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for Socialism / por el Socialismo



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From U.S. to Honduras: Socialism and Black Liberation

By John Parker

On Jan. 27, I was fortunate to be one of a handful of delegates from the U.S. to attend the historic inauguration of President Xiomara Castro in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Representing the Socialist Unity Party, I was part of an international delegation invited by President Castro and her Libre Party, founded by the National Popular Resistance Front (FNRP).

For the first time in 12 years, the people – service workers, factory workers, agricultural workers, unemployed workers, communities of African ethnicity and Indigenous communities – were also invited to participate.

That’s a reflection of the policies and actions already taking place under the new administration, employing a path in line with socialist economic goals. In fact, in the first five days of Castro’s presidency, she wiped out the electric bills of a million working and poor people in Honduras, in addition to ending much of the school tuition that also helped keep the poorest of the population destitute.

In addition, Castro’s priority of ending the privatizations that have wreaked havoc on the environment – especially for Indigenous communities struggling to maintain clean water – is already being implemented.

Early on the morning of the inauguration, lining up to get into the stadium in Tegucigalpa, our 20-person international delegation witnessed the excitement and joy of the sea of people, some of whom had traveled far, and some of whom had slept there overnight to get good seats.

The gravity of this event was reflected in its open rejection of capitalist and imperialist policies, and, with the multi-ethnic diversity we saw in attendance, a rejection of racism.

Since I’m writing this during Black History Month, as a Black person I want to pose the question: Would the victory of a genuine socialist brought about by a grassroots struggle have the same beneficial effects on the Black, Brown and Indigenous populations here in the U.S.?

And, if so, does the inauguration of Castro show the importance of the struggle for socialism for Black/African liberation in the U.S. and abroad?

Militant mobilization in the streets

Socialists and communists have long been a part of the Black struggle for liberation in the U.S., although hidden behind a wall of racist erasures in history books, state repression and anti-communist propaganda.

Today, the mantra from the ruling class, echoed by liberal politicians, nonprofits and educational institutions, is that the struggle cannot be in the streets, only electoral. It especially cannot challenge the ownership of a very small minority of billionaires and their institutions who hold the major industries of manufacturing, war, finance, education and health care in their possession.

In Honduras, however, although this was an electoral victory, it was made possible only by militant activism in the streets and growing organization of working-class and nationally oppressed sectors to challenge the

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SLL PHOTO: MAGGIE VASCASSENNO



John Parker for U.S. Senate



Murder and voting rights

By Stephen Millies

Harriette Moore and Harry T. Moore died for the right to vote. The Ku Klux Klan bombed their Mims, Florida, home on Christmas Day in 1951.

It was the couple's 25th wedding anniversary. They left behind two daughters, Annie Moore and Evangeline Moore.

Harry Moore died on the way to the hospital while Harriette Moore died nine days later. Both had to be taken to a hospital 30 miles away in Sanford because the nearest hospital wouldn't admit Black patients.

The Klan chose Christmas to bomb because that was the only day these two organizers and teachers would both be at home. As leader of the Florida NAACP, Harry Moore helped register more than 100,000 Black voters, more than in any other Southern state at the time.

No one was ever convicted of these foul murders. Nearby Orange County

was so Klan-infested that the county sheriff was a member.

Medgar Evers assassinated

Medgar Evers was also murdered for the right to vote. The Mississippi NAACP field secretary was assassinated on June 12, 1963. Evers traveled constantly through Mississippi encouraging Black people to register to vote.

It took 30 years to bring the assassin, Byron De La Beckwith, to justice. At this murderer's first trial, Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett embraced Beckwith in the courtroom leading to a hung jury.

World War II veteran Maceo Snipes was the first Black person to vote in a primary election in Georgia's Taylor County on July 17, 1946. He was named after the "Bronze Titan" who helped lead the Cuban wars of independence.

The next day four Klan members confronted Snipes while he was eating dinner with his mother. Snipes

was shot in the back by Edward Cooper.

Snipes wasn't operated on until six hours after he was wounded. He was denied a blood transfusion because the blood supply was segregated and the hospital didn't have any "Black blood."

As a result Maceo Snipes died on July 20, 1946. The coroner's jury claimed Cooper was justified in killing Maceo Snipes.

A 17-year-old student at Morehouse College wrote a letter of protest to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. His name was Martin Luther King, Jr.

Without struggle there is no progress

Seventy-five years after Maceo Snipes was murdered, the Georgia state legislature made it illegal to offer a chair or a glass of water to people waiting in line to vote, even if



PHOTO: MOORE CULTURAL COMPLEX

The Moore home after the bomb explosion.

they were elderly or disabled.

What should be illegal are laws like these that try to prevent poor and working people from voting. Hundreds of laws are being railroaded through state capitols designed to deprive people of their voting rights.

All of them violate the U.S. Constitution's 15th Amendment, which guarantees the right to vote. Don't look to the U.S. Supreme Court to enforce it.

In 2013 a majority of the high court threw out a key enforcement provision of the Voting Rights Act in their *Shelby v. Holder* decision.

The 24th Amendment outlawed poll taxes. Yet the same court has upheld laws that often require money to purchase identification and are indeed taxes.

The right to vote was won on the battlefields of the Civil War and by the Reconstruction governments that followed. It was Black troops in the Union Army and the general strike of Black workers in the South that played the key role in defeating the slave masters' confederacy.

The Reconstruction state governments, backed by Black voters, established the first public school systems in the South. These were the best governments poor white people ever had.

Ku Klux Klan terror overthrew Reconstruction and stole the right to vote from Black people. The 1890 Mississippi state constitution outlawed Black people from voting. A white mob in 1898 overthrew the Black-majority city government in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Thousands of people — including Harriette Moore, Harry T. Moore, Medgar Evers, Maceo Snipes and Dr. King — died for the right to vote. The drive to roll back voting rights is revenge for Trump's defeat and the 26 million people who marched to declare Black Lives Matter!

As Frederick Douglass said, without struggle there is no progress. After 50 years of cutbacks, the pent-up anger of workers and poor people will defend their right to vote by any means necessary. 📌

URGENT

LEONARD PELTIER HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID

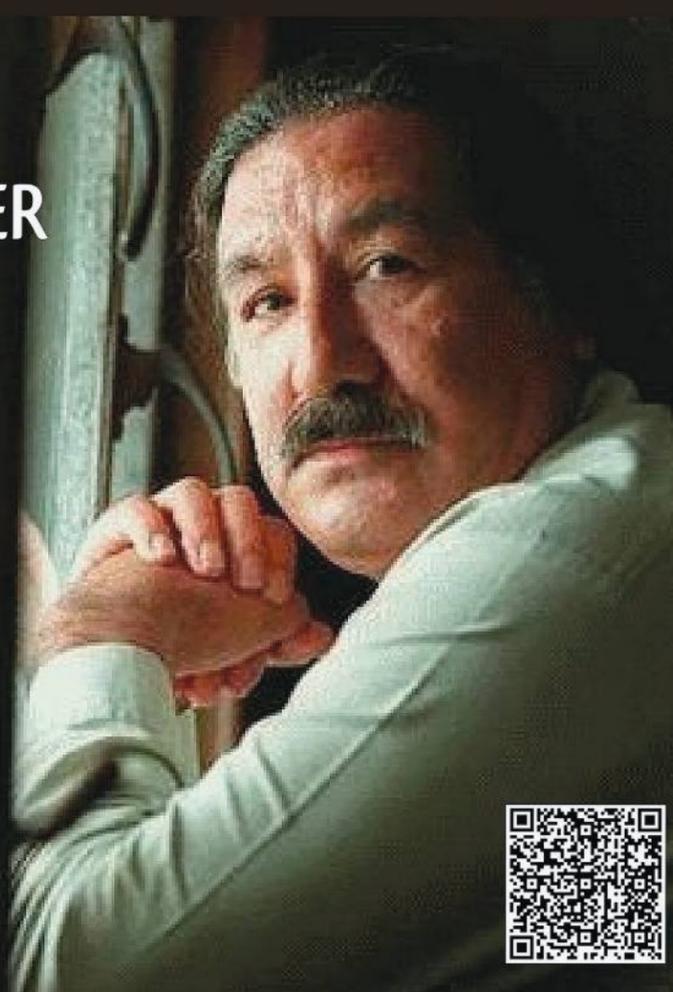
Biden has the power to commute his sentence now!

DEMAND ACTION

Call Biden @ 202-456-1111

Petition <https://bit.ly/3s1z2uP>

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For more information Contact:
International Leonard Peltier
Defense Committee
<https://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/>

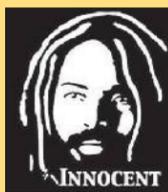
A letter from Mumia Abu-Jamal

On Feb. 1, author and Black trade union activist Clarence Thomas spoke on a webinar called: "Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and All Anti-Racist and Anti-Imperialist Freedom Fighters!" organized by International Workers Action to Free Anti-Racist Political Prisoners.

In Thomas' talk he read the letter, right, that Mumia wrote on Oct. 5, 2021, to International Longshore & Warehouse Local 10 President Trent Willis.

Read about the struggle to free Mumia and to end white supremacy in the new anthology by Clarence Thomas: **'Mobilizing in Our Own Name: Million Worker March.'** The 550 page book captures radical workers' actions and struggles as those events were happening through hundreds of news articles, colorful photos, posters, leaflets, and video transcripts.

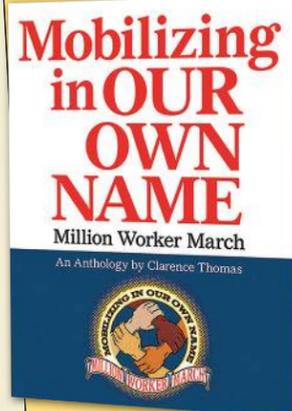
Available online with a Black History Month discount at MillionWorkerMarch.com



Penn. Dept. of Corrections ID#: AM8335
From: Mumia Abu-Jamal 10/05/2021
Int'l Longshore & Warehouse Workers Local 10

Dear Bro. Trent:
I want to thank you for your stalwart and massive work in 1999 to thwart the State's attempt to destroy me. Your work since then to give voice to the damned has been nothing short of noble and just. I thank you and your brethren in the ILWU for standing and fighting for life, for justice and for freedom! When workers unite the earth trembles and the heavens shake!

I and my Family thank you!
Mumia Abu-Jamal (Life Row).



Biden's promise to appoint first Black woman to Supreme Court

By Gloria Verdieu

During a Democratic presidential debate on March 16, 2020, candidate Joe Biden said: "If I am elected president and have an opportunity to appoint someone to the courts, I would appoint the first Black woman to the court. It is required that they have representation. Now! It is long overdue."

Biden first made the promise at a press conference in South Carolina on Feb. 26, 2020, when he accepted Rep. James Clyburn's endorsement. Biden said he would be honored to appoint the first African American woman to the Supreme Court.

There he said: "The corridors of powers [should] reflect what America looks like – that includes the White House, that includes the staff there. That includes the Cabinet and that includes the Supreme Court and the Congress."

U.S. Supreme Court seats have historically been filled only by white men – 115 of the 121 Supreme Court justices, or 95% of all appointments. There have been only three white women, two Black men and one Latina. But no Black women.

At the time he made his pledge in early 2020, Biden was fighting for the Democratic Party presidential nomination and was losing the battle. The pledge was forced on this most conservative of establishment Democratic candidates by the struggle of the masses for representation, which intensified with the George Floyd rebellion a few months later.

Biden saw no choice but to promise to address the historic lack of representation of Black people, especially Black women, in this powerful institution.

Hundreds of thousands nationwide were screaming "Black lives matter, reparations now!" Black people were dying of COVID-19 at a higher rate than whites, police were killing Black people indiscriminately, jobs were being lost, student debt continued to grow, people faced evictions, and white supremacists were coming out of the shadows, led by number-one tyrant President Donald Trump.

Securing Black women's support

What was Biden to do to win? He made promises to the people, specifically African American women, to choose a woman vice-president and appoint a Black woman to the highest court in the U.S. It helped him win the South Carolina Democratic primary, signaling a shift in his fortunes, even though there was no guarantee there would be a Supreme Court seat vacancy.

Bernie Sanders and other Democratic candidates began to drop out of the race. Biden won the nomination – which left him and Trump as the candidates of the two major capitalist parties. His promise was so profound that it helped ensure that an estimated 93% of Black women registered voters came out and cast their vote for Biden in November 2020.

Biden became the 46th president of the U.S. in January 2021. A year later, in January 2022, Supreme Court

Justice Stephen Breyer announced his plan to retire.

Biden had an opportunity to wriggle out of his promise at a press conference, like he has broken so many of his other campaign pledges. Instead he announced: "The person I will nominate will be somebody with extraordinary qualifications, character, experience and integrity. That person will be the first Black woman ever nominated to the United States Supreme Court."

What was Biden thinking? Could it be that he does not really know how deeply seated racism and white supremacy are in the United States?

Once Biden's promise became a reality, the haters came out. Biden could have said he was going to nominate the best person to succeed Justice Breyer and then appointed a Black woman. Did Biden make a mistake by reiterating his campaign promise, or was all this media attention part of the plan?

The arguments being made in the media against affirmative action in relation to Biden's announcement are purely based on racism, trying to sell this as a reasonable argument to the masses of people. The burden of all these racist attacks is going to fall on whichever Black woman Biden appoints, during the confirmation hearings and possibly long after her confirmation.

The truth is, Supreme Court appointments have always been primarily political appointments, not based solely on merit or experience as a judge. The president can appoint whoever he or she wants, and the Senate has the power to approve or disapprove. It is rare that the Senate does not approve a presidential appointee.

The Black woman Biden chooses will surely possess all the qualities required of a Supreme Court Justice. The number-one qualification required of the appointee is to "uphold the Constitution at all costs." No one would do this with more sincerity, honesty and conviction than Black women, who have so long been denied their rights.

Constitution and slavery

For its time, 230 years ago, the U.S. Constitution was "one of the most revolutionary documents, that ... affirmed a form of government never seen before in the history of humanity, that ... was the very paragon of democracy and accorded equal rights to all" under the law – at least in theory. (Sam Marcy, "Two contradictory trends in U.S. politics")

Yet how is it that a key institution of this new government was the Supreme Court, which can invalidate the rights of the majority of the people in this country?

As Marcy explained, it was established as a court of last resort for the rich and powerful. "Whenever the bourgeoisie is in a crisis, they will let nine people, unelected, appointed for life, decide the most critical issues concerning life in the United States."

The first seven Supreme Court justices appointed by George Washington were slave owners or came from slave-owning families. This is no surprise since Washington



Anita Hill testifying about sexual harassment during Clarence Thomas' 1991 Supreme Court confirmation hearings. Joe Biden, then head of the Senate Judiciary Committee, blocked other women from testifying.

was a slave owner himself and in that period chattel slavery was legal. For the elite of this new state, slaves were needed to carry out the hard labor, keep up the living quarters and tend to the needs of the rich whites. No way could they function without slaves.

The "Founding Fathers," including some who would number among the original seven justices, struggled with how to address slavery. They did not explicitly write the word "slavery" in the Constitution, but included key clauses protecting the institution, including the fugitive slave clause and the three-fifths clause.

Harriet Tubman knew that President Abraham Lincoln was not an abolitionist. His main interest was preserving the Union. Tubman knew that she had to continue to free as many enslaved people as humanly possible.

She had the opportunity to meet Lincoln, to wait in line to meet with him. This would have been an historic moment recorded in history, but she chose not to go. Harriet Tubman, a fugitive slave, served in the Union Army during the Civil War. In the end she had to fight to get compensation in the form of a small pension for her service.

Throughout history, Black women have fought to truly extend the rights stated in the Constitution to every person in the U.S.

A political institution

We know that the appointment of a liberal Black woman will not tip the scales while six right-wing justices stand firm in their opposition to women's reproductive rights. The

U.S. Supreme Court will remain in the position to give a heavy blow to the women's movement. Reversing *Roe v. Wade*, agreeing with the narrow opinion of abortion only up to 15 weeks, or leaving the decision up to individual states, will place a heavy burden on all oppressed and working-class women in the United States.

We need to change the way Supreme Court justices are chosen. These individuals should be democratically elected by the people with defined qualifications and term limits.

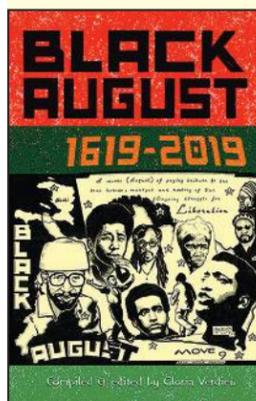
The bottom line is that this is all political. We all know that the time is long overdue for a Black woman to be on the Supreme Court and that the words Biden spoke are true.

Biden's long political career includes his role in the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. I remember the 1991 confirmation hearings of Clarence Thomas, especially the awful treatment of Anita Hill, who testified about Thomas' history of sexual harassment.

Biden chaired the confirmation hearings and had an opportunity to do the right thing, but he did not want to subpoena the two additional women that could have brought more evidence to support Hill's claim.

Now, in 2022, he had an opportunity to appoint a Supreme Court justice with extraordinary qualifications, character, experience and integrity; to make history without all this drama.

Instead, he may find himself apologizing to another Black woman for stealing the fire and dampening the spirit of the first Black woman associate justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. 📌



'BLACK AUGUST 1619-2019' commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle

This book examines the construction of a racial capitalist venture — slavery — where the histories of African, Native and working people overlapped.

- ▶ Celebrates the legacy and accomplishments of Black women.
- ▶ Dedicated to Black, Brown, oppressed, and poor people who have been imprisoned and killed by the U.S. justice system.

<https://tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5>

Historical series by M. Matsemela-Ali Odom • Compiled and edited by Gloria Verdieu with contributions by • Carl Muhammad • Zola Fish • Mary Lou Finley • Dennis Childs • Eusi Kwayana • Mumia Abu-Jamal • Curtis Howard • Poem by Sylvia Cameron Telafaro

Behind Georgia's epidemic of police killings

By Lizz Toledo

Atlanta – “More than a third of all Georgians fatally shot by law enforcement since 2010 were killed at home,” according to an Atlanta Journal-Constitution/Channel 2 Action News investigation.

When police respond to a call for help or to intervene in a domestic violence case, it often ends with cops killing the residents, especially when they are Black or Brown. White residents who call the police for similar incidents tend to stay alive and get the help they need.

Tenisha Felio is still tormented after she called 911 in December 2010. Her husband James, the father of their three young boys, physically abused her. He was lying asleep in bed, naked and unarmed, and within ten minutes after police arrived, he had been shot dead.

A wrongful death lawsuit against the Lawrenceville Police Department has been filed by Felio's family.

Friends and family of mentally ill Air Force veteran Anthony Hill demonstrated in DeKalb County because Hill, completely naked and unarmed, was shot in his apartment by police on March 9, 2015. The cops' excuse was that he made a threatening move.

Former DeKalb County Police Officer Robert Olsen was sentenced to 20 years, with 12 years in prison and 8 years probation, for the killing of Hill. This means he will only serve 12 years for his criminal, murderous act.

A no-warrant murder

Holli Gooch was at her home on Dec. 16, 2010, when six officers in Bartow County came to her door looking for a friend of hers who didn't live there. She told them they could

not enter without a warrant. The officers then kicked in her door and rushed into the home with guns drawn.

Gooch, who had a history of mental illness, panicked and ran into her kitchen. Officers said she grabbed a hammer and wielded it as a weapon, according to a lawsuit filed by her family. The police shot her four times and the mother of two died on her kitchen floor.

Others killed by police include:

Lori Knowles, who called Henry County 911 after she took too much medication and needed help, according to the audiotape.

Her husband begged the police, “Please don't hurt her,” but it was too late. Police had entered the home and shot Knowles when she refused to drop her handgun.

Struggle-La Lucha covered the police murder of Rayshard Brooks extensively.

On the night of June 12, 2020, Brooks, a 27-year-old African American man, was fatally shot by Atlanta Police Department (APD) Officer Garrett Rolfe.

Disgustingly, the killer cop was reinstated by the Atlanta Civil Service Board last May. Rolfe is still facing charges of felony murder, aggravated assault (5 counts), violation of oath (4 counts) and damage to property.

His accomplice Devin Brosnan faces charges of aggravated assault and violation of oath (2 counts).



Protesters in Atlanta demand justice for police victim Rayshard Brooks.

While Ahmaud Arbery was not killed by active members of the police department, his killers were former police officers, and were protected by law enforcement in Brunswick.

On Feb. 23, 2020, Ahmaud Marquez Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, was murdered in Satilla Shores, a neighborhood near Brunswick.

His murderers were interviewed, their narrative accepted and they were sent home without question. It wasn't until a people's struggle demanding justice exploded in South Georgia that these white supremacists were brought to trial and found guilty!

An investigation into “prosecutorial misconduct” in the Ahmaud Arbery murder case is currently underway as of this writing.

White supremacy serves ruling class

No matter what the talking heads may say, white supremacy does not serve the needs of the poor and working class. The so-called “free market” was constructed and func-

tions within a white supremacist society, period.

The exploitation and domination of nonwhite people will continue to be an integral part of the capitalist market system, because it is built into the structures of the market. Therefore, when we challenge white supremacy, we are also attempting to dismantle capitalism.

Pitting white workers against immigrant workers or other workers of color serves capitalism and its ruling class. We

only need to look at recent events to prove this fact.

The white supremacists who invaded the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, are tools of the ruling class because they serve to send fear into the hearts of others wishing to dismantle capitalism. “Bourgeois democracy isn't so bad compared to fascism,” is the message we are supposed to hear.

For white workers, the tactics of stirring up racial, economic fear and anger helps to keep them fighting against their own class interests.

We can't depend on the courts, the voting booth, etc., whose whole purpose is to keep us divided. They will never end police brutality, white supremacy, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia and sexism.

Only a united working class fighting to own the means of production under a socialist economic system will achieve this goal and liberate the whole world. Black, Brown, Indigenous, Asian, Arab and white, gay, straight, trans, women and men – together we can dismantle this oppressive capitalist system. 📌

Racist campaign targets Marilyn Mosby

By Lev Koufax

On Jan. 12, the U.S. Department of Justice brought criminal charges of perjury and false mortgage applications against Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby, a Black woman who has served in the position since 2015.

The recent criminal indictment alleges that Mosby used COVID-related loan money to purchase vacation homes. Further, she is accused of

falsely testifying under oath that she experienced financial hardship due to the pandemic.

Mosby's tenure has been a controversial one. In 2015, she charged six Baltimore police officers with the murder of an unarmed Black man, Freddie Gray. Baltimore cops killed Gray after he ran from officers who were screaming at him and waving their firearms aggressively.

Following Gray's murder, the people of Baltimore rebelled against racist police brutality and terror.

When Mosby announced that she would prosecute the officers involved in Gray's murder, this drew the ire of many, including the racist Fraternal Order of Police and right-



Mass rebellion swept Baltimore after the racist police murder of Freddie Gray in 2015.

wing politicians. Ultimately, Freddie Gray's murderers were not convicted. Many returned to their jobs on the Baltimore police force. However, the “law and order” community never forgot Mosby's attempt to convict the killers.

Fast forward six years. Mosby announced that her office would no longer prosecute drug users and sex workers in the city of Baltimore in April 2021. This announcement was part of a larger effort to scale back the racist war on drugs that had wreaked havoc in Baltimore's Black community for decades. This policy change was met with extreme vitriol from pro-police forces.

The Baltimore Republican Party

and its allies called for an indictment of Mosby on anything that could stick. In 2020, the DOJ and Internal Revenue Service investigated Mosby and her husband, Baltimore City Council President Nick Mosby, for alleged tax law violations.

Eventually the claims against the Mosbys were found to be without merit and the investigation ended. However, federal

investigations resumed after Mosby announced her initiative to decriminalize drug use and sex work. This investigation led to the January indictment.

To be clear, it's important to understand that Marilyn Mosby is an imperfect figure. She is not a socialist nor even a progressive. For her entire career, Mosby has been a mainstream Democratic Party politician.

In many ways, Mosby echoes the “law and order” politics of people like former President Bill Clinton and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley. This is best demonstrated by the continued prosecution of police shooting victim Keith Davis Jr.

Mosby's office has prosecuted Davis five times, after numerous mistrials and hung juries. The entire case is based on flimsy evidence; consequently, the Baltimore community has continually protested the prosecution.

With that said, Mosby should still be defended against reactionary and racist attacks. The recent DOJ prosecution is exactly that. The charges against her aren't based on justice or fairness. They are based on racist political retribution. Even with Mosby's imperfections, progressives and socialists have a duty to stand in solidarity with Black elected officials against racist attacks.

It is telling that Joe Biden's DOJ has brought these charges against the State's Attorney of a majority Black, working-class city like Baltimore. For better or worse, Mosby is paying the price for executing what she believed were Democratic Party values. She tried to prosecute killer cops and stop prosecuting innocent people. For that, she is under vicious attack.

It is more important now than ever that the people stand in solidarity with her and other politicians who find themselves under attack for policies that challenge the police and mass incarceration. 📌

For first time in 37 years No cops, ICE or military in Los Angeles MLK Day Caravan

PHOTOS: TIRA DENISE JONES

By Struggle-La Lucha
Los Angeles bureau

Los Angeles, Jan. 17 — More than a hundred cars and floats joined the MLK Day Caravan for Social Justice down Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, decorated with anti-racist, anti-imperialist, pro-people slogans reflecting today's struggles.

Organizations, including the Southern Christian Leadership conference; the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice; African American Writers & Artists Inc.; Friends of Malcolm X Library; Harvard Blvd Block Club; Africa Town Coalition; Black Pact; Union del Barrio; Al-Awda — LA; Veterans for Peace; Topanga Peace Alliance; Boycott Divestment Sanctions (BDS); Socialist Unity Party; Health Care for All — LA; BAYAN USA and more raised the messages of Dr. King today and the various social justice issues that he championed.

One of the primary focuses of the day was voting rights, demanding that the Biden administration stop surrendering to white supremacists. The day before the caravan in Los Angeles, Dr. King's son — Martin Luther King III — Andrea Waters King and their daughter Yolanda Renee King, who is 13, led a march in Arizona, demanding Biden do more than talk to stop the further disenfranchisement of Black people.

"This MLK Day we are finally able to be true to Dr. King's vision of social justice and honor the wishes of his family today," Jefferson Azevedo declared at the Los Angeles MLK Day event.

"That is only because of the unity that over 25 organizations had in fighting to take this King Day back from those who would have the police, ICE and the military and corporate sponsors like insurance companies and fast food parasites in our community, for the past 37 years, stomping on the legacy of Dr. King with messages enabling capitalist exploitation and police terror in our communities."

This indeed was an unprecedented event. In Los Angeles for the past 37 years the "Kingdom Day Parade," led by the California branch of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE — CA), was a corporate-driven event, charging \$500 for each grassroots, community organization to participate. Many felt this cost to the community was unnecessary, since corporate sponsors already paid thousands of dollars to attend.

This year, however, there was no cost to participants since the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice filed for the permit last July on behalf of the Ad Hoc Coalition for the MLK Day March, and successfully fought the police to keep the permit.

"We tried to respectfully negotiate with CORE and were willing to share the permit," said John Parker, coordinator of the Harriet Tubman Center. "Our only condition — which was also insisted upon by the many Black organizations leading this effort along with other community organizations in the coalition — was



to keep the police, military and ICE out of the parade. Unfortunately, the CEO of CORE, Dr. Adrian Dove, insisted the police be included."

LAPD racist terror

Parker continued: "Given the history of terror by the LAPD and Sheriffs and especially considering the recent killing of a child by the LAPD, that was a non-starter. But our control over the permit, which we had to fight with the LAPD to keep, even threatening legal action, allowed not only greater access for the community to the King Day activities, it also banned the police, ICE and the military from having contingents or any representatives in the procession for the first time in 37 years."

Ron Gochez of Union del Barrio said, "We're proud to be here today standing shoulder to shoulder with our Black community and our African sisters and brothers taking the righteous step to say that the LAPD, Sheriffs, ICE and the military have no place in an event to honor Dr. Martin Luther King.

"We all know that Dr. King was against police brutality, against imperialism and all types of oppression of any kind of people. So, for us today as Latin American people it's our duty and responsibility to be in solidarity."

Gochez' words reflected the tre-

mendous multinational, multi-gender, multi-age participation and especially Black and Brown unity at this event with Latin American, Indigenous, Filipino grassroots organizations helping to organize this event, including the day-of livestreaming courtesy of the Filipino organization BAYAN-USA.

The livestream over Zoom was emceed by Andrew Mayton of the Peoples Power Assembly in Baltimore and Beto Rios of Union del Barrio, allowing those who couldn't attend the large car caravan to get a bird's-eye view of the demonstration and commemoration of King.

All of the organizers said this was the beginning of the end for the corporate-sponsored event and that they would work together and gather more grassroots and community and progressive organizations, united in solidarity with each other's struggles, to make this a yearly event.

Billion Godsun of the Africa Town Coalition said: "Having no law enforcement, military or big corporations involved set a new precedent for how King Day events should be. Even though this first one was a little bit smaller than the traditional parade, a number of people shared that the overall energy was better. We will expand on this and grow next year."

Defying media misinformation

There were many hurdles to overcome, including the omicron variant and multiple broadcasts by the major corporate media that the King activities for the day were canceled, even though they were sent numerous press releases saying otherwise.

In spite of that, the caravan was the largest event in Los Angeles County on MLK Day, and the safest — turning the first proposed march into a caravan with plenty of masks and sanitizer for each float and participating cars. And defying the false news about cancellations, at least a hundred cars and floats participated, and organizers estimate that already thousands of people have seen the livestream of the event.

Rebecka Jackson, a member of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and the executive director of "Resist This Pac: Give Us The Ballot," an initiative of Martin Luther King III, said: "For the sake of 14-year-old Valentina Orellana-Peralta, murdered by the recklessness of the LAPD, we're not going back. For the sake of George Floyd and Eric Garner and Breonna Taylor and all the victims here in LA of police violence and terror, we're not going back.

"This is our day, this is our legacy, not the corporate sponsors, but our united us." 📍

Across the U.S., protests demand

By Struggle-La Lucha

On Feb. 5, anti-war and community organizations took to the streets across the United States in a united demand to the Biden administration: No war on Russia!

It was a crucial moment of visible opposition to the rapid U.S./NATO war buildup that has marked the first weeks of 2022.

An ad hoc coalition of anti-imperialist organizations, including the Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper, Solidarity with Novorossiya and Antifascists in Ukraine, longtime Minneapolis antiwar activist Alan Dale, Women Against Military Madness, the Communist Workers League and Workers Voice Socialist Movement first put out the call for “National Days of Action Feb. 4-12: No War on Russia and Donbass! U.S./NATO Out of Ukraine!” (Read the statement at tinyurl.com/ywjvyd35.)

“Biden claims that there is an imminent threat of a Russian invasion of Ukraine,” says the call to action. “But the real invasion threat stems from U.S.-allied Ukraine against the independent Donbass republics of Donetsk and Lugansk, near Russia’s western border.

“Washington and its NATO partners have been pushing Ukraine’s government to invade Donbass, hoping to provoke a response from Russia that can cover further NATO expansion. Ukraine has deployed 125,000 troops [now more than 150,000] to the ceasefire zone, including battalions of neo-Nazis, armed with NATO weapons.

“Poor and working people are wracked with crisis after crisis here at home. ... We need a struggle to end racism and poverty, not another criminal war abroad!”

The national call was endorsed by the Anti-War Committee, Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle, International League of Peoples’ Struggle - U.S. chapter, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Peoples Power Assembly, Moratorium Now Coalition, Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and others.

Shortly after, Code Pink: Women for Peace made its own call for a national day for “negotiations, not war” with Russia on Saturday, Feb. 5. Other anti-war formations, including the ANSWER Coalition, Peace Action, United National Antiwar Co-



Baltimore

alition, Veterans for Peace and International Action Center, also mobilized.

In many cities, the groups joined forces for united anti-war activities.

‘Bring the troops home’

In **New York City**, the anti-imperialist coalition organized a speak-out Feb. 5 at Columbus Circle. Hundreds of fact sheets were distributed to passersby while protesters chanted: “Hands off Russia! Hands off Donbass! Bring the troops home!”

At the speak-out, activists explained that the U.S. and NATO pose the real invasion threat to the Eastern European region. They also contrasted the massive flood of U.S. weapons to Ukraine in recent weeks with the Biden administration’s failure to provide promised N95 masks to people here during the omicron COVID surge.

Speakers included Johnnie Stevens of Parents to Improve School Transportation (PIST NYC), Michaela Martinazzi of NY Community Action Project (NYCAP) and International League of Peoples’ Struggle (ILPS), Teri Kay of Communist Workers League and Greg Butterfield of Solidarity with Novorossiya and Antifascists in Ukraine.

The protesters then held a small but spirited march down Broadway

to join the rally called by Code Pink at Times Square. The group entered chanting, “Hey hey, ho ho, NATO has got to go,” helping to set a militant tone for the second event.

Bill Dores spoke at the Times Square rally representing Struggle-La Lucha. He said, “The health care system is collapsing, millions are facing eviction, people are drowning in student debt, Congress can’t pass the Build Back Better Act – but they have endless money for war and destruction. Because only war and destruction can preserve the domination of Wall Street and the U.S. dollar in the world economy. And they’re willing to risk global destruction for that purpose.”

Other speakers included Margaret Kimberley of Black Alliance for Peace and Larry Holmes of Workers World Party.

‘Fight fascism and white supremacy’

In **Los Angeles**, a broad coalition of anti-war forces rallied at the downtown Federal Building.

John Parker, candidate for U.S. Senate in California representing the Socialist Unity Party and Peace and Freedom Party, spoke about his recent visit to Honduras as part of a solidarity delegation to celebrate the inauguration of leftist President Xiomara Castro. He described the par-



SLL PHOTOS: SHARON BLACK

allels between the people’s struggles against fascism and white supremacy under the U.S.-backed coup regimes in Honduras and Ukraine.

“The regime created by the coup in Ukraine in 2014 with U.S. support bans communist and socialist organizations, but they allow Nazi collaborators to be lauded. The FBI finally admitted that some of the white supremacists who were in Charl-

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New York



SLL PHOTOS: GREG BUTTERFIELD

New York, marching from Columbus Circle to Times Square

'No war on Russia and Donbass!'



Los Angeles



San Diego



Continued from page 6

tesville in 2017 went to Ukraine for training. Then they come back here and attack us. That's the link, and we have to explain it to people here."

Organizers from Parker's Senate campaign said they plan to distribute more fact sheets about the U.S./NATO war danger as they hold neighborhood outreach events.

In **San Diego**, Socialist Unity Party activists visited several locations to distribute fact sheets and talk to organizers about the importance of building the anti-war struggle, including at San Diego State University, Malcolm X Library, Black Resource Center, World Beat Cultural Center, City Heights Library and the Centro Cultural de la Raza.

A rally and car caravan drew about 30 protesters in **Baltimore**. Bright green signs declared, "Banks and Big Oil profit from Pentagon wars" and "Money for healthcare, not for fascists and war profiteers!"

Despite frigid temperatures, 70 people came out in **Minneapolis** to demand "No war on Russia" at the call of Minnesota Peace Action Coalition, Anti-War Committee, Veterans for Peace, Women Against Military Madness and others.

The protesters then joined with hundreds of others marching to demand justice for Amir Locke, a young Black man slain by Minneapolis police days before.

Two actions were held in **New Orleans**. The Workers Voice Socialist Movement held a mass leaflet distribution. "Whether it's at bus stops, grocery store parking lots, or barber shops, we need to get the word out: We workers have no interest in another bloody war for the rich," the group explained.

At Congo Square, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, ANSWER Coalition, the Communist Party of Louisiana and others rallied against war on Russia.

Protests were held in dozens of other cities Feb. 5, including **Washington, D.C.**; **Des Moines, Iowa**; **Topsham, Maine**; **Kansas City, Missouri**; and **Missoula, Montana**.

In **Detroit**, the Moratorium NOW! Coalition and Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice plan a rush-hour protest on Friday, Feb. 11.

With reports from Sharon Black in Baltimore, John Parker in Los Angeles, Greg Butterfield in New York and Gloria Verdieu in San Diego.

No to U.S./NATO war: Here are the facts!

By Socialist Unity Party

The corporate media and politicians claim that Russia is about to invade Ukraine. It's a big lie, just like the lie about Iraq's "Weapons of Mass Destruction." Actually, Washington is pushing U.S.-armed Ukraine to invade two small independent republics, Donetsk and Lugansk, on Russia's border. They want to provoke a response from Russia to justify NATO intervention.

Fight COVID, evictions and poverty, not Russia

Workers are facing crises right here at home. Why is Biden preparing to send 8,500 additional U.S. troops to Europe on top of 64,000 already stationed there? Why did Congress raise Pentagon war funding when they can't even pass Build Back Better legislation or protect people's basic democratic rights, like the right to vote and reproductive rights?

Millions of \$\$ in bombs and bullets, can't deliver masks and tests

Between Jan. 21 and Feb. 2, the U.S. delivered 600 tons of weapons and military supplies to Ukraine. Yet many people have still not received their four free home COVID tests in the mail. Pharmacies have signs saying, "Free gov't masks not yet available." Imagine if Washington put the same effort into fighting the COVID pandemic and providing healthcare. How many of the nearly 1 million U.S. lives lost could have been saved?

Biden: Stop supporting Ukrainian fascists

Ukraine has sent white supremacists and neo-Nazis to the front line to threaten Russia and the residents of Donetsk and Lugansk. Biden went back on his promise to curb racist police violence against Black and Brown communities. Meanwhile the Pentagon is training and arming Ukraine's hate groups, who are no different than those who attacked the Capitol last Jan. 6.

Banks and Big Oil profit from Pentagon wars

U.S. Big Oil companies and banks want to stop the flow of Russian oil and gas to Western Europe. They want to force their European allies to pay extortionate prices for U.S. fuel instead. We don't need another bloody war for oil profits!



Left: U.S. Embassy in Kiev retweeted a Ukrainian official's post boasting of massive arms shipments. Right: A neighborhood pharmacy in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Feb. 2.

Anti-trans bills threaten youth in many states

By Greg Butterfield

Struggle-La Lucha spoke with activist Erin Reed (she/her) about anti-trans measures currently flooding state legislatures, and how people are fighting back.

Struggle-La Lucha: Can you tell our readers a bit about who you are and your work for trans rights?

Erin Reed: I have been a longtime advocate for transgender rights, especially when it comes to accessibility of trans health care. I created the largest map of informed consent hormone therapy clinics in the United States (tinyurl.com/39sx7529). Informed consent is a method of obtaining hormone therapy that does not require years of expensive therapy to obtain hormones. Instead doctors tell you the risks and benefits, letting you make the choice if it is right for you. They then monitor your hormone levels and aid in your transition. This resource has been accessed over 1.6 million times.

I also have been extremely active in marginalized spaces which include transgender people. I created Maryland Equity Vaccine Hunters, which ultimately obtained nearly 10,000 vaccines for Marylanders in underprivileged communities, including transgender Marylanders and especially trans people of color.

Lastly, I openly advocate for transgender legal rights and have been tracking bills this cycle that seek to detransition trans youth, remove transgender people from public spaces like bathrooms and changing rooms, remove the ability of transgender people to update legal documents, and call those who affirm trans youth child abusers.

SLL: Can you give us an overview of the current anti-trans legislation?

ER: As of right now, multiple trackers exist showing dozens of anti-trans bills pending. The ACLU says 79 anti-transgender bills have been filed so far in the first month of 2022. Step Up lists 65 active anti-trans bills being proposed.

These bills all share very similar language. Many go after those who provide trans teenagers with transition-related medical care, threatening prison sentences for doctors or defining parents as child abusers. Others seek to ban changes to identification documents. Some propose banning transgender people from bathrooms. Others will ban transgender people from competing in sports, even youth sports and even for youth transitioners.

Many of these bills have no enforcement mechanisms or outrageous enforcement mechanisms like genital inspections. They all will increase harm to the transgender community.



High school students joined a Protect Trans Kids rally in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on Jan. 16 to protest legislation that would ban trans kids from sports programs and restrict bathroom access in schools. Actions were held in six cities across the state.

SLL: For you, what is most dangerous about these attacks on trans rights, especially for youth?

ER: Youth are at an enormously high risk of suicide when denied the ability to transition. Most statistics show that transgender people are at a 41% likelihood of attempting suicide at some point in their life.

However, being able to access gender-affirming care lowers transgender youth's chance of suicide attempts by 40%, according to an article published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* in December 2021. This makes transition-related care for trans youth one of the most life saving treatments you can give to someone under the age of 18.

That several states are looking to ban transition care should terrify many people. So many trans youth will be stuck in these states and withdrawn from their hormone therapy should the bills pass.

SLL: How are trans people fighting back in different states, and how can others get involved?

ER: Local organizations are best — every state usually has its own local LGBTQ organizations that mobilize when an anti-trans bill takes effect. There have been some particularly effective national organizations. Lambda Legal, Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund, Transgender Law Center and the ACLU have been essential in challenging these bills and organizing advocacy. If you live in one of the states in the ACLU or Step Up's tracker, contact your representatives about these bills and show up for the hearings.

Sometimes trans youth as young as 11 are the ones that show up and make all the difference. Kai Shappely stood in front of Texas legislators and was essential to defeating an-

ti-trans youth bills. She is now a finalist for Time Kid of the Year.

SLL: Reproductive rights and Black people's voting rights are also under threat in many of the same states. Can you talk about the importance of building unity among all the communities under attack?

ER: Solidarity among all communities under attack is extremely important. Reproductive rights are intricately tied to transgender rights — anti-abortion laws are inseparable from anti-trans laws and represent an attack designed to enforce a gender hierarchy that reduces our gender and sexuality to a biological role of reproduction and control of our bodies. The same organizations that fight against abortion rights fight against trans rights and fund anti-trans organizations around the globe.

You can't separate either of these from attacks on the Black community. Bills targeting trans youth in sports often get brought up when Black athletes perform well, regardless of if they are trans. In 2021, three cisgender women were banned from the Olympics in some sports categories for not taking birth control to lower their natural testosterone because of trans panic: Castor Semenya, Christine Mboma and Beatrice Masilingi.

And the latest attacks on education in the United States banning books often target "critical race theory" and "gender theory." Both transness and Blackness are seen as dangerous and are constantly under attack by a white patriarchal society. 📌

From U.S. to Honduras: Socialism and Black Liberation

Continued from page 1

frantic drive toward privatization that characterized the years since the 2009 coup.

The U.S. government supported the overthrow and kidnapping of then-President Manuel Zelaya with money and technical know-how. Zelaya, a socialist who was democratically elected in 2006 and is the husband of President Castro, defied U.S. imperialism by refusing to accept a cabinet chosen by the U.S. Embassy. He refused to abide by the policies of austerity and anti-communism demanded by Western monopoly banking institutions.

Like President Castro, Zelaya sought to make qualitative changes in favor of the working class shortly after becoming president. He raised the minimum wage of workers by 60%, infuriating Wall Street banks, the Obama Administration and then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

U.S. support continued with the military coup's targeting and killing of progressive activists, while also making Honduras the poorest country in Latin America. Repression and economic devastation drove waves of emigration by desperate refugees, who were then demonized and brutalized when they tried to enter the U.S.

Still, a very strong youth movement grew in number and influence during the last 12 years, led by socialist youth. After the coup they put

their lives in danger with militant protests. Many belong to the Libre Party and some are actually part of the Castro administration.

Their militance was an echo of that of the Indigenous communities, as represented by slain activist and Indigenous leader Berta Cáceres, whose photo was enlarged on the stadium walls in her honor during the inauguration.

Unity of workers and oppressed

It was that type of militancy in the streets and unity with the oppressed that culminated in the electoral victory of Xiomara Castro. And that unity continues. It will be needed, because the U.S. continues to occupy major military bases in Honduras, and is already plotting to undermine the new government with its right-wing allies.

At the inauguration, I spoke with Gerene Grant, a member of one of the Black community organizations that received a special invitation to attend and participate in the ceremony.

There are two groups in Honduras of African ethnicity. One is the Garifuna people, an Afro-Indigenous community. The other group lives near the Bay Islands and on the Honduran coast of the Caribbean sea. Because of British colonialism preceding the ownership of their lands by Honduras, these are English-speaking Black communities.

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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 • A city of struggle
- Chicago Mayor Daley's racist machine • Never forget Fred Hampton
- The people put Harold Washington in City Hall

Available in a pamphlet form at tinyurl.com/1919chicago

Racism + COVID = death

By Stephen Millies

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. declared that “of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”

The COVID-19 pandemic is more proof Dr. King was right. Death rates from the virus are at least double in Black, Indigenous and Latinx communities.

Zip code 11369, which comprises the East Elmhurst neighborhood in Queens, New York, is a shocking example. Dr. King was a student preacher there at the First Baptist Church at 100-10 Astoria Blvd. Malcolm X and his family lived at 23-11 97th St.

One out of every 119 people in this Black and Latinx neighborhood have died of the coronavirus. That's over three times the U.S. average. It's equivalent to 2.8 million people having died of COVID across the United States.

Diseases don't discriminate, but capitalism does. The capitalist world market was born with the African Holocaust and the holocaust of Indigenous peoples in the Americas. The number-one job of the \$4 trillion U.S. medical-industrial complex is producing profits, not healing.

In 2020, nurses at Mount Sinai's flagship hospital in New York City had to wear Hefty garbage bags to protect themselves against COVID-19. Meanwhile, Mount Sinai's CEO Kenneth Davis was enjoying his \$12 million pay package.

Ten nurses at the Providence St. John's Medical Center in Santa Monica, California, were initially suspended for refusing to work in COVID wards without personal protective equipment.

Big pharmaceutical outfits like Pfizer don't foresee vaccinating a billion Africans until 2024. That's vaccine apartheid, similar to the denial of retroviral therapies for HIV/AIDS to Africans for a decade after they were being used in the U.S.

Millions of people died as a result. Andrew Natsios – head of the U.S. Agency for International Development under President George W. Bush – thought it was useless to provide help to Africa. The drugs were to be taken at certain times of day and Natsios claimed in 2001 that Africans “don't know what Western time is.”

Poverty and oppression kills

COVID-19 has acted like a killing machine in overcrowded housing and among essential workers. Black, Indigenous and Latinx people are concentrated in both.

High rents force families to live in cramped apartments. Families that are evicted often move in with relatives. Now the bans on evictions have been lifted and landlords want to throw millions of people onto the street.

Who is more crowded than the 2.2 million people in the prisons? As of Feb. 9, 564,451 prisoners have been infected with COVID and 2,814 have died. Why isn't Donald Trump locked-up?

Prisons are concentration camps for the poor. In Wisconsin, Black people account for around 6% of the population but 46% of the prison inmates. In some states Black babies are five times more likely to die than white infants.

The entire United States was stolen from Indigenous nations. In the Navajo nation there have been 1,626 deaths from COVID.



In 2020, under-equipped nurses at New York's Mount Sinai Hospital had to use trash bags for protection.

Over 59,000 meatpacking workers were infected with COVID. At least 269 workers died. Just at the JBS plant in Greeley, Colorado, six workers died. The vast majority of these workers were Black, Latinx and/or immigrants.

In the New York City area, over 150 transit workers died of the coronavirus. The Metropolitan Transit Authority there at first refused to allow workers to wear masks, claiming it was a violation of dress codes.

Socialism vs. capitalism

While the United States has a little bit more than 4% of the world's population, it has accounted for almost one-fifth of all COVID-19 cases.

Uncle Sam accounts for about the same percentage of the world's prison inmates. Both statistics show what U.S. capitalist “democracy” really amounts to.

One of the reasons so many people have died of COVID-19 has been the binge of hospital closings in the U.S. This has gone hand-in-hand

with the thousands of factories being shut down.

Twenty thousand of the hospital beds thrown away were in New York state, according to the New York State Nurses Association. Among them was Harlem's Sydenham Hospital, which was closed in 1980 after a bitter struggle to keep it open.

Some of the closed health facilities, like the Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia, are being turned into luxury housing.

Thousands of nursing home patients died of COVID. A big cause was that elderly hospital patients with the virus were shoved into nursing homes due to the shortage of hospital beds.

Despite the cruel U.S. economic blockade of Cuba, not a single hospital or school has been closed in the socialist country. For every 1.9 hospital beds available in Brooklyn and Queens, there are 5 available in Cuba.

Pfizer and Moderna sold the overwhelming amount of their life-saving vaccines to richer countries. Socialist China and Cuba are sharing their vaccines with the world.

China will distribute 2 billion vaccine doses to Africa, Asia and Latin America. Cuba has already sent 10 million doses to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and plans to distribute another 100 million doses.

No parents in Cuba have to wait eight hours with their children in crowded emergency rooms before seeing a doctor. No one in that beautiful country is turned away from a clinic because they don't have insurance.

That's because health care in Cuba is considered a human right, not something to make a profit from. Cuba has what we need: socialism. [📌](#)

Socialism and Black Liberation

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“We are the Black English-speaking people, we are located in the Bay Islands mainly, we are in La Ceila, Puerto Cortez and Puerto Castilla. We are actually the only group of Black English-speaking people in Honduras. And for many years many people didn't even know we existed because we had been so excluded,” Gerene Grant explained.

“But today, with the government of President Xiomara Castro, it was one of her goals that the Indigenous and Afro groups be present in this historical moment. It's the reason we are here today showcasing a little bit of who we are, because many don't even know that we are one of the nine ethnic groups that exist in Honduras, since we once belonged to the British government.”

About a week after the inauguration, it was announced that – for the first time – a member of the Garifuna community, Dr. Luther Castillo Harry, who studied at the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) in Havana, Cuba, was appointed secretary of Science, Technology and Scientific Innovation by President Castro.

Socialist activism in the U.S.

Claudia Vera Cumberbatch, who changed her name to Claudia Jones, also had roots in the Caribbean. She

was born in 1915 in Trinidad, and came to Harlem in 1924 where she began advocating for socialism. Jones' advocacy was so threatening to the ruling class here that she was later deported for her communist activism before she could get citizenship.

She described her experience as a Black woman: “It was out of my Jim Crow experiences as a young Negro woman, experiences born of working-class poverty, that led me in search of why these things had to be, that led me to join the Young Communist League and to choose at the age of 18 the philosophy of my life – the science of Marxism-Leninism – that philosophy that not only rejects racist ideas but is the antithesis of them.”

Jones saw the crisis of working people as a direct result of capitalism in its modern stage of imperialism: “Imperialism is the root cause of racialism. It is the ideology which upholds colonial rule and exploitation. It preaches the ‘superiority’ of the white race whose ‘destiny’ it is to rule over those with colored skins, and to treat them with contempt. It is the ideology which breeds fascism, rightly condemned by the civilized people of the whole world.”

Jones, whose analysis is so relevant to today's struggles against white supremacy and the rise of fascist forces, is just one of the many

socialist voices of Black peoples in the U.S., starting as early as 1904 with the Rev. G.W. Woodbey in his books “The Bible and Socialism” and “The Distribution of Wealth.”

Woodbey, born in 1854, was a member of the Socialist Party of America, and saw the struggle for socialism as a next step after the struggle against slavery and key to fighting racism and economic exploitation.

Then there are George Jackson, Lucy Parsons, W.E.B. Du Bois and Paul Robeson, just to name a few of the Black historical figures from the U.S. who advocated the economic system of socialism.

So yes, Honduras provides further evidence that Black liberation is tied to the struggle for socialism.

Other examples include the independence of 17 African countries from European colonial bondage during the 1960s, due to the military and financial support of the Soviet Union and China; or, here in the U.S., the rise in power of the union movement in the 1930s and 1940s, eventually greatly benefiting Black workers due to socialist/communist leadership and their growing influence; or the defense of Black workers in the South during the Great Depression by communists; or the fact that our very own Assata Shakur is alive and well, in spite of the U.S. bounty on her head, protected by Cuba's revolutionary socialist government.

Claudia Jones expands on this in her comments that take into account not only national oppression, but also women's oppression: “For the progressive women's movement, the Negro woman, who combines in her status the worker, the Negro and the woman, is the vital link to this heightened political consciousness.”

“To the extent, further, that the cause of the Negro woman worker is promoted, she will be enabled to take her rightful place in the Negro-proletarian leadership of the national liberation movement and, by her active participation, contribute to the entire American working class, whose historic mission is the achievement of a Socialist America – the final and full guarantee of woman's emancipation.”

Anyone who tells you that socialism is not relevant to our struggle as Black people either has no clue about our history or does not want to see any real struggle against this racist system of exploitation, poverty and war.

But, in spite of the lies the ruling class and their collaborators throw at us, the struggle for liberation will continue. Just ask the people of Honduras.

John Parker is the Socialist Unity Party candidate for U.S. Senate in California, running on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket. Learn more and how to get involved in his campaign at [Facebook.com/socialist4senate/](https://www.facebook.com/socialist4senate/).

U.S. and international actions demand #UnblockCuba

By Cheryl LaBash

On Sunday, Jan. 30, Miami Cuban-Americans and their supporters gathered at City Hall to caravan with bikes and cars to a rally at the statue of Cuba's national hero, José Martí. Nearly two years since the election-campaign-filled months of 2020, throughout all of 2021 and now into 2022, these Miami actions have birthed a caravan movement across the U.S. and internationally on the last Sunday of the month – including in the streets of Cuba.

This international outpouring of solidarity with the Cuban Revolution and its right to sovereignty and self-determination was especially noteworthy, as Feb. 7 marks 60 years since the effective date of President John F. Kennedy's Proclamation 3447, prohibiting "the importation into the United States of all goods of Cuban origin and all goods imported from or through Cuba."

Also 60 years ago, on Jan. 31, 1962, under U.S. pressure, the Organization of American States expelled Cuba. Only Mexico withstood the U.S. demand to isolate the revolution. How the situation has changed in 60 years!

In the U.S., caravans kicked off the new year in Miami, New York City, Minneapolis, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, Tempe/Phoenix, Portland, Seattle and Los Angeles. Cars and – where temperatures permitted – bikes took to the streets. Outreach tables, pickets and educational online programs informed public gatherings about the U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade of Cuba.

In Miami, large posters displayed Cuban-American demands to undo some of the most painful of the 243 new economic blows imposed under Donald Trump and now continued and even expanded by President Joe Biden: reopen the U.S. Embassy



PHOTO: PRENSA LATINA

Members of the Bridges of Love project together with friends of Cuba in Miami, Jan. 30.

in Havana; reunify families; restore direct flights from U.S. airports to provincial Cuban airports; and restore remittances, the right to travel and cultural-scientific cooperation between the two countries.

In pre-pandemic Canada, pickets regularly reminded U.S. consulates that the Canadian people oppose the U.S. starvation schemes imposed on Cuba. Jan. 30 car caravans carried on

the tradition in Montreal, Quebec, plus Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto.

Information on the U.S. caravans is posted by the National Network On Cuba at NNOC.org/calendar with starting times and locations during the week before the last Sunday of the month. Local organizers can send details, images or Facebook event links for posting to SundayCaravan@NNOC.info. [📧](#)

Cuba battles COVID, defying 60-year U.S. blockade

By Sharon Black

Presentation by Sharon Black, writer for *Struggle-La Lucha* and national spokesperson of the Socialist Unity Party, at the Europe for Cuba online forum Feb. 9, 2022.

End the U.S. blockade of Cuba

It has been 60 years this month since U.S. President John Kennedy first proclaimed Executive Order 3447, prohibiting "the importation into the United States of all goods of Cuban origin and all goods imported from or through Cuba."

Feb. 7, 1962, marked the beginning of the U.S. blockade of Cuba. Its stated purpose was to inflict collective punishment on the Cuban people in an attempt to starve and suffocate the young Cuban Revolution.

Every U.S. administration, regardless of party affiliation, has continued this policy, in one form or another. Not because Cuba represents a security risk for the United States, but because the Cuban socialist project is a beacon for not only Latin America and the Caribbean, but for the world's people.

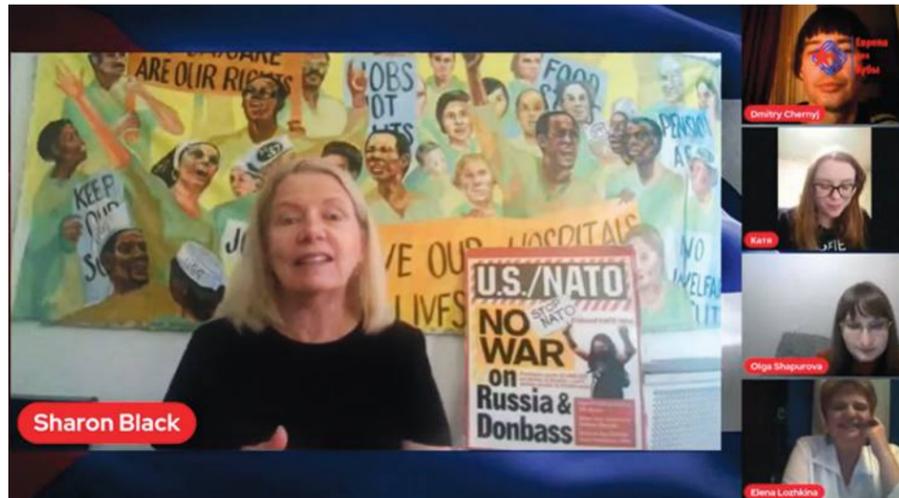
Biden, who promised to continue the Obama administration's loosening of restrictions on Cuba, reversed himself and expanded Trump's draconian policies.

The changes during the Obama administration were based on pragmatism, not ethics or principle. U.S. policies which included not only the blockade, but invasions and terrorist attacks, had not worked and only served to isolate the U.S.

What hasn't changed is the motive of U.S. imperialism to continue to strangle the island nation.

The COVID pandemic and its consequent suffering became an opportunity to not only reignite the former course, but to attempt to go further.

It is no secret that National En-



Sharon Black speaks at Europe for Cuba forum, Feb. 9.

dowment for Democracy (NED), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the CIA and non-profit organizations orchestrated a highly-coordinated destabilization campaign to create chaos and promote demonstrations in the streets against the Cuban government. They were unsuccessful.

U.S.-Cuba Friendship Caravan

On Nov. 15, 2021, I and two other *Struggle-La Lucha* reporters, Ellie McClain and Lars Bertling, traveled to Cuba as part of the 31st IFCO-Pastors for Peace U.S.-Cuba Friendship Caravan.

Our group was one of the first delegations to travel to the newly reopened Cuba, which had been closed to international visitors because of the pandemic. Nov. 15 marked the opening of schools and services in Cuba and was also a day celebrating the anniversary of Havana.

We are from Baltimore, Maryland, where the police murder of Freddie Gray sparked a rebellion of the people of our city who were fed up with racist police terror.

Our members also represent the Peoples Power Assembly, which does

community work, including setting up weekly free food distributions because our government won't feed the people, and also a "saving lives campaign" to demand vaccines for our community.

Among our own organizers, six people contracted COVID-19, four were hospitalized, and six other volunteers died. Only 60% of the people of Baltimore are vaccinated.

We know the Cubans like to say, "We are not perfect." But what we saw is heaven to us in comparison to our conditions under capitalism.

Our participation was as much to learn from the Cuban people as it was to show our solidarity in demanding an end to the blockade.

We stayed close to two weeks in Cuba, spending almost every minute visiting hospitals, clinics, schools, museums and especially participating in discussions with Cuban representatives on almost every aspect of Cuban life, from trade unions, to conditions of African descendants, artists and writers, and especially the deeply-damaging impact of the U.S. blockade. We met with Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) students and members of

the Henry Reeve Brigade for international medical solidarity.

Finlay Vaccine Institute

Given our own experience with the lack of medical care in the U.S. and the sacrifice of so many lives because of the inability of the U.S. capitalist system to provide care, I wanted to underscore our visit to the Finlay Vaccine Institute.

The institute helped to produce three of Cuba's five COVID-19 vaccines: Soberana, Soberana 2 and Soberana Plus.

Under the most difficult conditions due to the blockade, Cuba was able to produce these three highly effective vaccines, rivaling the effectiveness of U.S. vaccines. The blockade had prevented Cuba from importing the reagents necessary for the production of the vaccine. And international patent restrictions blocked Cuban scientists from sharing important information.

In addition, it was nearly the first time that Cuba had to produce a vaccine aimed at a virus rather than a bacterial infection – and they were able to do it in record time. So you might consider it a miracle.

So how did they do it?

One of the major reasons given was the cooperation between Cuban organizations, the lack of competition and personal profit. In fact, these were some of the same reasons, along with a few others, for the high vaccination rate in Cuba that has now reached an astounding 90% of the population.

The people of Cuba trust the vaccines because the country has a long history of preventative health care that is steeped in education and community implementation. There is no profit motive to block health care in Cuba.

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Cuba battles COVID, defying U.S. blockade

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U.S. movement in support of Cuba has grown

In contrast to Biden's cynical and criminal attempts to choke and destroy Cuba, the sentiment of the people inside the U.S. to end the blockade has grown.

On Sunday, Jan. 30, Miami Cuban-Americans and their supporters gathered at City Hall to caravan with bikes and cars to a rally at the statue of Cuba's national hero, José Martí.

Over nearly two years, these monthly Miami actions have birthed a caravan movement across the U.S. and internationally on the last Sunday of the month – including in the streets of Cuba. Caravans kicked off the new year in Miami, New York City, Minneapolis, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, Tempe/Phoenix, Portland, Seattle and Los Angeles.

No U.S./NATO war on Russia and Donbass

We cannot end our presentation without strongly condemning U.S. imperialist attempts to ratchet up war in Ukraine. What is taking place is a deadly game that only benefits U.S. imperialism.

The U.S. rulers created this crisis and continue to pour fuel on the fire day by day.

The global capitalist system is in crisis. While some billionaires and sectors have profited handsomely from COVID, U.S. imperialism's overall profits and strategic dominance are threatened at every turn.

In particular, the oil industry – thoroughly entwined with the biggest U.S. banks and the military-industrial complex – has been in crisis for over a decade. U.S. capitalists are desperate to stop the nearly completed Nord Stream 2 pipeline project slated to bring Russian gas to Europe.

Washington's actions in the Ukraine are not only aimed at the Donbass republics and Russia, but also Venezuela and Cuba, who have cooperative relationships with Russia.

In the United States, the fear of widening war has stirred the anti-war movement.

Struggle-La Lucha and the Socialist Unity Party, along with many other groups including Code Pink, called for national days of protest. We have demanded no war on Russia and Donbass. It is our responsibility to energetically reach out to the workers and poor in the U.S. and explain why a war on Russia and Donbass is not in our interest.

No U.S./NATO war on Russia and Donbass! End the U.S. blockade of Cuba! 🇺🇸

China succeeds while U.S. loses battle against COVID-19

By Scott Scheffer

The U.S. media is spreading a message that the omicron variant of COVID-19 may be the final wave in the pandemic that has taken 5.63 million lives globally, and 900,000 in the U.S. – the U.S. has the highest death toll in the world.

Even as the death count in areas of the U.S. is rising as predicted by epidemiologists and virologists, a pro-business push to herd people back to work and students back to in-person classes is underway. The push has been embraced by the Centers for Disease Control and Biden's Chief Medical Adviser Anthony Fauci.

While omicron's symptoms may be less severe than the delta variant, it is still a killer and is currently averaging 2,200 deaths per day throughout the country. Because it infects people so much more efficiently than previous variants, according to a Jan. 24 Reuters article, "The omicron death toll has now surpassed the height of deaths caused by the more severe delta variant when the seven-day average peaked at 2,078 on Sept. 23 last year."

In the year 2021, there were 476,863 deaths from the disease in the U.S. During the same year, in China there were only two coronavirus deaths.

Comparing population figures of the United States and China to the respective numbers of COVID-19 deaths, one arrives at a jaw-dropping conclusion. In China, 0.00041% of the population died, while in the U.S. 0.26596% of the population died. You would have to multiply China's percentage by 653 for it to have been as bad as the death toll in the U.S.

This yawning gap of a difference has had the U.S. propaganda machine – from intelligence agencies, to the White House and State Department and the multi-millionaire spokesmodels that serve as newscasters – spinning a defensive web of lies and all manner of slander against every aspect of China's "People's War" against the virus. The bogus "lab leak" theory has lost steam, but the latest tirade is to rally around the case of Zhang Zhan, a right-wing, anti-communist crusader, championed by the Western media and by Amnesty International.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Zhang, who calls herself a "citizen journalist," was arrested by Chinese authorities in May of 2020. She had traveled to Wuhan in February 2020,



Medical assistance team from Jiangsu province at a ceremony marking their departure after participating in the fight against COVID-19 in Wuhan, March 19, 2020.

at the beginning of the pandemic. She didn't go there to help in the way that tens of thousands of Chinese volunteers did at the risk of their own health. Instead, she went to record and publish a video to opportunistically show the suffering and bolster the U.S. cold-war propaganda that was already underway before the pandemic.

Zhang recorded video at crematoria in Wuhan and at overcrowded hospitals that were in crisis mode. She posted videos on YouTube accusing the government of "intimidation and threats" and claiming that people were going hungry and being neglected. She did all of this as scientists and government leaders were scrambling to understand and gain control of the virus. If she had arrived several weeks later she would have witnessed the beginning of the end for the initial short-lived torrent of death. For nearly two years now, only 3 people have died of COVID in China.

Zhang is a longtime participant of the U.S. system that churns out lies and foments counterrevolutions. The National Endowment for Democracy and other neo-CIA organizations have nurtured "protest" groups in Hong Kong and Taiwan and have supported the "Weiquan movement" in mainland China, which Zhang is a participant in. They spout the usual laundry list of "issues" against the Communist Party leadership. Sometimes their message is not subtle criticism. While the U.S. pushed the anti-communist "protest" movement in Hong Kong

in 2019, Zhang held up an umbrella in Shanghai emblazoned with the words "End socialism, Communist Party down."

Her case has garnered sympathy from organizations that are based on anti-communism as they stand as opponents of human rights abuses. Her history of engaging in "hunger strikes" gives her a façade that appeals to "liberal" media outlets like the Guardian and the New York Times, and nongovernmental organizations like Amnesty International, as well as the the United Nations human rights office.

Zhang's mother told the press that she's very concerned because her daughter is only eating fruit and cookies. Admittedly, that is not the healthiest diet and that would concern any mother, but it is not a hunger strike. Zhang is not anything like Bobby Sands or the other Irish republican hunger strikers in the struggle against British imperialism or any of the Palestinian hunger strikers protesting their imprisonment without trial by the Zionist occupation regime of Israel.

China has literally saved millions of lives through their "People's War" and their continuing zero-COVID campaign. China's international medical solidarity, and their call for global cooperation to aid Africa, Asia and Latin America points the way forward to end the pandemic.

Regardless of whatever media campaign they are using, the U.S. will never be able to drive a wedge between the Chinese people and the Chinese Communist leadership. 🇺🇸

The Social Evolution of Humanity Marx & Engels Were Right! Bob McCubbin

This book focuses on Frederick Engels' view of the social evolution of humanity, specifically on the changing social position of women, LGBTQ2S people and the human social/sexual relationship usually referred to as marriage.

The global struggles of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two spirit people in the last half century have made recognition of the presence of sex and gender variation in the human family, the richness of our species, clear.

Knowledge of their socially beneficial roles in pre-class societies, their subsequent persecution and oppression with the onset of patriarchal class society, and their present struggle for full liberation is integral to a science-based understanding of human social evolution and the road to human liberation.

We Marxist revolutionaries are united in our belief that the destructive contradictions imposed on human society, including those that have distorted social/sexual

relations ever since the imposition of private property, can only be resolved by capitalism's elimination.

Marriage: a biased view vs. science

McCubbin's book begins with a debate between early leaders in the field of anthropology — Bronislaw Malinowski and Robert Briffault — that took place in 1931.

Malinowski professed the view that the family is: A group unchanged throughout history, a father and mother and their children,

legally united by a contract and surrounded by religious sanctions.

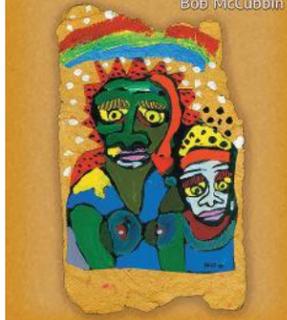
McCubbin presents Malinowski's views as an example of the counterrevolution in anthropology that arose in response to Frederick Engels' book *Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*.

Briffault's opposing position, based on extensive research, was that in every quarter of the globe and in every age that the transaction rests chiefly upon economic considerations.

The Social Evolution of Humanity

Marx and Engels Were Right!

Bob McCubbin



In Kindle or paperback
<https://tinyurl.com/vwarcv7>



Protesta en San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2 de febrero.



FOTOS: ROSA A. VILLALONGA RUIZ

Año del tigre, año de luchas en Puerto Rico

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Buenos días audiencia,

El año del tigre ha comenzado en Puerto Rico con la gente en las calles, y promete ser una lucha larga y multitudinaria.

Parte de la lucha por la liberación de esta colonia, están esas otras batallas del diario vivir que no se pueden separar del movimiento por la descolonización y la soberanía; y que eventualmente al fusionarse, lograrán romper las cadenas impuestas por el imperio yanqui.

En cuestión de días, y como respuesta al recién aprobado Plan de Ajuste de la Deuda impuesto por la criminal Junta de Control Fiscal del Congreso de los Estados Unidos, que plantea un escenario de tanta austeridad que llevaría al pueblo a la más absoluta miseria, se han levantado en paro am-

plios sectores del servicio público desde jubilados, bomberos, maestras y maestros, y hasta la policía. Ante los cuales, el gobierno local responde con la insensible postura de decir “cada cual escoge su trabajo”, como si un sueldo de miseria fuera el destino de los servidores públicos.

A este ambiente de lucha, se han sumado las ambientales reclamando la no imposición de las llamadas mini plantas nucleares y el cese definitivo de la generadora AES con su carbonera tóxica, ambas para la generación de energía.

También se suman a esta ola de reclamos en la calle, las exigencias de derogación de la Ley 22 que hace de Puerto Rico un paraíso fiscal para millonarios extranjeros que nos roban el terreno.

Como ejemplo de una acción espontánea del pueblo, se convocó por las redes, a una concentración en una de nuestras playas públicas que

millonarios extranjeros pretendían usar como su playa privada porque construyeron una casa de \$1 millón de dólares en el lugar. A la acción acudieron familias enteras para disfrutar de nuestro bien común con comidas, música y deportes de playa dando el mensaje de que las playas – por ley – son un bien público y no dejaremos que invasores extranjeros se apoderen de lo nuestro. Una de las consignas más usadas estos días es la de ¡”Gringo go home”!



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

El bloqueo a Cuba cumple 60 años

Por Rosa Miriam Elizalde

Se dice fácil, pero han sido seis décadas durísimas que comenzaron con una ligereza desconcertante y la creencia de que el bloqueo del Gobierno de Estados Unidos a Cuba no duraría demasiado. Un par de años, quizás.

El 2 de febrero de 1962 John F. Kennedy llamó a su secretario de Prensa, Pierre Salinger y le dio una tarea urgente: “Necesito muchos puros cubanos, Pierre”. “¿Cuántos, presidente?”. “Unos mil”. El funcionario visitó las tiendas mejor surtidas de Washington y consiguió 1.200 cigarros H. Upmann Petit Corona enrollados a mano en las vegas de Pinar del Río, en el extremo occidental de la Isla.

“A la mañana siguiente, cuando llegué a mi despacho, el teléfono directo al Presidente ya estaba sonando. ‘¿Qué tal te fue?’, dijo, mientras yo cruzaba el umbral. ‘Muy bien’, respondí. Kennedy sonrió y abrió un cajón de su escritorio. Tomó un gran papel y lo firmó inmediatamente. Era el decreto que prohibía todos los productos cubanos en nuestro país. Los puros cubanos eran a partir de ese momento ilegales en Estados Unidos”, contó años después Salinger a la revista Cigars Aficionado.

Los periódicos de la época relataron con bastante exactitud lo que significaba aquella decisión. The Nation escribió: “La economía de Cuba dependía de los Estados Unidos para artículos esenciales como camiones, autobuses, excavadoras, equipos telefónicos y eléctricos, productos químicos industriales, medicinas, algodón crudo, detergentes, manteca de cerdo, papas, aves, mantequilla, una gran variedad de productos enlatados y la mitad de los alimentos básicos en la dieta cubana como el arroz y los frijoles negros. ... Una nación que había sido un apéndice económico de los Estados Unidos quedó repentinamente a la deriva; era como si Florida hubiera quedado aislada del resto del país, incapaz de vender naranjas y ganado o de traer turistas, gasolina, repuestos de automóviles o cohetes de Cabo Cañaveral”.



PHOTO: ISMAEL FRANCISCO/ CUBADEBATE.

Entre el 3 de febrero de 1962 y el 22 de noviembre de 1963 mediaron 657 días. Kennedy fue asesinado antes de que pudiera quemar uno a uno su arsenal de tabacos cubanos y antes de que se concretara la agenda de la negociación para tal vez revertir o suavizar el bloqueo, un proceso que estaba en curso cuando el magnicidio de Dallas.

Las consecuencias del fracaso de la invasión de Cuba por Playa Girón, en abril de 1961 – los invasores habían sido cambiados por computas y tractores – y la llamada crisis de Octubre que involucró a EE.UU., la URSS y Cuba, en 1962, fueron dos de los factores que habían determinado el arranque del intento negociador. Un memorando remitido por Gordon Chase, especialista del Consejo de Seguridad Nacional para asuntos de América Latina, a McGeorge Bundy, Consejero de Seguridad Nacional del presidente Kennedy, el 11 de abril de 1963, recomendó con cinismo: “Si una suave aproximación negociadora a Castro es factible y exitosa, los beneficios podrían ser sustanciales”.

De nada valieron los intentos de rectificación de Kennedy ni los llamados no ya a la elemental justicia, sino al pragmatismo. Decenas de analistas, funcionarios y hasta ex presidentes estadounidenses han reclamado cordura para evitar que el castigo impuesto

al pueblo cubano siga basado en la pulsión sádica, la inercia o simplemente en la arrogancia de un cogollo de politiqueros. Pero Washington ha seguido moviéndose en unas constantes vitales perversas. Wayne Smith, quien fuera jefe de la Sección de Intereses de Estados Unidos en La Habana y una de las voces más firmes contra el bloqueo impuesto unilateralmente por su país, llegó a la conclusión de que Cuba parece tener “el mismo efecto en las administraciones estadounidenses que la luna llena tiene en los hombres lobo”.

Tienen nietos y hasta bisnietos los que nacieron cuando Kennedy, con sus razones oscuras y su trastienda de tabacos, firmó la Orden Ejecutiva 3447 que decretó un bloqueo total sobre Cuba, incluyendo las medicinas y los productos alimenticios, y la amenaza a cualquier país que decidiera aliviar las sanciones. Algunos de esos cubanos han muerto y muchos morirán sin saber cómo funciona un país en condiciones de normalidad, la vieja o la nueva con Covid, da igual. Sin entender cómo se ha podido actuar contra millones de personas por tanto tiempo y con tanto odio, un odio sin límite ni explicación racional.

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Rosa Miriam Elizalde es una periodista cubana y fundadora de Cubadebate. Es vicepresidenta de la Unión de Periodistas de Cuba (UPEC) y de la Federación Latinoamericana de Periodistas (FELAP). Es autora y coautora de varios libros, incluyendo Jinetes en La Habana y Chávez Nuestro. Por su destacada labor, ha sido merecedora en varias ocasiones del Premio Nacional de Periodismo Juan Gualberto Gómez. Es columnista semanal de La Jornada, México.

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