The world says no to the blockade of Cuba

By Rosa Miriam Elizalde

Cuba won another diplomatic victory in the General Assembly of the United Nations June 23 against the government of the United States. The majority of countries (184) voted in favor of the resolution which calls for the lifting of the blockade against Cuba.

The resolution has been brought to the U.N. every year since 1992, except in 2020 when the government of Havana was unable to present it due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This victory is a reminder of the Cuban people’s long wait for an act of justice that can rectify the worrying situation, which is a mix of the abuse of authority, the disproportionate use of violence, and the very specific intention to “destroy, totally or in part, a national, ethnic or racial group, in its totality,” the U.N.’s definition of genocide in its 1948 Convention.

Only a very few cases of mass killings have been considered genocides unequivocally by the international community. However, there is no other name for this horror which has lasted for more than 60 years and has forced several generations of Cubans to go about their daily lives under a heavy fog.

This powerful elite carries out inhuman atrocities against millions of people for the mere crime of existing. Is it not genocide to deny people, in the middle of a pandemic, medicine and food, access to internet services to the majority of people, to finance and trade between equals? If so, we must then, like Raphael Lemkin, invent a word for this nameless crime.

It is difficult to account for how many in Cuba have died because they did not have the medicine they needed or because it did not arrive on time. The report presented by Cuba’s Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez, on the damages of the blockade in 2020, has 60 pages without one adjective. The report is merely a list of what happened, excessive costs, items that did not arrive on time because they had some component from the U.S. — from a plane to a respirator that was destined for an intensive care unit — names of companies that have refused to supply the island with the technology, raw materials, reactive agents, diagnostic kits, medicine, devices, equipment and replacement parts needed by a public health system.

A friend told me that the images of George Floyd’s assassination had a strong impact in Cuba. Being suffocated on the ground by the police officer who refused to lift his knee off his neck, despite the cries of the victim saying that he couldn’t breathe...

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The Rosenbergs were heroes

By Stephen Millies

In his funeral eulogy for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, W.E.B. Du Bois declared, “If they had not lived, they would not lie.” The Rosenbergs were burned to death in the electric chair by the U.S. government on June 18, 1953.

Du Bois, the legendary Black scholar, also arranged the adoption of the Rosenbergs’ two young children, Michael and Robert. The Jewish orphans were adopted by Anne Sullivan, an aide to the blind and deaf Helen Keller.

The government’s motive for executing them was the result of spying fell flat. The People’s Republic of China is being blamed for the COVID-19 pandemic.

With no evidence, the media and even comedians like Jon Stewart are claiming the coronavirus “leaked” into the world from a Wuhan laboratory. The blood libel similar to blaming Jewish people for plagues in medieval Europe or the racist myth that immi-

Building a frame-up

The FBI framed the Rosenbergs and a co-defendant, Morton Sobell, by connecting dots and forging ev-

evidence. At the trial of World War II, the Communist Party in the United States had around 75,000 members, according to the University of Wash-
gen. The Manhattan Project had 110,000 employees. U.S. army counterintelligence agents constantly spied on them.

Even J. Robert Oppenheimer, con-
sidered to be the father of the atomic bomb, was a suspect. The army hes-

At the time there were still around 40,000 Communist Party members. Hundreds of thousands of people had worked with the CP or the Young Communist League.

The trial of the Rosenbergs and Sobell was a showcase of Communism in America. It was a masterfully constructed frame-up.

The FBI and CIA say they have proof that the Rosenbergs and Sobell were guilty. They point to the “Venona Project,” which consists of allegedly decrypted messages between Soviet agents in the U.S. and their Moscow headquarters. The documents claim to show that the Rosenbergs, Sobell and dozens of other people in the U.S. were Soviet agents.

Why should anybody believe U.S. spy agencies? These are the folks who said the Nazis had weapons of mass destruction. Even if the Venona papers are genuine, the released documents contain code names with individuals. One of the alleged code names for Julius Rosen-

The FBI even suspected future Nob-

It was claimed that Julius Rosenberg was a suspect. The army hesitated appointing Oppenheimer to lead the Manhattan Project’s Los Alamos laboratory because of his left-

His testimony was completely non-political. Sobell served 17, including five years at Alcatraz. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison. He was in the container, yet Sobell was 

The publication of “Invitation to an Inquest” in 1965 sparked a new interest in the Rosenberg and Sobell cases. The U.S. deep state counterintelligence agents, in particular, after the overthrow of the Soviet Union.

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The FBI even suspected future Nobel Prize winner Richard Feynman, who had been Fuchs’ roommate at Los Alamos. FBI agents changed their mind only because Feynman was completely non-political.

Morton Sobell was indicted be-

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Wealth taxes? We could do better than taxing the rich

By Lallan Schoenstein

A message to those who leaked the tax records of the extremely wealthy who do not pay taxes.

Whoever leaked this report deserves a reward for revealing it. Access to these tax reports is the right of all working people, who pay a disproportional share of their income in taxes.


- In 2007, Jeff Bezos, then a multi-billionaire and the world's richest man, did not pay a penny in federal income taxes. He achieved this again in 2011.
- In 2018, Tesla founder Elon Musk, the second-richest person in the world, also paid no federal income taxes.
- Michael Bloomberg managed to do the same in recent years.
- Billionaire investor Carl Icahn did it twice.
- Alex Soros paid no federal income tax three years in a row.

The data provides an unprecedented look inside the financial lives of U.S. capitalist titans, including Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, Rupert Murdoch, and Mark Zuckerberg.

A tax rate of only 3.4%

According to Forbes, the 25 wealthiest saw their worth rise a collective $31.6 billion from 2014 to 2018. They paid a total of $1.2 trillion in federal income taxes in those five years. IRS data shows. That's a staggering sum, but it amounts to a true tax rate of only 3.4%.

By the end of 2018, the 25 were worth $1.1 trillion.

For comparison, it would take 14,301 million ordinary workers in the United States working equal that same amount of wealth.

The personal federal tax bill for the top 25 in 2018: $3.9 billion.

As for the rest of the wealthy, today's wage earners: $1.24 trillion (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, April 17, 2020).

The wealthy did not gain their immeasurable riches by some magic elixir they may claim to have cooked up by their "rare genius." Instead, the source of their wealth is unpaid labor, extracted in profits from the sweat and blood of the workers who have to pay taxes.

Workers earn the miserably wages allotted to them so that they can continue to create more wealth. Then this income is taxed. It can be bitterly joked that the poorer you are, the more it costs to live.

The small, ultra-wealthy sector of society does not pay taxes because they do not report an income. They do not work for wages. Also, they employ tax attorneys who write the tax laws to make sure their profits are exempt.

Biden's response

In response to the ProPublica report, the Biden administration announced it was launching a multi-pronged investigation to determine the source of the IRS leak. They claimed the unauthorized disclosure of tax return information is the crime—not the failure to pay taxes.

This is in spite of Biden's "Made in America" tax plan that vaguely promises more equitable taxation.

Workers have little access to information on the value of the wealth they create. According to the U.S. Treasury Department, they are not even supposed to know that the super-wealthy are not taxed on the growth of that wealth.

Certainly wage earners who pay income taxes have little control on how the proceeds are spent, including the U.S. military-industrial complex that is destroying the planet, as well as the corrupting a murderously racist police force for the protection of the wealthy and their property.

Another tax evasion by the wealthy is hidden in their "philanthropy." One result of this philanthropy is the privatization of services that are supposed to be provided by the government.

Is the solution a tax on the wealthy? Who would administer that tax? This government is dedicated to run for the benefit of the ruling capitalist class. It's a classic case of putting the fox guarding the chicken house. How could there be justice without getting rid of the fox?
**Angela Davis’ Juneteenth wish becomes a reality**

By Lallan Schoenstein

On June 19, at a Juneteenth membership meeting, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 in the San Francisco Bay Area inducted Angela Davis as an honorary member.

Local 10 President Trent Willis opened the ceremony by calling on women members of the longshore workers’ union and women members of the community to testify on Angela Davis’ behalf. They each said that Davis’ lifetime of fighting for social justice had opened doors for them. Much of what they spoke about was written on the plaque certifying her membership: “Sister Angela Davis’ selection is a testament to her life’s work that embodies what ILWU Local 10 stands for. She is a radical African American female activist–scholar writer and educator, who has been in the vanguard of the Black liberation movement and struggle for the emancipation of the working class at home and abroad.”

“She is indeed an internationalist. Her politics and beliefs reflect those of the founders of the ILWU. As a result, Sister Angela has been the victim of targeting by the FBI, she has faced death threats, she has also been placed on the FBI’s Most Wanted List, and held as a political prisoner. All of this is attributed to her uncompromising commitment to fighting systematic racism, capitalism, and imperialism.”

**Call for justice in 1971**

Davis has a long history with the ILWU. In 1971, Cleophas Williams, the first African American president of ILWU Local 10, wrote the following resolution which called for justice for Angela Davis at the ILWU Convention:

WHEREAS: We know from Callista Gianetti that hysteria and frameup are anti-labor weapons; and

WHEREAS: We know that Tom Mooney, a labor organizer, was kept in prison for 32 years before it was officially acknowledged that he was framed. We know that Harry Bridges was persecuted for 20 years because he was an effective and militant union leader; and

WHEREAS: Now there is a relentless crusade to kill Angela Davis, prejudice and frameup is now employed to crush Black Militancy. The same device has always been used against labor when the powers of big business and government decide that organized workers are ‘getting out of line,’ and

WHEREAS: When President Nixon, Governor Reagan and the big money press incite the legal lynching of Angela Davis, experience tells us to beware. Those are our enemies too.

It could well be us “next time around,” or it could be you; and

WHEREAS: Angela is also charged with conspiracy. An old gimmick used to repress the labor movement in this country. We defend ourselves by defending Angela Davis;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The International Convention of the ILWU goes on record to support Angela Davis and to see that she receives a fair trial and is released on bail pending trial.”**

**Juneteenth speech becomes reality**

This is only the third time an honorary ILWU membership has been bestowed, the first being to Paul Robeson in 1943, and the second to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who had spoken before ILWU Local 10 only six months before he was assassinated.

When the union’s president, Trent Willis, spoke on Angela Davis’ membership, he talked about what it meant to be a member of ILWU Local 10 and it’s historic Black, Brown, Red, Yellow and white rank-and-file unity. He said, “Know who you are?” Willis said he’d been reading Malcolm X on “The Ballot or the Bullet.”

He explained that the racist war is ongoing and that the union contract is a form of war meant to prevent real war. He said that if people were denied participation in the voting process, as is currently being enacted by some in the U.S. Congress and some states, that denial of rights is an open act of war.

In upholding the fighting legacy of ILWU Local 10, Willis pointed out that Davis had gone to prison to defend her people. The union hall erupted! Angela Davis expressed her appreciation by reiterating the role of Local 10 in linking the fight for workers’ rights to combating racism capitalist. She talked about how Local 10 had refused to unload cargo from apartheid ships from South Africa as well as the recent apartheid ship from Israel; how they used their power at the port of production to support Mumia Abu-Jamal. The union hall erupted again!

**World says no to blockade of Cuba**

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The video went viral across the world and was the catalyst for the largest anti-racist protest in the United States since the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

We understand the feeling of impotence of the people of the United States who feel rightly so that this is a systematic abuse of power. In the case of the 8 minutes and 46 seconds of George’s agony, it was key that the entire incident was recorded.

The question that remains, after the conviction of the killer cop, is how many other people have been killed or have suffered in silence simply because there was no camera when the system didn’t let them breathe. We know that there is always a knee on someone’s neck, suffocating them.

This is what happens with the blockade. This strange word that may seem to be abstract for many, but not for the person who finds themselves in the emergency room in Cuba, has a sick-child or has spent six hours in line to buy food that before the 242 additional sanctions added by Donald Trump and before the damn pandemic, could be found with less difficulty.

One year ago, during the height of the pandemic, Angela Davis spoke to dockworkers and community protesters at the 2020 Juneteenth Commemoration at the Port of Oakland.

She said, “I was thinking the other day that if I did not become a university professor, my next choice probably would have been to become a dock worker or warehouse worker in order to be a member of the most radical union in the country, the ILWU.”

In her speech on Juneteenth 2021, Honorary ILWU Local 10 Member Angela Davis spoke about the official U.S. government recognition of the holiday occurring some 158 years after the Emancipation Proclamation and one year after the burst of outrage that gripped the country following the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and all the others.

Joe Biden’s representative at the U.S. taught new levels of cynicism when they said that the blockade is the responsibility of the Cuban government which uses it as a pretext to remain in power. This is like George Floyd’s killer saying his knee on somebody else’s neck was the victim’s excuse for suffocating.

As such, these are moments of joy in Cuba as we learn that once again from the New York headquarters of the U.N., the world said no to the U.S. blockade. This coincided with more hopeful news: Cuban scientists were hopeful news: Cuban scientists were able to finalize the first two Latin American vaccines. One of them, Abdala, has a 92.28% rate of efficacy.

Rosa Miriam Elizalde is a Cuban journalist and founder of the site Cuabadebate. She is vice president of both the Union of Cuban Journalists (UPEC) and the Latin American Federation of Journalists (FELAP). She has written and co-written several books including Jinetes en la Habana and Our Chavez.

She has received the Juan Gilberto Cárdenes National Prize for Journalism on multiple occasions for her outstanding work. She is currently a weekly columnist for La Jornada of Mexico City.

This article was first published in La Jornada.
Protest at Philippine Embassy exposes U.S. role in repression

By Cat

Washington, D.C. — Filipino-American activists and solidarity allies overlooking the metropolitan area staged a protest and program in front of the Philippine Embassy on June 15 to counter Ambassador Jose Rob from Katarungan kicked off a noise barrage to assert their presence in the crowd cheered on and continued as other valuable natural resources.

Colonialists were robbing the country's as other valuable natural resources. Lumumba was determined to win independence for his country.

The consequences of U.S. election meddling are tragic. When the schemes are successful, they block plans for the targeted country to develop independently of the tiny clique that controls the corporate sector in the U.S. that exploits so much of the world. They impose deep poverty and repression. Although many poor people and assassination of newly-elected progressives aren't tabulated in Lumumba's database, he acknowledged that the process would be much higher if they were.

Over the years, thousands have been massacred while the U.S. government, and to honor those who continue to fight and lead the movement against colonialism.
Declaración de SOLIDARIDAD con Cuba de Mujeres en Lucha – Women in Struggle

Mujeres en Lucha – Women in Struggle, organización miembro de la FDIM fundada en los Estados Unidos, se une al clamor mundial que exige a Estados Unidos – este gobierno del centro del imperialismo – el CESE DEFINITIVO del BLOQUEO a nuestra nación hermana la República de Cuba.

Sí la administración Biden vota No el 23 de junio, está votando en contra de la vol- untad del pueblo estadounidense. Organis- mos gubernamentales y sindicales electos que representan a más de 30 millones de personas han pasado resoluciones pi- diendo el fin del bloqueo. Los propios cubanos residentes en Estados Unidos han protestado en caravanas de autos y bicicletas contra el bloqueo que golpea a sus familias. Mientras en Estados Unidos se apartan cruelmente a niñas y niños de sus familias

‘YES’ to reparations

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late Elombe Brath put their bodies on the line to prevent its desecration.

Daughtry reminded listen- ers of the national repara- tions march that was held in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 17, 2002 — the 151st birthday of the Honorable Marcus Garvey. Herman Ferguson, a co-worker of Malcolm X, who died in 2014, was a main organizer of that event.

Then Charles Barron started the chant: “What do we want? Repara- tions! When do we want it? Now!”

The former Black Panther, who says that he will always be a Pan- ther, is demanding $1 trillion as a down payment. He demanded that the New York State Senate pass the bill and Gov. Andrew Cuomo sign it.

“Some people say, ‘Well, I didn’t oppress you, my European ancestors came at the turn of the century. Why should I have to pay?’ I don’t care if you came here last night,” Barron said.

“You benefited from the para- sitic capitalist system.”

“For those who died in the Middle Passage, 10, 20, 30 millions, this day is for you,” said Barron. The assem- bly member listed a series of rebellion of enslaved Africans, including those that erupted in New York City.

Protest at Philippine Embassy exposes U.S. role in repression

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tion of Mindanao known as the Lumad. "Earlier this month, a group of Lumad students were coerced by the Philippine military to demolish their school under threat of arrest."

Colectivo Kawasy's Marian emphasized the importance of interna- tional solidarity, as she spoke about Latin America-U.S. relations: "By providing military aid and support- ing puppet leaders, the U.S. contin- ues to destabilize our home coun- tries while criminalizing us when we try to migrate here."

"Guilty of unlawful killings!"

Posters 4 Government, also known as Johnny, shared a heart-wrench- ing story of a couple who were mur- dered by the Philippine government for setting up mutual aid efforts to feed the community.

Rasha from the Palestinian Youth Movement, a collection of Arab youth fighting for the liberation of their land and all lands, spoke about the systems that perpetuate the need to fight: "The struggle of the Philippines is a product of centuries of colonization, feudalism, and, in its current iteration, imperialism. "We stand unequivocally against all of these systems and demand the total dismantlement of U.S. imperi- alism and capitalism globally."

Jhong, coordinator for BAYAN USA in the DMV region, closed the night with a message addressed to the U.S.: "We are not your little brown broth- er, but a sovereign nation struggling to be free."

The powerful collective effort of progressive Filipino organizations and solidarity allies blossomed into a successful and meaningful pro- test, forcing Ambassador Romualdez's reception to end early as the VIP guests filed out of the building escorted by D.C. Metro Police and Se- cret Service.

The speakers encouraged the crowd to attend the Peoples' State of the Nation Address event at the end of July to oppose Duterte's supposed last State of the Nation Address and continue to fight for national liberation.