Fact-finding trip to Donbass: A front-line shelter in war zone

By John Parker

I had just left the Lugansk People’s Republic, making my way to an interview in Moscow, when I saw a May 11 CNN story claiming Russia had targeted civilians in the Ukrainian city of Odessa. This was after the bombing of a hotel and shopping center there. When such structures are bombed, one assumes that they were filled with civilians.

Odessa was also the location of a massacre that took place after the 2014 coup, funded for years prior by the United States. The fascist element that was part of that coup burned the Odessa House of Trade Unions on May 2, 2014, killing progressives, socialists, trade unionists and anti-fascists.

My friend and guide during the Lugansk portion of my trip was Alexey Albu, who was inside that burning building and one of the few who escaped. At the time, Alexey was an elected member of the Odessa Regional Council. He was a former member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine and at that time the local coordinator of Union Borotba (Struggle). He and others were working on solving the contradictions created in society by the coup in a peaceful way through the still-existing legislative processes.

However, by May 2, time had run out. The fascists who praised Nazi collaborators and pushed ultra-nationalism against the Russian population turned even more violent against any opposition. Political repression and jailings were on the rise by the coup government, and six days after the massacre, Alexey found out he was to be arrested. He and his family then fled to Crimea where they felt safe. He later went to Lugansk to continue his political work, but had to separate from his family for four years to do so.

As he is from Odessa and still has many connections there, I wanted to ask Alexey about the bombing on May 11. Alexey responded: “Yes, Russia attacked the luxury hotel Grande Pettine, because there were foreign mercenaries operating there. And the big shopping and entertainment center Riviera was attacked because they made it into a warehouse for NATO weapons.

“It’s also important to know that Russia used high-precision missiles, so as not to cause harm to civilians. And it is very interesting that CNN did not pay attention when more than 40 civilians were drowned in blood and burned in fire in the Trade Union building on the second of May 2014,” said Alexey.

Challenging U.S. narrative

The Russian intervention in Ukraine began Feb. 24 at the request of the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics (DPR and LPR). About a month later, unlikely sources – analysts and advisors working for the Pentagon — be Continued on page 6
Middle school students walk out for abortion rights

By Struggle-La Lucha
New York City bureau

Across the U.S., Bans Off Our Bodies student walkouts took place May 12 to protest the Supreme Court’s attack on abortion rights, including in Richmond, Virginia; Brookfield, Connecticut; Austin, Texas; Louisville, Kentucky; Urbandale, Iowa; and Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Students at several New York City public schools participated. Struggle-La Lucha spoke with Dru, a seventh-grader at Arts & Letters 305 United in Brooklyn, who joined a walkout by middle-school students and documented the event with videos. She talked about how the students organized the action, and how the school administration worked to sabotage it.

After the draft Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade leaked May 3, “People I talked to weren’t sure about it,” Dru told SLL. “Some kids in my class were the ones planning the walkout. They gave out small hand-written leaflets announcing it.

“Before the walkout the co-principal said she was all for it. Most of the teachers said they were in full support. They sent out permission slips to leave the school grounds, but that was about it.”

On May 12, she said, “During second period, the majority of the class got up and went downstairs. We passed the other co-principal, and there was a sign taped to the door next to him that said: ‘By participating in this walkout you are participating in a civil disturbance. Keep in mind that there could be severe consequences for doing this.’ He didn’t say anything, he just watched.

“A few minutes there was a large crowd of more than 100 people in the schoolyard. People held signs they made. We crowded around a bench where the organizers gave talks with a megaphone.”

Handmade signs held by the multiracial crowd read, “Free and safe abortions for all,” “Our bodies, our choice,” “Abortion is a personal decision, not a political debate” and “Access to abortion is a human right.”

One powerful sign said, “Texas won’t make a 12-year-old wear a mask to school but will force a woman to have a baby?”

Dru continued: “After a few minutes we said we were going to march around the neighborhood so people would hear our message, since standing around in the schoolyard wasn’t really a walkout. Then some school staff members locked the gate. We were like, ‘What?’ So we turned around and went to the entrance to the public park next door, and they locked that too!

“A group of kids rushed to the last open gate and held it open so everyone could flood out. We walked down the sidewalk chanting and carrying our signs.

“When we got to the next block the assistant principal and another staff member said if we didn’t go back we’d be in trouble. Even people with parental permission were told we had to go back,” she said. “Enough people were scared that we all went back to the schoolyard together.

“People got back up on the bench and continued to speak out. At no point did the cops appear, but all the gates were locked and school staff were guarding every gate. The person standing by the gate we’d escaped from apparently had the list of people with parental permission, but they never made an announcement or told us anything.

“One of my parents talked to the school office, and was told that they’d let us go after informing us we’d be marked absent. But that never happened.

“Everyone in the crowd was chanting. One of my friends said we should start circling in the schoolyard. After we’d been outside for about an hour some people started to give up and went back inside. The school staff were advising people to go back inside, and they were also telling people the [citywide students’] protest at Union Square was happening later than it really was. ‘You guys can’t stay out here that long. I was determined to stay as long as there were people out there.

“When there was one small group left in the schoolyard, after they had been trying to discourage us and run out our time, they finally said, ‘We can’t legally stop those of you with parental permission.’

“They could have let us march in the neighborhood and come with us to make sure we were being safe. The people who went to Union Square went without any adult supervision, even though before they said school staff would accompany the walkout.”

Dru concluded: “The next day during the community meeting the co-principal said: ‘During the walkout yesterday a lot of you were concerned about getting in trouble because of that sign I had. But you won’t be getting in trouble from us. This was an inspiring experience. Protests are meant to be uncomfortable.’

“The kids who organized for the walkout were so excited. And it was kind of a slap in the face to them how the school treated it. They did everything they could to defuse the walkout. And afterward they said all kinds of sweet things about how inspiring it was. I was really angry.”

Dru’s parent Greg told SLL: “I was in constant contact with Dru by text during the walkout. I spoke to the school office. I’ve watched all of Dru’s videos. Everything backs up her version of events, not the spin that school officials put out.

“It was a rotten way to treat these students who wanted to speak out for the rights that are under attack. In my opinion, this conduct is deeply at odds with the progressive, diverse, community-oriented values this school administration claims to uphold.

“I’m very proud of the students. They did everything they could and left egg on the faces of the school administration and the higher-ups in Mayor Eric Adam’s administration who were calling the shots. Their ‘jailbreak’ from the schoolyard to the street was especially courageous and inspiring.

“I think next time, student organizers and concerned parents will know better than to trust the school officials’ promises and will plan accordingly.”

Students march on Capitol in defense of reproductive rights

By Kevin Niemann

Hundreds of Denver-area middle and high school students took to the streets on May 12 to resist the ongoing warfare against a woman’s right to choose and reproductive rights generally.

“Hey-hey! Ho-ho! These sexist laws have got to go!” and “My body! My choice!” chants rang through the air as Denver youth and their parents marched on the Colorado state capitol as part of a larger national student walkout in defense of reproductive rights and women’s liberation. Currently—although a draft opinion outlines plans for the Supreme Court to strike down the historic case regarding the right to an abortion.

The march was multinational in nature and led by Black and Brown student leaders. The students marched around the building for hours during an unseasonably warm day.

A 15-year-old woman from East High School in Denver did not mince words: “We’re tired of these old white men deciding the future of our country when they’ll be dead in 10 years.” Another speaker, a Denver native attending Florida A&M University, testified to the horrors she has witnessed while attending college. Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis recently signed HF5, anti-abortion legislation, as well as the repressive HB557 “Don’t Say Gay” bill.

Student organizers noted that this would not be the last action planned in the city.
Shireen Abu Akleh was a truth teller
Palestine will not be silenced

By Stephen Millies

The Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was deliberately targeted by an Israeli sniper and assassinated on May 11. She was murdered in the middle of daytime while wearing a vest that was clearly marked PRESS on the front and on her back.

To the apartheid regime occupying Palestine, her camera was more dangerous than a gun.

For 25 years Abu Akleh told the world about Palestine, “I chose journalism to be close to people,” said Shireen Abu Akleh. “It might not be easy to change the reality, but at least I could bring their voice to the world.”

The Al Jazeera broadcaster reported how racist Israeli settlers shout in Hebrew “Mazel tov-Ayovim,” (“Death to the Arabs.”) She showed the demolition of Palestinian homes and the shooting of Palestinian children.

For telling the truth, Shireen Abu Akleh was beloved throughout the Arab world and beyond. And for being a truth teller she was murdered.

More than 50 other Palestinian journalists have been killed. The Israeli military spokesperson Ron Kowch justified these killings by saying “They’re armed with cameras, if you’ll permit me to say so.”

The capitalist media covers up these murders. The first headlines about Abu Akleh’s death in The New York Times referred to her as simply being slain by Israeli soldiers.

The actress Susan Sarandon tweeted the truth: “Shireen Abu Akleh was EXECUTED with a shot to the head.”

Shireen Abu Akleh held U.S. citizenship. Where was the congressional resolution condemning her assassination after the U.S. has delivered over $140 billion to the Zionist state?

In contrast, the governments of the United States and Namibia denounced this foul murder. So did the Zimbabwe Union of Journalists.

Africans remember how Israel supported the original apartheid regime in South Africa and even supplied those neo-Nazis with nuclear weapons.

Attacking her funeral

The Zionist state couldn’t even let Palestinians bury Shireen Abu Akleh in peace. The whole world saw on May 13 how Israeli police in riot gear attacked the pallbearers with horses and batons in Al-Quds (Jerusalem), the capital of Palestine.

At one point the casket almost dropped to the ground. One of the carriers managed to hold it with one hand while warding off police clubs with the other. Palestinians belong to different faiths. Shireen Abu Akleh was a Muslim.

Some Israeli soldiers asked Palestinians in the funeral procession whether they were Muslim or Christian. If they answered “Muslim” they would be kicked out.

Tear gas and stun grenades were used against mourners. Cops beat and kicked the mourners while seizing Palestinian flags.

That’s how every colonial regime acts. In 1948, Law No. 57 was passed in Puerto Rico that made it illegal to display or even own a Puerto Rican flag. “La Ley de la Mordaza” was repealed in 1955.

Israeli police claim Palestinians carrying their own flag is “nationalist incitement.” Real “incitement” is the Israeli Brigadier-General (Ret.) Zvika Fogel confirming that army snipers are ordered to shoot at Palestinian children.

Fogel told Ron Nesiel on the Israel public radio network Kan in 2018 that “it is not the whim of one or the other sniper who identifies the small body of a child now and decides he’ll shoot. Someone marks the target for him very well and tells him exactly why one has to shoot and what the threat is from that individual.”

Someone in the Israeli military establishment also marked the target of Shireen Abu Akleh and ordered the sniper to shoot her in the head.

The truth will not be silenced

It’s not just in the U.S. client state of Israel that truth tellers are assassinated. Between 2000 and 2016, $10 billion in U.S. aid was sent to Colombia. The upshot was that tens of thousands of people were killed. Among them were 53 Colombian journalists slain between 1992 and 2012.

Within the United States itself — all of it stolen from Indigenous peoples — journalists have been attacked and killed.

Los Angeles Times columnist and KMEX-TV news director Ruben Salazar was killed on Aug. 29, 1970, during the National Chicano Moratorium anti-war march in East Los Angeles. Cops had attacked the peaceful protest of over 20,000 people.

Salazar was killed by a tear gas canister fired by a Los Angeles County Sheriff’s deputy.

Many people believe that Salazar was deliberately targeted for exposing the racism and brutality of the police and sheriff departments. In the days before his death, Ruben Salazar felt that he was being followed by police.

The wealthy and powerful wanted to silence the radio journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal forever. The former Black Panther Party member was framed for killing a Philadelphia police officer and was sentenced to death.

Although the death sentence was eventually overturned, Mumia Abu-Jamal has been in prison since 1981.

Ramsey Orta, a member of CopWatch in New York City, videoed the killing of Eric Garner by police officer Daniel Pantaleo on July 17, 2014. Garner was choked to death while repeatedly saying “I can’t breathe.”

For revealing the truth about Eric Garner’s cruel death to the world, Ramsey Orta was railroaded to jail and spent four years in prison.

The U.S. government is now trying to extradite Wikileaks founder Julian Assange for exposing Pentagon war crimes in Afghanistan and Iraq. Assange is in ill health and could be sentenced to many years in jail.

Hands off Julian Assange and all the truth tellers.

Stop lying about Zionist murder!
Shireen Abu Akleh was assassinated

By Stephen Millies

Hundreds protested on short notice outside the headquarters of the New York Times on May 13. They came to protest the coverage by the capitalist media about the murder of Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh by an Israeli sniper.

The Times’ coverage was typical. Its headlines disguise the fact that the Palestinian journalist was assassinated.

The emergency memorial and protest was called by Al-Awd’s NY: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition to call for “justice for honor killing of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu-Akleh.”

During the rush-hour rally on Manhattan’s Eighth Avenue, news was received that Zionist cops attacked the pallbearers of Abu Akleh’s casket and tore Palestinian flags from it. Their vicious underlining the desperation of the apartheid regime occupying Palestine.

Lamis Deek of Al-Awd described how Shireen Abu Akleh helped give a voice to the Palestinian people. Deek denounced the corporate media for covering-up Zionist war crimes.

Lamis Deek, a human rights attorney, hailed Palestinian resistance groups.

Protesters marched from the Times building to the Zionist regime’s U.N. mission on Second Avenue. Forty-Second street was filled with Palestinian flags as protesters took to the streets.

People on the sidewalk greeted the marchers while many cars honked in approval.

Long live the memory of Shireen Abu Akleh! Palestine will win!
Never forget the MOVE bombing

By Stephen Millies

“Let the fire burn.” That was the order Philadelphia police commission- er Gregore Sambor gave to fire- fighters at the potential home blaze on May 13, 1985.

Philadelphia police, with assistance from the Pentagon and FBI, had dropped a bomb from a helicopter on the house.

Inside the house at 6221 Osage Avenue were 13 members of the MOVE organization, including its founder John Africa. Only two people survived: Ramona Africa and nine-year-old Theresa Africa.

Six adults and five children were burned to death. They were nine-year-old Tamaqua Africa; 12-year- olds Little Phil Africa and Netta Africa; 13-year-old Delisla Africa and 14-year-old Tree Africa. And Con- dorcet Africa, Frank Africa, John Africa, Raymond Africa, Rhoda Afri- ca and Theresa Africa.

The Philadelphia Special Investi- gation Commission found that police fired “over 10,000 rounds of am- munition in under 90 minutes at a row house containing children.” The cops fired so many bullets that they had to get more ammunition from their armory.

According to author John L. Puck- ett, “Police were outfitted with M16 semi-automatic rifles, Uzis, shot- guns, .30-06 and .22-250 sharpshooter rifles, a Thompson submachine gun, and a Thompson submachine gun.”

“66% of Americans fear they won’t be able to have children.”

Meanwhile, as presented by Federation of Feminist Organizations, Revolution- ary Cuba leaves no stone unturned to provide these rights, even hampered by the la- ser-focused, intensified U.S. block- ade. Somehow, through working together with solidarity, they do it: Witness the herculean COVID-19 vaccine development, now expand- ing to protect the six-month to two- year age group.

The right to health care and debate about abortion were settled in Cuba long before the recent green bandana advances in Argentina, Colombia and Chile. Nonetheless, the Cuban people, too, are in the midst of de- bating rights – but not the rights for capitalists and landlords to exploit and steal or Big Pharma extortion for medicines. The groundbreaking 1975 Family Code that codified gen- der equality in the home and in so- ciety is being updated, modernized, and strengthened with more equal- ity and inclusion, more protection, not less. Significantly, even the title has been changed from Family Code to Families Code.

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Beyond abortion, a struggle to win our future

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really about life for the majority, not just for the few.

This is not political jargon. The combat between the past and the future can be seen in real time when Cuba’s proposed Families Code and 2020 Family Rights are discussed. The Families Code provides legal rights for the various family forma- tions that actually exist in Cuba today. It recognizes and guarantees rights for the various family forma- tions that actually exist in Cuba today. It recognizes and guarantees

All Cubans can afford health care

On the other hand, no Cuban need fear they won’t be able to afford health care.

It does not establish molds nor does it require anyone to choose a particular form of reproduction. In the U.S., life is a “right to life” banner is cyni- cally used to restrict women’s re- productive autonomy. In the U.S., right to life is purported to begin at conception, but stops before birth, sending Black maternity and infant death rates to scandalous heights in the richest country on the globe. In 2020, 16% of children under 18 years of age, 11.6 million, lived in poverty. Students graduate from university with unpayable student loans. Ticket- s to concerts and sporting events are out of reach for most. The right to health care, education, housing, sports and culture and a dignified life with the possibility of develop- ing each human’s potential are all constitutionally guaranteed in Cuba.

Gender reassignment has notably been free in Cuba as part of medical care. Now free fertility assistance in- cluding surrogacy under certain con- ditions is included in the proposed Families Code, something unthink- ably unaffordable to many in the U.S. who are unable to have children.

The Families Code provides legal rights for the various family forma- tions that actually exist in Cuba to- day. Officially married, or commit- ted relationships without formality, same-sex relationships, grandpar- ents or other close relatives raising children and more. Rights are ex- panded, not restricted, so each fam- ily’s choice and need is respected. Am- erica can claim the improvements in this way.

“Is this a code of opportunities and alternatives, of adding and multiply- ing, that recognizes and guarantees rights for those who didn’t have them. In no way does it affect or limit the rights already recognized for others. It does not establish molds nor does it require anyone to choose a family model that is not the one de- sired by each family.”

“it is a broad and comprehensive code, revolutionary and modern.”

(transcript of simultaneous transla- tion by Marcellus Koppel, https://youtu. be/wjjfDeVi3gI)

Cuba expands rights of children

The rights of children are ex- panded. The term “patria potestar” (motherland authority) has been added with parental responsibility, mean- ing physically and psychologically capable to guarantee and protect the rights, well-being and the happiness of the daughters and sons, provide participation, to listen to them, protect them, bring them love, foster their growth and independence.
Beyond abortion

Continued from page 4

an atmosphere of affection.

The discussions are not pro-forma to check off some abstract requirement, but are considered to the comments, additions, suggestions and proposals gathered through multiple approaches in 78,000 seminars of the March conference, the version under discussion is the 22nd draft. After approval by the National Assembly the final product of the consultations will then be voted on by the people in a national referendum, where as a result of the consultation processes, voters actually understand what they are voting on.

The secret weapon of socialist Cuba

Equality and development of the potential of each human being is the secret weapon of socialist Cuba. The current U.S. efforts to push women back into some past family form are fighting against Cuba. The continued product of the consultations will then be voted on by the people in a national referendum, where as a result of the consultation processes, voters actually understand what they are voting on.

The secret weapon of socialist Cuba

Continued from page 4

independence from Spain. Weapons were scarce, but Fidel prioritized arming the Marianas, who were regarded as the best fighters. After the victory over the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship Fidel and Vilma Espin founded the Federation of Cuban Women to erase the legacy of colonialism through education and job opportunities. Tradition's chains were severed when thousands of young women joined Cuba's historic Literacy Campaign, teaching the country to read and write in a year. The success of this process is evident today where women scientists and technicians are integral leaders in the development and production of Cuba's five COVID-19 vaccines.

The following statistics were presented by the FMC delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66):

Women: 67.4% of workers in education, more than 70% of judges and attorneys general, 62% of doctors and 62.2% of those working in international collaboration in countries around the world. Participation in decision-making is increasing. As of the end of 2021, women held 51.6% of State and Government positions including 52.2% of the State Council, 52.7% of Municipal People’s Power Assemblies, 53.22% of parliamentary representatives, 54.35% of the Municipal Assembly presidents and vice-presidents.

So what are we fighting for? The Supreme Court has forced the question. Let’s answer it. Cuba represents our future.
Fact-finding trip to Donbass: A front-line shelter

Continued from page 1

came whistleblowers in an exposé published by Newsweek, “Putin’s Holding Back.”

The authors, many of whom were military officers, had to remain anonymous; they said to have tar-
geted “peacekeeping facilities” (as if belonging to the U.N.), one of the analysts for Newsweek had a
called peacekeeper training ground (in Yavoriv) was hit because it was the place where the “international
legion” (Ukrainian military unit, training international mercenaries) was to have trained.

This quote from one of the ad-
visers sums up their motivation
for becoming whistleblowers: “I’m
fomented by the current narrative —
the Russian army is sitting around,
getting civilians, that it is demol-
ing cities, and that Putin doesn’t
care. Such a distorted view stands in
the way of finding an end before true
disaster hits or the war spreads to
the rest of Europe,” said this Penta-
gon source for Newsweek’s U.S. Air Force officer.

It’s interesting that CNN reported
that only one person died and five
were hospitalized in the May 11 bomb-
ing; no civilians were reported to
have been killed. All of those, as far
as I could tell, were Ukrainian civilians; and they said over the growth of fascists forces
in the Ukrainian government and
military is just a smoke-screen
designed to facilitate the takeover of
that country. They claim the Russian
military is targeting civilians and
the Ukrainian military is not.

The Lugansk People’s Republic also
says that it would be better for all of
the people in the region if the Rus-
sians had won. Without the Russian
army, they say, there would be no
acknowledgment of the eight-year Ukrainian war against
the people of the Donbass region.

Surprisingly, a significant portion of
organizations here in the U.S. that
consider themselves anti-imperial-
ist and socialist agree with the as-
sessment pushed by the U.S. State
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Department.
Don't eat Biden's weapons

We then heard from a family of three—son, sun and grandson. The son and grandson were both adults. The mother and son were disabled and therefore unable to find any employment in this environment, let alone travel.

They, like many others, were dependent on the humanitarian aid given by Russia. They can’t eat Biden’s high-tech weaponry sent to the Kiev regime. So they remain here.

They shared a similar story of having a building that was being shot at. Although they said they couldn’t say for sure who was shooting at them, they were sure the shells were coming from where the Ukrainian military brigades were stationed.

I then asked them if they felt safe here in the shelter. They all said they did and that they didn’t know what they would do without this place.

I also wanted to know how they felt about the Russian soldiers being at the shelter. Both Russian and Lugansk People’s Republic soldiers are present in this location, with the greatest number being LPR soldiers. But they wanted to specifically know how they felt about the Russian troops. So I asked them: “If the Russian soldiers left this shelter, how would that affect you?” The son and grandson answered immediately that they would not feel safe, and the mother nodded agreement.

The last interview we did in this woman, with the added composition to at least listen to their stories!

Can’t eat Biden’s weapons

The Italian journalist asked: “So consider us as their people.” When they answered, “What we are Ukrainians.” When they asked, “They were shouting, ‘What are you doing that so many people in Lugansk and Donetsk, who extend to actual people like this woman, with the added composition to at least listen to their stories!”

Struggle-La Lucha’s coverage of the war crisis in Ukraine and Donbass has been absolutely unique in the U.S. We have writers who have followed the anti-fascist struggle of the Donbass republics and Ukrainian underground for many years. We raised the alarm last year that Washington was deliberately creating a situation that would force Russia to respond militarily to prevent a genocidal Ukrainian invasion of the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics. While other alternative media quickly fell in line with the U.S.-Russia narrative, we continue to fearlessly speak out and print the truth: that Washington’s proxy war against Russia threatens not only the people of Donbass and Ukraine, but Europe, Asia, Africa, in fact the whole world.

It’s not just words. We organized the first webinar to bring the voices of Donbass to the U.S. anti-war movement; held protests and community educational events when larger anti-war groups were unwilling to take the streets; and now, John Parker’s visit to Russia and Donbass to bring a message of solidarity to the people resisting the U.S. and NATO and to bring back truthful information to people here at home.

We need your help to keep doing this vital work. Because of U.S. sanctions and restrictions, travel to the region costs thousands of dollars. Please donate generously to help cover the cost of John’s trip to the front line and enable us to continue this important work.

Donate to Struggle-La Lucha online at struggle-la-lucha.org/donate or make a check payable to Struggle-La Lucha and send to: 703 East 37th St., Baltimore Maryland 21218.

A huge thank you,

Struggle-La Lucha writers and staff

“Soldiers shot into my home and burned all my things. Everything that I own is right here,” she said, pointing to the bed she sleeps on. I could see nothing but blankets and pillows. Her age and situation makes leaving an even worse prospect. And if they don’t leave, they don’t get a hug, forgetting that we were required to wear bulletproof flak jackets at all times in the entire area. I accidentally head-bumped this 80-year-old woman. I panicked, thinking I’d hurt her, but it didn’t affect her. She replied, “They were shouting, you ask us why we are Ukrainians,’ and my neighbors were running out of their homes. The greatest number being LPR soldiers. So I asked them: ‘If the Russian soldiers left this shelter, how would that affect you?’ The son and grandson answered immediately that they would not feel safe, and the mother nodded agreement.

The son and grandson were both adults. The mother and son were disabled and therefore unable to find any employment in this environment, let alone travel.

They, like many others, were dependent on the humanitarian aid given by Russia. They can’t eat Biden’s high-tech weaponry sent to the Kiev regime. So they remain here.

They shared a similar story of having a building that was being shot at. Although they said they couldn’t say for sure who was shooting at them, they were sure the shells were coming from where the Ukrainian military brigades were stationed.

I then asked them if they felt safe here in the shelter. They all said they did and that they didn’t know what they would do without this place.

I also wanted to know how they felt about the Russian soldiers being at the shelter. Both Russian and Lugansk People’s Republic soldiers are present in this location, with the greatest number being LPR soldiers. But they wanted to specifically know how they felt about the Russian troops. So I asked them: ‘If the Russian soldiers left this shelter, how would that affect you?’ The son and grandson answered immediately that they would not feel safe, and the mother nodded agreement.

The last interview we did in this woman, with the added composition to at least listen to their stories!

Can’t eat Biden’s weapons

The Italian journalist asked: “So consider us as their people.” When they answered, “What we are Ukrainians.” When they asked, “They were shouting, ‘What are you doing that so many people in Lugansk and Donetsk, who extend to actual people like this woman, with the added composition to at least listen to their stories!”

Struggle-La Lucha’s coverage of the war crisis in Ukraine and Donbass has been absolutely unique in the U.S. We have writers who have followed the anti-fascist struggle of the Donbass republics and Ukrainian underground for many years. We raised the alarm last year that Washington was deliberately creating a situation that would force Russia to respond militarily to prevent a genocidal Ukrainian invasion of the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics. While other alternative media quickly fell in line with the U.S.-Russia narrative, we continue to fearlessly speak out and print the truth: that Washington’s proxy war against Russia threatens not only the people of Donbass and Ukraine, but Europe, Asia, Africa, in fact the whole world.

It’s not just words. We organized the first webinar to bring the voices of Donbass to the U.S. anti-war movement; held protests and community educational events when larger anti-war groups were unwilling to take the streets; and now, John Parker’s visit to Russia and Donbass to bring a message of solidarity to the people resisting the U.S. and NATO and to bring back truthful information to people here at home.

We need your help to keep doing this vital work. Because of U.S. sanctions and restrictions, travel to the region costs thousands of dollars. Please donate generously to help cover the cost of John’s trip to the front line and enable us to continue this important work.

Donate to Struggle-La Lucha online at struggle-la-lucha.org/donate or make a check payable to Struggle-La Lucha and send to: 703 East 37th St., Baltimore Maryland 21218.

A huge thank you,

Struggle-La Lucha writers and staff

“Soldiers shot into my home and burned all my things. Everything that I own is right here,” she said, pointing to the bed she sleeps on. I could see nothing but blankets and pillows. Her age and situation makes leaving an even worse prospect. And if they don’t leave, they don’t get a hug, forgetting that we were required to wear bulletproof flak jackets at all times in the entire area. I accidentally head-bumped this 80-year-old woman. I panicked, thinking I’d hurt her, but it didn’t affect her. She replied, “They were shouting, you ask us why we are Ukrainians,’ and my neighbors were running out of their homes. The greatest number being LPR soldiers. So I asked them: ‘If the Russian soldiers left this shelter, how would that affect you?’ The son and grandson answered immediately that they would not feel safe, and the mother nodded agreement.

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Victory Day & the struggle for abortion rights today

Presentation at the international webinar "Marxists Speak Out: Victory Day, Against Nazism and Imperialism, Yesterday and Today" on May 14.

By Greg Butterfield

I’ve just come from a march of many thousands here in New York to defend the right to abortion. As you probably know, a draft ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court was leaked earlier this month, which would reverse the right to abortion granted in the Roe vs. Wade case almost 50 years ago.

If the decision goes through, the legal precedent will also endanger many other important civil rights, including same-sex marriage, the right to access contraception, protection from so-called sodomy laws used to criminalize queer people, even interracial marriage. It truly is an attack on the whole working class.

The vicious ruling class attack on reproductive rights made me think about the essential role of women and other oppressed—gender people in our movements and in the Soviet victory over fascism in World War II. We know the names of heroes like the Red Army sniper Lyudmila Pavlichenko or air fighter Lidya Lifvyak and saboteur Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya. But Soviet women also held down the home front, kept the factories running, and waged guerrilla warfare when their cities and villages were occupied by the Nazis.

On May 9, 2016, I had the great fortune to attend the Victory Day march in Lugansk, capital of the Lugansk People’s Republic. It was one of the most moving experiences of my life as a revolutionary. The people of the city poured into the streets to honor not only their ancestors who fought fascism decades before, but also those who fought and died to stop Ukraine’s attack on the city in 2014-15. And women were at the center of this mobilization. They were the organizers and leaders, as they are in so many of our organizations, movements, unions and communities.

In this spirit, the Socialist Unity Party is seeking ways to connect the struggle against the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine with the emerging mass movement to fight for abortion rights and other struggles of the working class here at home. There is enormous and growing anger and distrust of the Democratic Party, which poses as the friend of workers and oppressed communities to get elected, but fundamentally serving the interests of the capitalist class just like the Republican Party.

In recent weeks, we have seen the spectacle of Democrats in Congress voting unanimously for an additional $20 billion for the proxy war in Ukraine, while at the same time failing in a rushed vote to codify abortion rights into law, despite having control of both the House and Senate. At the same time, every member of the Senate, Democrat and Republican, voted to add extra security for the Supreme Court justices who are poised to strip a basic human right from more than half the population.

The imperialist regime of the U.S. wants to mandate forced pregnancy and birth at a time when the cost of food and rent is skyrocketing, there is a frightening shortage of infant formula, and the public health measures of the pandemic have been repeatedly abandoned.

The capitalists, in their insatiable drive for profits, can’t stop themselves from pushing too far. They are making the contradictions of their system so glaring that it gives us, their enemies, an opportunity to educate and organize the many, many workers whose lives are on the line—especially the most downtrodden, including Black and Brown people, women, trans people and immigrants.

As we mark Victory Day, our great task is to help our class make the connections between the struggle against imperialist war abroad and the war on workers at home.

Clarence Thomas speaks in NYC

‘Mobilizing in Our Own Name: Million Worker March’

This May, Clarence Thomas, a retired member of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 1 in San Francisco, is touring the East Coast to publicize his book by the vice chair of Transport Worker Union Local 100; president of the Co.

Clarence Thomas and event host Miranda Bachman at The People’s Forum. Clarence Thomas and event host Miranda Bachman at The People’s Forum.

Clarence Thomas speaks at the Million Worker March in NYC.

Never forget the MOVE bombing

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8, 1978. The cops were so reckless that they killed fellow police officer James Ramp with a bullet to the back of his head.

Rizzo had the MOVE house destroyed so it couldn’t be proven that it was impossible to fire the shot from there. Nine MOVE members were framed for killing Ramp.

Chuck Africa, Debbie Africa, Delbert Africa, Eddie Africa, Janet Africa, Janine Africa, Merle Africa, Michael Africa and Phil Africa were sentenced to between 30 and 100 years in jail.


From Philadelphia to Odessa


Delbert Africa lived less than five months after being released on Jan. 13, 2020. His daughter Yvonne Orr-Ell said he died on June 15, 2020 because of inadequate care by prison officials for a kidney condition.

When Delbert Africa was arrested in 1978 with his arms raised, three cops viciously kicked and beat him. This brutality was captured on film and seen worldwide.

Yet none of these police officers were convicted. Then police commissioner Joseph O’Neill defended their assault by testifying “Delbert Africa wasn’t a man, he was a savage.”

This racist violence is exported to the rest of the world. Just as it helped drop the bomb on the MOVE family, the Pentagon is shipping billions of dollars of bombs to Ukraine.

The CIA and other U.S. spy shops spent billions in Ukraine during the years up to the 2014 coup that overthrew the then Ukrainian government. On May 2, 2014, Ukrainian fascists set fire to the House of Trade Unions in Odessa, Ukraine.

Like the Philadelphia cops, these neo-Nazis refused to let people escape from the building. At least 48 people died.

Congress has approved $40 billion in more weapons for a Ukrainian regime that has banned every opposition party. This money could be used for child care subsidies or to fix-up public housing instead.

Don’t believe the war lies against the Donbass republics and the Russian Federation. Our struggle is at home for jobs and justice.

At least 122 political prisoners, including Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier. Two million prisoners need to come home to their families.

Always remember the MOVE bombing.
Washington's economic war on Russia (and Germany)

By Gary Wilson

In February, President Joe Biden made it clear that the U.S./NATO military escalation in Europe was not about Ukraine. Since taking office in 2021, President Biden has been more focused on Germany and Russia, in particular the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. The July 2021 meeting of Biden with then-German Chancellor Angela Merkel was icy. Politico reported July 15, 2021, that “Biden and Merkel still don’t see eye to eye on Nord Stream 2.”

Nord Stream 2 is a new pipeline designed to deliver natural gas from Russia to Germany at double the capacity of the existing pipeline. Construction of Nord Stream 2 was completed in September 2021, but it has not yet been opened for service. The Trump administration had unsuccessfully tried to shut down Nord Stream 2. Now Merkel is out as German chancellor, replaced by Olaf Scholz. With a U.S. proxy war unfolding in Ukraine against Russia, Scholz announced a suspension of the opening of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

No U.S. troops in Ukraine, yet

The Biden administration has not yet sent U.S. troops into Ukraine, but it has launched an economic war.

Natural gas is a primary energy source in the European Union and is the dominant source for home heating and cooking. The EU imports 40% of its natural gas from Russia. In the EU, Germany is the most dependent on gas piped directly from Russia. That is why Germany built the Nord Stream 2 pipeline with Russia. The U.S. is now forcing the European Union, particularly Germany, to move away from purchasing natural gas from Russia. The U.S. says they should get natural gas from the U.S. or Qatar, a U.S. Big Oil subsidiary. On Feb. 7, Biden said of the German-Russian project: “There will no longer be a Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it.”

On Feb. 22, Germany announced the suspension of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. This was not a decision made in Berlin; the order to do this came from Washington.

Natural gas from Russia can be piped into Western Europe at a relatively low cost while natural gas from the U.S. and Qatar must be liquified — liquified natural gas or LNG — then shipped by sea to Europe. Germany does not have a port to receive LNG directly, adding to the transport costs.

On Feb. 27, Chancellor Scholz announced that Germany will construct two port terminals for LNG and also plans to lease floating LNG terminals as well.

Cutting off natural gas from Russia is a big bonus for the U.S. oil oligarchy. The United States is the world’s largest exporter of LNG. Liquified natural gas has a higher price than piped-in gas and prices for U.S. LNG are now expected to double.

OilPrice reported April 24: “Right now, U.S. LNG exports are booming, and most are going to Europe, where the prices are the highest and demand is the strongest. ... After the war started, demand went off the charts as the European Union vowed to reduce EU demand for Russian gas by two-thirds before the end of the year.”

Another bonus for U.S. capitalists

There’s another bonus for U.S. capitalists. The increase in the price of natural gas across Europe will raise the prices of commodities produced by European industries, particularly German products.

German capitalists dominate the markets in Europe and have been rising in the global marketplace. In 2015, Ben Bernanke — former chair of the Federal Reserve System — publicly complained of the strong rise in German exports taking markets away from the capitalists of other countries.

The U.S. economy has been in a long-term decline. Increasingly, the “U.S. consumer” buys and consumes commodities that are produced outside of the United States. The great bulk of both material production and surplus value — unpaid labor contained in commodities — is being produced outside of U.S. capitalist ownership.

Forcing the European Union to pay higher energy prices will increase the price of commodities produced in the EU, which opens the possibility that U.S.-owned industry might be able to take markets away from German and other European capitalists.

The proxy war in Ukraine has been a gift to the U.S. military-industrial complex, with over $3 billion in armaments already poured into Kiev. This may line the pockets of a few billionaires, but it won’t reverse the U.S. economic decline.

Military spending produces the means of destruction, that is, the money does not go to expanding commodity production. Military spending actually contracts the capitalist market. Factories that normally produce commodities for profit are instead producing the means of destruction, so there’s no profit, in Marxist terms.

Military spending rots the economy by destroying the productive forces. Also, the expanded military spending in the U.S. is a cause of inward investment rather than U.S.-owned firms investing in the EU.

U.S. expanding military in Europe

While the U.S. is not yet sending troops into Ukraine, it is expanding U.S. military operations in Europe. In March, the New York Times reported: “NATO doubles its battlegroups in Eastern Europe.” NATO already had 175,000 troops lined up on Russia’s border and in February launched an additional 40,000-strong rapid response force.

The U.S. now has more than 100,000 soldiers deployed in Europe, the most since the overturn of the Soviet Union. About 40% of the U.S. armed forces in Europe are stationed in Germany.

Germany remains very much an occupied country. The Federal Republic of Germany, built on the ruins of the defeated Third Reich by the U.S. occupation forces and later incorporating the (East) German Democratic Republic, is a sort of protectorate of the United States. The U.S. rebuilt Germany in order to fortify the dominant position of the U.S. over Western Europe following World War II.

European trade and investment prior to the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine against Russia had seen a rise in commerce between Germany, France and other Western European countries with Russia and China. One of the goals of the U.S. is to hold Germany and Western Europe firmly within the U.S. economic orbit.

According to Washington’s policy, Europe is supposed to impose sanctions on Russia and give priority to imports from the United States at the cost of raising energy and agricultural prices, particularly in Germany. Up to now the interests of West European capitalists, including German ones, have coincided with those of the U.S. But Washington’s need to reverse the long-term decline of U.S. industry’s position in the world market has begun to change that. First came Trump’s trade war and now Biden’s economic war on Russia.

Baltimore commemorates 8-year anniversary of ODESSA MASSACRE

By Struggle-La Lucha

Baltimore bureau

On May 2, the 8-year anniversary of the Odessa House of Trade Unions massacre was commemorated in Baltimore.

The anniversary is particularly important this year as the U.S. corporate media continue to spread war lies about the situation in Ukraine.

On May 2, 2014, nearly 50 anti-fascists were massacred in Odessa, Ukraine. Activists were attacked by a racist neo-Nazi mob. Activists were driven into the House of Trade Unions, which was then set afire. Some anti-fascists were burned alive; others were shot, beaten to death as they tried to escape the blaze. The youngest victim was just 17.

Baltimore solidarity activists read the names of those who died, performed a rendition of Woody Guthrie’s “All You Fascists Bound to Lose,” and mounted a memorial on a fence next to the Harriet Tubman Solidarity Center. The commemoration was initiated by the Baltimore Socialist Unity Party.
'U.S.-NATO proxy war in Ukraine is extension of the war against us'

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members of other organizations. As I speak, one of our Socialist Unity Party members is traveling in Russia and Donbass, gathering more information on the real situation.

NATO expansion, NATO wars

Since 1990, when the Soviet Union unilaterally disbanded the Warsaw Pact military alliance, NATO has expanded from 17 to 30 member states. In 1999, U.S.-led NATO began raining bombs on Yugoslavia, bombing 10,000 homes and killing thousands of people, including three journalists at the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade.

Despite the end of the alleged threat from the Warsaw Pact, the belligerence continued with the unfathomable killing of 500,000 children in Iraq by the U.S. But this is just the tip of the iceberg of victims of U.S. and NATO wars, including the millions killed in Vietnam, Korea, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria and Yemen. Now slavery exists in Libya, because of the war waged by the Obama administration and NATO – a reality that undoubtedly is destroying the lives of children.

In Yemen, U.S. assistance to the war led by Saudi Arabia is causing the starvation of millions of children, according to United Nations estimates. Like Trump and Obama, the Biden administration continues the endless wars abroad and the racist wars by police and ICE against people in the U.S., including immigrants, already victimized by U.S. economic wars against their countries, targeted by drones and Border Patrol on the U.S. borders.

The latest U.S.-NATO proxy war, with the corporate media acting as its propaganda arm, carries the danger of igniting World War III, and will do nothing but exacerbate the domestic and international crises of global warming, critical lack of health care, food insecurity and starvation – crises most affecting children.

Capitalism: an open wound

Capitalism in the U.S. is exposed like an open wound. Its procletivity towards war is unacceptable, and today we face an unprecedented challenge to stop a possible world war.

We understand that the crisis of capitalism forces imperialist countries to desperately further siphon the surplus value created by working people and either steal or destroy the productive capacity of lesser capitalist powers like Russia. Russia’s GDP is smaller than that of South Korea, with an almost neocolonial economy dependent on the exchange of raw materials – not the export of capital – to survive.

That’s an important distinction. It explains why Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Syria, Zimbabwe and other targets of U.S. imperialism would suffer most if the U.S.-led NATO forces are successful in this war – not to mention the threat of another NATO member state on the border of Russia, this time potentially with nuclear weapons contrary to an open wound. Its procletivity towards war is unacceptable, and today we face an unprecedented challenge to stop a possible world war.

We must highlight the fact that the U.S.-NATO proxy war in Ukraine is an extension of the war against us, so that we can contemplate the source and solution to their problem, and begin dismantling the most dangerous threat to humanity today – U.S. imperialism.

Watch tinyurl.com/y3r9w7qm

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