Protest high cost of housing, food, fuel
Inflation = wage theft!

By Sharon Black

Today the federal minimum wage is $7.25. Let that sad fact sink in. Right now you can barely buy a gallon of gas in some parts of the country with that little cash. July 24 will mark the anniversary of an attack on a Pride festival in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, June 12. On the July 4 weekend in Camden, Ohio, Noah Ruiz, a trans man, was beaten by four men after being forced to use a women’s restroom at a campsite. The victim was arrested by the police and spent the night in jail. It took legal action by Ruiz to force the cops to arrest one of his attackers on July 18, the other three have not been charged.

In Pensacola, Florida, July 18, Alisabeth Lancaster, a candidate for the Santa Rosa County School Board declared that doctors who provide gender-affirming care to trans youth “should be hanging from the nearest tree,” to applause from the audience. The video of Lancaster’s lynching threat went viral on social media.

Lancaster was echoing Florida's state government, headed by notori- ous homophobe Ron DeSantis, which is preparing to ban gender-affirming care at the state capitol in Austin.

In Texas, where the governor has ordered child protective services to investigate parents and health-care providers for “abuse” if they support trans children, families are uprooting their lives and fleeing to other states. That includes Kai Shappley, an 11-year-old trans girl who in 2021 was beaten by four men after being forced to use a women’s restroom at a campsite. The victim was arrested by the police and spent the night in jail. It took legal action by Ruiz to force the cops to arrest one of his attackers on July 18, the other three have not been charged.

The structural causes of the social explosion

By Melinda Butterfield

Thirty-one members of the white supremacist Patriot Front from across the U.S. were detained after preparing an assault on a Pride festival in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, June 12. On the July 4 weekend in Camden, Ohio, Noah Ruiz, a trans man, was beaten by four men after being forced to use a women’s restroom at a campsite. The victim was arrested by the police and spent the night in jail. It took legal action by Ruiz to force the cops to arrest one of his attackers on July 18, the other three have not been charged.

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The structural causes of the social explosion

Behind the escalating attacks on trans people

U.S. Secret Service and the coup

PHILIPPINES:
• No martial law
• Reject the Marcos-Duterte regime!

CUBA:
• Facing hybrid warfare
• Pastors for Peace legacy

JAPAN’s military expansion

Biden & big oil

SCOTUS, govt., cops & nazis

These vicious assaults – some spontaneous, but often planned and organized – cannot be separated from the nationwide political attack on trans rights and abortion rights. From the dozens of state legislatures that have enacted or plan to enact restrictions on trans lives and women’s lives, to the highest court in the land, the right to control one’s

Continued on page 2

End racist police terror NOW!

No more bail ransom

Tent City, Maricopa County, Arizona in 1997 stood 10 minutes south of downtown Phoenix.
Protest high cost of housing, food, fuel

Inflation = wage theft!

Continued from page 1

Behind the escalating attacks on trans people

Continued from page 1

body and identity is being systemat-
ically stripped away. After its Dobbs decision over-
turning the right to abortion, the Su-
preme Court majority has signaled it will next come after constitutional protections for same-sex marriage, contraception and protection from so-called “sodomy” laws.

With its spate of reactionary de-
cisions in 2022, the Court has carried out a coup d'état, estab-
lishing itself as the de facto gov-
ernment in service to the growing fascist-oriented wing of the ruling class and the Republican political establishment.

The elected government headed by Democrat Joe Biden and Democrat-
ic majorities in both houses of Con-
gress have signaled their unwilling-
ness to oppose the coup in any mean-
ingful way.

The anti-trans panic cannot be separated from the bourgeois liber-
al establishment, either, where nu-
merous figures from Hillary Clinton on down have expressed their dis-
dain and disinterest in defending trans people.

Media outlets from the New York Times and Washington Post to The Atlantic magazine have joined the pile-on with “fake news” articles and op-eds attacking gender-affirming care, trans people’s participation in sports and more, taking up the same arguments spouted by the far-right.

Corporate social media giants like Twitter, Reddit and Facebook have facil-
tated the trans panic, often protecting those who use slurs like “gender-identity-orientation” attacks on trans people while censoring or even deplatforming trans people who stand up to them.

A deeply irresponsible effort to divide the women’s movement and the broader LGBTQ community from trans people is underway: It attempts to cast blame on trans people for the overturning of Roe v. Wade, claim-
ing their existence somehow under-
mines the definition of motherhood, rather than uniting to fight the real culprits — the politicians in Wash-
ington and the state houses and the capitalists behind them.

Against this sabotage, it’s urgent for all groups fighting for abor-
tion rights to follow the example of the Louisiana Abortion Rights Action Committee and others calling for a national week of civil disobedience in September. Their calls and statement are inclusive of all people who need abortion rights and bodily autono-
my, and include trans people among their organizers and spokespeople.

What’s at stake for workers? Everything!

What’s really behind these esca-
lating attacks on trans lives — and what’s at stake for the working class? Publicly out, self-identified trans-
gender, non-binary and gender-
nonconforming people make up 1% of the U.S. population. Yet the community has been trans-
formed into a monstrous bogeyman by the ultra-right, and increasingly by “mainstream” centrist and lib-
erals as well.

It’s true that today more people, especially younger people, identi-
fy as trans or nonbinary than they did 10 or 20 years ago. That’s be-
cause hard-fought struggles have increased trans visibility, and more people now recognize and embrace their true selves. Much the same has happened throughout the 1970s and beyond with gay, lesbian and bisexual people.

And like that earlier breakthrough in public visibility, those who seek to divide and conquer the working class have seized on this positive development to spread reactionary hate based on fear.

The attacks on gender-affirming care for trans youth are especially horrifying to anyone who under-
stands the dangers for those de-
nied the right to transition and live as themselves. Earlier this year, a study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association found that gender-affirming care reduced suicide attempts by up to 77%.

But the anti-trans bigots at-
tempt to stir up an panic about “corruption” of children don’t care about their lives being more, more anti-“abortion” bigots care about the well-being of children that result from forced births.

Gay men were scapegoated and denied care during the HIV/AIDS crisis of the 1980s, today trans peo-
ple are being subjected to an “in-
volution” that must be repressed, de-
nied health care and kept away from children and youth who might see themselves reflected in their lives.

In the 1980s, the Reagan admin-
istration used witch-hunts against “welfare mothers” and people with HIV/AIDS to distract from its union busting, Cold War nuclear buildup and vicious austerity measures. To-
day the U.S. ruling class has settled on trans people as a scapegoat for the crisis of its system: the stripping away of people’s basic rights, sky-
rocketing inflation, abandonment of public health, and the international war threats to ignite World War III and global environmental catastrophe.

Trans people have also been tar-
geted for the militant role many have played in other struggles against the system. Trans people were front and center during the mass uprising for Black Lives in 2020. Trans people are also key to many of the ongoing union organizing efforts peeling apart the corporate web that is megacorporations like Starbucks and Amazon.

Today, there is enormous fear within the trans community. People are preparing for the possibility that all gender-affirming care will be banned in the near future nationwide and that trans people will risk arrest for living publicly. Some are trying to find the means to flee the coun-
try; others are planning to stay and fight. Most are simply trying to survive day by day and live their lives under the darkening skies.

If you know a trans person, reach out to them and offer your solidar-
ity. If you hear coworkers or family members spouting anti-trans rhet-
oric, stand up to them. Make sure that your union, your communi-
y organization, your movement is with the trans people who take a strong position in their defense.

History shows that the scape-
goating of oppressed groups always starts from the outside. As rights of the broad LGBTQ community are next on the chopping block, the racist right is also counting on the Black people’s voting rights have already been deeply weakened, and more at-
tacks are in the offing.

The stakes are the current targets on the front line of capita-
list war’s on workers. But if we don’t unite and fight back now, you can be certain the bosses thinking of classing you, dear reader — will not be far behind.

Background image credit: Niki Boense · STRUGGLE * LA LUCHA

Paperback or Kindle https://tinyurl.com/vwarvc7

The Social Evolution of Humanity

Marx and Engels were right! by Bob McCubbin

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels’ masterwork "Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State."

McCubbin is the author of ‘Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.’ Published in 1976, during the first wave of the modern LGBTQ movement, McCubbin’s unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of how LGBTQ oppression developed.
Police brutality and violence against innocent people aren’t exactly a rarity in the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. From the senseless beating of a 73-year-old woman with dementia when she became confused outside of a local Walmart to the horrific torture and murder of an unarmed 23-year-old Black man, Elijah McClain, Colorado police departments are no stranger to enacting racist terror and severe brutality on the community.

During the early hours of Sunday, July 17, the Denver Police department added a chapter to that already long and bloody saga. As bars were letting out in downtown Denver, the police opened fire wildly at crowds of people. The officers claimed they were returning fire at a suspect who had brandished a firearm and opened fire himself. There is no evidence that this suspect discharged a firearm.

Five other people were severely injured and ricocheting bullets and shrapnel grazed dozens of others. Groups of friends went from enjoying a Saturday night out to being victims of a terrorist police attack. The police and their political allies tell us that they “protect and serve” the community. Does this feel like protecting or serving? Do we really think that the individuals wounded and their loved ones feel protected and served by the Denver Police Department?

This spray and spray mentality is all too common in U.S. police departments. The recent carnage in Denver draws disturbing parallels to the recent murder of Jayland Walker earlier this year in Akron, Ohio, and the 2020 murder of Louisville EMS worker, Breonna Taylor. Louisville police officers fired 32 rounds into Taylor’s apartment, many penetrating into her bedroom, where she was asleep. Jayland Walker was shot up to 60 times after 8 Akron police officers fired 90 rounds at him while he was running away from them unarmed. And when actual violence occurs, like in the recent mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, a “small army of 376 federal, state, and local law-enforcement officers” sat idle while innocent children were killed.

And now, Denver police fired dozens of rounds wildly into late night crowds exiting bars, nearly killing six people. That doesn’t seem like protecting and serving. All Denver police officers involved in this recent shooting need to be terminated from their positions and charged with attempted murder. Further, the City of Denver must pay reparations to all the individuals who Denver Police injured, directly or indirectly. Defund the police 100% Community control now! End racist police terror now! Breonna Taylor! Jayland Walker! Elijah McClain! Say their names! "

Police terror rips through downtown Denver

By Kevin Niemann

Police brutality and violence against innocent people aren’t exactly a rarity in the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. From the senseless beating of a 73-year-old woman with dementia when she became confused outside of a local Walmart to the horrific torture and murder of an unarmed 23-year-old Black man, Elijah McClain, Colorado police departments are no stranger to enacting racist terror and severe brutality on the community.

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Guilty until proven innocent

By Stephen Millies

The so-called U.S. criminal justice system is just plain criminal. Two of its biggest atrocities are cash bail and solitary confinement.

Black Lives Matter activist Sandra Bland was held in a Waller County, Texas, jail because she couldn’t afford $5,000 bail. Three days after Bland was arrested for a minor traffic violation, the 28-year-old Black woman was found hanged in her jail cell on July 13, 2015. Many people don’t believe she committed suicide.

Albert Woodfox spent nearly 45 years in solitary confinement in Louisiana’s notorious Angola prison. Woodfox, who with two other members of the Black Panther Party known as the “Angola 3,” was released in 2016.

The Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution — part of the Bill of Rights — clearly states that “excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.”

Bail is excessive for anyone who can’t pay it. Solitary confinement is torture.

Unable to afford bail, Kalief Browder spent three years in New York City’s jail complex on Rikers Island before his charges were dropped. For two of those years, the Black youth was in solitary confinement after a trial conviction.

Kalief Browder was jailed when he was just 16 years old. Two years after his release he hanged himself on June 6, 2015.

Sparked by this tragedy, a grassroots movement forced the New York State Legislature to pass laws that largely did away with cash bail. Police and their supporters launched a vicious campaign to repeal this needed legislation.

Cheering them on are Fox News and the New York Post, both owned by the billionaire hate-monger Rupert Murdoch. New York City Mayor Eric Adams also wants more people facing trial held on bail and more prisoners held in solitary confinement.

No justice for the poor

It’s a big lie that everyone in the United States is considered innocent until proven guilty. Not being able to afford bail means you can’t contact witnesses that could prove your innocence. Any effective legal defense is largely denied.

Being kept in hellholes makes many innocent people confess to lesser charges just to get out of jail. These forced confessions also prevent poor people from voting.

In 2020, 5.2 million people were kept off the voting rolls because of a previous conviction. Just cashing a check with insufficient funds can be enough to block someone from voting. Their real crime was being poor.

On an average day, 533,000 people are being held in local, state and federal dungeons without being convicted. Ten million people are driven through these lock-ups every year. Most people in jail are legally innocent.

More than 80,000 people are in solitary confinement. The United Nations Committee Against Torture has repeatedly condemned the use of solitary confinement in the U.S. Any jail or prison is dangerous. Nearly 3,000 imprisoned people have died of COVID-19. That’s criminal.

Who needs to be locked-up are billionaire CEOs who are jacking-up prices. In just the first three months of 2022, the five biggest oil companies pumped out $35 billion in profits. The more than two million people in prisons are members of the working class. The labor movement needs to demand “Jobs Not Jails!”

On July 14, 1789, poor people in Paris tore down a hated prison called the Bastille and started the French Revolution. There are thousands of bastilles across the United States. We need a socialist revolution to tear them down.

Kidnappers demand ransom. Bail is ransom for the poor while prisons are concentration camps for the poor."
Don’t trust the Secret Service

By Stephen Millies

Despite the bloodshed in the U.S. capital, Trump’s attempted coup on Jan. 6, 2021, is often portrayed as a clown show. The capitalist media showed countless pictures of the base—cheered Jack, Chansley wearing a fur hat with horns.

Many people still question why it took over three hours for the Pentagon to send troops to stop the insurrection.

Gen. Charles Flynn, then deputy chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was one of those responsible for the 187 minute delay. He’s the brother of retired Gen. Michael Flynn, Trump’s first national security adviser who wanted the U.S. military to overturn the 2020 election results.

Gen. Carl Matthews claims that Charles Flynn lied about the delay. The former D.C. National Guard officer sent a 36-page memo to the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 riot.

Because Washington, D.C., has been denied statehood, Mayor Muriel Bowser — unlike a state governor — couldn’t call out the D.C. National Guard herself. Bowser had to ask the Pentagon to do it.

The staff, which is now on the U.S. Secret Service. Almost all of the agency’s text messages from Jan. 5 and 6, 2021, were lost.

The alleged reasons for these deletions are as phony as the excuses given for the 18.5 minute gap in one of Richard Nixon’s Watergate tapes. Rep. Jamie Raskin exclaimed, “I smell a rat.”

Secret Service spokesperson Anthony Guglielmi is claiming that the destruction of this evidence was simply a technical screw-up. Guglielmi said the same when he was a public relations flack for the Chicago police department.

He tried to explain the lack of sound — in five police tapes that showed the murder of Laquan McDonald — as operator error. Convinced police officer Jason Van Dyke had shot the Black teenager 16 times.

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The history of capitalism is punctuated by conspiracies. The African Holocaust and the Holocaust of Indigenous peoples in the Americas jump-started the world capitalist market.

Capitalism’s bloody record includes trampling on its own laws. Karl Marx quotes the British trade unionist T. J. Dunning: “With adequate profit, capital is very bold. A certain 10 per cent will ensure its employment anywhere; 20 percent certain will produce eagerness; 50 per cent, positive audacity; 100 percent, will make it ready to trample on all human laws; 300 percent, and there is not a crime at which it will scruple, nor a risk it will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged.”

Capitalist climate change’s high temperatures are killing thousands of people. That didn’t prevent the world’s 60 biggest banks from lending $742 billion last year to fossil fuel outfits, according to the Rainforest Action Network.

Big profits are why the banksters are helping to cook the earth. The $6 trillion the U.S. spent on atomic weapons were also very profitable, even if capitalists would be incinerated in a nuclear war.

Lyndon Johnson became president because of a successful coup d’état. The Secret Service stood down, allowing John F. Kennedy to be assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas.

Secret Service agents were told to get off the rear of JFK’s limousine just before it made the fatal turn in front of the Texas School Book Depository. On Kennedy and the Secret Service, Abraham Bolden, the first Black member of the president’s Secret Service detail, was framed so he couldn’t testify before the Warren Commission. Bolden was pardoned by President Biden on April 26.

JFK shouldn’t have trusted the Secret Service. Neither should we.
By Stephen Millies

New York — A terrible heat wave didn’t stop a hundred people from demonstrating in front of the Philippines mission to the U.N. on July 24. Filipinos, Filipino-Americans and their supporters were protesting the new installed regime of President Ferdinand “Bong Bong” Marcos, Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte.

Marcos is a son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who instituted martial law in 1972. Thousands of people were killed and at least 70,000 jailed during the 14-year-long martial-law era that was blessed by four U.S. presidents.

Sara Duterte is the daughter of outgoing president Rodrigo Duterte, whose mis-named “war on drugs” involved thousands killed by police and army units.

The Sunday protest on Fifth Avenue was called by the Northeast Coalition to Advance Genuine Democracy in the Philippines. In a leaflet that was handed out, the coalition raised the following issues:

• The questionable results of the May 22 elections that included fraudulent voting missteps, along with cases of vote-buying, violence and disenfranchisement of voters. The elections were held after decades of lies that covered up the crimes of the bloody Marcos dictatorship.

These crimes include the looting of billions of dollars, some of which the Marcos family still controls. Much of the loot must have been siphoned off by U.S. banks and the greedy fingers of U.S. power brokers.

• The continuing economic crisis that includes a tenth of Filipino citizens having to work in other countries. Their remittances keep millions of Filipinos alive. New York City hospitals would collapse without Filipino and Haitian workers.

• The humanitarian crisis that has led to murders committed by Philippine police and military. One of the signs at Sunday’s protest was “activism is not terrorism.” Among those assassinated have been peasants, workers, union organizers, teachers, journalists and LGBTQ+ activists. Police and army officials slander the victims by claiming they were terrorists.

“Red-tagging” — that is, labeling people as communists — is used as an excuse to murder.

• A representative of the women’s organization Gabriela spoke of the arrest and disappearance of four women activists in the last two months: labor organizers Elizabeth “Loi” Magbanua and Alipito “Ador” Just and labor rights activists Elena Cortez Pampozoa and Eligne Munical.

People’s agenda for change

Many Filipino organizations have come together to support the new coalition including the Malay Movement, Gabriela, National Alliance of Women and BAYAN-USA. Also supporting the rally was the International League for Peoples’ Struggle, an anti-imperialist alliance.

A banner said “prosecute Duterte, justice and accountability for the Filipino people.” One of the signs read “Oust Marcos.”

On the same day in Quezon City, the Philippine capital, thousands of people demonstrated against the Marcos-Duterte regime.

The new coalition along with other Filipinos has put forward a 9 point People’s Agenda for Change in the Philippines. The items include regulating prices; reviving agriculture; enacting land reform and developing national industrialization; fighting disinformation while promoting freedom of expression; free health care and social services; and ensuring environmental protection.

For more information on the Northeast Coalition contact: linktr.ee/NE4DemocracyPH

The rally was closed by Nina Macapinlac representing Bayan USA. After she spoke, protestors stomped to pieces painted cardboard boxes representing social injustices in the Philippines.

By Nina Macapinlac

The July 24 rally in front of the Philippines mission to the U.N. in New York was closed by Nina Macapinlac representing Bayan USA. Following is a full transcript:

My name is Nina Macapinlac, a representative of the women’s organization Gabriela.

“Red-tagging” — that is, labeling people as communists — is used as an excuse to murder.

We are part of an international movement! Filipinos everywhere and the international community are marching in step with the genuine democracy movement in the Philippines and push forward the Peoples Agenda!

This year is the 50th anniversary of martial law! Let us build our mass struggle to support the U.N. General Assembly — the same time as the martial law anniversary.

To top it off, Marcos Junior is coming to New York City in September for the U.N. General Assembly — the same time as the martial law anniversary. He is coming despite a $753 million contempt order because the Philippine government is not willing to let him enter the country because they need the Philippines to uphold U.S. geopolitical interests in Asia to isolate China. Sara Duterte is also tagging along to talk about education, to come here to talk to the international community on what it means to have a good education system for their people.

Will we allow Biden to legitimize these fascists to the international community?

Will we give Marcos & Duterte a free and all our people are free!

So let us do that by ramping up our campaign against Marcos-Duterte! Let us build up to September, to the week of September 13 when the U.N. General Assembly is meeting, culminating on September 21st, the 50th anniversary of martial law!

So let us make sure that Marcos knows he is not welcome in the Northeast! Repeat after me —

Marcos Out Of NYC!

Duterte Out Of NYC!

Fascists Are Not Welcome Here!

Fascists Are Not Welcome Here!

So comrades, let us draw strength from comrades who are fighting fascism and imperialism around the world. From El Salvador to Puerto Rico to Sri Lanka to Palestine, we are not alone in this struggle as Filipino people!

Let us lean on each other for community and solidarity! Let us organize tirelessly and build fighting mass organizations! And let us build our mass movements until the Philippines is free and all our people are free!
Cuba facing hybrid warfare

By Angel Guerra Cabrera

July 21 — Cuba must learn to live, advance and develop under the rigors of the fourth generation – hybrid warfare with which the United States systemically harasses it. The approach that emerges from observing the tireless activity of the government in Cuba and the Cuban institutional system in all spheres of economic, political, social and cultural activity. In addition to struggling to recover and transform its economy, the island, to give a couple of examples of great importance, is engaged in two tremendous political and legislative challenges: the debate on the family code – already in the process of approval in the National Assembly of People’s Power, after receiving substantial modifications in popular assemblies and the new communication law, two instruments that tend to deepen the vibrance of Cuban democracy.

Precisely, on Wednesday, the day in which the parliamentary commission discussed the opinion of the aforementioned code, President Miguel Díaz-Canel called, in the economic commission, to deepen Cuban democracy in the face of economic asphyxia and the subservient plans of the U.S.. There is talk of the defeatist position and counterrevolutionary attempt of 7/11, but every day the Cuban people must face numerous manifestations of hostility, both in the economic, political and diplomatic order as well as in the cultural-communication battle. It is worth reiterating, so far President Joseph Biden has changed very little of the 243 measures added by Donald Trump to reinforce the blockade. Biden’s administration announced the reestablishment of family remittances and a greater delivery of visas, but so far he has not implemented them. However, the gray Secretary of State Anthony Blinken announced the day before yesterday the inclusion of Cuba in the blacklist of countries that do not perform well in human trafficking. It is a big lie, which identifies Cuba’s prestigious medical cooperation as “trafficking”.

In order to understand what fourth-generation warfare, or hybrid warfare, as applied to Cuba consists of, I briefly return to my previous week’s post. There I summarized different forms of aggression applied by the United States (U.S.) against Cuba since 1959, the year of the revolutionary triumph. I tried to historically frame the social disorders provoked in the island on July 11, 2021 and to explain the combination of irritating factors that came together to propitiate them. Some, like the pandemic and the confinement, an objective reality. Others, the most deliberative, such as the cruelty with which the government of Donald Trump sought to intensify during the pandemic the hardships and shortages caused by the blockade in order to induce the maximum pain and despair on the Cuban people. All this combined with a ferocious onslaught on social networks and in the conventional media.

Based on its long experience of wars of aggression, hostil campaigns and coups d’etat against people and governments, including those of the first Cold War against the U.S.S.R., the U.S. has been modifying its military doctrine, adapting it to its scientific and technological development and to the advances and lessons learned from those it considers its enemies. That is to say, the revolutionary and progressive movements and governments, or also, those that do not subordinate themselves to the dictates of the empire. The fourth generation war is the combination of economic, financial and commercial devastation, with which it bets on the division of the Cuban people. It is the use of digital networks, the digital media created for that purpose and the conventional ones, to sow hate.

Struggle  ⋆ La Lucha

The legacy of Pastors for Peace support for Cuba continues

By Alejandra García and Bill Hackwell

For the 32nd time in 30 years a Pastors for Peace caravan is in Cuba bringing close to 100 people including many young people who are experiencing the reality of Cuba for the first time; seeing for themselves instead of through the filter of lies and hate so prevalent in the mainstream media of the U.S.

But the delegation is not just made up of first time supporters but veterans of many of the friendship caravans too who accompanied Pastor’s visionary leader the Reverend Lucius Walker through all those years of collecting essential material aid for the island in cities and towns all around the U.S. While tons of aid was delivered it was the explaining the truth about Cuba and its example of what a better world could look like along the way was what was most important. Walker’s message was one of defiance against the cruelty of the blockade, wrapped in love. He said more than once, “Our government has no authority to tell us who our friends are. The Cuban people are our brothers and sisters.”

The legacy of the caravans is being carried in the stories of these veterans like Lisa Valenti who accompanied Lucius in 1996 on a 90 day hunger strike in front of Congress to demand the release of Cuba bound computers confiscated at the Mexican border by U.S. agents. Longtime Pastors’ Bus driver Bill Hill is another one who has participated in most of the caravans including many stopped at the border with furious resistance. From the first caravan in 1992 when border agents seized bibles and bicycles from the hands of priests and students to a caravan stopped at the Canadian border and the aid was then defiantly carried by caravanistas box by box to the other side. Other caravans have defied the U.S. ban on sending technology to Cuba containing any component to its scientific and technological progress. More recently the personal experience of Cheryl Labash, co-chair of the National Network on Cuba, is also on this caravan and explained to Resumen Latinoamericano why Pastor for Peace decided to launch the friendship caravans during the most difficult years of the Revolution.

“At that time it was the 1990s, and the island was going through its worst economic crisis up to that time, known as the Special Period. “Our initiatives were carried out within the administration of then President George Bush (Sr.) was creating all kinds of measures to hinder Cuba’s efforts to overcome the crisis. Bush had decided to maintain the fundamentals of the genocidal policy against Cuba, implement-ed shortly after the triumph of the Revolution of 1959.”

On April 6, 1960 Lester D. Malory, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, in a secret State Department memo defined the U.S. strategy that continues to this day: "Continued on page 7"
The assassination of Shinzo Abe and Japan's military expansion

By Gary Wilson

The assassination of Shinzo Abe, the former prime minister of Japan, on July 8 maybe stirred some memories of the period of government by assassination in Europe in the 1960s and 1970s. It was a time when a pandemic and a severe capitalist depression led to a reign of terror from ruling criminal organizations — the rise of fascism. Shinzo Abe was described by Donald Trump adviser Steven Bannon as "Trump before Trump." Abe had some similarities to Trump. He was a right-wing "Make Japan Great Again" nationalist who stirred up racism to rally his supporters. Abe was allied with anti-Korean and other racist groups. He drummed up anti-Korean sentiment against both the Korean residents of Japan and the people of South and North Korea, former colonies of Japan. He appointed Eriko Yamatani, a politician closely associated with the ultra-nationalist, extremist anti-Korean group Zaitokukai, as the head of the National Public Safety Commission that oversees the National Police Agency.

Abe was a "special adviser" in the Nippon Kaigi, Japan's largest ultra-conservative, far-right non-governmental organization and lobbying group. The Japan Times reports, "is comparable to movements in the Southern U.S. which, to this day, glorify the Confederacy." A war criminal. Abe was for many years at the head of Japan's ruling party, the Liberal Democratic Party. The LDP was founded in 1955 by Abe's grandfather Nobusuke Kishi. It was funded by the CIA.

China has a museum in the city where the Japanese occupation of China began in 1931 that showcases the atrocities committed by the invading forces, including the "Rape of Nanking," a massacre of more than 300,000 people. The museum describes Nobusuke Kishi, Abe's grandfather, who was a top official of "firm Japanese occupation regime," as a "Class-A war criminal." Even while out of power, Abe was "advising" the LDP's plan for a new Imperial Constitution for Japan. U.S. General Douglas MacArthur, the supreme commander of the occupying forces and architect of Japan's postwar constitution.

This is generally known as a U.S.-dictated constitution, one that ultra-nationalists like Abe have long sought to tear up.

Occupied by U.S. military

Japan has been occupied and dominated by the United States since 1945. Japan has the highest number of U.S. military bases in the world at 120, followed by Germany with 189, and then South Korea with 77. The U.S. occupation forces in Japan exceed 55,000 troops. Some 75% of all U.S. armed forces and military bases in Japan are on the island of Okinawa, Japan's only remaining colony. The Kadena Air Base in Okinawa is the largest U.S. Air Force base in the Asia-Pacific Region. A strong and popular anti-base movement in Okinawa regularly stages mass protests against the U.S. military occupation.

The assassination of Abe comes at a time when Japan's economy is in crisis. For example, the Japan Times reported June 30, "Japan's worst factory output slump in two years heaps pressure on the economy." Japan's economy is contracting. Japan is the third-largest economy in the world, yet its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is almost the lowest of the Group of Seven (G7) imperialist countries — the U.S., Germany, Britain, France, Canada, Italy (with the lowest GDP per capita). Japan's poverty rate is the second-highest among the G7, behind Italy.

Income inequality in Japan accelerated during Abe's rule. Abenomics, as it was known, amounted to cutbacks for the working class while huge monetary “stimulus” support boosted stocks and corporate profits. Wages have not gone up since 2012, with household income falling an average of 3.5%, while the top 10% saw big increases.

Japan's current prime minister, banker Fumio Kishida, took office in October 2021 on a promise to revive Japan's economy with what he calls "new capitalism," which is popularly believed to be a rejection of Abenomics.

Doubling military spending

Kishida's "new capitalism" will mean a doubling of military spending and increased military involvement in the Indo-Pacific region, according to the policy guidelines adopted on June 7. The guidelines call for doubling Tokyo's military spending "within the next few years," surpassing only the U.S. and China. Kishida announced the planned military expansion at the opening of the G7 summit on June 27 in Germany, followed by visits to the U.S. and Australia leading up to the massive Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) war exercises in early July. Kishida denounced China and North Korea in order to justify future Japanese aggression in the Asia-Pacific region.

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Biden and the U.S.-Israel-GCC axis: It’s not the oil, it’s the money

By Bill Dores

Joe Biden didn’t go to Arabia in July to beg for oil. That’s not the nature of the U.S.-Israel relationship. He didn’t go to Palestine to promote peace. The U.S.-Israeli relationship is based on endless war. And war is Biden’s trip was about.

He went on a mission for his corporate masters. To “cement a military pact” and launch a new agreement between the United States for proxy war against Iran.

Since 1991, when the Soviet bloc fell, the U.S. has been bombing, invading, occupying and stealing resources in occupied countries. That 30-year war is a desperate effort to regain the stranglehold U.S. corporations once held onto vital resources.

In the 1960s, most of the region’s oil was owned directly by Western monopolies. Half of the vast profits of U.S. corporations came from Arab and Iranian oil. Revolutions in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Iran and Iraq took equations out of the hands of their owners. They want it back.

War and destruction in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, Afghanistan, and now Ukraine is to ensure the U.S. corporations get access to the remaining oil and gas reserves.

Those actions would also crush dissent. But they would mean unprecedented access to the U.S. military, which will make it easier for the U.S. to be the “free enterprise” market. Since the 1980s the U.S. has been trying to maintain a market for “normalization” which would allow gas and oil from the Gulf states to flow to occupied Palestine.

That’s on top of the natural gas U.S. oil giant Chevron already plunders from the stolen waters off Pal- estine. Chevron and other big multinationals are exploring and drilling in Pales- tinian, Egyptian and Cypriot waters. Their Israel agent now seeks to steal Lebanon’s gas as well.

Meanwhile, U.S. troops occupy Syria’s oil fields. And U.S.-Isra- eli military operations in Syria block a planned pipeline to bring natural gas from Iran to the Mediterranean.

In 2020, when the Abraham Accords were signed, Washington Tel Aviv wanted Saudi Arabia and Qatar to openly join the alliance. The House of Saud has long collaborated covertly with the Zionist state, in- cluding in its war against Yemen.

Biden leaves, Israel’s murder spree continues

On July 15, Biden left Jerusalem. The day before, Israeli-occupied Palestine plane to suburbs and homes in the occupied West Bank.

On July 11, four days before Biden’s visit, U.S.-armed Saudi troops in Yemen. Biden claimed the U.S. had to defend “freedom of navigation” through the Persian Gulf. But in reality Biden was aimed at the Palestinian and Lebanese constituencies.

On July 15, Biden left Jerusalem. On July 29, Amjad Abu Alia, 16, was shot to death by occupation sol- diers in the village of Al Mughrir near Ramallah.

Within days of Biden’s visit, Israeli forces also launched new airstrikes on Syria, killing at least three people.

A summit of tribute states

In Jerusalem, Biden and Israe- li Prime Minister Yair Lapid issued a “statement of tribute to the United Arab Emirates.” Biden pledged the U.S. to maintain Israel’s “qualitative military edge” and continue the 2016 memorandum of understanding (MOU). Biden’s statement supports the Saudi Arabian government.

In 2021, Israel borrowed $2.5 billion from China for arms purchases of over and above the $38 billion. It used the next U.S. loan as collateral.

In Jerusalem, Biden and Israe- li Prime Minister Yair Lapid issued a “strategic agreement” with the United Arab Emirates. That’s a $38 billion arms transfer to the Zionist state over 10 years. The agreement is to be paid for by the Zionists.

Biden promised the Israeli occupa- tion regime even more money if it launched a new agreement. Another 10-year MOU would follow.

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Crisis in Sri Lanka: Is U.S. imperialism involved?

By Sharon Black

The scenes of massive people's protests that have forced Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapakse to flee to Singapore have filled the news media. On July 20, Ranil Wickremesinghe, the former prime minister, was appointed interim president.

The choice is unlikely to quell the masses of people protesting in the street who view Wickremesinghe as part of the previous government that is reviled for corruption and is held responsible for the recent economic crisis.

Characterizing the revolts

It is difficult to have a full picture of events given positions taken by world-class parties and the left or at least to make immediate conclusions. For the most part, we are being fed a narrative from the capitalist press.

So far the mass protests and upheaval have not changed social or property relations in Sri Lanka. Sections of the mass movement have demanded the formation of a representative people's council that could act as a counter-body to parliament. It is unknown at this point whether or how far the Sri Lankan working class will be able to propel things forward under present conditions.

Continued from page 8

Saudis trample U.S.-made bombs

The Trump regime imposed sanctions on Yemen in 2010. Biden has not lifted them.

There was talk that Biden would refuse to shake hands with Prince Bin Salman. When he arrived in Jed- dah, he got the butcher of Yemen a fist bump. The next day he warmly shook hands with his father, King Salman.

All U.S. presidents, without exception, serve the U.S. corporate war machine. The point of this article is not to detail the discrepancies and corruption. It's to point out the real nature of the U.S.-Israel-Saudi-GCC relationship, which the corporate media conceals.

It is a bloody protection racket. It has brought trillions of dollars in profits to U.S. corporations over the past 75 years at a cost of millions of lives. It depends on endless war.

Since it's creation on stolen Palestinian land, the racist state of Israel has acted as enforcer in this protection racket. Pentagon officials routinely call the Zionists our "unsinkable aircraft carrier."

The only solution: "U.S. Out" and a "Free Palestine"!

Peace and cooperation in South- west Asia, the region they call the "Middle East," demands that the U.S. get out, with all its troops, planes, warships and other military assets. That includes an end to the flow of arms and dollars to the Israeli occupation regime that defies the GCC.

It demands that the settler state U.S. generals call our "unsinkable aircraft carrier" be replaced with a demilitarized zone (DMZ) all of Palestine. It demands that Palestinian refugees have the right to return and that ev- ery Palestinian has the right to live in peace and freedom in every corner of the land of Palestine.

But we should keep in mind the experiences and expecta- tions of the Sri Lankan people who have had free educa- tion since 1944, and universal health care since 1957. It's the attempt to privatize edu- cation that pushed students and teachers into the streets in earlier protests.

At the same time the dan- ger of increased U.S. involve- ment and deeper privatiza- tion looms large. There is already evidence of attempts by U.S. imperialism to jockey and insert its interests into the equation.

Danger of the IMF

In June 2022, the International Monetary Fund representa- tives made visits to Sri Lanka to dan- gle the potential of more loans to ad- dress the debt crisis.

On July 22, the IMF is reported to hope to complete talks “as quickly as possible” according to Managing Di- rector Kristalina Georgieva. “The IMF will not lend into a situation where they deem their money will not be used effectively,” according to John Hopkins University Professor Deborah Brautigam.

At the same time on July 22, Wickremesinghe, the newly appointed president, ordered security forces to raid an encampment occupying gov- ernment grounds in Colombo. Sol- diers in riot gear and assault rifles tore down the protest's tent, beat and arrested protesters.

It should be noted that there have been 16 IMF “agreements” since 1965.

Debt crisis lies – China & Russia

The U.S. capitalist press has been quick to trumpet the lie that the cri- sis in Sri Lanka was precipitated by loans from China for infrastructure development. But even in the fine print of US/IMF reports they have to admit that the majority of debt in Sri Lanka is due to private Western loans, not China. China provides only that only 10% of Sri Lanka debt is linked to Chinese development and investment. It has missed the point that only 10% of Sri Lanka debt is linked to Chinese development and investment. It has missed the point that only 10% of Sri Lanka debt is linked to China.

Pentagon wants a “military logistics hub”

The U.S. sees strategically-located Sri Lanka as a “military logistics hub” at the center of its “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Region Policy.” This alliance between the United States, Japan, Australia and India is aimed at countering China's Marine- time Belt and Silk Road Initiative.

It's estimated that two-thirds of the world's oil and half of all con- tainer ships use the East-West shipping route. This major shipping route lies just 6 to 11 nautical miles from the southern tip of Sri Lan- ka. Sri Lanka's eastern Trincomalee military base is a natural harbor that is one of the best in the world.

It's in this context that the Pen- tagon has wanted a military base in Sri Lanka to its way to obtain a status of forces agreement (SOFA) and an Acquisi- tion and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), formerly known as the NATO Mutual Support Act.

In the 2019 renewal, the Sri Lankan Parliament was never able to re- view the full document. Not even Sri Lanka's military leaders had viewed it before it was signed. There was much opposition from Sri Lankans who saw this as a threat to their sove- reignty. The Colombo Telegraph headline says it all: “Draft SOFA is similar to SOFA in U.S. with China and Pakistan.”

The biggest immediate danger is not corruption but U.S. imperialism and its neo-liberal policies which will deepen misery for the Sri Lankan people. This is why we must demand the end of U.S. sanctions against Sri Lanka. We must bring pressure on the U.S. government to end the embargo.

Not just corruption

The narrative that corruption, no matter how disastrous or real it may be, is the cause of the crisis is a specious and uninformative on solutions.

The severe capitalist debt crisis the United States is creating in Sri- lanka is because of the U.S.S.S. proxy war against Russia. The flow of U.S. dollars into the country has become a way of bringing in hard currency to the Sri Lankan economy. In the case of the war between the U.S. and Russia, there may be a race to devalue the dollar and weaken the dollar so that the dollar loses its position as the dominant currency along with remittances from Sri Lankan workers abroad who have lost jobs and income during the COVID crisis.

The problems facing the Sri Lanka- an government are a result of the global economic crises of capitalism, which have intensified. The contrac- tion of the world economy and the lo- cal and military expression man- ifested in its dangerous and virulent anti-China campaign and the U.S./ NATO proxy war against Russia.

The well-being of the people of Sri Lanka is of no consequence to U.S. imperialism.

Struggle is at a crossroad

The struggle is at a crossroad: the challenge of the U.S. is not only in the direction of changing class relations and break the imperial- istic stronghold in the country or to change the nature of the Sri Lankan state but also to engage in a struggle toward more repression.

The biggest immediate danger is not corruption but U.S. imperialism and its neo-liberal policies which will deepen misery for the Sri Lankan people. This is why we must demand the end of U.S. sanctions against Sri Lanka. We must bring pressure on the U.S. government to end the embargo.
Las causas estructurales del estallido social

Por Olmedo Beluche

Panamá ha exhibido en los últimos 20 años cifras macrométricas que son un encanto para los neoliberales, en particular un crecimiento del PIB bastante favorable en la acumulación privada producto de la reversion del canal a la soberanía panameña. Pero los números que alegan a los neoliberales esconden la realidad de que este país, antes de la pandemia (2018), ya era considerado por el Banco Mundial como uno de los más desiguales de América Latina y el mundo. Según la CEPAL, en 2018, el 20% de la población se encontraba por debajo de la línea de pobreza, y el 10% por debajo de la línea de pobreza extrema. Todo ello acicateado por una precarización del empleo que lleva 40 años, en que la informalidad superaba el 40%.

Todo lo cual fue peor en 2020, gracias a los efectos económicos de la pandemia. Los asalariados del sector privado, a 2019, eran 873,750 personas, de las cuales sólo conservaron sus empleos el 30%, en medio de la pandemia; el 37% fue despedido, y 33% (284 mil) pasaron a un limbo llamado ‘suspensión de contratos’. Un alto porcentaje de los cuales fue reactivado para ser despedidos inmediatamente en 2021.

Con lo cual podemos comprender el grado de descontento de la población panameña con la inflación de los precios de los combustibles, alimentos y medicinas. Pese a que en Panamá la inflación no alcanza cifras extraordinarias (como Venezuela o Argentina), y a junio de 2022 llegó al 5.2% respecto al año anterior, ese aumento de los precios conduce a las familias a una situación de indigencia, la precariedad laboral y salarial.

La Cámara de Comercio exige al gobierno contención del gasto público, despidos y austeridad. El gobierno de Laurentino Cortizo, sin admitir el alto grado de corrupción que lo corroe, ha aceptado parte del argumento empresarial y ha decidido contener el gasto con una reducción del 10% de la planilla estatal, lo que puede significar el despido de hasta 27 mil funcionarios que se sumarían a la ya grave crisis del empleo.

En sentido contrario, las organizaciones populares, como Polo Ciudadano, y los sindicatos más avanzados, han señalado que el problema central de la administración pública y los recursos necesarios para cubrir el gasto social está en la alta evasión fiscal a la que se suma la política de exoneraciones que se hacen a las principales riquezas de la economía. El problema no son los subsidios a los pobres sino los subsidios a los ricos. El economista Juan Jovane ha estimado que la evasión fiscal en Panamá, en la década de 2009 a 2019, totalizó unos 46 mil millones de dólares. Ese proceso de evasión imponible ha ido creciendo de un promedio de 3,000 millones de dólares por año a llegar al 6 mil millones en 2019, donde se estima que se mantiene.

Súmese a esto la política de exoneraciones fiscales y se aprecia un paraiso para el gran capital y un infierno para las clases trabajadoras. Es más, la rebaja de los combustibles que se está exigiendo se transformará en un subsidio a los monopolios que controlan su importación y distribución, sin que haya un control sobre las desmedidas ganancias. La tarea histórica: la construcción de un proyecto político alternativo popular y antineoliberal. Por eso el debate de fondo es entre dos proyectos de país: por un lado, lo que proponen los gobiernos empresariales y los partidos tradicionales, que solo hablan de corrupción sin modificar la estructura social y económica del país, pero para imponer una austeridad que pagará la clase trabajadora; por otro lado, lo que propone el movimiento popular, medidas que resuelven el problema de fondo, estructural, partiendo de una reforma fiscal progresiva en la que paguen más impuestos los que más ganan, que se acabe y penalice la evasión fiscal, para empezar. Cambiar el modelo económico requiere cambiar el régimen político oligárquico y corrupto, mediante una Asamblea Constituyente originaria. El Dr. Olmedo Beluche es sociólogo panameño, profesor de la Universidad de Panamá, militante de la organización política Polo Ciudadano.

The structural causes of the social explosion

By Olmedo Beluche

In the last 20 years, Panama has shown macroeconomic figures that the neoliberals love, in particular a sustained growth of the GDP based on private accumulation as a result of the reversion of the canal to Panamanian sovereignty. But the numbers that make neoliberals happy hide the reality that this country, before the pandemic (2018), was already considered by the World Bank as one of the most unequal in Latin America and the world. According to the ECLAC, as of 2018, twenty percent of the population lived in poverty, 37% was below the extreme poverty line. All of this spurred on by a precarious job and salary insecurity.

Under these circumstances we can understand the high tax evasion that characterizes the Panamanian population with the inflation of the fuel, food and medicines’ prices.

Despite the fact that in Panama inflation does not reach extraordinary figures (like in Venezuela or Argentina), and in June 2022 it reached 5.2% compared to the previous year, this increase in prices drives families to despair given the job and salary insecurity. The Chamber of Commerce demands that the government contain public spending, along with layoffs and austerity. The government of Laurentino Cortizo, without admitting the high degree of corruption that corrodes it, has accepted part of the business sector argument and has decided to contain spending with a 10% reduction in the state payroll, which could mean the dismissal of up to 27,000 employees, which would add to the already serious employment crisis.

On the contrary, popular organizations, such as Polo Ciudadano, and the most advanced unions, have pointed out that the central problem of the public administration and the lack of resources necessary to cover the high tax evasion to big business and hell for the working classes. What’s more, the reduction in fuels that is being demanded will become a subsidy for the monopolies that control their importation and distribution, without any control over excessive profits.

The historical task is: the construction of a popular and anti-neoliberal alternative political project. That is why the underlying debate is between two national projects: on the one hand, what is proposed by business associations and traditional parties, who only talk about corruption without modifying the social and economic structure of the country, but to impose an austerity that the working class will pay for; on the other hand, what the popular movement proposes are measures that solve the underlying structural problem, starting with a progressive tax reform in which those who earn the most pay more taxes and that tax evasion is ended and penalized, to begin with. Changing the economic model requires changing the oligarchic and corrupt political regime through a new Constituent Assembly. Dr. Olmedo Beluche is a Panamanian sociologist, professor in the University of Panamá and member of the political organization Polo Ciudadano.