claim that the post office can't handle the mail-in ballots. Last year the postal workers handled 142.6 billion (that's "billion" with a "b") pieces of mail. In three weeks, postal workers handle as much as UPS Inc. and FedEx combined handle in a year.

Just the 16.5 billion single pieces of first class mail that were delivered is 110 times the 150 million ballots that will be cast, many of which will be cast in person.

## They sneer at democracy

Stealing elections in the United States is nothing new. That's how George W. Bush got to the White House 20 years ago with help from his brother, then-Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

The wealthy and powerful scorn democracy. They find it repulsive that the vote of a homeless person — or any poor and working person — should count as much as theirs.

The late oil billionaire H.L. Hunt — who may have been a co-conspirator in John F. Kennedy's assassination — wanted a social order in which the richest could cast the most votes. Hunt even wrote a novel entitled "Alpaca" describing this monstrosity.

The Wall Street Journal's editorial page editor Robert L. Bartley justified George W. Bush going to the White House despite winning 543,895 less votes than Al Gore. Bartley did so on the basis that many of the Democratic votes were cast by "union households" and "Blacks."

The day after this racist rant was published, five U.S. Supreme Court

justices selected Bush as president on Dec. 12, 2000.

The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1870. It mandates that the right to vote can't be denied "by any state on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude."

The capitalist class never enforced their own constitutional amendment while millions of Black people were denied the vote by Ku Klux Klan terror.

The FBI did nothing when Harriette and Harry T. Moore were bombed in their home on Christmas Day, 1951. They were murdered by the Klan for registering Black voters.

The 24th Amendment is also a dead letter. Ratified in 1964, this amendment prohibits poll taxes.

Yet the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld state laws requiring voters to have photo identification, which usually costs money. If people have to spend money to vote, isn't that a poll tax?

If the U.S. were a democracy, people could vote in referendums for free health care, a \$20 per hour minimum wage and community control of the police.

After people in Baltimore voted for rent control in a 1979 referendum, a judge threw out the election.

## Why they hate postal workers

The attacks on the post office are not just because of the election. For over 40 years, postal workers have been under assault. Dozens of employees have died of the coronavirus.

Employment has fallen from almost 800,000 workers in 1999 to a half-million last year. Yet the Post Office Service is the largest employer of

union workers in the U.S.

These cuts have fallen heaviest on Black workers, who comprise 27 percent of postal employees. The post office is the largest employer of African Americans earning more than \$50,000 per year.

Over 40 percent of postal workers are Asian, Black, Indigenous or Latinx.

Billionaires have never forgiven postal employees for their rebellion, the Great Postal Strike of 1970. President Richard "Watergate" Nixon sent GIs to try to break the strike.

The 200,000 workers who went on a wildcat strike won a victory for all poor and working people.

Postmaster DeJoy is a multimillionaire who bought his position with millions in campaign contributions. As CEO of the New Breed Logistics, he refused to hire members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in a Compton, Calif., facility.

Four women in New Breed's Memphis warehouse suffered miscarriages in 2014 because supervisors refused their requests for light duty.

On Aug. 18, DeJoy announced that he's suspending, but not reversing, any further cutbacks in postal service until after the presidential election.

This union buster can't be trusted. The capitalists want to privatize the postal service and break the postal unions.

That disaster would be followed by Social Security being taken over by Wall Street brokerage firms and hedge funds.

The people need to be mobilized to defend the post office and the elections. ■



# 'Feds get out'

## Portland movement fights to put power into the hands of the people

By Scott Scheffer

Struggle-La Lucha spoke with Cody Urban of the International League of Peoples Struggle (ILPS) about the protests against racist police terror in Portland, Ore., and the violent federal agents dispatched by the Trump administration to terrorize the community.

**Struggle-La Lucha:** All eyes were on Portland as the fight for justice and the outpouring of rage over the murder of George Floyd by the Minneapolis police exploded there. After more than two months of standing up against brutality and arrests, can you tell us who is involved? What areas of Portland are the protests taking place in?

**Cody Urban:** Protests have been organized and led all over the city and most suburbs — that's been one of the greatest achievements of the mass movement here in Portland. While generally decentralized, the protests have really reached so many people from so many corners of the metro area. The protests that have garnered the most news and have been met with the harshest repres-

sion have been centered downtown outside the Justice Center, symbolizing the people's rage at the countless lives taken and immense public theft at the hands of bourgeois "justice."

But while the downtown protests could rightfully be seen as the central focus of confrontations against state forces, it would be remiss not to mention the near-daily rallies in streets, parks, car caravans and many other locations in defense of Black lives and against the increasing attacks on all working and oppressed people. These attacks started increasing long before COVID-19, but it took a moment like now to heighten the class contradiction to a point in which it no longer felt like a choice but a necessity to take to the streets and make our demands heard in one united voice.

People are really coming out from all walks of life to mobilize and show their rage. Many different political tendencies (including socialist, communist, anarchist, liberal democratic and more) encompassing many different issues (human rights, anti-racism, national liberation, women's liberation, LGBTQ2S

liberation, etc.) have come together under the basic unity of ending racist police terror.

One of the greatest things to see is how many youth have risen into the leadership of this mass movement. Organizers as young as high-school age are organizing rallies that hundreds of people of all ages attend. It truly is a "movement moment" of today that I hope lays the foundation of new organizational leadership for tomorrow — younger, newer activists taking action for the first time against an enemy that previously felt insurmountable will be hitting the streets and other public spaces for years to come as they commit to a life of organizing for the long term.

It's these kinds of moments, engendered by the crisis of the crumbling system itself, that will lead the people to one day soon challenge the capitalist system itself.

**SLL:** Can you talk about the role of the federal agents that were sent to Portland?

**CU:** When we talk about the role of federal troops in Portland, I think there are multiple factors for us to consider. First, there is the interna-

tional situation of U.S. imperialism today. The Trump regime finds itself overstretched in countless wars and occupations overseas, looking for any method to maintain the dwindling public support for this aggression. These actions were the testing grounds for the tactics we're seeing on the streets of the U.S. today.

Next, there is the situation nationally. In one of the most bizarre election years in U.S. history, Trump's narcissism and thirst for dictatorial privileges pushes the regime to do whatever it can do to cover up its mishandling of the COVID-19 health crisis and to divert attention away from the impacts of his white supremacist rants on racist police impunity around the nation. We've seen Trump singling out certain organizations and people's movements as a means to make an example to others, and it seems that Portland is just the latest "example" to be made.

Finally, despite the city of Portland joining the calls of "Feds, Get Out!", federal agents have had a welcome home in Portland for a long time under the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

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## SOCIALISM & DIGNITY

# We need free public transit

By Stephen Millies

New York City bus riders will have to start paying \$2.75 again on Aug. 31. That's 55 times what the fare was in 1948, when it cost a nickel.

Transit systems in Baltimore, Chicago and Detroit have already been collecting fares, while Atlanta's local buses are still free.

Millions of people need buses to go to work, go to school or see a doctor. One out of eleven households in the United States doesn't have a car.

Yet public transit in much of the U.S. is inadequate or doesn't exist. Only a quarter of New York City's 472 subway stations are accessible to disabled people.

It was the lack of an elevator at the Seventh Avenue and 53rd Street station in Manhattan that killed Malaysia Goodson. The 22-year-old Black mother fell down the stairs to her death while protecting her one-year-old daughter.

COVID-19 continues to kill people and a fifth of New Yorkers are unemployed. That hasn't stopped New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Metropolitan Transportation Authority CEO Patrick Foye from demanding that every bus rider pay. That includes seniors and disabled people who are charged half fare.

The MTA never stopped making people pay to take the subways. Generosity wasn't the reason why buses were made free on March 23 with backdoor boarding. Cuomo and Foye did so because they feared justified job actions.

At least 127 MTA workers died of COVID-19, forty of whom were bus operators. Over 9,500 MTA workers got sick.

The heroic Transit Workers Union Local 100 members who kept New York City moving were called "thugs" by former Mayor Bloomberg during a 2005 strike. Billionaires like

Bloomberg are the real thugs. His \$54.9 billion stash could give every New Yorker \$6,383.

Back door loading on buses helped protect the operators from the coronavirus. If even one more bus operator catches the virus, it must be reinstated.

In the city that never sleeps, Cuomo's MTA suspended overnight subway service. One reason was to clean the trains. Another was to kick out homeless people.

In 2017, 75 percent of NYC bus riders were people of color. The median yearly income of riders with jobs was just \$28,455. The \$2.75 fare eats up 5 percent of these workers' income in a city where 44 percent of households have to spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent.

No wonder Mike Quill — the founder of the Transport Workers Union — once called for transit fares to be free.

### War against public transit

Most U.S. cities have worse public transportation systems than New York's. The lack of public transit reinforces housing segregation and makes it harder to find and keep a job.

The original plan for Baltimore's subway included a line from the city's downtown south to the Thurgood Marshall International Airport. Politicians in Anne Arundel County initially blocked it.

These racists didn't want Black youth to come to their suburb and fill out job applications. A light rail line was later built to the area.

New office buildings and industrial parks are often located on the outskirts of metropolitan areas. Capitalists use the lack of bus service as an excuse not to hire Black and Latinx workers living in central cities.

Many folks need cars, including disabled people. Workers who have cars and those who use public transit

shouldn't be pitted against each other.

Millions live in rural areas without any public transportation at all. Seniors suffer the most.

Thousands of miles of electric interurban railroad lines that connected cities and served the countryside were ripped out. Beneficiaries of this wrecking were Big Oil and GM, who wanted to get rid of competition to private automobiles.

The tracks of the Key Line that connected San Francisco with Oakland and other East Bay cities were removed from the Bay Bridge in 1958.

The largest interurban system was the Pacific Electric. Its "big red cars" once operated over 700 miles of track in Southern California. Richard Nixon's father was employed as a motorman.

The last line from downtown Los Angeles to Long Beach stopped running in 1961. The Los Angeles Metro's A line now uses the right of way.

### Socialism means good public transit

Capitalist New York City took 90 years to open three stations on the Second Avenue subway, a line that was first planned in the 1920s.

Twenty-one cities in the socialist People's Republic of China have opened subway systems just since 2009. The gleaming subway systems in Beijing and Shanghai are the busiest in the world, each moving more than 9 million passengers a day.

That's the power of socialist economic planning. All the socialist countries emphasized public transportation systems in order to make life easier for working people.

In contrast, under capitalism, the main function of New York's MTA is



Malaysia Goodson

to pay interest on its \$44 billion debt. In 2018, banksters and other bondholders slurped up over \$2.5 billion in tax-free interest.

While this robbery was going on, cops arrested thousands of poor people because they couldn't afford the fare. Ninety percent of them were Black or Latinx.

The socialist Soviet Union built subway systems in almost all of its large cities. The stations on the Moscow Metro are famous for their beauty.

During World War II, they were used as bomb shelters. Never forget that 27 million Soviet people died defeating Hitler.

Before the Soviet Union was overthrown, the fare on the Metro was five kopeks or less than a nickel.

During the Korean War, U.S. planes dropped 420,000 bombs on Pyongyang. Today, the capital of the socialist Democratic People's Republic of Korea has a beautiful subway system.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is building rapid transit systems in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Working and poor people in the U.S. need free public transportation. Millions of workers could be employed at union wages building new transit systems and high-speed rail lines between cities.

Two hundred billion dollars a year can be found to do this by abolishing the police and bringing 2.3 million prisoners home to their families.

*The writer is a retired Amtrak worker.*

## Postal workers rally

By Stephen Millies

Postal workers and their supporters demonstrated across the country on Aug. 25. They were protesting the attacks on the postal service by President Trump and Postmaster General DeJoy.

In New York City, a protest rally gathered at lunchtime on the steps of the main post office on Manhattan's Eighth Avenue, across from Pennsylvania Station.

Among the speakers was Jonathan Smith, the president of the 5,000 member New York Metro Area Postal Union, the largest local in the American Postal Workers Union. Smith described how postal workers delivered "not the Republican mail or the Democratic mail — they deliver all the mail."

Smith spoke in front of the best-recognized U.S. post office. It's named after former Postmaster General James A. Farley, who was a political fixer for President Franklin Roosevelt.

Inscribed across the front, above its stone columns, are the words of Herodotus: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

The Greek historian was describ-



Jonathan Smith, president of the N.Y. Metro Area Postal Union, speaking.

SLL PHOTO: STEPHEN MILLIES

ing the Iranian couriers of 2,500 years ago, who, along with the Inca messengers in Peru, were employed in the most famous postal systems of olden times.

The words of the ancient writer also describe the hundreds of thousands of postal workers who promptly deliver medicine and other mail from Florida to Alaska. Dozens of postal employees have died of the coronavirus. The anthrax attacks in 2001 killed two postal workers.

Other rallies defending the postal system were held in Sunset Park in Brooklyn and in front of the Knickerbocker post office in lower Manhattan. There, on East Broadway in Manhattan's Chinatown, 20 people gathered to denounce the cutbacks, which include the proposed closing of the Knickerbocker station.

*Continued from page 4*

This relationship between Portland Police and the Department of Homeland Security lasted for years. It was only removed through mass mobilization in 2019 after the arrests of numerous activists and members of the Muslim community.

Add to this the countless Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids that this so-called sanctuary city has allowed to brutalize undocumented communities since long before the Trump regime came to power, and the question of federal troops today merely becomes one of quantity, not quality.

The assaults, kidnappings and intimidations at the hands of federal troops in Portland are an escalation of fascist state violence, but they must be seen in this wider context.

**SLL:** The mayor of Portland and the governor of Oregon opposed the presence of Trump's federal agents. Mayor Ted Wheeler has said the city will "reimagine" police accountability and redirect funds from the police bureau. How do you think the movement might respond to concretize and extend any gains that come about as a result of the uprising?

**CU:** Regardless of what happened in the fight against the federal occupation of Portland, lasting change needs to be struggled for. That means that the city of Portland needs to take an honest look at what led to this situation to begin with. The federal troops took advantage of a genuine peoples' uprising against the impunity of the Portland police as their excuse to enter our city. This grievance with the city government still exists.

I do believe that this is a moment to push for winnable change at the city level, change that the city can be held accountable to. Demands to halt the funneling of army-grade equipment to the police, an end to the city's contracts with human rights-violating companies like G4S and to stop the open collusion with white supremacists can all be used as rallying cries to ensure our organizations are stronger than they were before this moment began.

In short, what's needed is a true mass movement that is rooted 100 percent in working and oppressed communities, that has the strength and will to fight to take power away from the bourgeois state and put it into the hands of the people. □

# Election by coup?

By Gary Wilson

With President Donald Trump ruling mainly by decree, there were many who thought his recent tweet about delaying the election meant that he intends to decree himself president for another four years. The purpose of that tweet seemed to be to raise uncertainty about the validity of the November vote.

The November vote is to select electors for the Electoral College, which then elects a president and vice president. Trump lost the popular vote in 2016 but won the Electoral College vote, which is the only one that matters. The U.S. has never had a democratically elected president. All have been selected by the Electoral College.

In 2016, the Electoral College was manipulated with vote challenges. Some 1,913,369 ballots were challenged and thrown away in key states in 2016, giving Trump the Electoral College win. George W. Bush did this in the 2000 election, challenging and invalidating the Black vote in Florida. When a recount to include the Black vote was demanded, the Supreme Court intervened and handed the Electoral College and the presidency to Bush.

According to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, which investigated in Florida, the chance of your ballot being challenged and uncounted is 900 percent higher if you are Black than if you are white.

That's what Trump did in Detroit in 2016, challenging the Black vote. Trump "poll watchers" challenged every single Black vote in Detroit, preventing the counting of 75,355 ballots in the city. That gave Trump a "victory margin" of 10,000 to take Michigan's Electoral College vote and the White House.

There is already a widespread suppression of Black, Latinx and Indigenous peoples' voting rights.

At least 1,688 polling places have been closed across 13 states, nearly all in the South and West, between 2012 and 2018, according to a report by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

In addition, states "have shortened voting hours, enacted new barriers to registration, purged millions from voter rolls, implemented strict voter identification laws, reshaped voting districts and closed polling places," the report says.

"For many people, and particularly for voters of color, older voters, rural voters and voters with disabilities, these burdens make it harder — and sometimes impossible — to vote," the report adds.

Using voter suppression and challenges to win the Electoral College votes in so-called swing states like Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, Trump can lose the popular ballot by as many as five million votes nationwide and still win an Electoral College majority.

Trump's July 30 tweet casting doubt on the November election's legitimacy said it "will be the most INACCURATE & FRAUDULENT Election in history" due to states' decisions to expand mail-in voting during the coronavirus pandemic. As a result, Trump suggested the vote be postponed: "Delay the Elec-

tion until people can properly, securely and safely vote???"

Jamelle Bouie wrote, "Trump has made no attempt to win a majority of voters, no effort to bring a skeptical public to his side. Instead, he has directed his energy toward suppressing opposition in hopes of winning by technical knockout for a second time. His chief target right now is the United States Postal Service, whose operation, it almost goes without saying, is critical for the success of mail-in voting." [tinyurl.com/y4zkk7e](http://tinyurl.com/y4zkk7e)

An Electoral College victory like that should not be accepted as legitimate. The mass anti-racist movement, Black Lives Matter and more — the largest movement in U.S. history — can and should respond.

## June 1 coup attempt

The U.S. is in the midst of a great crisis, an economic and political crisis. Unemployment is in the tens of millions, at levels not seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Homelessness has reached record levels. For those workers who have jobs, pay is at record lows, income inequality at record highs.

Before the coronavirus shutdown, 44 percent of all U.S. workers were in poverty, not even a living wage. Almost 200,000 have died from COVID-19, with the spread of the infection and the daily death toll continuing. All of these have hit the Black and Brown communities the hardest, exposing the devastating conditions of racism in the U.S.

On top of that came the murder of George Floyd by the Minneapolis cops, the police murder of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Ky., and the lynching of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia. In response, an uprising for justice, against police terror, defending Black lives and rights swept the country.

The protests were described by the New York Times as "the largest movement in U.S. history."

Anti-racism had become the majority view for the first time and the protests were continuing and expanding. The White House was gripped by fear. Trump responded with what can only be described as a military coup attempt.

A reminder here: Richard Nixon also saw the massive civil rights and anti-war protests, in the hundreds of thousands, as a revolutionary challenge. In the spring of 1971, Nixon brought troops from the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne division into Washington, D.C., in response to a planned mass anti-war protest. The police, the military and the National Guard rounded up and held some 12,000 protesters.

Later, during Nixon's impeachment, it was widely believed that Nixon had begun organizing a military coup, talking about the need to bring in the 82nd Airborne to "protect" the White House, in order to keep the presidency. Both Henry Kissinger and Al Haig, who were part of Nixon's White House staff, are reported to have been involved in the coup talks.

On Monday, June 1, 2020, outside the White House, Donald Trump declared, "I am your president of law



and order." He proceeded to characterize the large-scale protests in response to the murder of George Floyd and against police violence as "acts of domestic terror."

If the marches and demonstrations did not cease, Trump promised to invoke the Insurrection Act of 1807 and "deploy the U.S. military" on the streets of every major city, including Washington. Trump went on, "As we speak, I am dispatching thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers, military personnel and law enforcement officers to stop the rioting, looting, vandalism, assaults and the wanton destruction of property."

He then issued the following threat: "If a city or state refuses to take the actions that are necessary to defend the life and property of their residents, then I will deploy the U.S. military and quickly solve the problem for them." ("Trump's June 1 coup attempt" [tinyurl.com/june-1-coup](http://tinyurl.com/june-1-coup))

The unidentified paramilitary secret police force that was unleashed in Washington on June 1 has since been used by Trump against the cities of Portland, Ore.; Seattle; Chicago; and other places, targeting any and all anti-racist protests.

Trump's effort to establish a personal dictatorship on the basis of military rule is the product of a protracted economic and political crisis in the U.S. of extreme social inequality and endless war. The system is in crisis and is unstable.

## November 3 to January 20

The run-up to the Nov. 3 Electoral College selection (Election Day) and the 11-week period between the selection and the Jan. 20 inauguration threaten to be periods of deep political crisis.

The Washington Post reported: "As Trump demurs, an unimaginable question forms: Could the president reach for the military in a disputed election?"

The Post reports:

"President Trump's refusal to commit to accepting the results of the November election, paired with his penchant for plunging the military into the partisan fray, has prompted scholars and legal experts to ask a once-unthinkable question: How would the armed forces respond if pulled into a disputed election?"

"Speculation about whether the military could be asked to play a role in events following the 2020 presidential vote has intensified in the wake of the Pentagon's involvement in the government's response to demonstrations against racism and police brutality. ..."

"As the election approaches, the president has once again declined to say he would accept its results.

'I have to see,' he said during a Fox News interview this month. 'I'm not going to just say yes. I'm not going to say no. And I didn't last time either.'

"The president has warned for months that mail-in voting — expected to be used more widely than ever due to the coronavirus pandemic — or potential foreign interference in Democrats' favor could yield widespread fraud and a 'rigged' election, comments his critics worry are laying the groundwork in case he decides to dispute the result. ..."

"Scholars cautioned that they are not suggesting that the military would proactively seek to influence the vote, but rather that Pentagon leaders could be forced in a disputed election to become involved in a way that would appear partisan, similar to what occurred in the nation's capital in the wake of protests in June. ..."

"Fears about the use of the military have arisen during some previous presidential transitions. ..."

"In 1934, a retired Marine Corps general, Smedley Butler, testified before Congress that a group of industrialists had conspired to create a fascist veterans group with him at the helm and use the organization to overthrow President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a scandal that became known as the 'business plot.'

"Nevertheless, experts said they are most worried about a handful of hypothetical situations, including a scenario in which Trump might refuse to concede victory to Biden, or a legal challenge to the outcome might remain unresolved by Inauguration Day, prompting him to assert presidential authority beyond Jan. 20."

"In that scenario, experts hypothesized, the White House might call on the military to protect the president or, more likely, respond to potential protests on 'law and order' grounds, possibly leading the president to follow through with earlier threats to send active-duty troops to American cities or take control of state-commanded National Guard members."

"Already, his administration has mounted a shock-and-awe response to protests in Portland, Ore., sending in federal agents from the Department of Homeland Security over the objections of local and state officials, in what critics have called a political effort to boost Trump in the polls. ..."

"Crucially, a contested outcome lasting beyond Jan. 20 would force the military to make an implicit decision about who is commander in chief. According to the Presidential Succession Act of 1947, Trump would cease to be president on noon of Jan. 20 if Congress does not certify him as the winner, passing his authority as commander in chief of the military to the acting president, the speaker of the House of Representatives." □

# FASCISM how it develops and how to fight back

By Sam Marcy

*With the 2020 elections fast approaching, the workers' and progressive movements in the U.S. are debating the best tactics to fight the Donald Trump regime and the growth of violent white-supremacist, neofascist groups. As a contribution to this urgent discussion, Struggle-La Lucha is publishing excerpts from two articles by Sam Marcy, a leading Marxist thinker and fighter of the second half of the 20th century, about the nature of fascism and how to fight it.*

*From "The specter of fascism," originally published in December 1993.*

## Bourgeois democracy won in struggle

Bourgeois democracy is not a gift from the ruling class. It was won in struggle. A capitalist democracy, whether in Britain or France or other countries, is the result of working-class struggles that have forced the bourgeoisie to grant democratic rights.

For all too long there were no rights for the masses in this country. Only property-owning white men could vote. Native people had no rights. In a great section of the U.S., there was chattel slavery. Even after abolition, Black people had no rights at all for many years. Women couldn't vote.

It was only in 1971 that every citizen at least 18 years old was legally enfranchised, although registration is still made difficult enough to discourage many.

So this democracy we have was earned in the course of struggle, including a bloody civil war. Bourgeois politicians, however, give the impression that it is part of the "benefits of capitalism."

But capitalism and democracy are not synonymous. Democracy is a form of state, as is fascism. The essence of a capitalist state is the rule of the bourgeoisie. Capitalism as a system can exist without capitalist democracy.

The working-class movement can thrive and advance if it utilizes capitalist democracy to its own advantage in the struggle to bring about a socialist revolution.

This introduction is necessary because the bourgeoisie never refers to the real significance of the struggle between bourgeois democracy and fascism. They always give the impression that they are in the forefront of the struggle against fascism and are the proponents of democracy.

There is nothing the bourgeoisie likes so much as to cover themselves with sugary, unctuous phrases about democracy as long as it seems to serve their ends — and as long as the workers don't use that democracy for their own class interests, but only to advance this or that capitalist politician.

Full-scale fascism means the complete abolition of capitalist democracy. That has happened several times in the 20th century. The experiences in some of the countries of Europe give us object lessons in what fascism is.

## Lessons of fascism in Europe

The earliest form of fascism took place in Italy. Later, it took over in Germany and then in Spain.

Why did it come first in those countries? It is often explained as due to the development of a dictatorial mentality in certain individual leaders.

It is said that in Italy it was all Mussolini's fault; that in Germany it was Hitler; and that Franco brought about fascism in Spain. The emphasis is always on the individual and not on the social basis for the rise of that individual.

We do not deny the role of the individual in history. But we ask ourselves why it is that in these particular countries, individuals were able to turn a bourgeois democracy into a fascist dictatorship.

Is it because they were unusual and extraordinary people? Why didn't they do something else? Why didn't they bring about a greater democracy — a socialist democracy? As individuals, how did they build a following strong enough to take power?

The individual becomes important, most of all, if he or she is a representative of a class.

Some capitalist historians will say fascism came as a result of a deep economic crisis. That is true, but it is not the whole truth. Poverty is deeply embedded in so many countries, but that does not necessarily bring a fascist dictatorship. The worst economic crisis that ever took place was in the United States, and it did not bring about a fascist dictatorship. Some fascist groupings did arise, but on the whole, fascism did not take hold here.

But it did in three leading capitalist countries: Germany, Italy and Spain.

What was their common social and political denominator?

## What turns the bourgeoisie into fascists

The first prerequisite of classical fascism is the existence of a revolutionary mood in the working class.

In Italy, Spain and Germany there was a revolutionary situation. The working class was on the edge of a socialist revolution. That is what impelled the bourgeoisie to support a fascist dictatorship in its most brutal and complete form.

In these three capitalist countries, the working class had learned to use capitalist democracy to defend its own interests to some extent. There were entrenched elected representatives of workers' parties. They controlled a number of cities and states, were in the legislatures and sometimes in the federal government.

Wherever you went in Europe, socialists and communists had some part in the capitalist state. The workers' movement was strong and seemed unvanquishable.

Under the democratic form of the capitalist state, the workers' movement had reached a stage in its development where it had become a threat to the very existence of capitalist rule. Even Frederick Engels thought at one point

at the end of the 19th century that the workers' movement would take over in Germany. It was the general understanding that as a result of parliamentary means the workers' movement would ultimately rule.

But that turned out to be an illusion.

The ruling class could not easily overcome the great achievements of the working class by mere elections. Even if they could win absolute majorities in a few elections, they could not fundamentally change the class position of the working class. So much had been won that it would take a military struggle to change it. That is where fascism came in.

The bourgeoisie in a number of European countries turned in an utterly different direction. Instead of being the patron saint of bourgeois democracy, they slowly and gradually gravitated toward a violent break with that tradition.

They began to instigate movements for the overthrow of capitalist democracy altogether, as a means to abolish the gains of the workers, and revamp and redesign the form of class rule. Their objective was to develop on a world scale and become the most aggressive group of capitalist countries in order to redivide the colonies in their favor.

## Personality of leaders not decisive

The development of fascism didn't have anything to do with the psychological bent of leaders. It didn't have anything to do with an aversion to liberty, free speech and the like.

It had to do with the necessity to sustain the rule of a particular class over another class, to sustain capitalism when it is very much under siege from the workers.

The enormous strength of the workers' organizations on the European arena had frightened the bourgeoisie. The confidence of the workers' movement was such that they were openly speaking not only about the overthrow of the bourgeoisie but also how they would soon govern over society. It was just a matter of time before the ruling class would be out of business.

When a ruling class sees its most substantial interests under siege, it doesn't care much about democracy, freedom or anything else. It is ready to stake its all on retaining its system, even to the point of the loss of millions of lives. It will think of its class interests above all and will throw overboard everything it has taught about democracy, freedom, god or whatever — in the interest of retaining its class position.

This is how the fascist movements

developed. Not as an automatic, anti-democratic tendency, but because of the ruling class's organic need to save its class interests and system.

## What led to Mussolini's takeover

The first to go over was Italy. The working class was strong in Italy. Even the monarchy did not stand in the way of the workers' organizing. When it did, it was soundly trounced. The workers' movement was also reaching out to the peasants.

In the years immediately after the Russian Revolution, the Italian masses tried to take it all. They organized general strikes and tried to take over all of industry by occupying the plants. They wanted to make short shrift of the slow, eventual growth of the working class — particularly in a country that was not the richest and whose colonies did not bring in the kind of superprofits that Britain, for example, enjoyed.

Under those circumstances, the ruling class instigated the development of fascism by sponsoring Mussolini to open a violent struggle against the working class.

Bourgeois historians write a lot about Mussolini. But they will not tell you how the ruling class conducted itself, what the bankers and industrialists did. What were they doing while the workers were making gains?

Even if Mussolini had organized the fascist coup d'état on his own, his subsequent stay in power shows support by the ruling class in Italy and by the imperialists as a whole. His march on Rome to "rescue Italy from Bolshevism" and his Black Shirts would have been a temporary thing with no importance had big capital not supported him.

So the first characteristic in the development of a fascist regime of the classical type is the existence of a revolutionary situation caused by the rise of a workers' movement. This in turn causes the capitalist ruling class to abandon capitalist democracy and turn to naked force and violence in the struggle to retain its rule.

True, a fascist dictatorship means that even the bourgeoisie has to give up certain of its rights. Nonetheless, the results of fascism everywhere were to strengthen the ruling class as against the working class.

In Italy, this classical form of fascism existed from 1922 all the way up to the end of World War II, when the workers overthrew Mussolini as a result of their own independent efforts.

## Fascism in Spain

In Spain, fascism took a different route. The revolutionary working class developed very rapidly in the 1930s — threatening not only the monarchy but the capitalist system, which was still tied in with all the ancient feudal institutions.

Spain seemed to be the country par excellence where feudal institutions could exist within the womb of capitalist society. It seemed as if the working class was more removed from Marxism than in Italy, Germany and elsewhere in Europe. But this



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# U.S.-NATO hands off Belarus!

By Greg Butterfield

Six years after the U.S. government helped to engineer a right-wing takeover of Ukraine using mass protests, another former Soviet republic — Belarus — is now in the gunsights of Washington and the European Union.

It is urgent for the anti-war movement here to raise the demand: U.S.-NATO hands off Belarus!

On Aug. 9, presidential elections were held in Belarus. According to the central election commission, incumbent President Alexander Lukashenko won with 80.1 percent of the vote, easily avoiding a second-round runoff. Opposition candidate Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya, his nearest competitor, won just over 10 percent of the vote. No other candidate received more than 2 percent.

Tsikhanouskaya claimed to have gotten 60 percent of the vote and accused the government of fraud. She immediately left the country for neighboring NATO country Lithuania, which is ruled by a far-right government that persecutes communists, bans Soviet-era symbols and uplifts Nazi collaborators.

Other opposition candidates fled to the West and charged fraud as well. At first, they called for a recount; but that was soon dropped in favor of demanding new elections.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), aligned with the European Union, was invited to send election observers but declined, blaming “the lack of a timely invitation.”

In Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, Tsikhanouskaya announced the formation of a “Power Transfer Coordination Council” to implement the removal of Lukashenko. She suggested that she may declare herself the legitimate president. On Aug. 24, she met with the second-highest-ranking U.S. diplomat, Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Bigan.

These actions caused some commentators in the former Soviet countries to label Tsikhanouskaya “the Belarusian Juan Guaidó,” comparing her to the self-declared “president” of Venezuela, with the backing of the U.S. and European countries, against democratically elected President Nicolás Maduro.

On Aug. 20, during the presentation of an award to Belarus Ambassador Oleg Paferov in Caracas, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said, “Belarus and Venezuela are facing similar attacks that repeat the same scenario.”

Opposition groups protested the election results. State forces clamped down hard on the protests, arresting many. There were reports of police brutality.

Afterward, most protesters were freed and the police backed off, apologizing for the harsh response and permitting protests to continue.

Since then, there have been large demonstrations for and against Lukashenko’s re-election in the capital, Minsk, and around the country.

At the same time, NATO military forces have reportedly engaged in provocative movements near Belarus’ borders with Poland and Lithuania. The Belarusian government accused them of trying to destabilize the situation in western Belarus, particularly

the city of Grodno, and rushed additional troops to the area to defend the country’s territorial integrity.

Both Lukashenko and independent observers say the actions of the U.S. and other NATO powers, and of Tsikhanouskaya and other opposition leaders, reflect the well-worn strategy of “color revolutions” used to overthrow governments considered inadequately subservient to Western imperialist powers and Big Capital, including Yugoslavia, Libya and Ukraine.

## Why Belarus is a target

Belarus is a country of 9.5 million people in eastern Europe. It is bordered by NATO members Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to the north and west; NATO-aligned Ukraine to the south; and Russia to the east.

Although relations between Belarus and Russia have been strained recently, the two countries are members of a Union State established in 1996 with strong bonds of economic cooperation and mutual defense.

Belarus is also the last “buffer state” between Russia and NATO since the neoliberal/fascist takeover of Ukraine in 2014. The coup in Ukraine, backed up with anti-communist, pro-privatization and ultranationalist opposition protests called “Maidan,” succeeded with the cooperation of leading U.S. politicians like the late Republican Sen. John McCain and Democrats Joe Biden (then vice president) and John Kerry (then secretary of state), and Western-funded nongovernmental organizations.

For almost 30 years, since the breakup of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, a major U.S. strategic goal under both Republican and Democratic administrations has been to surround and carve up the Russian Federation. Belarus is the final “domino” that has to fall for NATO to militarily dominate all the countries on Russia’s western border.

Belarus is also a key link in the world’s longest oil pipeline, the Druzhba or Friendship Pipeline, which runs between Russia and Western Europe. Big Oil and fracking interests that are among the Trump administration’s strongest backers have an immediate profit interest in disrupting this relationship, just as they are determined to prevent a pipeline through Lebanon and Syria that would make Iranian oil more accessible to the world.

## State ownership vs. privatization

There is still another factor that accounts for U.S.-NATO targeting of Belarus, one of great importance to the workers of that country.

Unlike other former Soviet republics, Belarus has not been subjected to the wrenching privatization of large factories and farms that wreaked economic and social havoc on countries like Russia and Ukraine.

Although Belarus is today a capitalist country, it practices a form of state capitalism that has left more of the gains of the Soviet era intact, especially when it comes to social protections for the working class. This is why President Lukashenko has maintained a high level of support since he first took office in 1994.

Ironically, it has been recent moves by the government to enact



Rally in support of President Lukashenko's re-election in Minsk, Aug. 16.



privatization of the economy, and promotion of the interests of international financial organizations and transnational corporations.”

## Belarus, not West, will decide

Communists and socialists in Belarus who seek to represent the interests of the workers and oppose imperialist intervention are working out the best tactics to use in this difficult situation. They understand the frustrations and fears of the working class and the need to counter the ways that the pro-Western opposition tries to mislead them.

In Russia as well as in the West, there are powerful capitalist interests eager to see the privatization of Belarusian industry and agriculture. Although the present protest movement may subside for a time, the pressure on Lukashenko’s government to dismantle workers’ rights will continue to grow, as will NATO’s military pressure.

The best guarantee for Belarus’ continued independence and access to jobs, education and health care is the growth of a working-class movement rooted in the fight against imperialism and for the restoration of socialism.

Here in the U.S., we must fight against every manifestation of military, political and economic intervention by Washington and its NATO allies. Building the movement against war and racism, and organizing workers and oppressed peoples to fight for socialism here, is the best way to assist the Belarusian people’s struggle to defend their sovereignty. □

## FASCISM how it develops and how to fight back

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theory vanished into thin air when the workers’ movement went on revolutionary strikes and threatened to topple not only the monarchy but also the capitalist institutions.

There is a legend in the U.S. that the whole struggle in Spain was between democracy and fascism. That is not true. It was between the revolutionary working class and the capitalist class. The bourgeoisie masked itself in a democratic form late in the day.

The existence of an armed and revolutionary working class in Spain compelled the ruling class to appeal to the military. Not being able to convince the entire military to stage a counterrevolutionary insurrection, they got one of the leading militarists — Francisco Franco — to lead an open, violent, counterrevolutionary assault on the workers’ movement in 1936. He openly denounced bourgeois democracy as responsible for all the evils in Spain. He got the support of the Catholic hierarchy.

Armed to the teeth, Franco began a bloody extermination of the workers’ organizations: the communists, socialists and anarchists.

Fascism was brought about in Spain

as retaliation against the workers’ movement for daring to take destiny in its own hands. Before the workers could succeed, the bourgeoisie intervened militarily, with no resistance from England, France or the U.S.

## Why German fascism was so destructive

In Germany, it was the same, only more dramatic and more destructive.

The workers’ movement in Germany was the strongest and most educated in all the world at that time. So many great Marxists had come from there: Marx and Engels, Mehring, Kautsky, Liebknecht and others.

It was the land where socialism seemed to have originated, where the soil seemed ready for a takeover by the socialists and communists.

But that was not to happen, especially given the existence of a world ruling class with its eye sharply focused on the situation. Germany was the center of Europe. A revolution there would change the basis for capitalist society.

I am not unmindful of the policy of the communist parties in these countries; not unmindful of the fear of the Communist Party leadership under

*Continued on page 9*

# Bolivia mass mobilizations against U.S.-backed coup continue

By Julia 'Pachamama' Fernández

A 12-day national Bolivian blockade led by massive social movements, students, elders, unions and farmworkers ended on Aug. 13. It had paralyzed the entire country, resulting in food/fuel shortages and in the complete instability of the Andean nation itself. The blockade was temporarily lifted after the government agreed to have presidential elections on Oct. 18, but union workers forewarned that, if another delay occurs, expect more mobilizations to continue.

On that same day, a terrorist attack by a group of hooded men used explosives against the centers of Las Bartolinias, a primary union organization of Indigenous women, and of the COB, a union federation of Bolivian mineworkers. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but the deliberate brutal attacks on rural Indigenous communities have the people on edge.

Amid the blockades, student hunger strikes, privatization of natural resources, increased deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the de-



liberate abandonment/neglect foisted upon the Original Peoples, Bolivia continues to endure the worst state violence and political persecution it has seen in decades.

Since the U.S.-backed coup took over, the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) and its Indigenous leaders have experienced non-stop civil unrest. On Aug. 18, the alt-right paramilitary group, Resistencia Ju-

venil Cochala (RJC), which is funded not only by the oligarchs but by the National Endowment for Democracy — a private “nongovernmental” operation that is fully funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development — began passing out leaflets outside local banks with 39 images of Indigenous community leaders. The caption says, “Murderers Revealed!! These Are Bolivia’s Enemies!”

One of the people listed is a young Quechua medical doctor and MAS member and leader, Marisol Coca Calderón, who resides in the Sacaba/Huayllani area, where a bloody massacre took place on Nov. 15, 2019. During a phone conversation with Calderón, she shared with me how she is being threatened and harassed daily. But because the de facto government supports and funds RJC, there is little she can do.

For now, she continues to organize at a small local center called

Juventudes de la Democracia Huayllani, which is a safe space for a community hit hard by the coup. There, they hold group meetings, provide support and guidance for one another and grow their own medicinal plants. I asked Calderón what people can do to help. Her response was, “Please keep speaking about us on social media. You are all our voices. We need your support more than ever. And, if people can help to keep the doors of our center open, it would be a major relief to not only the youth but to the widows and children of our protectors who were brutally killed in November.”

If you would like to make a donation to help keep the Huayllani center open and to show your solidarity, please send to: Cash app: \$AyniAllyuSolidarity. For more updates, please join us on our Facebook group, Ayni Allyu: The Official Llajta of Evo Morales & Indigenous Bolivians.

JALLALLA!

*Julia “Pachamama” Fernández is a Los Angeles Native/Quechua/Xicana organizer/activist and member of Ayni Allyu.*

Continued from page 8

Stalin of supporting the German revolution; not unmindful of the politics of the Kremlin at the time and how it dealt with the various situations. That is a history of the struggle between the policy of accommodation and conciliation of the Soviet leadership under Stalin versus the revolutionary program of Trotsky.

In Germany, the bourgeoisie had on its side not only the army and police but outside military organizations that they began to build out of fear that they couldn't rely on the military. The communists and left socialists in the workers' movement began to counter this by building up their own military formations. They all were preparing for what was sure to come: a showdown between the two antagonistic classes.

That is all a matter of documentation. Everyone knew. I remember reading the papers every day at the time to find out about the street struggles in Germany between the communists and the fascists — counting how many the workers won and the Nazis lost, faithfully hoping that the day of reckoning would come.

The Social-Democratic Party was numerically the strongest working-class party. Its electoral strength was enormous. It had not only won seats in the Reichstag (parliament), but had majorities in a number of the smaller cities and strong representation in the larger cities. The Nazis aimed their guns at both socialists and communists.

The workers' parties failed to recognize that the hour of the struggle for power was coming closer and closer, and that electoral gains or losses would not be decisive. The struggle could not be resolved by so-called democratic or constitutional means. Both sides of the barricades were being armed: the workers on the one side and the Nazi goons supported by the ruling class on the other. The question was which side

would be ready to strike first.

Trotsky urged the revolutionary workers to be on guard and prepare for insurrection. He also urged the Soviet Union to open up military maneuvers on its Western front and to give courage and support to the communists and the workers' movement.

None of this happened. The Nazis struck first, preparing a frame-up with the Reichstag fire. This demoralized the leadership and paralyzed the working class so that it could not take up arms.

There was a complete failure of leadership by the most developed, most serious, most loved working-class party at the time. It went down to defeat — and that changed the international situation, leading to a bloody war.

*From “Marxism and mass action: Strategies for the struggle ahead,” published in December 1994*

## What to do next

The art of revolutionary politics is knowing what to do next. It is okay to theorize about fascism or the strength of the right wing. But our organization differs from a debating society. We must take a firm, indeed revolutionary, stance.

Individuals can change, but the ruling class's trend is toward repression, solidifying in the most undemocratic way possible its control over the resources of the country and indeed of the globe. U.S. imperialism is on the march everywhere. The devastating results fall on the backs of the workers at home as well.

What do we do? We know the right wing is moving, and that there is only a thin difference between the right and the ultraright.

One of the great lessons of the 1930s was Leon Trotsky's writings on the question of how to fight fas-

cism. He stressed how important it is not to overlook what is happening, how it is possible to lose the historic moment and allow the ruling class to be victorious.

He delineated in a dramatic and readable way the steps that led to the victory of fascism in Germany.

In the U.S. at that time there were only the beginnings of fascist groupings. No sooner did the wave of reaction sweeping Europe reach these shores than the great sit-down strikes among the workers wiped them out completely.

They were never able to get a foothold among the workers. The myriad of small fascist groups were washed away by the upsurge of the working class.

That is the surest way to end any fascist attempt to establish itself as a political force over the working class.

There's been no experience here with fascism on a mass scale. So we are basically looking at a theoretical and ideological discussion.

Our task is not to wait until things happen, in which case you can be absolutely sure the liberal bourgeoisie as well as certain sections of the big bourgeoisie will get into it. Right now, the working class is either indifferent or apathetic in this great struggle.

The possibility for the growth of neofascism, if you can call it that, and for political reaction generally is in the soil because monopoly is growing. The contradiction between the forms of capitalist production and the forms of capitalist distribution grows wider and wider.

The struggle among the imperialist nations grows sharper. There is no tendency toward political equilibrium there.

None of the small countries that were actual colonies and became independent has shown any move toward economic independence. They would like to do it but cannot because of the monstrous growth

and position of the big banks and corporations over the entire planet.

## Opportunity for a mass struggle

We can go to the masses and promote tremendous activity to challenge the capitalist class. We needn't be fearful about going beyond the legal limits that the bourgeoisie constrains us to. On a picket line, you never know when you're going to get arrested, but you don't say, “Don't have the picket line.” That kind of talk leads to failure....

In the 1930s, the Communist Party and other organizations were very conscious of the growth of fascism. But to a large extent they were trying to win the big bourgeoisie to support the struggle against it.

There is nothing wrong with asking them to support the struggle against fascism, but it's another thing to expect it from them. We have to explain this to the most oppressed and persecuted people, in the Black and Native and Latino districts. Fascism should not be an after-dinner conversation with bourgeois liberals....

Marxism is as Marxism does. It is not merely an exposition of the tendencies in capitalist society that inevitably lead it to destruction. It is also a means for arming the workers and oppressed people on how to proceed in the next period.

Are we mainly directing our attention to the program of the right-wing Republicans? No. We shouldn't leave the other Republicans and the Democrats off the hook.

To make it very clear, our struggle against the right wing is an extension of our general program and not some new development on our part. We are going to conduct a revolutionary and working-class struggle in the way we have conducted them before, with greater emphasis on developing an initiative in the struggle against the right wing and the neofascist tendencies that may spring up now and then. ▀

# Celebrating the Life of Fidel Castro Ruz

By Gloria Verdieu

On Aug. 13, 2020, the U.S.-Cuba Normalization International Conference webinar celebrated and honored the life and legacy of revolutionary leader Fidel Castro Ruz on his 94th birthday. This historic event was attended by hundreds on Zoom and many hundreds more via a live broadcast on Facebook. The entire event can be viewed on the U.S.-Cuba Normalization website, and on the National Network on Cuba Facebook page and YouTube channel. Some of the content is summarized here.

Nalda Vigezzi, co-chair of the National Network on Cuba (NNOC), opened the program, welcomed everyone and thanked all the organizers who worked to bring this amazing virtual program filled with distinguished speakers, ambassadors, scholars, statespeople, academics, activists and so many of us who have learned from the brilliance of Fidel and the Cuban people.

The NNOC, the U.S. umbrella organization of solidarity groups, has been involved in the struggle to support Cuban sovereignty and end the travel ban and the unilateral economic, commercial and financial blockade of Cuba since 1991.

Vigezzi introduced the co-facilitators: Ike Nahem, anti-imperialist, socialist activist, author of "The Life of Fidel Castro: A Marxist Appreciation," and member of Teamsters and Railroad Workers United Union; and Tamara Hansen, executive member of the Canadian Network on Cuba, author of "5 Decades of the Cuban Revolution: The Challenges of an Unwavering Leadership." Vigezzi also thanked all the organizers who worked to bring this amazing program together, virtually.

Vigezzi spoke of the many lessons learned from Fidel, beginning with the first days following the triumph of the revolution prioritizing education and health care. She gave an overview of the many struggles that many of us in the U.S. have participated in, including traveling to Cuba in defiance of the travel ban, struggling to return Elián González to his home, campaigning to Free the Five, organizing programs to bring awareness of the medical opportunities offered by the Latin American School of Medical Science and of the many countries that currently have volunteer medical staff from Cuba.

A beautiful inspiring music video, Yo Te Veo by Raúl Torres, presented pictures of Fidel embracing and being embraced by the Cuban people. Then, a moment of silence recognized Eusebio Leal Spengler. This important revolutionary died on July 31. He served as Havana historian and directed the restoration of Havana's historic architectural beauty.

One of Fidel Castro's early projects to respond to the global support for the young emerging Cuban Revolution was the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People (ICAP) formed in 1960. A video message from Fernando González Llort, one of the Cuban Five heroes and now ICAP president, expressed highlights of solidarity in the U.S.

González began his presentation by saying that, for the Cuban people,



Adán Chávez



Josefina Vidal



Ana Silvia Rodríguez



Dang Dinh Quy



Nancy Morejón

Fidel lives on in our daily tasks and efforts. He continued, saying, "It is almost difficult to talk about Fidel because we run the risk of omitting aspects of his life that are of great significance. However, it is imperative that we make reference to ICAP." Fidel created ICAP to connect with the hundreds of thousands of friends all over the world who supported the emerging revolution and wanted to know firsthand what the revolution was all about. Today, ICAP has links with more than 2,000 solidarity organizations in 158 countries.

González highlighted the U.S. solidarity movement continuing from the Revolution's earliest days to now. He mentioned Sandra Levinson, and Center for Cuban Studies; Rosemarie Mealy, former Black Panther and author of "Fidel & Malcolm X: Memories of a Meeting," who organized Fidel's second visit to Harlem. Marazul Travel who organized immigrant Cubans travel to Cuba even after their offices were bombed; Pastors for Peace caravans led by the late Rev. Lucius Walker and defended today with dignity and courage by his daughter Gail; the courageous members of the Venceremos Brigades, who worked side by side with Fidel in cutting cane; our friend Gloria LaRiva who Fidel asked to speak on May 1; the U.S. students who graduated from the Latin American School of Medical Science and are practicing medicine at the invitation of Fidel; those who joined Fidel's call in the campaign to Free the Cuban Five; and the many who have visited Cuba in defiance of the travel blockade. These were among the many activists and solidarity actions that González acknowledged.

González spoke of the current COVID-19 crisis, where the U.S. government has blocked the purchase of medical supplies, and the many Cuban medical personnel saving lives in 28 countries.

Cuba's Henry Reeve International Brigade — named by Fidel Castro for the 26-year-old U.S. soldier who fought and died on Aug. 4, 1876 in Cuba's War of Independence — formed from the volunteers gathered to respond to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The three-hour program flowed nonstop with many live speakers, video-taped presentations, live cultural performances and solidarity messages.

Five ambassadors on the program made amazing presentations on the legacy of Fidel and the Cuban Revolution and the promise that a better world is possible: José Ramón Cabañas, Cuban ambassador to the United States; Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy, permanent representative of Vietnam to the United Nations; Ana Silvia Rodríguez, Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Na-

tions; Josefina Vidal, Cuban ambassador to Canada; and Adán Chávez, Venezuelan ambassador to Cuba.

**Ambassador José Ramón Cabañas** [The full text of his remarks is published on Struggle-La-Lucha.org.]

**Ambassador Josefina Vidal** referred to one of the pillars of Fidel's revolutionary thoughts and work by quoting, "The defense of universal access and free health care is a fundamental human right for every human being and the importance of training, the necessary resources, and establishing an effective health care system at all levels that allows the exercise and enjoyment by the people."

**Ambassador Ana Silvia Rodríguez** remarked on Cuba's foreign policy, quoting Fidel at the United Nations General Assembly 60 years ago. He said, "In sum, we support all the noble aspirations of all peoples. That's our position. We support and shall always support everything that is just, and be against colonialism, against exploitation, against monopolies, against militarism, against the arms race, against playing with war. We shall always be against those things. That shall be our position."

**Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy** said that for the Vietnamese people Fidel has been a symbol of revolutionary heroism. Cuba was the first country to recognize the National Liberation Front in South Vietnam in 1963 and the only country who set up an embassy in 1967. Fidel sent construction engineers to build hospitals, and those hospitals were built very well and are functioning now. These are concrete examples of solidarity that Fidel had with the Vietnamese people and that solidarity exists today as we can see Cuban medical teams in many countries to fight COVID-19.

**Ambassador Adán Chávez** is the Venezuelan ambassador to Cuba; vice president of International Affairs of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela; and director of the Hugo Chávez Institute of Higher Studies.

Chávez began his presentation by sending a big Bolivarian, revolutionary, Chavista, Fidelista and, therefore, anti-imperialist hug to all the organizers, speakers and viewers.

**President Dilma Rousseff**, as president of Brazil, invited Cuban doctors to her country. She was removed from office on trumped-up charges in a parliamentary coup. Rousseff said, "Cuba's humanitarian relationship with the world is exemplary and demonstrates that solidarity is its basic value and principle."

**Don Rojas**, former press secretary for the martyred prime minister of Grenada, Maurice Bishop, recalled the day in early 1980 when a Cuban ship arrived in Grenada to fulfill an economic development goal expressed by Bishop to Fidel Castro. Its cargo included brand new construction equipment from bulldozers to

cranes and earthmoving trucks for construction of Grenada's international airport, today named for comrade Maurice Bishop.

In the following months, Fidel sent medical doctors, dentists and nurses, and then teams of Cuban engineers and architects who worked alongside their Grenadian counterparts to construct the airport as well as access roads to the airport. Today, there are literally hundreds of doctors and nurses from Cuba scattered throughout the country assisting in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rojas concluded by saying that on this occasion, while we honor the life and legacy of Fidel Castro, "I also want to honor the memory of the many Cuban internationalist workers who fought and shed their blood and died defending themselves and defending their Grenadian comrades when the U.S. military under the command of President Ronald Reagan invaded Grenada in October of 1983, and to say, 'Down, down with the illegal and immoral blockade of Cuba! Viva Fidel and the glorious Cuban Revolution.'"

**Clever Banganayi**, with the Friends of Cuba in South Africa, is a Cuban trained engineer who studied in Cuba from 1991 to 1996 and the recipient of the Friendship Medal Award from the Cuban Council of State for his work in the campaign against the U.S. blockade and for the freedom of the Cuban Five. This is a portion of the statement he presented in person from South Africa.

"We celebrate Fidel Castro's outstanding contribution as a world revolutionary leader, as a committed internationalist, as a statesman truly devoted to the aspirations of freedom, social justice, equality for the people of Cuba and for millions of people of the developing world. As a loyal friend of Africa, South Africa in particular, Fidel Castro led the people of Cuba in a most significant international contribution for the liberation of the African continent with his conviction, unity, and solidarity as a tool of victory. Fidel Castro's lessons of unity, solidarity, and commitment to revolutionary peace groups are a source of inspiration for today's young generations of Africans and all other youth in the world. His profound political ideas must be widely shared and understood. Only socialism can ensure conditions of survival of the human species, that another world, a better and peaceful one in harmony with nature is possible and that the oppressed have the rights and capacity to build against injustice."

**Gail Walker**, executive director of IFCO/Pastors for Peace, referenced one of Fidel's many living legacies, the creation of the Latin American School of Medical Science (ELAM).

# on his 94th birthday



Vijay Prashad



Clever Banganayi



El Jones



Don Rojas

"It was the forward vision of Fidel Castro to take a naval barracks and convert it into an internationally renowned medical training center and, thanks to that vision, tens of thousands of young people from more than 125 nations including the U.S. are now practicing medicine in underserved communities across the globe. In the year 2000 at that historical Riverside Church meeting, Fidel offered free medical scholarships to qualified candidates from all regions of the U.S. from low income communities and communities of color who would not otherwise have access to medical education. That was the gift with the only obligation being that those scholarship recipients would return and practice in medically underserved communities in the U.S."

"And since that year 2000, under the direction of my father, Rev. Lucius Walker, IFCO has been honored to take on the role for young people to participate in this scholarship program. To date, as the ambassador explained, Cuba has graduated 196 doctors from the U.S., the very country that has imposed a genocidal blockade for more than six decades."

Walker continued, "From Standing Rock to the front lines of the fight against coronavirus, we in the United States are the benefactors of Cuba's long-standing commitment to medical internationalism. The U.S. government may have shamefully rejected Cuba's beautiful offer to send doctors in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to New Orleans or to Puerto Rico after it was viciously slammed by Hurricane María, but

today Cuba is beginning to revolutionize health care in the U.S., one ELAM grad at a time. And we are immensely grateful to Fidel for planting those seeds for solidarity that are now bearing fruit."

**Vijay Prashad**, Indian historian and Marxist intellectual, executive director of the Tricontinental Institute for Social Research and chief editor of LeftWord Books, joined in person to celebrate the life of Fidel Castro. Prashad emphasized Fidel as a socialist human being, the highest form of human being. He explained that Fidel's real dynamism came out, not at a time of victory, but at a time of defeat. Prashad read a quote from the famous speech at trial after his arrest at the Moncada Barracks uprising, "History Will Absolve Me." On July 26, 1970, after the 10-million-ton sugarcane harvest failed, Fidel went before the people and said, "I am ready to be removed from office." Fidel analyzed the mistakes. As his comrade Amilcar Cabral of Guinea-Bissau said, "Tell no lies, claim no easy victories." Fidel never lied. Prashad ended by saying, "The Cuban Revolution brought humanity to the planet earth. It affirms life through the doctors, which is why those doctors, more than anybody else, deserve the Nobel Prize. It expends social resources of the Cuban citizens to affirm life, not to build a military force." Join together to defeat the decaying forces of imperialism, he urged.

All African People's Revolutionary Party representative Onyesonwu Chatoyer said by video message that



Dilma Rousseff



Fernando González Llort



Gail Walker



the AAPRP stands in solidarity with the Cuban Revolution and will uplift the legacy of Fidel Castro. "The Cuban Revolution embodies the possibility of socialism, a world that can be built once people come together collectively and decide to be free and move in a spirit of humanism and solidarity. The AAPRP deeply respects and honors Fidel Castro. We study him, learn from his example, we seek to continue his work in this world and to bring that model of liberation to the African continent and African people around the world."

Additional messages were aired from **Mary-Alice Waters**, president of Pathfinder Press, publisher of the speeches and writing of Fidel Castro. Waters has edited or written 30 books on the Cuban Revolution; **Nancy Cabrero** from Casa de las Americas, the oldest Cuban organization in the U.S. that supports the normalization

of the relationship between Cuba and the U.S.; and **João Pedro Stédile** from Brazil's Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST), the Landless Workers Movement.

Cultural performances were interspersed throughout by artists and poets live and recorded and greatly enriched the program.

**Nancy Morejón**, Cuba's most renowned, widely published and translated post-revolutionary poet, wrote a Poem for Fidel during his lifetime. The recorded poem was read by Morejón in Spanish and English and provided by the Cuba In Focus monthly program on WBAI in New York City.

**El Jones** is a Canadian poet, professor, activist and author of "Live from the Afrikan Resistance." Jones recited her poem, which began with "This is a birthday card from the Wretched of the Earth," written for Fidel's 94th birthday, especially to be read at this program

Singer-songwriter, musician and poet **Normand Raymond** sang and played guitar. He is a member of the Artistes pour la paix du Québec board of directors. As an anti-imperialist and social justice activist, he is a longtime supporter of the Cuban Revolution.

**Katharine Beeman**, poet and a longtime member of La Table de concertation de solidarité Québec-Cuba, also presented.

In closing, co-facilitators emphasized that we have to continue to fight to end the criminal U.S. blockade, and we have a duty to call on the world to mobilize and demand that the Cuban doctors receive the Nobel Peace Prize because they deserve it, because they are working towards peace and because they are working while under attack by the Trump administration. □

## Kenosha cops and fascists work hand-in-hand

Continued from page 1

mobilization in U.S. history. Twenty million people have marched against racism in thousands of places, including rural areas. Many of the protesters have been white.

This unity is dangerous to the billionaire class. Three months after the whole world saw George Floyd being choked to death on May 25, the police and other racist scum want to strike back.

There's only been three days in the last three months in which U.S. police haven't killed anyone.

Kenosha is their target. The corporate headquarters of Uline — owned by the ultraright billionaires Elizabeth and Richard Uihlein — is located in Pleasant Prairie, a village in Kenosha County.

The Black community in Kenosha has always been small.

Ten thousand African Americans live there, a tenth of the city's population. According to the 1970 census, just 1,930 Black people lived in Kenosha.

That's despite Kenosha having been an industrial powerhouse. The American Motors assembly plant on the lakefront once employed 14,000 workers who belonged to United Auto Workers Local 72.

Hundreds of people worked in other factories, including where Jockey underwear was made. Most of the Black workers employed in these factories lived in nearby cities, including Milwaukee; Racine, Wis.; and Waukegan, Ill.

The American Motors engine plant closed in 1990. The assembly plant on the lakefront shut down three years earlier.

Luxury housing has been built on the lakefront where Ramblers once rolled off the assembly line. The housing's residents can take a newly built streetcar to the commuter railroad station and travel to their jobs in Chicago.

Forty years ago, the first phase of deindustrialization was a disaster for Black workers in the Midwest. The median income of the region's

African American families fell by 36 percent between 1978 and 1982.

A reverse migration to the South began. Yet Kenosha's Black community has grown five-fold since 1970. Thousands of Latinx people live in Kenosha.

Almost all of the factories in Kenosha that paid union wages and benefits are gone. But capitalists still need workers.

White workers who have woken up because of the Black Lives Matter movement will join Asian, Black, Indigenous and Latinx workers in fighting the new Great Depression.

Fifty-six years ago, the world mourned the murders of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner. The Black and Jewish martyrs were killed by the Ku Klux Klan near Philadelphia, Miss., in 1964.

The anti-racist activists who were killed in Kenosha, Anthony Huber and Joseph Rosenbaum, will not be forgotten.

Gaige Grosskreutz, who was wounded, needs reconstructive surgery on

his bicep. He needs help paying his medical expenses. Donations to a GoFundMe account can be sent to "Help Gaige, Kenosha medic, with medical bills" tinyurl.com/yyz49484

Kenosha belongs to the people, not the fascists!

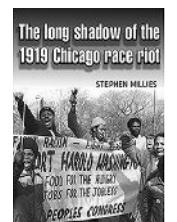
The writer is a former Wisconsin resident.

## The long shadow of the 1919 Chicago race riot

by Stephen Millies

SLL articles include:

- Bombings greet the Great Migration
  - What did the unions do?
  - Communists fight racism and evictions
  - Chicago Mayor Daley's racist machine
  - Never forget Fred Hampton
  - The people put Harold Washington in City Hall
  - A city of struggle
- Available in a pamphlet form at [tinyurl.com/1919chicago](http://tinyurl.com/1919chicago)



# After tragic Beirut explosion: Imperialist vultures pounce on Lebanon

By Greg Butterfield

A powerful explosion ripped through the port of Beirut, Lebanon's capital, on Aug. 4. At least 171 people have died and thousands were injured, including many Syrian and other non-Lebanese workers. Hundreds of thousands were made homeless by the disaster.

Beirut is the country's main port. For Lebanon's nearly 7 million residents, the devastation will have an untold impact on their access to food, medicine and other essentials for years to come.

Lebanon's poorest will suffer the most. That includes nearly half a million exiled Palestinians living in 12 camps across Lebanon. Hundreds of thousands of Syrian war refugees and workers from Africa and South Asia also live there. Lebanon has more refugees per capita than any other country in the world.

While the West Asian country reels from the explosion and struggles to begin its recovery, the governments of the U.S., France and Britain — along with their regional attack dogs, Israel and Saudi Arabia — have seized upon the tragedy to ratchet up pressure on Lebanon.

Warships from Britain and France — Lebanon's former colonial ruler — now patrol the waters of the Beirut port, under the pretext of providing "humanitarian aid." Meanwhile, French President Emmanuel Macron rushed to Beirut on Aug. 6, not for altruistic reasons, but to make a thinly veiled power grab.

The U.S. and European Union powers are eager to exploit the tragedy to destroy Lebanon's fragile balance of political and religious forces, established by the Taif agreement that ended the 1975-1990 civil war, and particularly to strike a blow against the anti-imperialist Resistance bloc led by Hezbollah.

It was this movement that drove Israeli, U.S., and French occupation forces out of Lebanon and rebuffed an Israeli invasion in 2006. Its main base is among Shia Muslims, Lebanon's largest community, but its deeds have won it support in all Lebanese communities. The Resistance bloc is part of the regional Axis of Resistance that includes Syria and Iran.

Under pressure, Prime Minister Hassan Diab's government resigned on Aug. 10. He will stay on as caretaker prime minister until a new government is agreed upon.

On Aug. 11, just a week after the Beirut explosion, three Israeli tanks violated Lebanon's southern border and fired a phosphorus bomb. The provocation came as Israel continued its nightly rain of U.S.-made missiles on the desperate and besieged people of the Gaza Strip. As of Aug. 20, those attacks were in their tenth night.

Hezbollah has given aid and solidarity to the Palestinian people of Gaza in their fight against the brutal U.S.-Israeli siege.

## Resistance responds to false charges

In the hours after the disaster, a narrative was quickly fashioned by the Western media and local right-wing forces claiming that the ex-

plosion was caused by a cache of Hezbollah weapons stored at the Beirut port.

These charges were swiftly refuted by Hezbollah and other sources. But their real aim was to rally the anti-resistance forces inside and outside Lebanon.

In a televised speech on Aug. 7, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said, "I categorically deny the claim that Hezbollah has arms cache, ammunition or anything else in the port."

"Hezbollah is bigger, greater and more noble than to be taken down by some liars and inciters, who are trying to push for civil war," said Nasrallah. "They have failed before and will fail again."

On Aug. 18, Lebanese President Michel Aoun, in an interview with the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, confirmed that it was "impossible" for Hezbollah to be responsible for the blast, since the resistance does not store weapons in the Beirut port.

In fact, the blast was caused by 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate removed from an abandoned ship and stored in a warehouse at the port since 2014 — long before Prime Minister Diab took office in January 2020.

The compound can be used to make both fertilizer and explosives. What sparked the blast is still unknown.

As first reported by the New York Times, the U.S. government knew about the large amount of ammonium nitrate stored at the Beirut port and the danger it posed since at least 2016.

"According to the cable, the consultant, under a contract with the U.S. Army, advised the Lebanese Navy from 2013 to 2016. The cable said that the adviser 'conveyed that he had conducted a port facility inspection on security measures during which he reported to port officials on the unsafe storage of the ammonium nitrate.'

"It is not clear when he conveyed the information; however, several current and former American officials who have worked in the Middle East say that the consultant would normally have conveyed his findings immediately to the American officials who oversaw the contract, in this case the embassy, State Department or Pentagon."

Officially, the U.S. State Department claimed to know nothing about it.

## Destructive U.S. sanctions

U.S. sanctions, tied to Washington's decade-long war of aggression against neighboring Syria, were tightened in June in an effort to "starve" Lebanon, according to the Resistance.

International sanctions have had a terrible effect on the country's economy. Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, poverty was estimated at 45 percent and unemployment at 30 percent.

"In March, as the economy faltered, Lebanon defaulted on a \$1.2 billion payment for foreign bonds for the first time in the country's history," reported the New York Times. "Diab's government released a recovery plan on April 30 that said the economy was 'in free fall,' and that Lebanon would seek \$10 billion in aid from the International Monetary Fund. But multiple rounds of

talks failed to reach an agreement and the aid never came."

Mass protests raged throughout 2019, driven by Western-imposed economic hardships. The protests have revived in the aftermath of the port disaster. The U.S., France and their allies are working overtime to support the most reactionary, anti-Hezbollah and anti-Iran elements of the protest movement — some of whom have hanged or burned effigies of Resistance leaders. These include the fascist, anti-Muslim Lebanese Forces and Kataeb Falange party, and the Saudi-funded Future Movement.

The Western powers want to misdirect mass anger — which should rightly be aimed against them — toward Hezbollah, which has fought to defend the Lebanese people from imperialist and Zionist aggression.

Some left forces, including the Lebanese Communist Party, have also taken part in protests. The LCP issued a statement denouncing government corruption while opposing Western intervention. It calls for compensation to the victims of the blast and a nonsectarian government in Lebanon.

Iran has called on Washington to drop the sanctions in the wake of the explosion. "The blast should not be used as an excuse for political aims ... the cause of the blast should be investigated carefully," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Abbas Mousavi said on Aug. 10.

## Macron's colonial aims

French President Emanuel Macron wasted no time attempting to assert the former colonial ruler's authority. On a supposed humanitarian visit on Aug. 6, Macron stepped directly into Lebanese politics, calling for the formation of a "national unity government" to be negotiated under French auspices, and encouraging right-wing elements among the protesters.

"I will propose a new political pact [in Lebanon] this afternoon," Macron told protesters in Beirut, who were chanting "revolution" and "down with the regime."

"I will return on the first of September, and if they [the Lebanese leaders] can't do it, I'll take my political responsibility," he said.

Macron's hypocrisy wasn't lost on many Lebanese and international observers, who pointed to his repression of France's "yellow vests" movement and union-led protests against austerity programs he champions at home.

"Perhaps the clearest example of Macron's duplicity is the continued imprisonment by France of [communist guerrilla] Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, imprisoned by the French state since 1984 and eligible for release since 1999," noted the Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners Solidarity Network. "The Lebanese government has officially requested his release and repatriation, yet he continues to be held hostage while calls for his release mount, especially in France and Lebanon."

"Indeed, Macron's visits to the



streets of Gemmayzeh in the devastated Lebanese capital were repeatedly greeted with calls of 'Freedom for Georges Abdallah' by youth who refuse to be treated as colonial subjects once again by France, reject the complicity of many Lebanese politicians and see Georges Abdallah as a symbol of Arab and anti-imperialist dignity, resilience and resistance.

"Many Lebanese journalists and activists denounced the neocolonial hypocrisy demonstrated by Macron, emphasizing that his objective is to impose 'structural reforms' on the country according to the requirements of the International Monetary Fund."

Mona Tahini, a Lebanese journalist with al-Manar TV, was prevented from asking Macron a question during his press conference in Beirut, while other reporters were allowed to ask multiple questions and pose for selfies with the French president. Tahini wears a hijab.

A virtual "humanitarian aid" conference headed by Macron on Aug. 16 reportedly gathered \$300 million in pledges. But the organizers will not turn over the money to Lebanese authorities or communities; they will channel it through Western-approved, nongovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies.

## U.S.-France-Israel hands off!

The hardships and frustration fueling protests in Lebanon are real. But they cannot be divorced from the long history of Western imperialist intervention that divided Lebanon and Syria and redrew their borders in 1920; carried out unspeakable acts of theft and terror against the people; and created a hierarchy based on religious affiliation, with French-identified Christians at the top and mostly poor and working-class Shiite Muslims at the bottom.

Throughout the 20th century, the U.S. and European powers continued and deepened the exploitation and division, closely connected with the removal of the Palestinian people from their homeland, to secure control of oil profits and strategic military positions.

And today, the U.S.-European response to the Beirut tragedy is closely connected with Israel's genocidal war on Gaza and the West Bank, the "deal" between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Washington to normalize the occupation, U.S. theft of Syrian oil, sanctions and threats against Iran, Pentagon provocations over trade between Iran and Venezuela, etc.

For anti-imperialists and anti-war activists here, the urgent need is to demand:

End U.S. sanctions against Lebanon and Syria! U.S. troops out of West Asia! End U.S. military support of Israeli apartheid!

No to Washington-Paris intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs! Self-determination for the people of Lebanon! ☒

# YouTube and Google attack Cuba and Venezuela

By Cheryl LaBash

*Aug. 21 update: YouTube restored Mesa Redonda's account today affirming the account did not infringe on the Conditions of Service. No explanation was given.*

But as President Miguel Diaz-Canel tweeted, "Those who don't want the world to know about our vaccine blocked Cuban digital channels. Anyway, no one has been vaccinated and the needle prick is already hurting."

As of 10 pm EDT, VTV's account has not been restored. The blockade is real.

On Aug. 20, just ahead of programming about the start of clinical trials for Cuba's COVID-19 vaccine, Soberana-01, YouTube management disabled Mesa Redonda's channel. Mesa Redonda (Roundtable) airs Monday through Friday evenings on Cuban national television. Its international audience included more than 19,000 YouTube channel subscribers. Mesa Redonda is still streamed through Facebook and the Aug. 20 program can be viewed there.

The Aug. 20 program features details about the investigative process and clinical trials. Addressing the world were the Cuban scientists



who developed the vaccine that is big news for the pandemic-shocked world: the Director General of the Finlay Institute of Vaccines, the two women scientists who developed the vaccine and the director of Cuba's medical regulator agency CECMED. It is the first vaccine trial submitted from Latin America and the Caribbean. Its name, Soberana, means sovereign.

According to a report from Cubainformacion.tv the number of subscribers to Mesa Redonda's channel had doubled in 2020. Social media like YouTube provide Cuba's voice unfiltered and unsanitized by the imperialist-minded corporate media.

Since it was established in 2009, the Mesa Redonda YouTube channel had accumulated archives of the programs, interviews and documentaries, creating an international resource that is now unavailable.

Cubainformacion.tv also reported the cancellation of three YouTube accounts for the Venezuelan state television channel VTV and access to its Gmail emails. The three accounts were Complete VTV Programs, Multimedios VTV and the dedicated account for live transmission.

The development of digital media and communication platforms opens new avenues to information challenging the white-supremacist, neoliberal capitalist lens. These tools combat the U.S. propaganda war of lies about Cuba and Venezuela penetrating the media monopoly.

A current example is the scurrilous U.S. slander campaign waged

against Cuban internationalist medical solidarity. The Pan American Health Organization awarded the Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade the prestigious 2017 Prize for Public Health. Cuba's 250 specialized "health workers constituted the single largest medical operation on the ground in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia" during the 2014-2016 West Africa Ebola outbreak. And now a global movement supports awarding the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize to the Henry Reeve Brigade for the fight to curb the coronavirus pandemic and save lives. (CubaNobel.org)

In the late 1960s, the direct voice of Cuba was only available via short-wave Radio Havana Cuba broadcasts or hand-to-hand sharing of dated print editions of the Cuban Communist Party newspaper Granma. Now, many Cuban publications can be found on the web, on Facebook, through WhatsApp or Telegram subscriptions, YouTube, Twitter and more. TeleSUR, the collaborative media initiated by the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America is a powerful source for news from the world, including Africa, the Caribbean and the Americas.

Communication platforms taken for granted and more widely employed in the U.S. during the pandemic, like Zoom and WebEx, are blocked for use in Cuba. It is time for the economic, financial and commercial blockade to end. □

## Solidarity with Cuban Women Federation

Continued from page 14

has forced the opening of a virtual door to the world. The pandemic has become a challenge and at the same time an opportunity to get intimately closer to other struggles, to look for the similarities and differences, to feel closer to their vicissitudes, their sufferings and the resistance of their peoples. It has led us to learn new forms of mobilization and resistance, to feel more a part of other struggles.

Although we have not yet found that crucial point of a global joint response that could once and for all destroy this capitalist system that is the root of so much oppression, this process is giving us the opportunity to launch global campaigns.

The criminality of capitalism has been exposed more clearly with this pandemic. Cuba has defeated the mistaken notion of the USA as "the savior of democracy," the Cuban medical brigades are bringing health, hope and a model of generosity that only Revolutionary Cuba and its socialist development can do.

Cuba has always been an example of humanity, and the women of the FMC have been exponents of it. Wherever their delegations go, they have stood out for their commitment to just causes raising their voice in all forums. They have never been silent observers. And they have always taken advantage of every forum to defend their revolution, to expose U.S. crimes against their island, from Elián to the Five Cuban heroes, always demanding that this murderous blockade be removed.

So, following your example, I would like to appeal to all the participants by asking for:

- Solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement and the immigrant movement in the USA.
- And with Puerto Rico, let's raise our voices worldwide against 122 years of invasion, occupation and colonialism by the USA.
- We are experiencing very difficult times in our Boricua archipelago. There is hunger and unemployment. There is still a lack of housing ever since Hurricanes Irma and Maria three years ago. Since last January, there have been constant earthquakes in the south and more homes, schools and historical buildings have collapsed. There have been droughts followed by heavy rains that cause landslides. And then this pandemic during which the corrupt government and its cronies have robbed the people and denied the help that is most needed.

The straitjacket, that is being a colony, does not even allow for closing the airport through which thousands of people arrive daily — many contaminated with COVID — from the states with the most contagion of the pandemic such as Florida and Texas.

We have made a request for help from the Cuban medical brigades, but our lack of sovereignty prevents their arriving in Puerto Rico, while the U.S. denies the Puerto Rican people the most precious thing: their freedom.

Comrades, thanks again for making this forum possible and for the honor of inviting us to participate.

Long live the Federation of Cuban Women! □

## Stop the bombing! End the blockade!

### LET GAZA LIVE!



By Bill Dore

As Secretary of State Mike Pompeo illegally addressed the Republican national convention from Israeli-occupied Jerusalem, U.S.-made Israeli planes launched U.S.-made missiles into the Gaza Strip.

Since Aug. 1, Israel's U.S.-made, U.S.-paid for, Israeli Air Force has bombed the besieged enclave every night. Israel's Navy has shut down Gaza's fishing industry, stopping the people of Gaza from fishing their own waters.

Israel has also blocked fuel from entering Gaza, forcing its only power plant to shut down. This is while the besieged enclave is on 24-hour lockdown due to COVID-19.

The U.S., Israel and their collaborators in Egypt have turned the 25-mile-long Gaza Strip into the world's largest prison. Nearly 2 mil-

lion children, women and men are incarcerated there. Their crime: being born Palestinian in the land of Palestine.

Most of the families living in Gaza were expelled from their land a few miles to the north in 1948. The beaches there are now dotted with condos and luxury hotels for Western tourists and settlers. Now, the U.S.-Israeli blockade, begun in 2007, has made the place they were driven to uninhabitable.

The U.S. corporate media are completely silent about the nightly bombing and the intensified blockade. Washington continues to pour arms and money to the Israeli occupation regime while people here in the U.S. face devastating unemployment and budget cuts. The people of the U.S. and the world must demand an end to the bombing and the blockade. Lift the siege on Gaza now! . □

# 60 ANIVERSARIO:

## Una mensaje a Federación de Mujeres Cubanas

Apenas ocho meses después del triunfo de la Revolución Cubana el 23 de agosto de 1960, se fundó la Federación de Mujeres Cubanasy en esa reunión Fidel Castro recordó las contribuciones históricas de las mujeres cubanas, incluidas madres como Mariana Grajales cuyos hijos lucharon y murieron por la independencia de Cuba, las mujeres que llevaban mensajes desde la Sierra a las ciudades más allá de las líneas enemigas Clodomira y Lidia finalmente fueron capturadas por la dictadura, torturada y asesinada sin revelar secretos.

Desde la líder de la rebelión esclavista Carlota hasta las mujeres del Moncada y el Pelotón de Mujeres Mariana Grajales en la Sierra Maestra, el desarrollo de CENESEX, el Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual de Cuba para abordar el espectro de la identidad de género y educar para eliminar la homofobia y la transfobia, a las mujeres científicas de hoy que produjeron la vacuna Soberana-01 COVID-19 que comenzaron los ensayos clínicos el 24 de agosto, las mujeres son una fuerza revolucionaria dentro de la revolución.

El 15 de agosto, el programa virtual de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanasy reunió a amigos de la Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres, la Marcha Mundial de Mujeres y otras organizaciones en un foro virtual con la Secretaria General de la FMC Teresa Amarelle Boué. Venezuela, México, Ecuador, Brasil, Panamá, Argentina y Berta Joubert-Ceci de Puerto Rico cuyos comentarios a continuación:

Compañeras, gracias por hacer posible este foro de celebración y por el honor de habernos invitado a participar.

Nuestra organización Mujeres en Lucha, miembro de la FDIM felicita a la FMC en su aniversario.

Quisiera comenzar destacando el papel de la FMC, a través de Vilma Espín, quien tuvo esa visión de asegurar la continuidad de la



FDIM luego de la desarticulación de los países socialistas en los 90, de continuar ese proyecto de unidad internacional liderado por mujeres.

Compañeras, después de haber participado en varios escenarios a nivel internacional con las mujeres de la FMC, nos gustaría compartir algunas de las cualidades que más nos han impactado de ellas, cualidades que sirven como ejemplo para todas nosotras: su gran generosidad con su tiempo, siempre dispuestas a compartir experiencias y sugerencias — férreas defensoras de su revolución, su comprensión, su búsqueda de consensos, y su tenacidad para enfrentar problemas u obstáculos. Mucho hemos aprendido de ustedes compañeras.

Este año, nos hemos enfrentado a un desafío a nivel global; la pandemia del COVID-19 nos ha obligado a asumir un aislamiento físico, sin embargo, ese mismo aislamiento ha forzado la apertura de una puerta virtual hacia el mundo. La pandemia se ha convertido en un desafío y a la misma vez en una oportunidad para acercarnos más íntimamente a otras luchas, a comprobar las similitudes y las diferencias, a sentir más de cerca sus vicisitudes, sus sufrimientos y la resistencia de sus

pueblos. Nos ha llevado a aprender nuevas formas de movilizaciones y de resistencia. De sentirnos más parte de otras luchas.

Aunque no hayamos encontrado aún ese punto crucial de respuesta global conjunta que pueda de una vez y por todas destruir este sistema capitalista que es la raíz de tanta opresión, se está dando ese proceso de acercamiento que nos da la oportunidad de lanzar campañas globales.

La criminalidad del capitalismo ha sido expuesta más claramente con esta pandemia. Cuba ha derrotado la noción equivocada de los EUA como "ente salvador de la democracia", las brigadas médicas cubanas han llevando salud, esperanza y una muestra de generosidad como sólo Cuba revolucionaria y su desarrollo socialista puede hacer.

Cuba siempre ha sido ejemplo de humanidad, y las mujeres de la FMC han sido exponentes de ello. Por donde quiera que han ido sus delegaciones, se han destacado por su compromiso con las causas justas alzando su voz en todos los foros. Nunca han sido observadoras silentes. Y siempre han aprovechado cada foro para defender su revolución, para exponer los crímenes de

EUA contra su isla, desde Elián hasta los Cinco Héroes cubanos, exigiendo siempre que se elimine ese bloqueo asesino.

Así que, siguiendo su ejemplo, quisiera hacer un llamado a todas las participantes:

- Solidaridad con el Movimiento Las Vidas Negras Importan y el Movimiento Inmigrante en los EUA.
- Y con Puerto Rico, alzar nuestras voces a nivel mundial contra 122 años de invasión, ocupación y colonialismo por los EUA.
- Estamos viviendo momentos muy difíciles en nuestro archipiélago. Hay hambre y desempleo, hay falta de viviendas desde los huracanes Irma y María hace tres años. Desde enero la tierra en el sur ha estado temblando constantemente y se han derrumbado más viviendas, escuelas y edificios históricos; Ha habido sequías seguidas de lluvias copiosas que provocan deslizamientos de tierra; y luego esta pandemia durante la cual el gobierno corrupto y sus secuaces, han robado al pueblo y negado las ayudas que más se necesitan.

La camisa de fuerza que es ser colonia ni siquiera permite cerrar el aeropuerto por donde diariamente llegan miles de personas — muchas contaminadas con el COVID — desde los estados con más contagio de la pandemia como son la Florida y Texas.

Hemos hecho un pedido de ayuda para que vengan las brigadas médicas cubanas, pero nuestra falta de soberanía lo impide, a la vez que los EUA le niega al pueblo boricua lo más preciado, su libertad.

Compañeras, nuevamente gracias por hacer posible este foro y por el honor de habernos invitado a participar.

¡Viva la Federación de Mujeres Cubanasy!

## Solidarity with Cuban Women Federation on its 60th Anniversary

Just 8 months after the victory of the Cuban Revolution, on Aug. 23, 1960, the Federation of Cuban Women was founded. At that meeting, Fidel Castro remembered the historic contributions of Cuban women, including mothers like Mariana Grajales, all of whose sons fought and died for Cuban independence, and the women who carried messages from the Sierra to the cities past the enemy lines. Clodomira and Lidia eventually were caught by the dictatorship, tortured and murdered without revealing secrets.

From the slave rebellion leader Carlota to women of the Moncada and the Mariana Grajales Women's Platoon in the Sierra Maestra, from the development of CENESEX, Cuba's National Center for Sex Education, to address the spectrum of gender identity and educate to eliminate homophobia and transfobia, to today's women scientists who produced Soberana-01 COVID-19 vaccine that began clinical

trials on Aug. 24, women are a revolutionary force inside the revolution.

On Aug. 15, the Federación de Mujeres Cubanasy virtual program gathered friends of the Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres (Women's International Democratic Federation), World Women's March and other organizations in a virtual forum with Secretary General of FMC Teresa Amarelle Boué. Present were representatives from Venezuela, Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil, Panama and Argentina, and Berta Joubert-Ceci from Puerto Rico, whose comments follow:

Comrades, thank you for making this celebration forum possible and for the honor of inviting us to participate.

Our organization, Mujeres en Lucha/Women in Struggle, member of the Women's International Democratic Federation/Federación Democrática Internacional de Mu-

jeress (WIDF/FDIM) congratulates the Federación de Mujeres Cubanasy on its 60th anniversary.

We would like to start by highlighting the role of the FMC, through Vilma Espín, who had the vision of ensuring the continuity of the FDIM, after the dismantling of the socialist countries in the 1990s, continuing the project of international unity led by women.

Comrades, after having participated in various international forums with the women of the FMC, we would like to share some of the qualities that have most impacted

us about them, qualities that serve as an example to all of us: their great generosity with their time, always ready to share experiences and suggestions — strong defenders of their revolution, their understanding, their search for consensus, and their tenacity to face problems or obstacles. Much we have learned from you compañeras.

This year we have faced a global challenge: the COVID-19 pandemic, which has forced us to assume physical isolation as a preventive measure. However, that same isolation

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